

The ShiftShow

Episode 25

The Land-grant Universities of Tomorrow (Ft. Dr. Nick Place)

Transcript

00:00:00 Dewayne

The Shift Show, captains log, episode 25. In today's episode, Dewayne and Joe beam in from Athens, GA, Dr. Nick Place, Dean for the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences and Director of the Cooperative Extension program at the University of Georgia. He shares his perspectives on how land grant universities.

00:00:20 Dewayne

Need to position themselves for the future by embracing technology we're going to execute a slingshot maneuver around the sun and take a peek into the future to learn what it's going to take to feed 10 billion people.

00:00:32 Dewayne

Computer set a course for the future.

00:00:52 Dewayne

Hey buddy, welcome. Welcome back to the US.

00:00:56 Joe

Thank you.

00:00:59 Joe

Yeah, been a little bit of a world traveler.

00:01:02 Joe

Wonderful time in New Zealand for sure.

00:01:05 Joe

Campervaning.

00:01:09 Joe

I guess I could work remote from anywhere, but I think like 16 hours difference from where I would be responsible might be.

00:01:15 Joe

Might be a little hard, but.

00:01:17 Dewayne

And you were from the.

00:01:17 Dewayne

Future, which is true true?

00:01:20 Dewayne

Interesting and also very related 'cause our our episode today is talking about the future which I think is kind.

00:01:27 Joe

Of cool, yeah, we're going to.

00:01:28 Joe

We're going to talk about land grant system.

00:01:32 Joe

Around technology use and what what extension in the land grant land grant system itself?

00:01:41 Joe

What is it?

00:01:41 Joe

What might it need to look like in the?

00:01:43 Joe

Future, there's definitely a number of issues around food.

00:01:50 Joe

Systems that are going to need to be solved over the next, you know next century.

00:01:56 Dewayne

Yeah, gotta got a whole lot of people living on this rock.

00:02:01 Dewayne

That that all.

00:02:02

Need to eat.

00:02:03 Dewayne

And I love to eat too much sometimes.

00:02:06 Dewayne

So I appreciate what our land grant system does.

00:02:11 Dewayne

From my belly.

00:02:15 Dewayne

Well, we're going to beam on a friend of ours.

00:02:18 Dewayne

This is exciting, so we have.

00:02:21 Dewayne

Doctor Nick place.

00:02:23 Dewayne

He is the Dean and director at the University of Georgia, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, and I will just go ahead and say he is the the top dog of land grant for UGA, right?

00:02:42 Joe

Yeah, that's a that's a good one, yes?

00:02:45 Dewayne

We we worked with him quite a bit here at the University of Florida, where he was the the Dean of extension and and just had a really good time talking with him and working with him and helped us a lot that we had his support.

00:03:00 Dewayne

With the things that we were trying to push our land grant system in Florida to do, you know adopting new technologies and understanding the how, how to leverage those things and having having the support of of real leadership was really, really I'm.

00:03:18 Dewayne

I'm thankful for that so.

00:03:20 Joe

Yeah, this will be great to one learn, learn a little bit more about what he's been doing since he left University of Florida and.

00:03:28 Joe

And what what his thoughts are on technology as it relates to land grant.

00:03:36 Joe

For the future, looking forward to this conversation I think.

00:03:41 Joe

Think we're ready to ready to beam him?

00:03:43 Dewayne

On yeah, let me go ahead and do that and this is a again.

00:03:48 Dewayne

I say this every time we're so far 100% on people surviving the transporter, but this one matters, so I'm going to go ahead and beam him onto the shift show and let's get this.

00:04:01 Dewayne

Show started.

00:04:11 Dewayne

Hey Doctor place welcome aboard our podcast.

00:04:16 Dewayne

Welcome aboard the shift show.

00:04:17 Dewayne

We're so happy to be able to see you again and hang out.

00:04:20 Dewayne

Hang out with.

00:04:20 Dewayne

You again, it's been a minute.

00:04:22 Dr. Nick Place

It has it's good to see you Dwayne Joe.

00:04:24 Dr. Nick Place

Good to be with you guys.

00:04:26 Dewayne

So recap for us a little bit.

00:04:28 Dewayne

You know we worked with you quite a bit here in Florida, but now you're a little bit further north.

00:04:34 Dewayne

Hopefully a little bit a little bit cooler.

00:04:37 Dewayne

What what, what happened there?

00:04:39 Dewayne

Where are you at now?

00:04:41 Dr. Nick Place

So yeah, so I'm here at the University of Georgia.

00:04:44 Dr. Nick Place

I'm the Dean and director for the College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences here at the University of Georgia.

00:04:50 Dr. Nick Place

Based up in Athens, so about A5 and 1/2 hour drive north of you guys there in Gainesville. Weather is beautiful up here by the way. Just saying.

00:04:59 Dewayne

I'm jealous.

00:05:02 Dewayne

It was really hot last week and there was a hurricane at the same time so.

00:05:07 Dr. Nick Place

Yeah, we don't deal with that so much up here.

00:05:10

That's awesome.

00:05:12 Dewayne

Can you tell me a little bit?

00:05:14 Dewayne

You know, we've done a lot of work in land grant here at Florida and the land grant system is something that covers the entire country.

00:05:23 Dewayne

How how did it come about?

00:05:25 Dewayne

Just a real quick like lesson about what its objectives are or what its goals are, and then later we can talk about like a little bit about how technology integrates into that now.

00:05:35 Dr. Nick Place

Yeah, thanks for that question. That's something that I get pretty excited about about the history of the land grant movement goes back to the mid 1800s. Actually was signed into law by President Abraham Lincoln in 1862, and the whole intention of that was to create a system.

00:05:55 Dr. Nick Place

Of higher education for the common man is what's in the language and what that means.

00:06:01 Dr. Nick Place

Is at the time there really was only higher education for those in medicine, religion, law, those kind of things.

00:06:09 Dr. Nick Place

But all the things that we do related to food production, agriculture engineering, all those more applied sciences or really with no opportunity.

00:06:19 Dr. Nick Place

Hence that's why land grants were created.

00:06:22 Dr. Nick Place

To create those kind of structures for higher education to focus in on those applicable science.

00:06:30 Dr. Nick Place

And over time that has expanded into a 3 way mission of doing research, renowned around those cutting edge issues, teaching of undergraduate and graduate students, and then also the extension function of really taking the latest research and knowledge out to the public and.

00:06:49 Dr. Nick Place

Helping them put that into practice in their businesses, families and homes.

00:06:55 Dewayne

Awesome, that's a that's that's a lot I I was shocked when I first came on board here in Florida at.

00:07:04 Dewayne

The scope of what land grant touches, like when it talks about agriculture, applied sciences and life sciences.

00:07:12 Dewayne

It was so big.

00:07:14 Dewayne

It was like I said.

00:07:15 Dewayne

A mile wide and a mile.

00:07:16 Dewayne

Deep, it's it's pretty wild.

00:07:18 Dr. Nick Place

Yeah, it sure is, and every state has at least one language university and also in 1890 there are additional land grants that were added for the historically black school.

