So Where are the Scholarship Opportunities in your Extension Plan of Work?

Scholarship defined: "Scholarship and creative activity are understood to be intellectual work whose significance is validated by peers and which is communicated. More specifically, such work in its diverse forms is based on a high level of professional expertise; must give evidence of originality; must be documented and validated as through peer review or critique; and must be communicated in appropriate ways so as to have impact on or significance for publics beyond the University, or for the discipline itself."

Some of your Extension programs lend themselves to scholarly accomplishments. For those where you think there is a possibility consider the following questions in planning your scholarship.

1)   What kind of scholarship do you expect from this program?
>   integration of knowledge or technology leading to new interpretations or applications
>   research contributing to a body of knowledge
>   development of new technologies, materials or methods
>   creation and interpretation in the arts

2)   In what way is a part or all of this program original? {Are there aspects of the planning, methods, and/or results (outcomes) that are original?}

3)   Who are the peers for this program? Please describe them; do they have specialized knowledge and/or training? Do they maintain an ethical base for practice of their profession?
>   Examples:
>   Field reps employed in a relevant agricultural industry; consultants (consider their role and level of training)
>   Faculty (field or campus based at OSU or other university)
>   Staff members of a state or federal agency with similar technical training and responsibilities

4)   How are you going to communicate to these peers?
>   Suggestion:
>   Make a list of title(s) of written work(s), report(s), media, and/or presentation(s) indicating who will publish and/or in what meeting it will be presented

5)   What impact or significance for publics beyond the university will this program have?
>   How will you evaluate the effectiveness of this program? Who has adopted your work and where?
>   Suggestion: cite the short (knowledge change), medium (behavior change), and long term outcome (comprehensive community achievement) expected from this program with specific reference to the audience served; be sure that the audience served is clearly defined. Remember some impact will only be to a group of professionals and others will include broad groups of the public (both and in various combinations are valid).

6)   How will the impact or significance for publics beyond the university be determined?
>   Consider:
>   What methods will be used to understand impact?
>   What, if any, client or peer group surveys will need to be done?
>   What data can be measured? Are there data to be collected from the client base served (or other) which could act as an indicator of the impact of this program? Who will, or already does, collect these data?
>   Remember not all scholarship will have large public impacts and not all educational programs will have scholarship components. Use some common sense: Does this educational program warrant assessment of short, medium or long-term outcomes? If yes, then your evaluation of outcomes will add depth to the scholarly components of the educational program.

7)   How will you be able to demonstrate validation of your work by peers? (Does this validation have a clear opportunity for rejection of your work? What judgments and/or decisions did peers render? How were these made?)
>   Examples:
>   refereed articles for publication
>   peer reviewed articles
>   documentation of adoption of the program in other parts of Oregon, region, nation, or world, and why it was adopted (How will you find out?)
>   invited to present to peers (Is this an indicator of high reputation?)

Another possibility for scholarship: Consider your assumptions carefully in your plan of work; what might you learn from them that could be shared with peers and others? How will you learn something from your assumptions; how will you test this? What applications will your learning have to other programs to help people in other areas of Extension programming?