



Annual Report 2003

The Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development

Preface: *Highlights from the last year*

In 2003, The Northeast Center fulfilled its networking role by sponsoring or co-sponsoring five workshops, on the subjects of land use, information technology, and bio-security; and by publishing eight rural development papers, related publications, and the quarterly newsletter, *Network03*. The Center also brought together faculty from the Northeast region to develop multi-state, multi-functional and multi-disciplinary research proposals in the areas of land use and community vitality. Finally, we supported the development of a land use toolbox, a publication illustrating GIS applications by state and local governments, and a curriculum that allows nonprofit organizations to take advantage of the Internet. We are pleased to describe these projects and products in this annual report.



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The Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development

receives core funds from USDA's CSREES and the Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors.

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2003 Annual Report

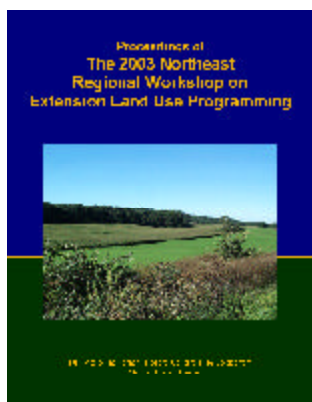
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2003 Accomplishments

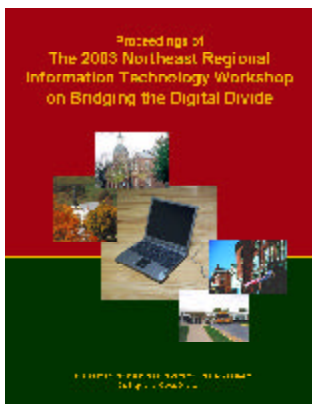
1. Workshops/Conferences (Co-)Sponsored or Supported

Regional Workshop on Extension Land Use Programming, State College, PA, May 5-6, 2003. Despite the similarity of land use issues across states in the region, there has been insufficient sharing and communication among the states about land use extension programs, particularly by county-level extension staff. On May 5-6, 2003, The



Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development hosted a multi-state workshop for extension faculty and staff working on land use issues, to nurture such sharing and communication. At the workshop, participants shared program ideas, learned more about the land use educational programming in other northeast States, identified common programming needs, and outlined ways of supporting each other and working together more effectively in the future. Proceedings at: <http://www.cas.nercrd.psu.edu/Publications/RDPAPERS/rdp19.pdf>

Information Technology Regional Workshop on Bridging the Digital Divide, Penn State University, University Park, PA, May 13-14, 2003. Computers and web connectivity alone do not guarantee that individuals and community-based organizations will be able to take advantage of the benefits and opportunities provided by information technology (IT) tools. To address this problem, The Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development, in partnership with Penn State Cooperative Ex-



tension and the University of Vermont Cooperative Extension, sponsored a hands-on, in-depth professional development opportunity for those who wanted to learn how to help small business owners; local government officials, non-profit managers, and community leaders use Information Technology tools effectively. A key component of the workshop was the discussion of implementation strategies in participants' home states throughout the Northeast.

Proceedings at: <http://www.cas.nercrd.psu.edu/Publications/RDPAPERS/rdp20.pdf>

Linkages Between Agricultural and Conservation Policies Workshop, Portsmouth, NH, June 10-11, 2003. The Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development, in partnership with the USDA's National Research Initiative-Competitive Grants Program and the Economic Research Service, the University of Delaware, and the Northeastern Agricultural and Resource Economics Association, co-sponsored a

“The workshop has helped me to think more clearly about the programming we can offer at our regional extension center.”
[NEW YORK]

“The workshop was particularly valuable to me as a fairly new Extension Educator and one of only a few addressing land use issues in my state.”
[CONNECTICUT]

“The workshop allowed me to crystallize ... ideas for Extension programming, and expand the areas which my programming covers.”
[PENNSYLVANIA]



workshop on “Linkages Between Agricultural and Conservation Policies,” to address gaps in knowledge in this area. Summary Proceedings were published by The Northeast Center and are available at: <http://www.cas.nercrd.psu.edu/Publications/RDPAPERS/rdp21.pdf>

