Research/Extension Updates

There have been several important developments in the research reopening process that I would like to share.

1. Effective August 17, the allowable density limits for research activities will increase as indicated below by the Office of Research:
   a. Density limitations for research and creative expression activities will be increased from 25% to no more than 50% density at any given time. Please be aware that maintaining appropriate physical distancing supersedes the 50% density cap.
   b. You will be responsible for maintaining this density limitation in your office, lab or studio space where you conduct on-campus research and creative expression activities. Previously, density limitations applied to the building as well but that is no longer feasible with the increase in activities outside of researchers’ control.

2. In addition, CFAES will no longer require exemptions for research involving field, greenhouse, or animal work. Several important reminders:
   a. Extension activities are now being reviewed under the In-Person Programming Exemption Process.
   b. Research activities and associated limits in our buildings will be managed by unit leaders under the Office of Research staged reopening process.
   c. Stopping the exemption process does not automatically mean we can resume pre-COVID capacity.
   d. Purchasing and travel requests will receive additional scrutiny and may require additional justification and approvals. Please allow adequate time for processing. The one person per vehicle limit is still in place.
   e. For our ag operations managers, working with COVID safety precautions creates inefficiency and additional work. Our capacity is still reduced due to safety practices, cleaning, and social distancing. Density limitations and other health precautions will also keep overall activity levels less than under pre-COVID conditions.

Please see the CFAES Return to Offices and Campuses web site for additional information and/or contact our office if you have questions. Thank you.