Social Media Extension Outreach Online

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June 2014

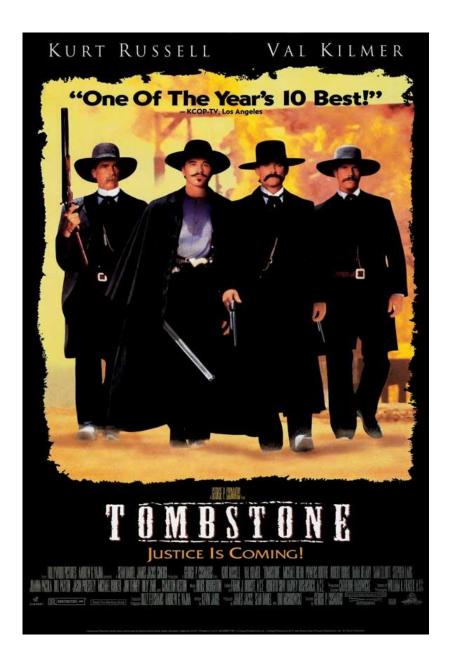
Overview and issues

- Advocate for Ag Literacy or "Agvocacy"
 - ▶ Who's telling the stories on social media?
 - Are stakeholder/Extension voices there?
 - ▶ What do they know, think they know?
- "All Reasonable Effort"
 - Understanding the changing demographic
- Promoting and marketing
- Understanding the tools/platforms
- Setting up a plan that works
 - Measuring success
 - Who is going to do it?

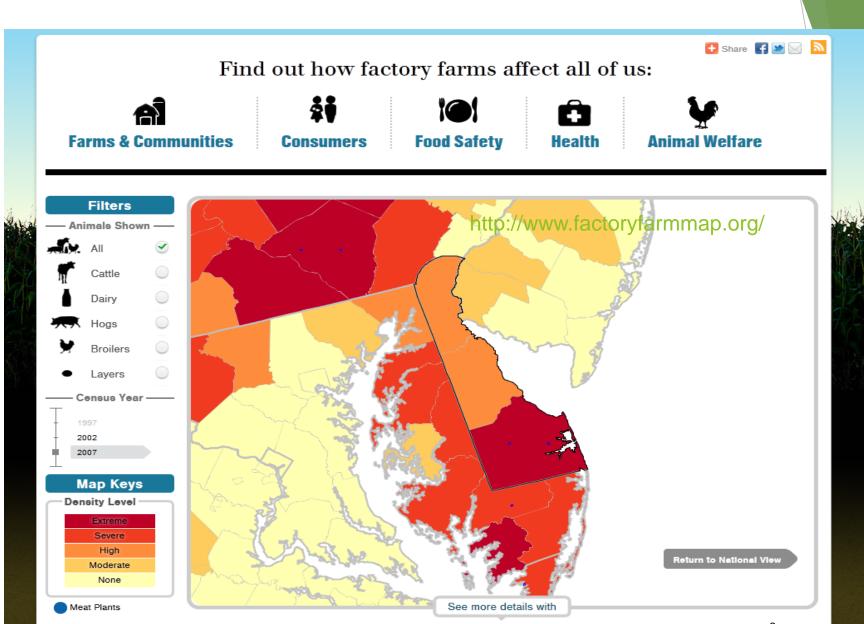
"The Past is like a foreign country...they do things differently there!"

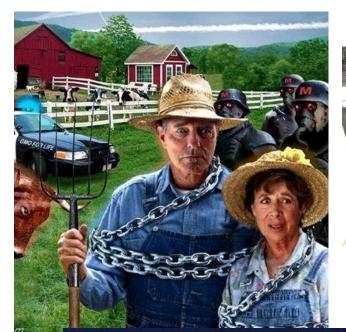
~Lowell Catlett, New Mexico State University, Agriculture, Consumer & Environmental Sciences

Ag Literacy



WELCOME FACTORY WORKERS!!!!









oldamericancentury.org







NO FOOD SHALL BE

GROWN

THAT WE

DON'T OWN



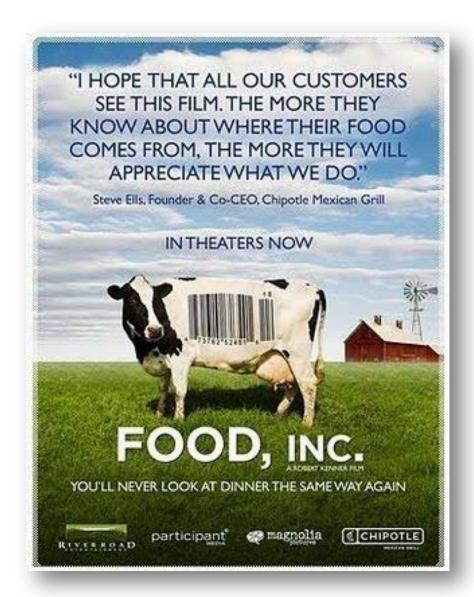


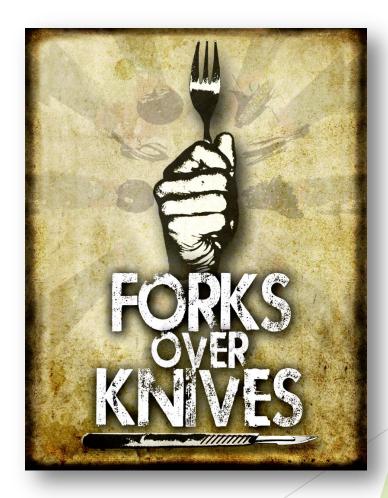


in their chicken feed as a growth promoter for the last 60 years. Arsenic is a known carcinogen and is more commonly used in rat poison. A nationwide study found detectable traces of arsenic in the chicken we eat everyday: 100 percent in the tested chicken in fast food restaurants and 74 percent of the chicken we buy in grocery stores. Public health problems linked to chronic exposure to this toxin include lung and kidney cancer, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and neurological disorders in children. In addition, these factory farms produce waste equivalent to a city of 4 million people (Maryland's population is only 6 million) and the waste, along with the arsenic, is running off into the Chesapeake Bay, threatening our water,

fisheries, and ovsters. It's time to put an end to this harmful practice—the

Chicken factory farms on the Delmarva Peninsula have been using arsenic





Who are you?

- Greenhouse/garden center
- Farmers Market
- Creamery
- Poultry farmer
- U-pick
- Orchard
- Grow for processing/grain
- Events
- Value Added/Retail
- Agvocate















WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE?

AND HOW DO WE TALK TO THEM?

