

**Strengthening Michigan's Economy:
Roles for MAES and MSUE**

Checklist for Identifying County Participants

The county MSUE staff and the county Extension council members need to carefully consider WHO should be included in the 2005-06 issue identification process for MSUE and MAES. The broadest possible array of interests and needs should be represented during the county process:

- through the participants attending the two meetings
- from residents submitting the web survey
- through information obtained from various agencies and organizations
- through networks linked to MSUE and MAES work in the county
- through interviews with segments of the community that might not participate in other ways
- any other methods that seem appropriate.

*Are the interests of **all** segments of the county represented in this process, particularly in terms of:*

- ethnicity
- age (youth, seniors, etc.)
- economic interests
- location in the county

Here are some questions to ask:

- Who are the key organizations addressing major community issues? It will be important to include representation from organizations with differing viewpoints on a topic area (e.g. Sierra Club and developers and agricultural interests)?
- Which organizations are working to address a variety of community interests (e.g. community foundations, United Way)?
- Are there local linkages with other aspects of Michigan State University's outreach efforts (e.g. medical school)?
- Who are some identifiable opinion leaders representing different locations, age groups, ethnic groups, etc.?
- Are there some active grassroots organizations that need to be represented?
- Who are the major business/economic interests—particularly those that might work in partnership with MSUE/MAES?