00:07:32 Dr. Nick Place

Rules along this southern part, so we have 19 of the Southern 1890 land grant institutions and then in 1994 there were additional institutions added for the tribal colleges that are pretty much located out in the West. So all told.

00:07:52 Dr. Nick Place

There I think there's about 75 land grant institutions located around the US.

00:07:59 Joe

We've seen early on a lot of those universities and colleges started off as A and M agriculture mechanics.

00:08:09 Joe

The mechanics part is engineering and sciences and integrated with agriculture, and again we're talking 150 years ago.

00:08:18 Joe

There's always been.

00:08:19 Joe

It seems like that connection of science.

00:08:23 Joe

That engineering portion with agriculture.

00:08:27 Joe

And that's something we were looking to talk about.

00:08:29 Joe

Today is kind of the innovation in land grants with around agriculture and the technology and what that's you know what that's doing and enhancing for us across extension.

00:08:43 Dr. Nick Place

Yeah, that's a really good point Joe, and that so way back in the beginning, land grants were all about agriculture and engineering and other applied science.

00:08:53 Dr. Nick Place

And we've kind of come around full circle where right now there's a renewed interest for bringing together agriculture, technology, engineering for advancing what we can do across agriculture with food production and the other kind of challenges and issues that agriculture is facing today.

00:09:12 Dewayne

In the last couple of years, we've obviously all been going through something kind of special.

00:09:18 Dr. Nick Place

If you want to, if you want to use that word.

00:09:20 Dewayne

Yeah, it's definitely different, but it has kind of forced, you know, like like Joe went 150 years back and so there's been 150 years of innovating.

00:09:32 Dewayne

Through land grants, you know, just as time progresses, but that timeline feels like it went into like you just mashed the Fast forward button really, really hard.

00:09:42 Dewayne

For the last, you know two or three years, and so our folks here have been forced to to learn and adapt and adopt at a really, really rapid.

00:09:52 Dewayne

Pace so can you talk a little bit about some things that you've seen you know in in your journey over the last couple of years that have been I.

00:10:00 Dewayne

I don't know, just we call it the shift, you know, 'cause that's our that's our whole thing here.

00:10:06 Dr. Nick Place

Right, and Duane specifically, you're talking about the pandemic that hit us.

00:10:11 Dr. Nick Place

I started back in 2020 and I was there with you guys in Florida at the time and specifically remember it was March of 2020 when it really hit us head on and it caused a tremendous upheaval. I would say in relation to what we do.

00:10:31 Dr. Nick Place

One of the issues that we faced down there in Florida was the how that impacted agriculture overall and I remember there was a.

00:10:42 Dr. Nick Place

Lot of agriculture produce.

00:10:44 Dr. Nick Place

Users that were shipping food into the hospitality sector.

00:10:49 Dr. Nick Place

So with the cruise lines and hotels and Disney and all that, all that came and shut down and that caused a tremendous upheaval to that well established system of getting food into the hospitality.

00:11:05 Dr. Nick Place

And they really had a hard time of shuffling around and trying to get that into more of the retail space.

00:11:13 Dr. Nick Place

And because of that lag in able to being able to shift in how we get produce and whatnot out, there was a lot of produce there in Florida that really went to waste.

00:11:26 Dr. Nick Place

Because of the.

00:11:29 Dr. Nick Place

Rigidity, I would say in regards to how the food system was functioning and structured at that point in time for us in land grants we were working on that there in not only Florida, but nationally we were dealing with some of that, but that also caused a tremendous.

00:11:48 Dr. Nick Place

Change for extension agents that really were well accustomed to going out and working with produce.

00:11:56 Dr. Nick Place

But yet we were initially shutting things down and had to really rethink how we delivered extension programs to producers and families and 4H members. And that pushed a lot of our work into the virtual learning that we are seeing much more of now as compared to you.

00:12:18 Dr. Nick Place

You know, three years ago, prior to COVID hitting all of us?

00:12:24 Joe

I think I just want to say thank you to you for some of the early boost you gave Dwayne and I on our effort to drive adoption when the pandemic hit around some technology for our extension agents.

00:12:37 Joe

Using Microsoft Teams was something we determined was really important for us and it was really helpful to have.

00:12:44 Joe

You have us on your extension webinar series.

00:12:49 Joe

And have leadership there kind of helping expose the agents to something that you know you brought it on board very quickly.

00:12:59 Joe

I think that was really, really important.

00:13:01 Joe

Really helped.

00:13:02 Joe

To to our agents to see that leadership, recognizing that this is going to be important.

00:13:10 Joe

That was just really helpful.

00:13:12 Joe

I think for us to get that boost early on.

00:13:15 Dr. Nick Place

So I appreciate that Joe and you're absolutely right.

00:13:18 Dr. Nick Place

One of the things that the COVID epidemic did, it caused a tremendous amount of rethinking about extension.

00:13:28 Dr. Nick Place

And why are we in existence and how should extension function into the future?

00:13:35 Dr. Nick Place

Going back about 10 or 15 years as more and more content became available through the Internet and on a cell phone through Google searches and everything else it that it's really what prompted extension to think about where it stands today and where it needs to go into the future.

00:13:53 Dr. Nick Place

Quite often I would get.

00:13:55 Dr. Nick Place

Call calls and questions of several years ago about, you know, because everything is so accessible and available now, even in your hand on your phone.

00:14:05 Dr. Nick Place

What does that mean for extension?

00:14:06 Dr. Nick Place

Is extension needed now and into the future, since all that information is so readily available and accessible.

00:14:14 Dr. Nick Place

My sense is and what I would say is that extension is needed now, more so than ever.

00:14:22 Dr. Nick Place

So yes, all of this content information is available, which is great, but not everything you see is applicable.

00:14:30 Dr. Nick Place

Or maybe it fits your particular situation.

00:14:34 Dr. Nick Place

And honestly, everything you see online, you might not want to believe that, and you might need to do some deeper dive into that information that you're seeing.

00:14:45 Dr. Nick Place

This is where extension can come in.

00:14:47 Dr. Nick Place

To really take that content into a much deeper level and frankly look at the application of that content in that material that a family or a business or a farmer may see and help them understand how that applies to their particular situation or how they may adapt various aspects of that content.

00:15:08 Dr. Nick Place

That's going to help them improve production practices or do kind of the kind of things it's going to affect their business profitability and things like.

00:15:16 Dr. Nick Place

That that is through to me.

00:15:19 Dr. Nick Place

The real niche that extension has is being personalizing that content in such a way that it's most meaningful to that farmer.

00:15:28 Dr. Nick Place

That business, that 4H member or that family that has access to that content. So we in extension need to.

00:15:37 Dr. Nick Place

Capitalize on that be pushing content out through the web through Google and whatnot, as well as having a really strong personal connection of that content with the actual clientele and users of that content.

00:15:52 Dewayne

Yeah, that's really that's really interesting.

00:15:56 Dewayne

Balance to maintain is, you know, there's this.

00:15:59 Dewayne

There's a super powerful source out there with a lot of information in it.

00:16:05 Dewayne

And yeah, a lot of it might not actually be right for one, so we want to make sure that you know we've got research based data out there.

00:16:15 Dewayne

That's that's, you know, gone through.