MODERN LITERATURE

Excerpt from "Skinny Bitch"

Of the ten billion animals slaughtered each year in America for human consumption, the vast majority of them come from factory farms. Factory farms that raise cattle, pigs, chickens, egg-laying hens, veal calves, or dairy cows have an enormous amount of animals in a very small space. There are no vast meadows or lush, green pastures. The animals are confined inside buildings, where they are literally packed in on top of each other. Egg-laying hens are crammed into cages so mall, they are unable top open their wings, and their mangled feet actually grow around the wire mesh floors. This overcrowded, stressful environment causes chickens to peck at each other and factory farm workers, so the ends of their beaks are seared off their faces using a hot knife. They all live in the filth of their own urine, feces, and vomit with infected, festering sores and wounds. To keep the animals alive in these unsanitary conditions, farmers must give them regular doses of antibiotics. Half of all antibiotics made in the U.S. each year are administered to farm animals, causing antibiotic resistance in the humans who eat them.

Millennials/Early Adopters/Activists

- Activists/Animal Rights/Vegan
 - Engaged
 - Passionate
 - Organized
 - Infiltrating
 - Networked
 - Dominate social media
 - Dominate main stream media
 - Oprah / Cargill
 - Michael Pollan

- Use photos
- Videos
- Not current material
- ► Hormones/pesticides/antibiotics
- Guilt
- Scare tactics
- Production Agriculture is evil

Two organizations to pay attention to

Center for Food Integrity

- http://www.foodintegrity.org/
- @foodintegrity



U.S. Farmers & Ranchers Alliance

- http://www.fooddialogues.com/
- @USFRA Twitter



FarmERS vs. FarmING

- Affection for the people does NOT translate to the industry
- Our audience's truth: "American agriculture" =

mass production

expensive animal cruelty honors crops waste struggling farmers organic factory farming corn hormones y subsidies greed over - processed broken chemicals pesticides big business

* Size of word corresponds to how many times the topic was mentioned across all 3 influencer sessions

The Credibility Gap



They hear ...

Your methods tamper with nature.

At what expense to quality?

But beholden to big processors and the bottom line.

You will take profitable short cuts when and if you can.

You WANT to produce more to SELL to the world.

You want subsidies and lax regulations.

Pesticides, antibiotics and hormones might not be safe in the long-run.

The Path Forward

- 1. Acknowledge concerns
- 2. Commit to continuous improvement
- 3. Change the language
- 4. Begin a dialogue



Language Landmines

 Much of the language we use today to describe methods revolves around process, innovation and technology

words to lose –	words to use +
Pesticides	Preventing bugs and other pests from eating crops
Fertilizer and Nitrogen	Nurturing crops with nutrients at exactly the right time, at the right rate, and in the right amounts to make them thrive
GMOs	Seeds that grow stronger, more resilient and better tasting crops
Antibiotics	Keeping animals healthy
Hormones	MAINTAINING growth * U.S. Farmers (8) Ranchers Alliance *

Significant Social Shifts

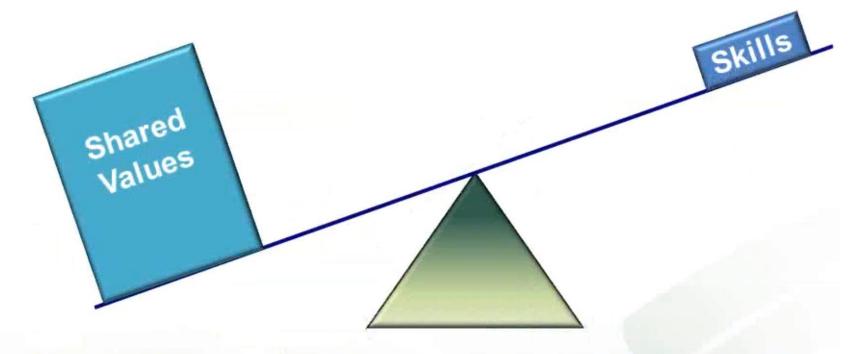
MODERN (Before 1968)

POST-MODERN (After 1968)

- Authority is granted by office
- Authority is granted by relationship
- Broad social consensus driven by WASP males
- No single social consensus, great diversity, many voices
- Communication is formal, indirect (mass communication)
- Communication is informal, direct (masses of communicators)



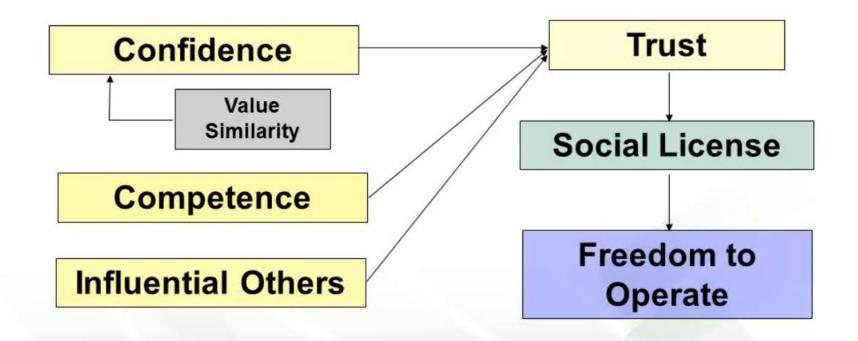
What Drives Consumer Trust?



Shared values are 3-5X more important in building trust than demonstrating competence

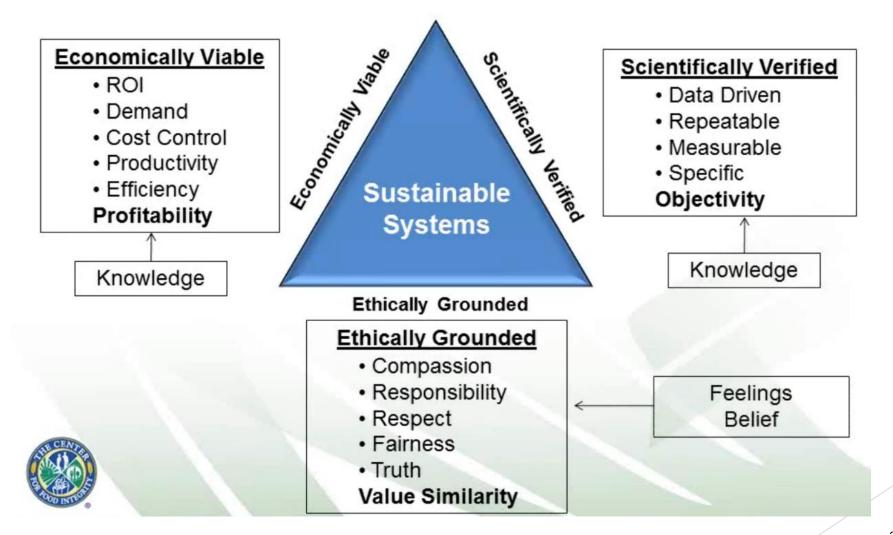


Earning and Maintaining Social License (Sapp/CMA)