Building Community Strengths to Address Biohazards: Role and Responsibilities of the Land Grant System, Ithaca, NY, September 8-9, 2003. The Northeast Center co-sponsored this symposium to strengthen Land Grant system capacity to work with communities in preparing and recovering from natural and man-made biohazards. The Symposium was an opportunity to identify issues and build skills that integrate community, biosciences and the Land Grant outreach mission. Participants built networks across disciplines and between research and outreach, bridging the life and social sciences to develop a framework for biohazard prevention, preparedness, and remediation. Summary at: <http://communityrisks.cornell.edu>

What the Public Values About Farm and Ranch Land, Baltimore, MD, November 13-14, 2003. The purpose of this workshop was to initiate a dialogue between local decisionmakers responsible for farm and ranch land preservation programs and economists who have studied the public’s preferences for preserving farmland. The Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development, in partnership with the USDA’s National Research Initiative-Competitive Grants Program and the Economic Research Service, and the Farm Foundation, co-sponsored the workshop. The Northeast Center sponsored the Proceedings and facilitated the discussion about future research needs.

2. Publications and Websites

2.1 Newsletter

Four Issues of *Network03*, vol. 18, Nos. 1-4, A Quarterly Newsletter for Northeast Rural Development. <http://www.cas.nercrd.psu.edu/Publications/newsletter.htm>



From the Director columns, published quarterly in *Network03*:

“Green Valley Institute Brings Together People and GIS for Sound Land Use Decisions” (no. 1)

“Northeast Center Hosts Land Use and Digital Divide Extension Workshops” (no. 2)

“The Causes of Enduring Poverty” (no. 3)

“New Extension Program Focuses on the Future of Local Agriculture” (no. 4)

2.2 Rural Development Paper Series

Papers are available at: <http://www.cas.nercrd.psu.edu/Publications/rdppapers.htm>

The Causes of Enduring Poverty: An Expanded Spatial Analysis of the Structural Determinants of Poverty in the US, Rupasingha, Anil and Stephan J. Goetz, December 2003, RDP No. 22. 36 pp.

Linkages Between Agricultural and Conservation Policies, Lynch, Lori and Joshua Duke, September 2003, RDP No. 21. Summary proceedings of a workshop held June 10-11, 2003, in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. 19 pp.

The 2003 Northeast Regional Information Technology Workshop on Bridging the Digital Divide, Goetz, Stephan J. and Bill Shuffstall, September 2003, RDP No. 20. Summary proceedings of a workshop held May 14-15, 2003, at Johnston Commons, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA. 22 pp.

The 2003 Northeast Regional Workshop on Extension Land Use Programming, Goetz, Stephan J. and Timothy W. Kelsey, September 2003, RDP No. 19. Summary proceedings of a workshop held May 5-6, 2003, Days Inn, State College, PA. 26 pp.

GIS Analysis of Land Use on the Rural-Urban Fringe: The Impact of Land Use and Potential Local Disamenities on Residential Property Values and on the Location of Residential Development in Berks County, Pennsylvania, Ready, Richard and Charles Abdalla, June 2003, RDP No. 18. Final Grant Report. 60 pp.

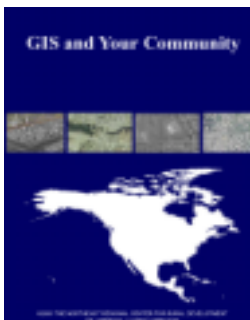
Proprietor Employment-Dependent Counties, Goetz, Stephan J., April 2003, RDP No. 17. Paper presented at ERS's Measuring Rural Diversity Conference, November 21-22, 2002, Washington, DC. 14 pp.

Critical Development Issues in Rural Economies, Goetz, Stephan J., February 2003, RDP No. 16. Paper presented at the Agricultural Outlook Forum 2003, February 20, Arlington, Virginia. 10 pp.

The Nexus of Agricultural Land Use Policy and Rural Employment Generation in the Northeast United States, Tavernier, Edmund M. et al., February 2003, RDP No. 15. Final Grant Report. 67 pp.



2.3 Other Center Publications and Web Resources



GIS and Your Community: contains examples of how communities in the Northeast have used GIS to address land use problems and also inventories GIS sites, September 2003. 38 pp.
URL: <http://www.cas.nercrd.psu.edu/GIS>

Land Use in the Northeast US: Ten Things Members of Every (Rural) Community Need to Know, (one-page handout with supporting web-site containing more details), June 2003.
URL: <http://www.cas.nercrd.psu.edu/TenThings.htm>

Demographic Dimensions of Diversity: shows where Extension agents and faculty can locate data on the demographic characteristics of their stakeholders, the kind of data to collect and why; prepared for the PSU Diversity Committee and CASD (Cornell University), 2003.