00:16:16 Dewayne

All of those those processes and been validated peer reviewed and whatnot, but at the same time we you can't have a personal relationship with the with the blog you know.

00:16:26 Dewayne

So so having the ability to.

00:16:29 Dewayne

Meet with people.

00:16:30 Dewayne

Become a trusted advisor.

00:16:32 Dewayne

You know to work with them and have those relationships you know.

00:16:35 Dewayne

I see it being kind of an interesting path moving forward of trying to balance that personal relationship versus the embracing of technology and the understanding and in utilization of the outreach that technology brings.

00:16:48 Dewayne

So that's going to be.

00:16:49 Dewayne

It's going to be fun.

00:16:51 Dr. Nick Place

Yeah, and frankly a very good example of that back a couple of years ago and I was working with you guys.

00:16:58 Dr. Nick Place

You first approached me about using Microsoft Teams and this is what we need to be doing.

00:17:03 Dr. Nick Place

This is where we need to be going and I was hearing all this from the both of you, but it really did not sync.

00:17:11 Dr. Nick Place

In until we had the opportunity to dive into this together to really see how we could utilize this tool for advancing what we do to show.

00:17:20 Dr. Nick Place

Their extension information to bring teams together to jointly solve solutions over this particular use of technology.

00:17:29 Dr. Nick Place

So it's the same kind of application of yeah, you see that out there, but the opportunity to sit down with both of you and and really learn this in a hands on way that is.

00:17:40 Dr. Nick Place

Similar to what extension agents need to do with their clientele?

00:17:44 Joe

We kind of approached it as Microsoft Teams is a way for our agents to share the information that they're gaining and learning essentially so that they can better share it with their citizens and coming together across the state.

00:18:02 Joe

As we have programs, of course.

00:18:05 Joe

Statewide 4H for example.

00:18:07 Joe

And agents are spread out across the state and the tools like this that they could take advantage of now brings them closer.

00:18:13 Joe

Together they can not.

00:18:16 Joe

They're not repeating the same things over and over and re creating the same social posts and Flyers and information they can collaborate on those tools.

00:18:26 Joe

And better serve, you know, have more time to be out in person now as we're getting back to that as they're not repeating the same information over and over, and each person re doing the same.

00:18:37 Dr. Nick Place

Yeah, that's a good point Joanne.

00:18:39 Dr. Nick Place

And that also is very similar to what we're doing in the formal classroom with undergraduate and graduate teaching is that we are working with and encouraging our faculty members to put some of that regular content that they have to cover.

00:18:54 Dr. Nick Place

The baseline foundational material.

00:18:57 Dr. Nick Place

Make that available through.

00:19:00 Dr. Nick Place

Technology and then use the time in the classroom to do more of a deeper dive and an application focused time together with the students where they can look at that content ahead of time and then come to the classroom ready to understand how that can apply and how they can.

00:19:20 Dr. Nick Place

Really learn about that content in a much deeper way.

00:19:23 Dr. Nick Place

Doing exactly the same thing in extension.

00:19:26 Dr. Nick Place

And your comment to about 4H is a really good one in that we can use technology to share content with young people.

00:19:34 Dr. Nick Place

Plus it also opens up opportunities for accessibility so we can connect with a lot more young people through technology that we may not be able to connect with through face to face and.

00:19:46 Dr. Nick Place

In person kind of learn.

00:19:48 Dr. Nick Place

But hopefully those technological connections would then bring young people in for some of those more in person kind of connections for that deeper dive into content, or to bring them into 4H camps and other kind of learning environments where a lot of life skills and.

00:20:08 Dr. Nick Place

Personal development is more effective and able to take place.

00:20:14 Dewayne

Are you an extension agent just getting started with teams?

00:20:17 Dewayne

Or maybe you're experienced, but you're looking to improve your digital cloud skillset?

00:20:22 Dewayne

Are you an IT pro supporting extension programs at your university?

00:20:26 Dewayne

Well, you're invited to join us in a community working to empower extension agents and their support staff to skill up and learn together.

00:20:34 Dewayne

If you're interested, visit akms.

00:20:38 Dewayne

Join Cloudy County to sign up and join us.

00:20:41 Dewayne

For monthly training sessions and open discussion with your hosts of the shift show cloudy county extension.

00:20:48 Dewayne

Essential cloud skills for extension by extension.

00:20:54 Dewayne

Yeah, I think.

00:20:56 Dewayne

Connecting 4H students and young folks with technology. You know, that's kind of their jam right there, they're all.

00:21:03 Dewayne

They're all about it and we, Joe and I want to do a we don't normally do shout outs, but I think it's very relevant here at our extension.

00:21:13 Dewayne

Professional associations of Florida meeting that we had, uh.

00:21:16 Dewayne

Couple months ago.

00:21:17 Dewayne

I got to see a really interesting poster by Sabrina Hayes from FAMU, with her 4H tech changemaker program, which I thought was really cool.

00:21:27 Dewayne

It was 4H students taking technology and then them doing outreach to people to teach others how to use technology and so they were doing demonstrations with computers and tablets and and.

00:21:38 Dewayne

All the different little things that they're just seemed to be just born.

00:21:43 Dewayne

Well, you know they're born good at that kind of thing.

00:21:45 Dewayne

And so it was really, really cool example of of almost like.

00:21:49 Dewayne

Extension within extension, it was just.

00:21:51 Dewayne

It was just I was really impressed by that.

00:21:54 Dr. Nick Place

Yeah, that's a really cool point. Doing is basically what she's doing is peer-to-peer learning and setting up the youth in such a way that they can teach and train other youth and learn from their peers about how to utilize technology. And that is a very effective way of.

00:22:14 Dr. Nick Place

Teaching content, but then also focusing in on the application of that content and there's really nothing more valuable than that.

00:22:22 Dr. Nick Place

Learning about that from a peer colleague who's of the same generation and perspective of where that learner is coming from.

00:22:33 Dewayne

Let's let's work upward a little bit in the in the land grant, you know triangle here, so our extension our extension program is that outreach, and they're they're using technology for that outreach.

00:22:45 Dewayne

You know, we we saw that major shift of of doing online webinars and things and the attendance numbers just spiked and it was wonderful.

00:22:53 Dewayne

To do that, and now they're in a phase of balancing technology.

00:22:58 Dewayne

And now that we can have those personal relationships and see people again.

00:23:01 Dewayne

But they're getting their data.

00:23:04 Dewayne

Kind of, I don't wanna say further up the chain, but so from somewhere else within the land grant system.

00:23:08 Dewayne

So our researchers are now leaning on technology.

00:23:11 Dewayne

You know, you hear a lot about AI, precision, agriculture, drones, or like just a gigantic sector.

00:23:19 Dewayne

Now what are some things that you're seeing in the research?

00:23:23 Dewayne

Space here where technology is having a really big a really big impact.

00:23:28 Dr. Nick Place

Yeah, you're absolutely right.

00:23:30 Dr. Nick Place

Dewayne, there's a lot of things happening there related to technology.

00:23:35 Dr. Nick Place

Particularly as it affects food production in agriculture, so precision agriculture or what we call here at the University of Georgia Integrative Precision Agriculture.