Sustainable Balance



All of the Most Concerning Life Issues are Beyond the Consumer's Direct Control





Women were more concerned about most issues than men

Additional Food System Concerns*

- Imported Food Safety (63%)
- Food Safety (63%)
- Enough to Feed U.S. (56%)
- Humane Treatment of Farm Animals (51%)
- Environmental Sustainability in Farming (49%)
- Access to Accurate Info to Make Healthy Food Choices (48%)

Early Adopters

Earlier adopters were more concerned about all issues than later adopters

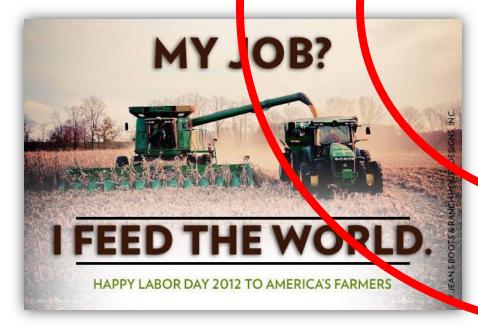
Lowest concern was for having enough food to feed people outside the U.S. (29%)

*Top Box ratings (8-10)













Kevin Fleming After doing this once, I can tell you chicken catcher is a tough

May 12 at 8:25am · Like · ₼ 6



Theresa A Johnson indeed it is a very hard job... terrible on the lungs, too. I appreciate the unsung folks who do jobs that most of us never stop to consider. However, I don't agree with the way we raise chicken for harvest. Balance in all things, though, eh?? @ Neat photo!

- Man-12 of 0.24 on 1 like 4-7.



Kris Etze I hate it when the trucks roll through Millsboro. It's the most inhumane treatment. Can't be part of it. In my business, I cook it for clients, but won't eat it.



Kris Etze Dan is right . Back to the photo, perfect lighting, Kevin.

May 12 at 4:30pm · Like · ₼ 1



Diane Mead I agree Kris Etze ... what can we do about protesting inhumane treatment in the poultry industry???

May 12 at 5:17pm · Like



Kris Etze Diane Mead, it's an uphill battle. The US simply cannot sustain the growing consumption of factory farmed animals without environmental damage. We already are feeling the health effects. Personally, I have switched to plant strong eating.



Sharon Hatch Turner Yes! On the grill w/broccoli ©

May 12 at 8:10pm · Like



Christine Lynn This is so unnatural and so sad. I do wish we could produce meat in a more humane way. Please, people.

May 12 at 9:18pm · Like · ₼ 1



Christine Lynn Perfect lighting on a sea of misery and sickness

May 12 at 9:18pm · Like · ₼ 2



Kris Etze Kevin your photo started a converse



Michele Dorsey Walfred Free range chicken and back yard flocks are exposed to predators and also are at a much greater risk for contracting Avian Influenza from the wildlife birds that fly overhead, the majority of which have and transmit the bird flu virus in their droppings.

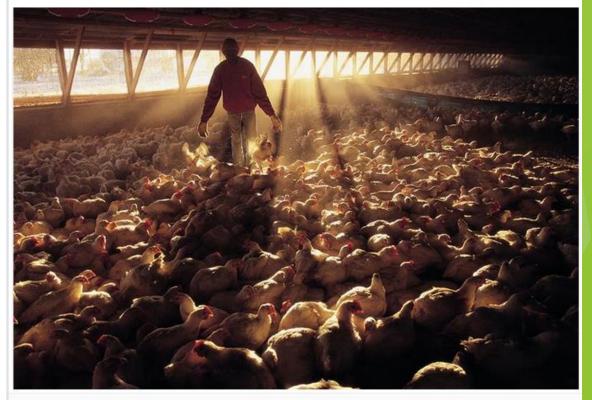
May 24 at 6:55am · Like



Kevin Fleming

Chicken Tonight...?

We produce more chickens in Sussex than any other county in the United States raising more than 200 million a year. Here's a chicken catcher (yes, that is a real job description) herding a flock.



Like - Comment - Stop Notifications - Share









The head major control to distruct. The first many distribution of control to the first many distribution of the control to an exhaustion. With the control to an exhaustion.

Makes me want Chipolte even more...though I am convinced they put crack in their chicken or something. I'm way to addicted to their tacos!



SHIRLEY: I saw this on TV for the first time last time. I think it played in the middle of the Grammys (which, except for Adele, was terrible. Las year's show was so good.)



PATTI: That was an awesome commercial!



ANGELA: Here in Ohio Chipolte supported hsus. I won't eat there. Large farms are most likely family owned.



SHIRLEY: The land may be owned by the "family". But the equipment, the feed, the animals and the schedules and animal husbandry are furnished by the corporation. The "family" ends up being high end sharcroppers, at the mercy of fuel and feed cost increases, and all the other hazards of agriculture. I've been through industrial chicken and hog facilities. I'm glad someone has noticed and acted accordingly.



SUE: Well, I guess I will jump into this discussion. I am torn about my feelings concerning this commercial. I am a poultry famer. The "corporation" does not furnish the equipment or my schedule. I AM NOT a sharecropper. If am a correct, we all are at the mercy of rising fuel and feed cost. We work together with our intergrator to grow the healthiest chicken we possibly can. Our chickens and those of all the growers I know, are treated well. We constantly check them, watch the air quality, water quality and feed quality they receive. We worry about them and their health. Please check out www.realfarmersrealfood.com. Here is a great quote from that site" It is in the farmer's own best interest to see the animals in his charge treated humanely, guaranteeing him a healthy, high-quality animal, a greater return on his investment and a wholesome food product. No advertising campaign or salesman can convince a farmer to use a system or product that would harm an animal."



SHIRLEY: Sue, I am pleased with your comments. Do you decide what feed you give your chickens or does it come from the company? Do you decide what day they will deliver and pick up the chickens from your houses? I congratulate you if you have been able to pay off your investment in the houses and equipment before they are worn out and fully depreciated.

Enter the conversation

What to do

- Blog
- Post photos!
- Facebook
- Twitter
- YouTube comments
- Respond to comments
- ► Tell your story!

