

DISCUSSANT'S REMARKS

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COOPERATIVE EXTENSION AGENTS' PERCEPTIONS OF DISTANCE EDUCATION COMPETENCE, VALUE, AND TECHNOLOGICAL SUPPORT

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I was very encouraged to see research being conducted on this topic with this important population. Although Cooperative Extension has long utilized electronic media for information delivery, little knowledge is available pertaining to Agents' knowledge, skills, and aspirations regarding partial coverage program delivery. The researchers did an excellent job of developing a solid theoretical foundation for this study. The authors clearly presented the purpose of the study and related objectives. In the Methodology section, the research design and population and sample were reported for easy replication. However, I was somewhat puzzled why the authors reported an *a priori* alpha level and the use of Cohen's Effect Size when neither was used in the data analysis portion of this descriptive study. As per the instrument, little information was presented in relation to validity and reliability. The foundational study that was cited in terms of instrument development (Lindner, Murphy, & Dooley, 2001) did not report construct-level reliability coefficients, nor was the unidimensionality of the three constructs verified. In fact, one item included in the 2001 study appears to be missing from the Competence construct in this current study. The findings were clearly reported and the recommendations and conclusions logically presented.