00:23:48 Dr. Nick Place

Is has been around for some time, probably going back to the 1990s. Most of that work was up in the Midwest around the the row crops of soybeans and corn, and so that's been there for quite a while, and what you've seen.

00:24:05 Dr. Nick Place

I mean, is the application of technologies with GPS guided tractors and harvesters and things like that now it is more relatively newcomer for the specialty crops that we have in Georgia.

00:24:20 Dr. Nick Place

And frankly, they're in Florida, California, and other states.

00:24:24 Dr. Nick Place

When you think about.

00:24:26 Dr. Nick Place

Produce fruits, vegetables, all of those kind of things that are more smaller, specialized crops.

00:24:34 Dr. Nick Place

Precision agriculture Technologies is a relatively new tool that is being used in that space as well as with animal agriculture.

00:24:44 Dr. Nick Place

The reason that we call it integrative precision agriculture here at the University of Georgia is because it's not just precision AG, but we they have to think about how it integrates with other technologies in with data and data science and everything else that is involved with where.

00:25:04 Dr. Nick Place

Digital agriculture or precision agriculture is today.

00:25:08 Dr. Nick Place

It is incredible to see some of the things that are in the works that you see around the US and that we're working on here specifically in Georgia.

00:25:18 Dr. Nick Place

For example, in the animal science side, poultry is by far our biggest industry AG industry.

00:25:26 Dr. Nick Place

Here in the state.

00:25:27 Dr. Nick Place

I would also say that agriculture is our #1 industry and then of that poultry is the major aspect of that.

00:25:34 Dr. Nick Place

The kind of things that we're seeing are that we are starting to use technologies to look at the genetics of a bird and then determining feed and watering needs based upon the genetics of that bird.

00:25:49 Dr. Nick Place

That's really how far we have come on the poultry side of things on the dairy science side.

00:25:56 Dr. Nick Place

We all.

00:25:56 Dr. Nick Place

So we.

00:25:57 Dr. Nick Place

Have producers here that are using robotic milkers so we have robots that are really doing all the preparation and milking of those cattle and also because of that we are able to track all kinds of metrics of every one of the four quarters.

00:26:17 Dr. Nick Place

Of that dairy cow so we can track somatic cell counts, which looks at in various kind of infection levels like.

00:26:25 Dr. Nick Place

Mastitis and things like that that we can look at temperatures of the milk.

00:26:30 Dr. Nick Place

We can look at poundage and and quality of that milk.

00:26:34 Dr. Nick Place

We also are able to do things for tracking movement of that cow.

00:26:40 Dr. Nick Place

We can track how much they're eating and not eating.

00:26:43 Dr. Nick Place

We can track the health level.

00:26:45 Dr. Nick Place

That cow we can track whether that cow is in estrus and ready to be bred.

00:26:51 Dr. Nick Place

I mean, there's so much data out there right now in the animal science side.

00:26:55 Dr. Nick Place

It's incredible.

00:26:56 Dr. Nick Place

On the plant science side, some of the cool things are working on is there's sensors that we have out there in the field where we can track moisture levels and fertility levels of plants or plots of plants and being able to more effectively water.

00:27:16 Dr. Nick Place

When necessary or apply fertilizer when that plant is in the best timing and need for uptaking of water and nutrients.

00:27:25 Dr. Nick Place

And that's going to help us to cut down a cost cut down on fertilizer, which also helps to improve environmental impact as well as overall profitability.

00:27:36 Dr. Nick Place

So there's just some examples I could go on and on you guys, but there's just a few to kind of.

00:27:42 Dr. Nick Place

Plant some seeds of ideas out there with people.

00:27:46 Joe

You're talking our talking our language.

00:27:49 Joe

Some of that is very nerdy.

00:27:51 Joe

We appreciate that.

00:27:52 Joe

I think some some of our some of our cows here.

00:27:57 Joe

I think probably.

00:27:58 Joe

Have more data and statistics managed on them than you know.

00:28:02 Joe

I'm probably doing with my my Garmin watch tracker, you know so.

00:28:07 Dr. Nick Place

Right exactly so.

00:28:08 Dewayne

Didn't know they made cow cow sized Fitbits.

00:28:11 Dr. Nick Place

Oh, they they.

00:28:12 Dr. Nick Place

Do absolutely and so you can track.

00:28:15 Dr. Nick Place

Monitor, monitor their movement and their rumen function and how much they're chewing, and that gives you an indication about the health of that cow, which is incredible.

00:28:26 Dr. Nick Place

A dairy farmer I met with about two months ago said I had.

00:28:31 Dr. Nick Place

Have meaning he has so much information on every one of those cows.

00:28:36 Dr. Nick Place

He doesn't know what to do with it, and that's the kind of help that he needs.

00:28:40 Dr. Nick Place

That's why we are focusing our teaching program here in the college on students that really understand the actual animal science practical side, but then also the.

00:28:51 Dr. Nick Place

Application to this data in this information and how can we marry that together to help that farmer be most productive? To help improve cow health and well-being?

00:29:03 Dr. Nick Place

In productivity, so that's really the future of agriculture today for young people, and it's such an exciting time, I tell.

00:29:12 Dr. Nick Place

By the way, I wish I was a student to really jump into that.

00:29:16 Dr. Nick Place

Right now.

00:29:16 Dr. Nick Place

This is exciting.

00:29:17 Dr. Nick Place

Time to be in agriculture for sure.

00:29:20 Joe

I think a little bit earlier we talking a little bit about the explosive growth of technology, potentially.

00:29:26 Joe

You know, making the need for extension agents out there, but what you're describing to me right now is.

00:29:36 Joe

There's such a a massive growth of this technology and it's able to greatly impact.

00:29:41 Joe

IAM even down to small farms or.

00:29:44 Joe

I think even individual homes that definitely through the pandemic decided to take up take up farming in their backyard, you know, and the need for more people in extension.

00:29:57 Joe

It almost feels like the technology is driving.

00:30:00 Joe

That direction.

00:30:01 Dr. Nick Place

Yeah, and that's one of the things we've talked about here.

00:30:06 Dr. Nick Place

The future of extension or component of that would be extension agents that really understand technology and how technology is integrated into agriculture and food production.

00:30:19 Dr. Nick Place

Because the typical farmer.

00:30:21 Dr. Nick Place

A lot of them don't have that kind of background, so this is a huge opportunity for extension to get into that space to help producers.

00:30:31 Dr. Nick Place

Really understand about those technologies that are out there, what's applicable to their particular farming operation, and then once they get these new technologies, how do you best utilize those in the most effective and profitable kind of way so and so?

00:30:48 Dr. Nick Place

What I see in extension is a.

00:30:49 Dr. Nick Place

Lot more of our.

00:30:51 Dr. Nick Place

Extension agents specially specializing in technology adaptation, management utilization, moving forward.

00:31:00 Joe

In our industry we have the concept of a A managed service provider that is a an organization that helps usually small businesses who don't.

00:31:11 Joe

They can't afford or train or maintain technology people, so they have a business that comes in and and helps them occasionally on different issues.

00:31:20 Joe

It sounds like.