What to say

- I understand your concern. I/we are concerned too.
- I'm glad you raised this issue
- Acknowledge "bad actors"
 - Set yourself apart
- Show concern for animals
- We produce wholesome food. We donate to food banks
- We look for varieties to reduce herbicides & fungicides
- Family not factory

NOT THIS







THIS!







Mark Lynas

- Google: Mark Lynas Oxford 2013
- http://www.marklynas.org/2013/0 1/lecture-to-oxford-farmingconference-3-january-2013/



http://www.oprah.com/oprahshow/In side-a-Slaughterhouse-Video





"Social Media" is a mainstream media tool

- How do we use it?
- What priority do we give it?
- Is it really necessary?
- How are others using social media?
- Can we afford to ignore the changing demographics?

Website

Literature

Print Media Broadcast Media

Video (YouTube) Social Media

SMART PHONE USE

- 63% of all Americans use phones to go online
- 81% Send or receive text messages
- 60 % Access the Internet
- 52% Access email
- 50% Download apps
- 49% Get directions, recommendations, or other information
- 42% of Americans use a tablet

Smartphone owners in 2014

Among adults, the % who have a smartphone

All adults	Have a smartphone phone 58%
	56%
Sex	-
a Men	61
Women	. 57
Race/ethnicity*	
a White	53
b African-American	59
C Hispanic	61 ⁸
Age group	NA.
a 18-29	83 ^{bcd}
b 30-49	74 ^{cd}
c 50-64	49 ^d
d 65+	19
Education level	
High school grad or less	44
b Some college	67 ^a
c College+	71 ⁸
Household income	
B Less than \$30,000/yr	47
b \$30,000-\$49,999	53
\$50,000-\$74,999	61 ⁸
d \$75,000+	81 ^{abc}
Community type	
a Urban	64 ^c
b Suburban	60 ^c
C Rural	43

Source, Pew Research Center Internet Project Survey, January 9-12, 2014. N=1,006 adults. Note: Percentages marked with a superscript letter (e.g., ⁸) indicate a statistically significant difference between that row and the row designated by that superscript letter, among categories of each demographic characteristic (e.g., age).

* The results for race/ethnicity are based off a combined sample from two weekly omnibus surveys, January 9-12 and January 23-26, 2014. The combined total n for these surveys was 2,008; n=1,421 for whites, n=197 for African-Americans, and n=236 for Hispanics.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Our approach

- Study "Best Practices" of other Extension offices
 - Assess
- Meet with kglobal -
 - Association of American Land Grant Universities
 - ► Cooperative Extension

Hashtags



To #Hashtag or Not to Hashtag...That is the question?

http://youtu.be/57dzaMaouXA

Sort and Search

- #GardenChat
- #AgChat
- #FoodChat
- #FarmDE
- #NetDE
- #FarmMD
- #NetMD

- #FarmMD
- #NetMD
- #Garden
- #FoodSafety
- #RuralMade

Engagement

Pushing

- Your news
- What is coming to market
- What is on sale
- Links to articles you want people to read
- Upcoming event

Pulling

- Asking audience to comment
- Ask a question or poll
- Fill in the blank
- Comment on their photos
 - Does your site allow submitted photos
- Page to page comments
- ▶ RTs Thanks for follows





VA Extension retweeted



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Master Gardener Lawn & Garden	4-H	AG Wordless Wednesday	Throwback	FCS Food Friday	Animal Science Wildcard	Week Ahead Inspiration Photos
Pruning Tips	Photo from recent event	Weed ID	Vintage Photographs	Food Safety	Interesting statistic	Scenic photo
Garden Calendar	Focus on a volunteer	What is this insect?	YouTube	ServSafe Tip	Focus on DE crops	Upcoming workshops
Spraying Schedule	Spotlight on project	Farm Safety	Research	Money Saving Tips	Did you Know	
Guess the plant	Photos of Community Service	Farm Equipment	Any program: Annouce Weekend	Recipe	Ask an Expert recap	Quotes
Plant disease lookout	4-H youth STEM	Photo of an insect	Mention a partner	Family-Childcare	Repeat anything from the week	Thank a volunteer
Time to prune, pinch, spray, etc.	Scenes from Camp	Delaware Vegetables	Wildlife/Ecology	Nutrition idea/fact	Positive poultry	Where are they now? UDCANR follow up
Photo of an insect	Alumni Follow Up	Ag Innovations		Quick Tip	Horse/Equine	
Garden Smart - introduce a tool		Any Agronomic topic	Partner shout out		Bee Buzz	
Meet a Native Plant		Meet an Agent	Any program: Annouce Weekend Event		ANY PROGRAM	ANY PROGRAM
Quick tip		Grad Student				
Impact Stories via Communications	Impact Stories via Communications	Impact Stories via Communications	Impact Stories via Communications	Impact Stories via Communications	Impact Stories via Communications	Impact Storeis via Communications

Tools and Platforms

You have to decide

- ► Centralize or specialize platforms?
 - ▶ Pros & cons
 - ► 4-H & Extension own brands
 - Programs have own account or go under one?

Tools and platforms

Priority

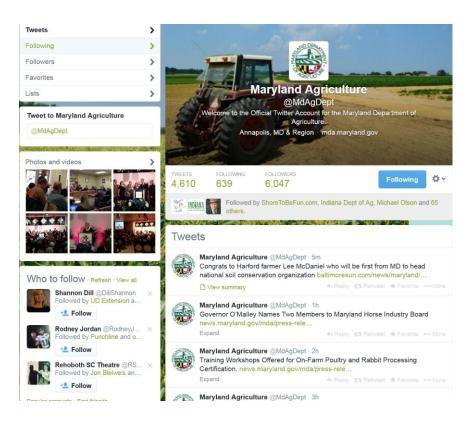
- Twitter
- Flickr
- YouTube
- Professional content blogs
- Facebook
- LinkedIn
- Instagram

Maybe

- Pinterest
- Instagram
- Stakeholder blogs

Twitter





- Microblogging
- Mobile friendly
- Reporters
- Legislators
- Younger demographic
- Targeted conversations

Chat it up!





7.072

17.2K

FOLLOWERS 19.3K

Following



Followed by New York Agri-Women, MidAtFarmCredit, Donna Shanklin and

Tweets



#FoodChat @foodchat 4m

Be sure to join us next week for #FoodChat Feb. 18th! We will be celebrating FOOSCHAT Nat'l Heart Month & talking heart health recipes/nutrition.

