

editor's page

Ask the Right Questions!

Each one of the articles in this issue of the *Journal* reports an evaluation of an Extension program. The intent of each was to determine if the Extension strategies used “made a difference.” The program discussed may or may not be in a subject for which you have an Extension responsibility—that’s not significant. What’s important to ask is: What insights does each give me to be more effective as an Extension educator?

Reading each article, ask yourself . . .

- What’s the author’s intent? Is an important question asked? How does that question apply to my own Extension responsibilities? What might I gain from this article?
- What approach did the author use to answer the questions asked—for example, questionnaires or telephone calls? Is the author’s approach appropriate for the purpose of the study?
- Does the information the author collected apply only to that location or can it be generalized? In my situation, would I expect similar results or would different issues be significant?
- Are the author’s conclusions justified? Are the author’s implications for Extension realistic? What does it mean to me—today in my world?

Ideas regarding program planning, development, implementation, and evaluation are discussed in one or more articles in this issue. The more we, as Extension educators, base our initiatives on proven strategies, the greater our impact as educators can be.