00:31:21 Joe

Extension could almost be heading towards a managed service provider kind of concept of, you know, bringing in a small troop to a small farm and implementing some you know technology and training them and and moving on to the next one.

00:31:36 Dr. Nick Place

Yeah, so there's a couple things I'd say about that Joe.

00:31:39 Dr. Nick Place

So in many cases with some of this technology, the provider that technology or the company that sold it would come in and install it and do some preliminary instruction and training, and then they basically step out and move on to the next.

00:31:55 Dr. Nick Place

Sales contract.

00:31:57 Dr. Nick Place

And this is the opportunity for extension to step in and really work in a hands on way with that producer of the utilization of that technology.

00:32:07 Dr. Nick Place

So it's a bridge from the installation of the technology to the full understanding and utilization of that technology.

00:32:16 Dr. Nick Place

That's going to fit.

00:32:17 Dr. Nick Place

That prop producer.

00:32:19 Dr. Nick Place

You also touched on small producers.

00:32:22 Dr. Nick Place

Quite frankly, that's one of the issues that we see with technology is many times it's expensive and it's really geared for the large farms.

00:32:33 Dr. Nick Place

We deal with lots of cows or poultry or many acres, and that's one of the challenges that we have in front of us is to think about how do we get this technology.

00:32:44 Dr. Nick Place

Fitting in such a way that's good for small and mid sized producers.

00:32:49 Dr. Nick Place

So we have to look at applicability.

00:32:51 Dr. Nick Place

We have to look at affordability and other aspects so that the technology.

00:32:58 Dr. Nick Place

Yes it benefits large produce.

00:33:00 Dr. Nick Place

But then also, how do we help the smaller and midsize producers also adopt this technology in appropriate ways?

00:33:08 Dewayne

We've we've seen some innovative solutions.

00:33:14 Dewayne

We had a technology AG technology Expo.

00:33:19 Dewayne

2021 I believe, and we had a gentleman chief data scientist from Microsoft. Ranveer Chandra was our keynote speaker and he talked about some really cool.

00:33:29 Dewayne

Cool solutions that his Microsoft Farm Beats program is working on using sensors, so you mentioned sensors earlier for for vegetables and measuring soil moisture content and so you've got this farm and you've got all these sensors everywhere and now you're generating data.

00:33:46 Dewayne

You have to be able to transmit that data and then once you transmit that data.

00:33:50 Dewayne

You know it has to go somewhere and then it has to be processed.

00:33:53 Dewayne

And that sounds kind of like what you were saying.

00:33:55 Dewayne

Having our upcoming students understand the relationship between not only the applicability of of animal sciences and and farming, but how to manage data, and that's a field all in itself, right?

00:34:09 Dewayne

You know, that's a that's a big deal, and so it's pretty cool to see some of those innovative solutions that that might help smaller.

00:34:15 Dewayne

Smaller businesses be able to use some some lower cost sensors.

00:34:20 Dewayne

Maybe partnership partner with you know, Florida or UGA to to analyze that data.

00:34:26 Dewayne

And I think there's some really cool.

00:34:27 Dewayne

It's really cool opportunities there.

00:34:30 Dr. Nick Place

Yeah, I totally agree with that Duane and so here what we are doing is it with the College of Engineering and also with our School of Computer Sciences.

00:34:40 Dr. Nick Place

We are partnering with them to do exactly what you're saying about what are ways for us to be looking at and utilizing.

00:34:50 Dr. Nick Place

That large amount of big data that's out there right now?

00:34:55 Dr. Nick Place

One of what of that data makes sense, and being able to whittle that down in such a way that it's useful information for that.

00:35:04 Dr. Nick Place

Farmer and that's why we have to train up students that understand agriculture and engineering as well as computer sciences and big data.

00:35:14 Dr. Nick Place

And how does that marry together in more of a system kind of approach and and those are the kind of students that we need today moving into the future.

00:35:25 Dr. Nick Place

Frankly, those are the kind of extension agents we.

00:35:27 Dr. Nick Place

Need that really can understand things from that larger, higher level systems approach rather than more of what I would call the siloed approach of just you got computer science and big data.

00:35:38 Dr. Nick Place

You have engineering and agriculture.

00:35:40 Dr. Nick Place

We have to think about how do we marry all that together to really advance where we are today?

00:35:46 Joe

Some of that.

00:35:47 Joe

Advancement probably comes with some pain points.

00:35:50 Joe

Are there any places you're seeing where?

00:35:54 Joe

That technology adoption has got problems and you know how were you fighting through those.

00:36:00 Dr. Nick Place

Yeah, with as you guys well know, there's your anytime you're looking at technology in change there is pain points.

00:36:07 Dr. Nick Place

There's sometimes slow adoption and adaptation of technology.

00:36:15 Dr. Nick Place

Of course there's going to be people that like to do things.

00:36:19 Dr. Nick Place

As they are right now as they have been doing them for many many years and that's fine.

00:36:25 Dr. Nick Place

If a person wants to do that, but there also are a lot of folks that are are really looking into the future.

00:36:32 Dr. Nick Place

How can technology and innovation help us feed the growing planet that we have and do it in a safe, sustainable, economically profitable kind of way?

00:36:44 Dr. Nick Place

And we're really putting a lot of emphasis on that and working with those producers here across the state.

00:36:53 Joe

I think that pressure is on.

00:36:54 Joe

Agriculture is pretty strong.

00:36:56 Joe

I believe the planet has just hit 8 billion people in the last month, so that's a lot of people to feed.

00:37:03 Dr. Nick Place

So as actually yesterday, the we hit the world population of 8 billion people, which is, that's a lot you guys, and by 2050 that projection is that we will be at 10 billion people.

00:37:18 Dr. Nick Place

Which is a lot when you think about it, so that's an additional 2 billion beyond where we are today.

00:37:24 Dr. Nick Place

That is more than the population of China at this time.

00:37:27 Dr. Nick Place

Just to put it in perspective, that's a lot of mouths to feed.

00:37:32 Dr. Nick Place

Uh, and also.

00:37:34 Dr. Nick Place

In addition to the number of people growing, a lot of the developed developing countries are becoming developed countries, and hence we're seeing some changes in what people want to eat and their expectations of food and moving to higher levels of protein and things like that.

00:37:53 Dr. Nick Place

So milk and and meat.

00:37:54 Dr. Nick Place

Products and so on.

00:37:56 Dr. Nick Place

That's also changing the not only the quantity, but quality and types of food that we need to be able to deliver.

00:38:03 Dr. Nick Place

That also is requiring that we have to.

00:38:06 Dr. Nick Place

Advanced agriculture production 60 to 70% beyond where it is today by 2050 and how are we going to do that?

00:38:17 Dr. Nick Place

Basically the same amount of land we don't have anymore land resources.

00:38:22 Dr. Nick Place

We also have the same amount of water and there's increased pressure on water between.

00:38:26 Dr. Nick Place

Our culture and and populations there also are increasing number of pests and diseases and other environmental issues, so that is why we have to look at agriculture in the future in a much different kind of way.

00:38:43 Dr. Nick Place

And I would contend that technology.

00:38:46 Dr. Nick Place

Is away for helping helping us become more productive, more efficient, and really utilizes resources we have right now in a more sustainable and viable kind of way.