URL: <http://www.cas.nercd.psu.edu/Diversity>

2.4 Edited Book in Progress: Land Use Problems and Conflicts – Causes, Consequences and Solutions

Editors: Stephan J. Goetz, James S. Shortle and John C. Bergstrom

Routledge Economics, Frontiers in Environmental Economics [Based on the 2002 Orlando Conference Proceedings, to appear in 2004]

2.5 Curriculum/Tutorial for Nonprofits

The eNonprofits program helps nonprofits make the most of their Internet connection and web presence. URL: <http://www.cas.nercd.psu.edu/eNFP/index.cfm>

PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY **Access eNonProfit** **NERCD**

Home eNonprofits Learn Plan Design Implement Maintain BizPlan Site Index

eNonprofit Basics
Learn to Use the Net
Plan Your Website
Design for Users
Implement and Test
Maintain and Promote
Follow Your BizPlan

Search term Go

Calendar
Glossary
News
Resources
What's New
About eNonprofits
Privacy Statement
Contact Us

About this tutorial

The Access eNonProfit program is intended to help nonprofits make the most of their Internet connection and web presence. It's about making smart business choices that meet the needs of clients, patrons, or members. Its primary audience is the smaller nonprofits with limited budgets but big ideas.

How this site is organized

- eNonprofits is a backgrounder covering nonprofit and internet basics, how nonprofits can and do use the Net, and the business, social, and technical issues affecting nonprofits online. This is the big idea part of the tutorial!
- Learning and Using the Net explores the free and inexpensive tools available to nonprofits online like email, search engines, and various business applications. For many nonprofits these services are as important as establishing a website.
- Creating an Online Presence includes planning, designing, creating, maintaining, and promoting a website. The emphasis here is on managing web content and expenses.
- Business Plan features worksheets and checklists that help you put the material you learn in the tutorial to use.
- Other is not strictly part of the tutorial – just the stuff that adds value to it like the calendar, glossary, and resource links. It also includes the essentials that all websites need to have: contact info and feedback forms, privacy statement, site index, and what's new.

Technical notes

This tutorial adheres to the website standards set by the World Wide Web Consortium. The content should be easy to access and read with any Internet connection. Because it uses tables and cascading style sheets, the pages will look better with browsers that support both.

Instead of mimoring screen pages, printed pages will not waste space or ink with navigation tabs or fancy colored headers. The printed pages will be black 11pt text on white background.

Calendar | Glossary | News | Resources | What's New
Home | About Access eNonProfit | Privacy Statement | Contact Us

©2003 The Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development, The Pennsylvania State University

2.6 Related Publications

Rupasingha, Anil, Stephan J. Goetz, David Debertin and Angelos Pagoulatos, "The environmental Kuznets curve for U.S. counties: A spatial econometric analysis with extensions" *Papers in Regional Science*. [funded under USDA/NRI competitive grant no. No. 00-5401-9320] (2003 in press)

Goetz, Stephan J. and Anil Rupasingha, "The Returns to Higher Education: Estimates for the 48 Contiguous States," *Economic Development Quarterly*, Volume 17 Issue 4 (2003): 337-351.

Pagoulatos, A., S.J. Goetz, D.L. Debertin and T. Johansson, "Interactions Between Economic Growth and Environmental Quality in US Counties," *Growth and Change*, Vol. 35, No. 1 (Winter 2004): 90-108.

2.7 Reports from Center-Funded Projects

Ed Tavernier et al., Final Subcontract Report, February 2003. *The Nexus of Agricultural Land Use Policy and Rural Employment Generation in the Northeast United States*; Rutgers University, \$24,712 (plus \$27,867 matching); 60% research, 40% extension.

Abstract. Some type of farmland preservation policy instrument can be found in all fifty states. The policy instruments include agricultural district laws, agricultural conservation easements, purchase of agricultural easements, right-to-farm laws, circuit breaker tax programs, differential assessment laws, agricultural protection zoning ordinances, and transfer of development rights programs among others. These instruments are motivated in part by the belief that the free market will not socially optimize the allocation of land between open space and environmental amenities and other uses such as agriculture. Thus owners of agricultural land who want to maximize economic welfare may be inclined to see that the land goes to the activity that pays the highest rent. This activity is often the conversion of agricultural land to development uses.