◆ Reply 23 Retwest ★ Favorite ··· More



#FoodChat @foodchat 3h Did you know that Feb. is National Canned Food month? Do you can your own FOOGCHAT foods or purchase canned foods from the store? #FoodChat

Reply 13 Retweet & Favorite ... More



#FoodChat @foodchat - 4h

Who's enjoying some #grapefruit for breakfast?! Did you know its Nat'l F000CHAT Grapefruit month? #FoodChat

Expand

◆ Reply 23 Retweet ★ Favorite ... More



#FoodChat @foodchat Feb 7

In honor of the Opening Ceremonies, are you serving any Russian snacks or FOODCHAT dishes? #foodchat #sochi2014

Expand

◆ Reply 13 Retweet ★ Favorite ... More

Favorited by #AgChat KissMyTractor @KissMyTractor - Jan 30 At the airport heading to Portland for the #agchat #acfr14 conference! can't ♣ Reply 13 Retweet ★ Favorite ... More Natalie Vink @dairynatvink - Jan 30 You know what's the best feeling this morning! When all of your calves are drinking and happy! #agchat #agproud pic.twitter.com/XtklvYdEol ♣ Reply 13 Retweet ★ Favorite ... More

◆ Reply 13 Retweet ★ Favorite · · · More



6:39 AM - 30 Jan 2014 - Details

Flag media

Reply to @dairynatvink



Jolene Brown @JoleneBrownCSP - Jan 30

@TrentHurley & Hurley & Associates had eager learners & laughers at their gr8 event in Watertown! ??? continue today via email, #agchat

♣ Reply 13 Retweet ★ Favorite ... More



#beef #helloladies RT @FarmsNews: Super Bowl Ad Gives Farmers 'Romance' farms.com/ExpertsComment... #beauty #agchat #superbowl #chevy #silverado ♣ Reply 13 Retweet ★ Favorite ... More



Amanda Peterka @apeterka Jan 30

Thanks! RT @AGreeAgPolicy: Must reading via @apeterka, ag leaders ontemplate life after "farm bill hell" bit.lv/1kcEDVe #agchat

View conversation

♣ Reply 13 Retweet ★ Favorite ... More

Twitter Chats

#GardenChat

Mondays, 9 p.m., EST

- #AgChat Tuesdays, 8-10 p.m., EST
- #FoodChat

Third Tuesdays, 8-10 p.m., EST









How is your lawn? #MasterGardener Workshop "All About Lawns" ow.ly /wlz61 Thur. May 8 #KentDE 6:30 p.m. #NetDE #UDext







Flickr

- Free with 1T of storage
- \$25 year for no ad pro
- Name images with keywords
- Links to websites in descriptions
- Link directly to Twitter

- ► HUGE SEO driver!
- Do your images show up on Google search?



Flickr accounts



- Way to organize & back up photos
- Huge driver for website
- Can make albums or individual pictures private, semi-private or public
- Thousands see our content every day
- Do not upload camera file names DSC_101

- Delaware4h
- Sussexcounty4h
- Carvelud
- UDcanr
- UDExtension

Flickr



One Month - Delaware 4-H flickr

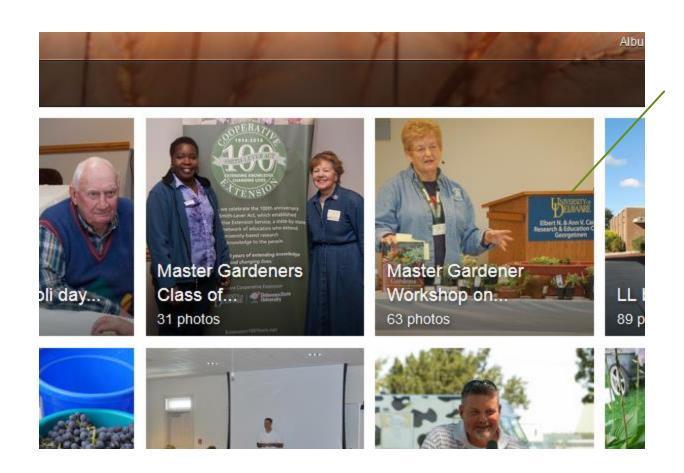




View counts

	348	181	138,991
Galleries	0	0	0
Collections	0	0	0
Albums	14	9	2,891
Photostream	3	8	2,426
Photos and Videos	331	164	133,674
	So far today	Yesterday	All time

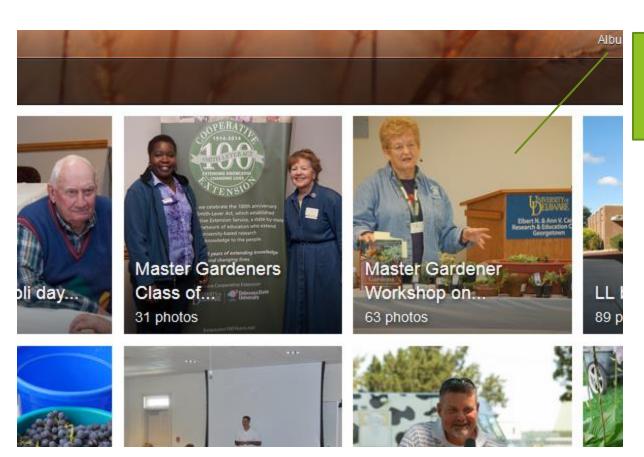
This Master Gardener Workshop set on Fairy Gardens