00:38:59 Dewayne

So that's that's a great segue into kind of.

00:39:04 Dewayne

One of the.

00:39:05 Dewayne

Fun things that I wanted to do on this episode is like, you know, we're going to try to predict the future a little bit, which you basically just did.

00:39:13 Dewayne

You gave us the.

00:39:14 Dewayne

The the idea of the requirements like we're going to have way more people.

00:39:17 Dewayne

We got a lot of people now, but we're going to have way more people.

00:39:20 Dewayne

And so, what are some things that you think like real world application?

00:39:25 Dewayne

It will be required of all land grant universities to be what we're calling that we're calling this episode the land grant universities of of tomorrow.

00:39:35 Dewayne

Like what are they going to have to do to be able to get that data to get that programming extended out to to 10 billion people?

00:39:44 Dr. Nick Place

Right, that is a a really good question.

00:39:48 Dr. Nick Place

Duane and I've never seen myself as a visionary or a person that has a class ball to look into the future.

00:39:56 Dr. Nick Place

But what we do know is the planet is increasing in size and population.

00:40:02 Dr. Nick Place

Plus there's also these other.

00:40:04 Dr. Nick Place

Factors that are playing into this that are going to cause other kinds of challenges and issues on our food system in upon agriculture and what we have to work on.

00:40:15 Dr. Nick Place

Our weight ways and strategies that we're going to be able to address that moving into the future.

00:40:23 Dr. Nick Place

That also means that we have to look at things from a systems perspective and what I mean by that.

00:40:30 Dr. Nick Place

It can't be just siloed animal science plant science engineering, but we have to think about how do we bring all this.

00:40:38 Dr. Nick Place

These aspects and components together in a way that we can.

00:40:43 Dr. Nick Place

Learn from one another and address some of those.

00:40:45 Dr. Nick Place

What I like to call vexing issues of the complications of water usage and water utilization, and how do we stretch water resources beyond what they are right now because.

00:41:00 Dr. Nick Place

The the viable, drinkable, potable water we have.

00:41:04 Dr. Nick Place

It is what it is and we don't see a lot of that increasing.

00:41:07 Dr. Nick Place

So how do we maximize that?

00:41:09 Dr. Nick Place

How do we maximize our land resources that we have available right now, and other things like that one of the things that we're also pursuing here at the University of Georgia?

00:41:22 Dr. Nick Place

It's also tide in where they're integrated.

00:41:24 Dr. Nick Place

Precision agriculture.

00:41:25 Dr. Nick Place

We're putting a major emphasis on controlled environment, agriculture and what that means is, you know, looking at high end green houses and vertical greenhouse production, and you probably have seen or heard aspects of that.

00:41:41 Dr. Nick Place

That is a major investment.

00:41:42 Dr. Nick Place

Area for us in as a state.

00:41:45 Dr. Nick Place

And quite frankly, there really has not been much in the way of research or teaching programs out there, and land grants that have been able to support that industry.

00:41:56 Dr. Nick Place

So that's an area that we're working on.

00:41:58 Dr. Nick Place

For example, on the research side, you know what are the types and varieties of plants that.

00:42:04 Dr. Nick Place

Are more conducive and do that perform the best in those kind of environments?

00:42:10 Dr. Nick Place

What is the right kind of lighting intensity of lighting color of lighting for growing such plans?

00:42:16 Dr. Nick Place

What are ways and methods that we need to look at for watering and nutrients and fertilization?

00:42:24 Dr. Nick Place

Of those plants out them be most productive.

00:42:27 Dr. Nick Place

We are also looking at you know what are different kinds of plants beyond the typical lettuce and things like that.

00:42:34 Dr. Nick Place

That has been pretty prevalent in those kind of facilities, but you know, looking at things such as tomatoes, Peppers, strawberries, and other plants.

00:42:45 Dr. Nick Place

That are necessary for food production that can be grown in those intensive kind of structures.

00:42:52 Dr. Nick Place

So that's another area that we are working really heavily on as you think about feeding that future population.

00:43:00 Dewayne

That sounds very cutting edge because.

00:43:03 Dewayne

You know you see.

00:43:04 Dewayne

You see, like artistic renderings of like buildings, you know commercial spaces with vertical green houses attached to it.

00:43:13 Dewayne

And I see news and stuff like that all the time, but when I see those things that look.

00:43:17 Dewayne

I mean, it looks far out 'cause of how, they're how they're portraying it, and it's really cool to hear that that your your land grant is is like actively researching.

00:43:27 Dewayne

Like OK, let's not make it a picture like let's see.

00:43:29 Dewayne

Let's figure out what it takes to actually make it happen.

00:43:31 Dewayne

'cause it sounds like we're going to need it.

00:43:33 Dewayne

'cause like you said.

00:43:34 Dewayne

We're not getting any more land.

00:43:36 Dewayne

You know that's what they're doing.

00:43:38 Dewayne

And and with commercial buildings, you know they're not building out, they're building up, and so it makes it makes sense to do the same.

00:43:46 Dr. Nick Place

Yes, and so we're seeing a lot of investment in that space from the private side, so you know, being Atlantis right here, which is a very large metropolitan area, about six and a half million people in that metropolitan area.

00:44:01 Dr. Nick Place

And so we're also seeing some major investment of vertical agriculture in that.

00:44:06 Dr. Nick Place

Space and the state has helped to support that.

00:44:09 Dr. Nick Place

The state has also worked with us as a land grant for investing in positions and facilities that can be addressing that need to help expand what we do in control of environmental culture.

00:44:23 Dr. Nick Place

Here for the state of Georgia.

00:44:25 Joe

With this technology change in the future you're talking about, we're.

00:44:29 Joe

Going to need.

00:44:30 Joe

I need people to understand this.

00:44:33 Joe

We're going to need more.

00:44:34 Joe

We do need more students.

00:44:35 Joe

It sounds like.

00:44:37 Joe

You've obviously been in this profession for a number of years.

00:44:41 Joe

You've gone through a better professor.

00:44:43 Joe

You've worked with grad students.

00:44:46 Joe

Any thoughts on this suggestion around?

00:44:49 Joe

Working with a young person today who you know this is maybe their work near farms.

00:44:56 Joe

They like some technology, just some thoughts around what it might be to help them look at this as a direction for their future or something they might want to help society.

00:45:06 Joe

You know, solve these these issues.

00:45:09 Dr. Nick Place

Yeah, thanks Joe, I'm so glad you asked that question.

00:45:11 Dr. Nick Place

That's frankly something I get very excited about and I in this position I have right now have a chance to meet with potential students all the time and I'll I'll back up a little bit.

00:45:25 Dr. Nick Place

Typically when somebody from the outside sees a college.

00:45:29 Dr. Nick Place

Our culture, environmental sciences.

00:45:31 Dr. Nick Place

They may have this old time traditional kind of view and perspective, and that happens here.

00:45:38 Dr. Nick Place

I know in Florida when I was there with you guys, we encountered that.

00:45:42 Dr. Nick Place

But I think we have an opportunity in a challenge in front of us to help young people understand what it's going to take to feed the world into the future and see this as a tremendous opportunity to think about how do we marry together these challenges that we have to address?