... the free market will not socially optimize the allocation of land between open space and environmental amenities and other uses such as agriculture.

The conversion of agricultural land to such uses holds serious implications for rural communities because agriculture is often a rural activity. This activity is particularly important because rural areas have limited labor pools and low density that create liabilities in the New Economy where firms often seek large pools of skilled labor. Moreover, the promise of New Economy high tech jobs in the telecommunications sector has not materialized. Given those factors, land use policy and agriculture must play a prominent role in any strategy to enhance rural development.

Rural development aims to improve the quality of life for people living in rural areas by increasing their access to assets and resources, basic services, productive employment and income generating activities, and agriculture, as a major source of income is central to such development. Thus agriculturally-related direct employment and agricultural generated indirect employment provide one of the primary areas for the sustainability of rural areas. Such employment provides significant economic impact through its multiplier effects.

The agricultural sector influences economic activity in three ways. First, the sector has a direct effect on the economy as businesses, households, real estate developers, and others buy agricultural products. The second influence is an indirect effect as the agricultural sector responds to increases for its products by purchasing inputs (e.g., labor from households, seed and materials from business) to satisfy increases from final demand. This round of economic activity does not go on indefinitely as certain inputs are purchased outside of the local economy and are considered demand leakages. The third influence is the induced consumption effect. This effect results from increased household spending as more labor is hired in response to agriculture-led economic activity. The study assumes that the influences or multiplier effects respond proportionately to expenditures in the local economy.

Richard Ready and Charles Abdalla, Final Subcontract Report, June 2003 *GIS Analysis of Land Use on the Rural-Urban Fringe*, Penn State University, \$19,504 (plus \$33,151 matching); 75% Research, 25% Extension.

Abstract. This research project examined two issues related to spatial interactions between residential properties and nearby land use, using data from Berks County, Pennsylvania. First, the project modeled the impact that surrounding land use and potential local disamenities have on residential property values. If a land use is seen as an amenity by nearby residents, then the value of that amenity will be capitalized into the market price of nearby homes. Similarly, a nearby land use that is seen as a local disamenity will decrease house prices. A hedonic (or implicit) price regression was used to estimate the marginal impact of surrounding land use on house prices and measure the relative amenity values of different types of land use. Second, the project investigated whether surrounding land use has an effect on the location of new residential development. This was done by modeling the impact of surrounding land use on the probability that a parcel that was undeveloped in 1996 would subdivide for residential development during the period 1996-2002.

The hedonic house price regression showed that, within 400 meters of the house, the land use that has the most positive impact on house price was open space, followed by large-lot single family residential land. Commercial, small-lot single family residential, and multi-unit residential were less desirable. The least desirable land use within 400 meters of the house was industrial. Of open space uses, land that is currently vacant but that has been zoned for residential, industrial or commercial development was found to have a much lower amenity benefit than other land in open space, possibly reflecting the negative impact of uncertainty over the future use of that land and the potential for noise, dust and traffic during the building process. Also, open space on parcels that are covered by conservation easements, including agricultural conservation easements, has a less-positive amenity impact than open space not covered by such easements. This does not necessarily mean that easements cause nearby property values to decrease. It may be that farms with agricultural conservation easements tend to be managed more intensively, which may be seen as less attractive by nearby homeowners.

Between 400 and 1,600 meters away from the house, the land use with the most positive amenity impact on house price was commercial, followed closely by large-lot single family residential. Of open space uses, only land that is owned by Local,

State or Federal Government and land that is covered by conservation easements have a statistically significant positive amenity value. To summarize, the ideally-situated house would be immediately surrounded by open space, with commercial properties (stores and offices) located 400 to 1,600 meters away.

Several potential local disamenities were found to have a negative impact on nearby house prices. Of the potential local disamenities investigated, the impact of landfills on house price was largest, and extended the farthest (up to 3,200 meters). A landfill located 800 meters from a house decreases that house's sale price by an estimated 6.9%. The impact of a large scale animal production facility (over 200 animal equivalent units or aeu's) on house price was about one half to two thirds as large as that from a landfill (4.1% at 800 meters), and did not extend as far (up to 1,600 meters). The impacts on house price from mushroom production and from the regional airport were much less (0.4% and 0.2%, respectively, at 800 meters). The impact from high traffic roads was small, and extended only a short distance. No significant impact was found for sewage treatment plants.