108 Set Views 68 photos



This Master Gardener Workshop set on Fairy Gardens

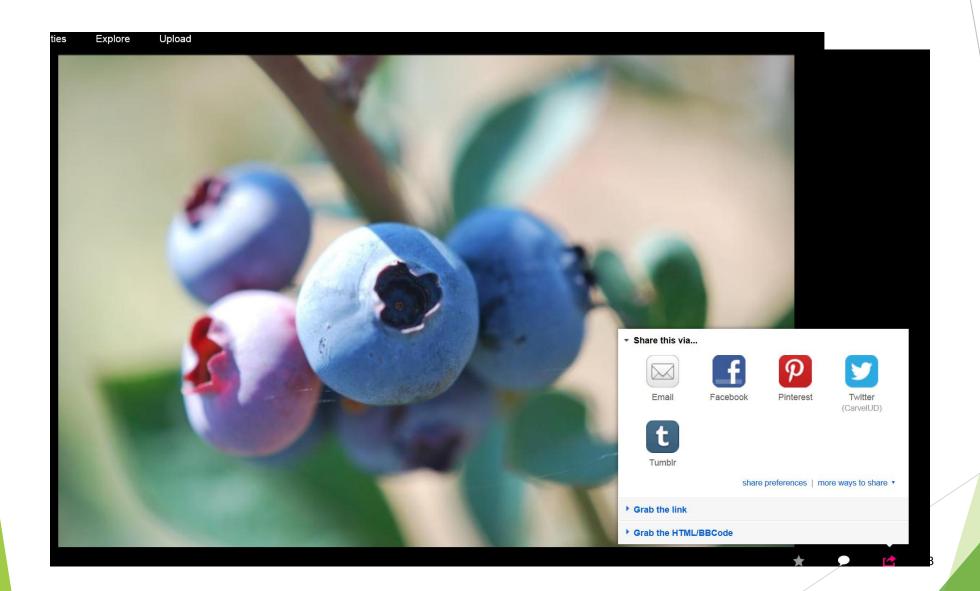


Individual images for this one set = 5,766 views

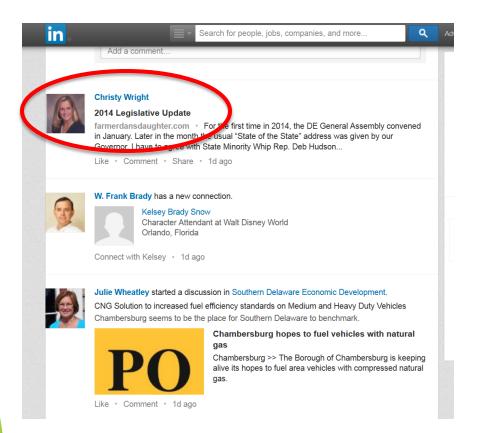
Flickr success

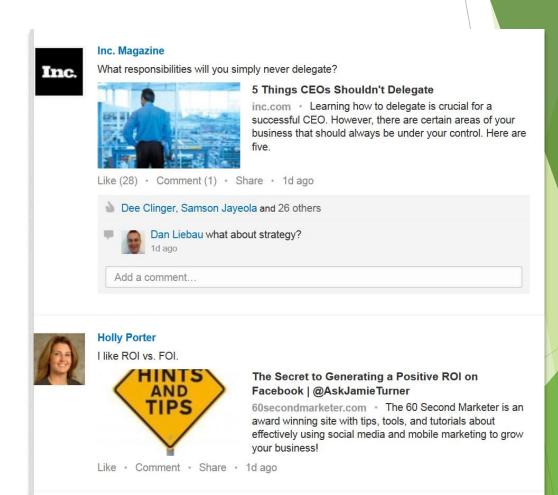
- Rename everything at upload to keywords
- Tag photo
- Use "description" area to post links to our website on key images
- Great photos >>>creative commons
 - ▶ Give them something to share!





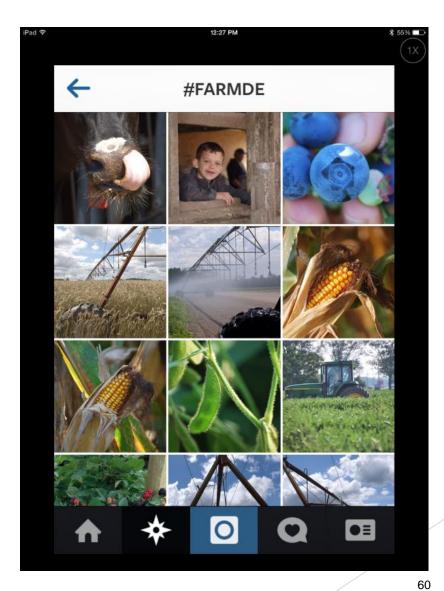
LinkedIn (B2B – Peer to Peer)



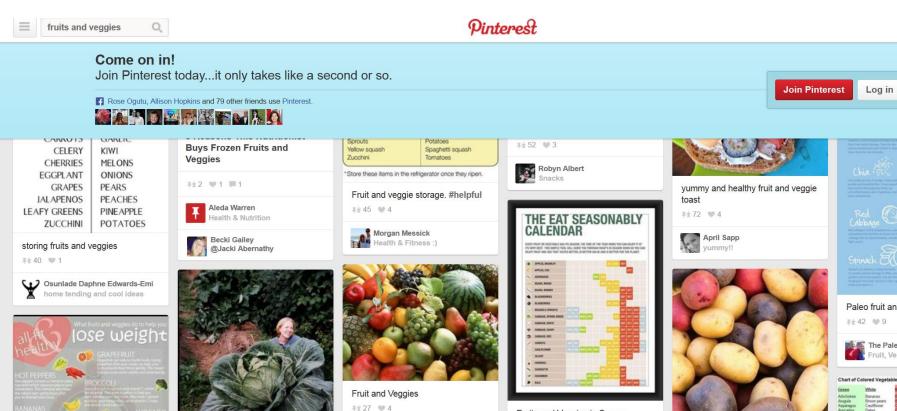


Instagram

- Photo driven
- Youth audience
- Hashtags!
- Simple to use
- Comments
- Allows re-posts to Tumbler, Twitter, Facebook, Flickr



Pinterest



Healthy fruits and veggies

28 **9** 4

Buzz from BuzzFeed **Giant Fruits And Veggies**



Donna P
Our amazing world!



Fruits and Veggies in Season





from Refinery29 The Best Fruits & Vegetables To Eat In The Winter

The BEST fruits and veggies to eat

The Paleo Network
Fruit, Vegetables and Fresh Pro... 61

Paleo fruit and veggies ¥± 42 ♥ 9

English (US) \$

Encourage Engagement!

Ask for opinions!

Respond on comments!