00:46:02 Dr. Nick Place

From the research side of food product.

00:46:05 Dr. Nick Place

With the utilization of technology and when you start laying all this out, explaining it to a potential student, you really see their eyes light up and light bulbs go off.

00:46:17 Dr. Nick Place

It's like Oh my gosh, what a wonderful opportunity to jump into something like this.

00:46:22 Dr. Nick Place

So we've really starting to pitch.

00:46:25 Dr. Nick Place

We're recruiting more in that space and students are getting very excited they're coming in.

00:46:31 Dr. Nick Place

To work with us on traditional production as well as how do we marry that together with some of these new technological advances that are out there?

00:46:42 Dr. Nick Place

But that's really the future.

00:46:43 Dr. Nick Place

That's the kind of area that we need to be focusing in on our for undergraduates as well as our graduate programs.

00:46:50 Dr. Nick Place

But it is a.

00:46:52 Dr. Nick Place

It's a wonderful great opportunity, a great time to be involved in our culture, I would say.

00:46:58 Dewayne

That's awesome.

00:46:59 Dewayne

Yeah, it's it.

00:47:00 Dewayne

It sounds like you know the the future of landgrant is.

00:47:06 Dewayne

Agile agility, you know, being very nimble, being willing to learn.

00:47:11 Dewayne

And take on these crazy challenges and and some of the challenges we don't even know about yet.

00:47:16 Dewayne

You know, their their problem solvers, their teachers, their technologists, you know, it's it's.

00:47:22 Dewayne

It's quite an interesting field and like I said when I first when I first came to Florida I it took me a while but it really blew my mind at the the depth the.

00:47:31 Dewayne

The the spread of what is being tackled by the land grant system.

00:47:35 Dewayne

It's it's incredible.

00:47:38 Dr. Nick Place

Yep, absolutely and again it is a real opportunity we have and we've talked a lot about production and technology, but that also spills over into the things that we're doing with the food science and technology.

00:47:51 Dr. Nick Place

And how do we bring greater value and benefit of various kind of.

00:47:56 Dr. Nick Place

Food products and look at innovative ways to enhance flavor to improve stability and packaging of crops and produce.

00:48:10 Dr. Nick Place

How do we cut down on waste of food right now?

00:48:14 Dr. Nick Place

You guys we.

00:48:15 Dr. Nick Place

We probably overall waste about 40% of the food we produce. That's everything from what is in the field that maybe doesn't meet criteria, so it's left there includes spoilage that would happen in transportation and retail space. That also includes the.

00:48:35 Dr. Nick Place

Food that we get into our home and may throw away. So for example, if our strawberries or lettuce or whatnot goes bad, we're throwing that food away. You pull all that together. That's about 40% of what we produce, which that is mine.

00:48:51 Dr. Nick Place

Well, we we've got to think about how do we cut down on that for everything from production to the home or on consumption side of things and to reduce that food wastage in such a way that's going to also help us feed this growing world population we have.

00:49:10 Dewayne

Wow, 40% that is.

00:49:13 Dewayne

That's way more than I would have ever guessed.

00:49:16 Dewayne

Yeah, and I I guess I.

00:49:18 Dewayne

I guess it makes sense, you know.

00:49:20 Dewayne

Like you said, if it doesn't meet the criteria, you're not going to ship it, and when when you're doing shipping things happen.

00:49:26 Dewayne

I've seen some really interesting ideas out there about like lettuce packages that change color based on temperature.

00:49:32 Dewayne

Or based on longevity and stuff like that, so you could just look at it and tell.

00:49:36 Dewayne

And there's been a lot of talk.

00:49:38 Dewayne

I think at that technology summit we had about blockchain tracking for crops to figure out where they came from and and you know, track them through that entire process, which is really intro.

00:49:52 Dewayne

This has been really.

00:49:52 Dewayne

Cool, there's so much tech in food it's crazy.

00:49:56 Dr. Nick Place

So to pick up on what you just said, they're doing so right now.

00:50:01 Dr. Nick Place

There the technology and labeling is out there where we can track exactly where that piece of lettuce or tomato came from.

00:50:11 Dr. Nick Place

Maybe we could track it back to the farm and track it back to the the field where it came from.

00:50:16 Dr. Nick Place

When it was picked up, and that's the kind of tracking that we're able to do today, which.

00:50:21 Dr. Nick Place

Helps us with.

00:50:22 Dr. Nick Place

Such food safety in dealing with those those kind of issues, though, that God forbid there is an issue in the food system with, say a tomato or lettuce or whatever.

00:50:34 Dr. Nick Place

We can track that back, jump on it really quickly and determine the source as well as what the problem is for that that food product.

00:50:43 Dr. Nick Place

And get it off the market if necessary and and then cause a fix back on the farm where that might have occurred.

00:50:51 Dewayne

That seems that seems like a certainly an important thing to understand.

00:50:54 Dewayne

You know you.

00:50:55 Dewayne

You hear about that.

00:50:56 Dewayne

Like you said, it's it's like a God forbid.

00:50:58 Dewayne

Somebody does ingest something, maybe, but having the ability to understand where it came from and rapidly respond to it in a way that says you know, look at lot number whatever and discard it or report it.

00:51:09 Dewayne

And you know having that tracking technology.

00:51:11 Dewayne

Makes that kind of thing possible and probably saves lives I would imagine.

00:51:15 Dewayne

So that's that's.

00:51:17 Dewayne

Super duper important right?

00:51:19 Dr. Nick Place

Exactly, and that's the reason we do it, do we, yeah.

00:51:23 Dewayne

This, uh, this has been wow.

00:51:26 Dewayne

Thank you so much for hanging out with us.

00:51:28 Dewayne

And it's it's, uh.

00:51:29 Joe

It's been great.

00:51:29 Dewayne

You know we.

00:51:30 Joe

Great talking and learning more about this.

00:51:32 Dewayne

Yeah, this there's so much opportunity here and it's almost overwhelming like it, just it really it.

00:51:39 Dewayne

It literally takes an entire land grant system.

00:51:42 Dewayne

You know, like I can't imagine just trying to sit here and think about all these things and and and brainstorm on solutions like we have so many talented people.

00:51:50 Dewayne

Smart researchers and and and educators out there that really spread this workload across the entire the entire you know US which is and and further which is really really import.

00:52:03 Dr. Nick Place

Yep, and so we thank thanks.

00:52:05 Dr. Nick Place

I really appreciate this opportunity and it is certainly something that I get very excited about.

00:52:10 Dr. Nick Place

When you think about how we're going to feed this growing planet, moving into the future, so we need a lot of young people that can get excited about this, and that's something we're working on.

00:52:22 Dr. Nick Place

All land grants need to work on that messaging and and think about how do we advance that to the young people today?

00:52:29 Dr. Nick Place

We need people getting involved in really high end cutting edge research that can address some of these issues of sustainability, water usage, pests and diseases and things like that.

00:52:41 Dr. Nick Place

And like we talked about a few times on the extension side of things, it's a transitional time for extension.

00:52:49 Dr. Nick Place

Or as you guys like to say, a shift time for extension and it is an opportunistic time for extension to think about how they're going to step into.