Additional analysis attempted to investigate whether different types of animal production facilities had different impacts on nearby house prices. Differences in the impact due to differences in the size of the operation (number of aeu's) were not statistically significant. Further, medium-sized production facilities (200 to 300 aeu's) were found to have statistically significant negative effect on house prices when considered apart from larger facilities. Similarly, the impact did not vary significantly by species (poultry, swine, and beef/dairy). An analysis of proximity of animal production facilities and residential properties showed that the density of single family homes around animal production facilities was lower than the average for rural parts of the county. An implication is that some potential for conflicts is avoided due to the way in which these land uses are located on the land.

The results of this research were reported by the Associated Press and in newspapers such as the Miami Herald, Baltimore Sun, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Chicago Tribune, Fort Wayne News-Sentinel, Kansas City Star and Idaho Mountain Express. In addition the results were featured on biz.yahoo.com, CBS Marketwatch.com, capitolwire.com, KDKA-2 (Pittsburgh), WGAL-TV (Lancaster, York, Harrisburg) as well as on Realtor Magazine Online, Builder (The Magazine of the National Association of Home Builders) and Feedstuffs.

2.8 The Land and Community Toolbox

As part of its on-going efforts to help individuals and communities deal with the complex issues involved in land use, The Northeast Center supports the development of web-sites with state-specific information and resources. In the adjacent box, the breathtaking scope of potential land use issues is illustrated, with land use-related subjects ranging from agricultural protection zoning to historic preservation and "smart growth." In addition to providing links to each of the topics listed, this web site chart provides a convenient overview of the multi-faceted aspects of land use.

Land & Community Toolbox

Pennsylvania prototype

**The Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development
PSU Cooperative Extension**
Extension Specialists (CAX)
Extension Agents
PSU publications
Land Analysis Lab
Sch. of For. Resources Water links
PA Municipal Planning Education Institute

Other PSU links
Transportation Center
Hamer Center
PSU Dickinson School of Law
Landuseimpa.com
PA Dept. of Agriculture
PA Dept. of Environmental Protection
PA Dept. of Economic & Community Development

PA Web Links
PA Boroughs Assn.
County/Municipal Planning Offices
PennDOT
PA Historical and Museum Commission
Demographics—Census, etc
Health statistics
PA General Assembly – Laws
Center for Rural Pennsylvania

Outside Web Links
University of Wisconsin
Lincoln Institute
Cdttoolbox.org
North Central Regional Center for Rural Development
Best Practices
Land use organizations

**Government
Laws & Policies**
Local
State
Federal

Intergovernmental
Cooperation
NEMO
GIS-Mifflin
DCED

Rev.
10/21/03

**You and Your Community:
What You Can Do**
Local Decision-maker Worksheet
Intro to Local/County Government
Leadership
Knowing Your Community
Finding Existing Organizations
Healthy Lifestyles

What You Can Do with Others
Conflict/Cooperation Modules
Charting/Visioning
Building Local Coalitions
Sustainable Community Development
Keeping Ahead of Change
Case Studies, Grassroots Activities
How to Become a 501c3
Land preservation funding options (inc. taxes)
Citizens' Learning Team
Land Use Discussion Group
Train the trainers
Intergenerational Futures Festival
Start a Land Conservancy/Watershed Group, etc.
Grant writing
E-government
GIS
Build Outs, e.g., PA Blueprint
Engaging Youth
Healthy Lifestyles
Involving Local Schools
Community Asset Mapping

Housing
Cost of Community Services
Demographics
Low-income Housing
Traditional Neighborhoods
Healthy Lifestyles
Build Outs
Design Principles
Living Near a Farm
Smart Growth

**Fiscal Impact/
Taxation**
Local Taxes
Fiscal Impacts
Cost of Community Services
CIM-PSU
Court decisions
Intergovt. Cooperation
Planning as fiscal tool
Brownfields
Clean & Green
Sustainable Communities
Smart Growth