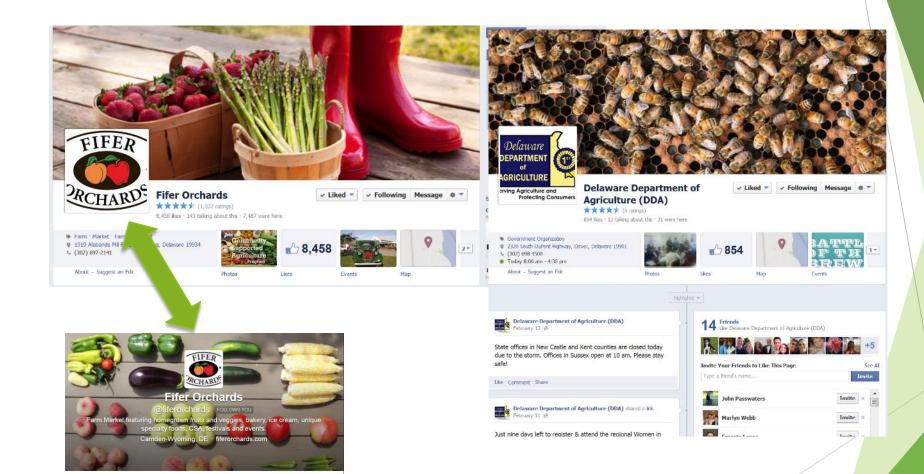
FACEBOOK PAGES

1,036

803

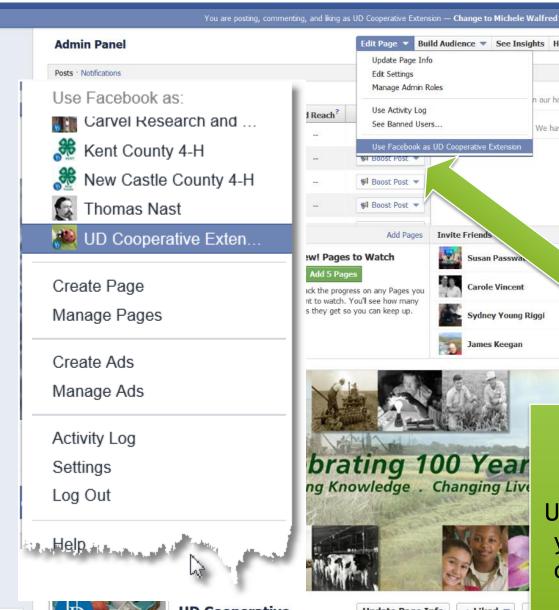
1,973

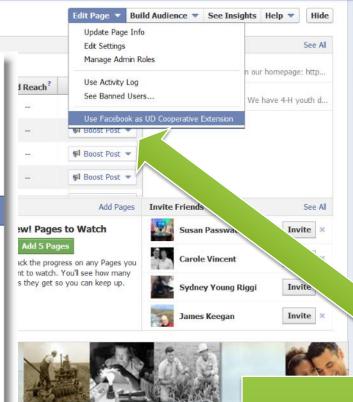
Followed by Punchline, DE Community Found., brandon and 100+ others.



- Happy smiling people
- Recipes
- Guessing games
- What do you think?
- Fill in the blank
- Caption this







✓ Liked ▼

Update Page Info

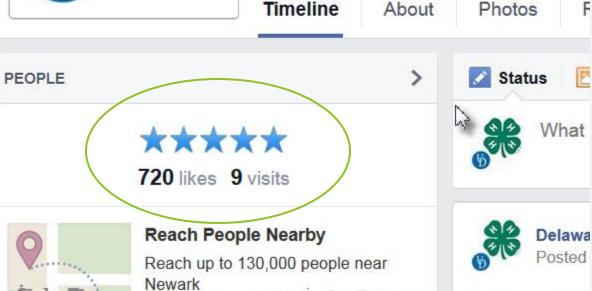


Under used feature. Use your page to comment on other pages as your page, i.e., news story

rativeExtension#

UD Cooperative







Delaware 4-H

Posted by Michele Dorsey Walfred [7] - June 18 🚷

Congratulations to Emma RIder, who was named as the National First Place

winner of the Jefferson 360 Award for Public Service last night in Washington, D. C. Emma is well-known for her tireless work to provide clean drinking water

→ Share

ollow



Facebook engagement is weighted

- ▶ #1. Your content is "shared."
- ▶ #2. People comment on the content.
- ▶ #3. Thumbs up & "Like" the post.
- Smiling but moving on is not helpful at all~
 - If the person doesn't engage, they may not see your posts again, even if they like your page!
- ► Stakeholder and staff to "engage" with your posts. Just don't ask them to do it on Facebook.
- Why Throwback Thursday is so popular

Which apple photo is better?





Facebook ideas

Ask questions



A touch of humor



Facebook's new algorithms

Do

- Vary your post types
- Vary times
- Comment on other stories as your page. Thank supporters! Congratulate people!
- Tag other pages, businesses & elected officials
- Have multiple administrators/content editors
- Use hashtags!

Don't

- Ask people to "like"
- Ask people to "share"
- Post the same url
- Ignore your page
- Don't link Facebook to Twitter

C.O.P.E. with BLOGS

Google's e-blogger

- Free
- Easy to use
- Many themes
- Can use as a webpage
- Google Analytics
- Social media sharing
- Can replace websites if no online commerce is desired - Esty

WordPress

- Free
- Premium domains available!
- Many themes
- WordPress Analytics
- Social media sharing/republishing
- Can replace websites –
 eCommerce available

Farmer Dan's Daughter

Connecting Agriculture, Family, Food, Health, & Policy

Home About Christy Aussie Pups Wedding Recipe of the Season



2014 Legislative Update

For the first time in 2014, the DE General Assembly convened in January. Later in the month the usual "State of the State" address was given by our Governor. I have to agree with State Minority Whip Rep. Deb Hudson (R). Why wasn't our #1 industry mentioned? Take a listen below (it's a 9 second clip).

Rep. Hudson said she was surprised that a speech that was expected to focus on economic development did not mention the state's number one industry...

Is there a state agricultural policy agenda for the upcoming year? As of today, Feb 18, there has been no Agricultural Committee meeting scheduled or held this year in either chamber. There are many agricultural related bills being held over from the last session including the "Right to Farm Bill" (HB 65) and at least 2 bills related to agricultural license plates and special tags. One of these, HB 122, did pass both Houses on Jan. 30, 2014. This bill would allow farmers who have a farm vehicle that is used within a 20 mile radius of their farm to register their vehicle with DMV. The "FV" tag would replace the white plastic "Farm Vehicle" tags. The FV tag fee is \$10 which is comparable to what the "Farm Vehicle" tags sell for. A vehicle with an "FV" tag would be exempt from inspection.

I also have to admit, the "clean water initiative's" our Governor mentioned several times in his address make me nervous. Details from DNREC haven't been released yet. The Governor also released his budget proposal a few days later, in which he proposed a \$8 million funding cut to the State's Farmland Preservation program. The cut would leave \$2 million for the fund.