00:52:59 Dr. Nick Place

Through this technology and innovation, space to educate producers both large, medium and small in regards to helping them be most productive and sustainable.

00:53:14 Dewayne

Definitely a lot of work to do.

00:53:16 Dewayne

Yes, it's exciting though.

00:53:19 Dewayne

Well, we have a tradition on our show.

00:53:21 Dewayne

We always like to end on a positive note and not to say that any of this hasn't been positive.

00:53:25 Dewayne

It's always been great, but we really like to to personalize this a little.

00:53:29 Dewayne

And we talk about what we call a win, which it could be.

00:53:33 Dewayne

It could be anything that's happened to you recently.

00:53:36 Dewayne

That is just exciting.

00:53:37 Dewayne

You know it could be a new pet.

00:53:39 Dewayne

It could be professional and personal, whatever.

00:53:42 Dewayne

Just something.

00:53:42 Dewayne

That's something that's good.

00:53:44 Dewayne

Some positive vibes to to to cap the end of the show off with so.

00:53:48 Dewayne

Doctor Place do you want to do?

00:53:50 Dewayne

You want to lead us off or.

00:53:52 Dr. Nick Place

So sure, since you put that out there, there are a lot of positive things out.

00:53:58 Dr. Nick Place

Happening and I guess the first thing that popped into my mind when you asked that question.

00:54:03 Dr. Nick Place

Duane was it is really gratifying to be in a place at this time that really sees the opportunity for agriculture.

00:54:14 Dr. Nick Place

And what I mean by that is we have such tremendous support from.

00:54:18 Dr. Nick Place

A state government of all levels, as well as the university system and quite honestly with our partnership with Georgia Tech.

00:54:26 Dr. Nick Place

As you think about what they do in data science and technology and their all these efforts are coming together in this perfect storm for advance.

00:54:36 Dr. Nick Place

Being our #1 industry in the state agriculture and it is just really cool and it is great to be here at this time to see all of these pieces coming together in this perfect storm that is going to help us advance our #1 industry.

00:54:53 Dewayne

Exciting time.

00:54:55 Dewayne

Yep, Joe you.

00:54:58 Dewayne

You gotta win.

00:54:59 Joe

Yeah, I've had a little process that.

00:55:02 Joe

Had to do a couple of times in SharePoint for our districts and our counties where they want to have a set of files.

00:55:11 Joe

Sort of lockdown per county people in the county can access these files.

00:55:16 Joe

Maybe everybody across every district could access the county file.

00:55:21 Joe

Different levels of permissioning.

00:55:24 Joe

Some people can add files.

00:55:25 Joe

Some people can view them.

00:55:26 Joe

Some people can modify them, and it's it's a big.

00:55:31 Joe

It's a big structure. 67 counties. We've got 5 districts and breaking that out into some folder structures and a bunch of you know, probably 250 security groups.

00:55:44 Joe

Properly in SharePoint and we had another one come up finally and this time I took advantage of some scripting PowerShell and wrote that all out in a few lines of code and now the next one that comes up we'll be ready for them and make that happen much quicker.

00:56:01 Joe

So that was a good little personal win to.

00:56:04 Joe

Kind of compartmentalize that into some PowerShell scripts.

00:56:08 Dewayne

That that, uh, I don't doctor place.

00:56:10 Dewayne

Probably he knows very well this SharePoint site.

00:56:13 Dewayne

I believe that you're that you're talking about, but the agents end of year reporting process is quite extensive and so having a better place that makes it easier for them to to get to that data and upload and and consume that data.

00:56:28 Dewayne

Is super important and Joe automated it?

00:56:30 Dewayne

That's amazing.

00:56:31 Dr. Nick Place

That's great for you.

00:56:32 Dr. Nick Place

That's good to.

00:56:33 Dewayne

Hear yeah, my win is a mixture of both personal and professional, so this is my my last week at UF. UM so I'm moving on I I took a job as a cloud solution.

00:56:51 Dewayne

Architect with Microsoft and education.

00:56:54 Dewayne

And that's going to put me in a really cool position where I will be able to work with all land grant universities which I'm super excited about and we've made some really good progress trying to.

00:57:07 Dewayne

Microsoft understand what the land grant system is, 'cause you know it's it's very complicated and every single state does things differently.

00:57:16 Dewayne

The hierarchy and within the institution is different and reaching out and meeting extension where they are.

00:57:24 Dewayne

I feel like is going to be my personal mission within.

00:57:28 Dewayne

Within Microsoft and helping them understand the Cooperative Extension system and their people that they teach, you know, 'cause it's it's quite unique that their students aren't enrolled in the university in that state, right?

00:57:42 Dewayne

They're the they're the public, they're everybody.

00:57:44 Dewayne

And so I'm super pumped to be able to do that, definitely at like.

00:57:50 Dewayne

100% level anxiety right now. So I'm trying to work through that, but my my first day at my new job is Monday, so it's going to be pretty pretty cool. I'm excited.

00:58:02

I have to say.

00:58:03 Joe

It's definitely been a pleasure working with you, Dwayne, and very proud to have been part of the work that we've done at the.

00:58:11 Joe

University, it's it's still going to be a win for me you leaving.

00:58:15 Joe

I think the importance of extension and exposing that to Microsoft is going to.

00:58:21 Joe

Be very helpful.

00:58:22 Joe

To land grants across the country.

00:58:26 Joe

As we've heard in the last podcast, technology very important and getting that ingrained into some of these corporations that can help and have their own research arms in this kind of space, I think will be very, very helpful going forward.

00:58:41 Joe

So I'll look at this as a win.

00:58:43 Joe

I know you're going to be able to still be doing the podcast, of course, but we're not going away.

00:58:47 Joe

Yeah, I'm still looking forward to keep.

00:58:49 Dewayne

Doing this, Yep.

00:58:50 Dewayne

Our cloudy county extension.

00:58:53 Dewayne

Outreach still going to keep going and.

00:58:56 Dewayne

Yeah, I'm I'm pumped.

00:58:58 Dewayne

Uh, well doctor place.

00:58:59 Dewayne

Thank you so much for spending time with us.

00:59:02 Dewayne

This has been a really.

00:59:02 Joe

Absolutely thank you.

00:59:03 Dewayne

Kind of a trip down memory lane, but also a trip into the future so we covered all the bases.

00:59:09 Dr. Nick Place

Well, I really appreciate this opportunity to be with you and Dwayne and wish you all the best as you move on to your next opportunity.

00:59:15 Dr. Nick Place

And please stay in touch and we'll figure out how we can really connect with your new role there with Microsoft and Joe.

00:59:22 Dr. Nick Place

Good seeing you as well.

00:59:23 Dr. Nick Place

Wish you guys all the best.

00:59:25 Joe

Thank you yeah.

00:59:27 Dewayne

We hope you enjoyed this episode of The Shift Show.

00:59:30 Dewayne

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00:59:35 Dewayne

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00:59:37 Dewayne

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00:59:47 Dewayne

We'll be back.

00:59:47 Dewayne

Next month for a new episode.

00:59:50

Transporter room standby to beam up landing party.