Healthy Communities
Munic. Planning Code
Open/Green Space
Rails-trails, Bike Paths,
Walking Trails, Greenways
Recreation
Healthy Lifestyles
Design Principles
Traditional Neighborhoods
Sustainable Communities
Build Outs
Community Forestry
Importance of Place
Land Conservancies
Environmental Boards
Smart Growth
Conservation Zoning
Viewsheds
Community Asset Mapping

**Agricultural and
Rural Change**
Ag Economic Trends
Ag Economic Development
Rural Development
Demographics
Forestry
When Farmers Diversify
CAFOs
Living Near a Farm
Suburbanization
Demographics
GIS
Keeping Ahead of Change
Importance of Place
Sustainable Communities
Revitalizing Towns
Smart Growth

Prepared by Dr. Tim Collins

Transportation
Munic. Planning Code
Planning
Condemnation
Preserved lands
Scenic Routes
Rails-Trails/bike paths/walking
Greenways
TEA – 21
Road Funding – federal, state, local
Healthy Lifestyles
Intergovt. Cooperation
GIS
Revitalizing towns
Legal Issues
Sustainable Communities
Build Outs
Viewsheds
Watersheds
Traditional Neighborhoods
Community Asset Mapping
Smart Growth

Historic Preservation
Munic. Planning Code
Landscapes
Neighborhoods
Individual Sites
Associations
Downtowns
Scenic Routes
Rails-Trails
Viewsheds
HARBS
National Trust for Historic Preservation
GIS
Planning/Zoning
Importance of Place
Sustainable Communities
Revitalizing Towns
Rehabilitation & Restoration
Community Asset Mapping
Smart Growth

Water/Sewer
Growing Greener
Act 537
Role of the Conservation District
Watershed Groups
Septic Systems
Wells – legislation
Stormwater
School of Forest Resources water links
Intergovt. Coop. GIS
State v. Local Control
Sustainable Communities
Watersheds
Open/Green Space
Recreation
Community Forestry
Design Principles
Build Outs
Smart Growth

Planning/Zoning
Munic. Planning Code
County Planning
Municipal Planning
Planning as fiscal tool
County Zoning
Municipal Zoning
Standards for Ordinances
MPC and conflict
Low-impact development
Conservation Zoning
SALDO
GIS
Viewsheds
Ag Protection Zoning
Living Near a Farm
Open/Green Space
Housing
Demographics
Legal Issues
Intergovt. Cooperation
Suburbanization
State v. Local control
Sustainable Communities
Design Principles
Healthy Lifestyles
Build Outs
Brownfields
Revitalizing Towns
Community Forestry
Watersheds
Importance of Place
Recreation
Low-impact Development
Traditional Neighborhoods
Community Asset Mapping
Smart Growth

Land Preservation
Munic. Planning Code
Farmland easements, ASAs,
Clean & Green
Living Near a Farm
Open/Green Space
Conservation Zoning
Healthy Lifestyles
Land Conservancies
Forestry
Tools
Recreation
Ag Conflicts
Viewsheds
Funding Options
Ag Protection Zoning
Conservation zoning
Design Principles
Suburbanization
Intergovt. Cooperation
GIS
Condemnation
Importance of Place
Sustainable Communities
Brownfields
Revitalizing Towns
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Conservation zoning
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Community Forestry
Watersheds
Build Outs
Traditional Neighborhoods
Community Asset Mapping
Smart Growth

If you have comments or suggestions for additions to this toolbox, please send them to nercrrd@psu.edu

3. Networking Activities: Meetings and Presentations

Northeast Extension Directors Meeting, Washington, DC, January 27-28, 2003: presented Northeast Center Update

Co-chaired ESCOP Social Science Committee Meeting, Washington, DC, February 10-11, 2003

Presentation and service on panel at USDA's 10th Annual Ag Outlook Forum, Arlington, VA, February 20-21, 2003, with the Under Secretary for Rural Development, Mr. Thomas Dorr

Presentation at Western Regional Science Association 42nd Annual Meeting, Tucson, AZ, February 25-March 1, 2003

Presentation at Southern Regional Science Association Annual Meeting, Louisville, KY, April 10-11, 2003

Presentation at Promoting the Economic and Social Vitality of Rural America: The Role of Education Conference, New Orleans, LA, April 14-15, 2003 (expenses covered by Farm Foundation; co-author on a second presentation)

Invited presentation, Michigan State University, on "Land Use Policy: Issues and Opportunities for Land Grant University Research, Teaching and Outreach," May 1-2, 2003 (expenses covered by Michigan State)