In recent days, Rep. John Atkins, Chair of the House Agricultural Committee, proposed a toll for west Rt. 484 instead of the 10 eastax, which the Governor proposed in his address. It was all over the media yesterday, including tv and radio (WBOC, WMDT, and 105.9). Our family farm businesses operate on Rt. 404, which include a retail produce stand, creamery, and daily farm operations. If this becomes seriously considered (it sounds like a just an idea at this point), let's pray that our customers don't bypass Rt. 404 to avoid the toll. Let's also hope that the toll booth doesn't go in directly across from one of our retail operations. I'd also like to hear what Rep. Dave Wilson, Sen. Brian Pettyjohn, or Sen. Gary Simpson have to say (Rt. 404 west is split by District 18 & 19), since this is their district! Sen. Pettyjohn released a YouTube video recently, centered on ag issues and not supporting the proposed gas tax hike or cut to farmland preservation dollars, but it offered no alternative options and it came out before Rep. Atkin's toll proposal. See the You Tube mash-up below. The legislative session doesn't reconvene until late March. More to come and hopefully an Ag Committee meeting date!?!?



Christy Vanderwende Wright



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RT @ASA Sovbeans: No. GMOs

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wp.me/p1Y1Sc-dM 1 day ago

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Are you Farmer's Market Ready?

A sure sign of spring and summer is farmers markets; many of which have begun already this year. Little Wagon Produce has been busy with two so far-the Milton Farmer's Market on Friday afternoon and the Riverwalk Farmers Market, which is in downtown Milford every Saturday morning. This week was the return of the Georgetown Farmers Market which is on Wednesday afternoons.

I always look forward to returning to the Riverwalk Farmers market every spring because we're amazed at the loyalty of many of our customers year after year. Many of our regulars ducked showers last weekend to see us and to find Mother's Day flowers or produce. The past 2 weekends, I've received many of the same questions such as "Do you have sweet corn yet?" and "Are the strawberries local?" These are great questions and it always helps when the farmer is right there to answer. Anytime my Dad visits the market he is usually surrounded by inquiring customers about the food he grows.

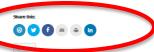


Farmer Dan on right. Its rare to see him at the market but the customers love to talk to him! He's usually in the field picking the produce or keeping the irrigation going.

Sometimes I take this chart, made by the DE Dept. of Ag, to offer customers insight about the growing season in Delaware. It helps a customer understand that sweet corn is never ready in Delaware until the last week of June or thereafter. So please don't believe any of the false advertising you may see!!! I can also assure you that almost all produce will be a little later than normal this year because of the cold wet spring. No strawberries have been local until this past weekend. I know this confuses customers because last year the weather was extremely mild and strawberries came on early. I try to remind customers that farmers are always at the mercy of Mother Nature. Here are some more tidbits to help you be "farmers market ready":

- Bring cash! Many yendors are small businesses and cannot afford the fees accompanied with credit
- . Bring your own bags! The recyclable grocery bags work great for this! By doing this, you will help the environment and help us because plastic bags are an additional expense to vendors that we usually do not pass on to the customers. We even have to pay more and go out of the way to find heavy-duty plastic bags to hold a dozen ears of sweet com-
- . Bring a friend! Word of mouth is the best marketing for us!
- . Don't be afraid to ask! Many markets have an information booth or a "Market Manager" to oversee the routine each week. Some markets even have a bell that rings before you can sell anything (Milton).
- . Spread the love! Hopefully you will find more than one vendor to patronize. In Milford, there are many wonderful downtown businesses such as Dolce Coffee Shop, Blooming Boutique, and Georgia
- . Bring your smile! Many vendors love to talk and engage their customers, including us.
- . Stay updated! Many thought the market was canceled last Saturday because of the rain but we were open. Check to see if your local market has a Facebook page and/or website.

Thank you to all our loval customers who already know the ropes! And for all the newbies. I hope to see you soon! For a market near you, see the 2013 Farmer's Market Directory here.



Be the first to like this

Time Management

- Start with one or two platforms
- Don't try to do them all
- Schedule in advance Facebook you can do this inside your page
- Hootsuite is a platform that allows you to keep all of your social media in one place and schedule them
- Family members mature teen or family member
- Hire a social media manager
- Elevate a special volunteer!
- Determine who your audience is what are you trying to achieve – pick the best platform for that audience



Sticking your head in the sand...



only makes it easier for everyone else to kick you in the rear!

Old & New Arguments

Old/Cons

- "I prefer sending out postcards."
- "I don't have the time to Tweet!"
- "My constituents don't use Facebook or Twitter"
- "Too many inquiries!"

New/Pro

- SM fulfills USDA/Civil Rights "All Reasonable Efforts"
- Communication staff will do it for you!
- "But funders and future constituents do!"
- Website? Fact Sheets? Blogs? These get attention too!

Suggestions - TRANSPARENCY





http://feedyardfoodie.wordpress.com http://kansascattleranch.blogspot.com http://dairygoddess.wordpress.com http://agricultureproud.com/

Live webcams can counter disturbing images

Participating families to tell their stories – i.e., blog

Websites to Google

- Common Ground <u>www.findourcommonground.com</u>
- U.S. Farmers & Ranchers Alliance http://usfraonline.org/
- Farmers Feed Us http://www.farmersfeedus.org/





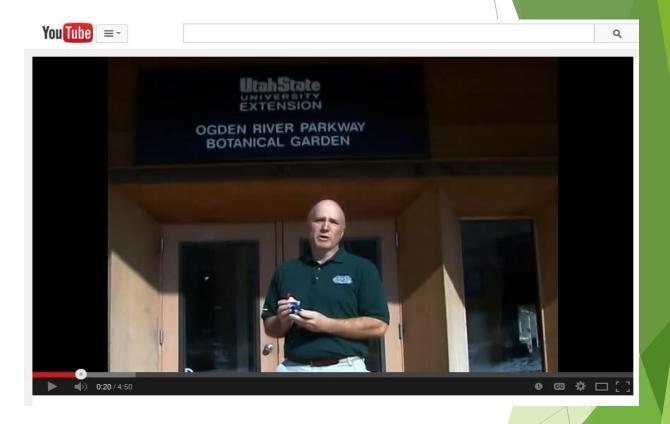


In Summary

- For Ag Literacy motivate stakeholders
- Step outside the bubble
- Extension single or multiple voices
- Decide on two platforms and study trends/best experts
- Delegate the labor tap into volunteers
- Schedule posts
 - ▶ Built in on Facebook
- Use tools
 - ► Hootsuite free, pro, enterprise
 - Google Analytics
- Don't take yourself too seriously on social media

Have Fun

- http://www.youtube.com/ watch?v=D0foMKAxCww
- Utah Extension



WAYS GOT

ANTHONY ROBBINS

"You are what you share"

~ C.W. Leadbeater, We Think: The Power of Mass Creativity



Questions?

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