Sponsored Extension Land Use Workshop, Days Inn, State College, PA, May 5-6, 2003 (made opening and closing remarks and co-authored proceedings)

Sponsored Bridging the Digital Divide Workshop, Johnston Commons, Penn State University, May 13-14, 2003 (made opening and closing remarks and co-authored proceedings)

Invited presentation on "Economic Change in Southwest Pennsylvania," at the Southwest Regional Annual Extension Staff Conference on Leading and Managing Change, Pittsburgh, PA, May 15, 2003

Attended Center for Rural PA Board Meeting, Harrisburg, PA, June 2, 2003

Attended the Northeast Summer Joint Session (NERA and NEED), Princeton, New Jersey, July 13-15, 2003; presented update on The Northeast Center to NERA

Presentation about The Center at Northeast SARE Meeting, Lancaster, PA, July 22, 2003 (expenses covered by SARE)

Discussed Land Use options with Jorgensen Family Land Trust, Buckeystown, MD, August 13, 2003 (on-going)

Attended Center for Rural PA Board Meeting, Lock Haven, PA, August 25-26, 2003

Attended Change Agent States for Diversity meeting, Center County Visitors Center, State College, PA, September 3, 2003

Chaired ESCOP Social Sciences Subcommittee meeting, Washington, DC, September 4-5, 2003; meeting attended by Drs. Colien Heferen and Alma Hobbs, as well as NRI Program Leaders. Also met with Fen Hunt (ECS National Program Leader for Natural Resource Economics) and Don McLeod (IPA) to discuss a joint workshop

Attended Biohazards Workshop, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, September 8-9, 2003; co-hosted wrap-up session

Presentations at Galaxy II Conference and Farm Foundation's National Public Policy Education Committee (NPPEC), Salt Lake City, UT, September 20-25, 2003 (travel supported by Farm Foundation)

- *Resources for Land Use Programming* (NPPEC)
- *Educational Tools/Resources for the Extension Educator* (NPPEC)
- *Access eNonProfit Curriculum Presentation* (Galaxy II) [W. Whitmer and W. Shuffstall]
- *IT Webbook Poster* (Galaxy II)
- *Land Use Resources in the Northeast and West* (Galaxy II, joint session with WRDC)
- *RRDC Informational Poster* (Galaxy II)
- *RRDCs also hosted CRED organizational session, reception and working breakfast*

**Addressing Growth and Sprawl:
Educational Tools and
Resources**

Prepared for the
National Public Policy Education Conference
September 21-24, 2003
Salt Lake City, Utah

Stephan J. Goetz, Ph.D.

Director, The Northeast Regional Center for Rural
Development and Professor of Agricultural and
Regional Economics, Penn State University

Presentation on Land Use, Planning and Community Development at 2nd annual CDI-East Institute, Charleston, WV, October 1-2, 2003 (expenses paid for by WVU)

Organized NSF Land Use Planning Summit, Portland, ME, October 13-14, 2003

Attended RRDC meeting, San Antonio, TX, November 6-7, 2003; made presentation to National Association of Agricultural Economics Department Chairs, San Antonio, TX, Nov. 7, 2003

Presented two papers at 50th Annual Regional Science Association International meeting, Philadelphia, PA, November 20-22, 2003 [Dr. H. Swaminathan]

- *The Returns to Education in Rural Areas*
- *Determinants of New Home Construction in US Counties, 1990-2000*

National meeting on Fiscal Crisis, Las Vegas, NV, Dec. 2-3, 2003 [Dr. J. Francis]

4. Grant-Seeking Activity

1. Wages, Jobs and the Environment, Phase II, S. Goetz, Principal Investigator, NRI Competitive Grants Program/USDA, \$72,888; funded: 2003-04.
2. NRI Regional NE Grant on “The Viability of Agriculture in the Northeast: Do Communities Have a Role?” with Kathy Liang (UVM), Lorie Lynch (UMD), Tom Lyson (Cornell), Cheryl Brown (UWV), Kathy Brasier (PSU), and Stephan Goetz (NERCRD), in review; \$496,696.
3. NSF Land Use Grant with Charles Geisler (Sociology, NY), Nelson Bills (Ag. Economics, NY), Mark Lapping (Planning, ME) and Stephan Goetz (NERCRD); in progress.

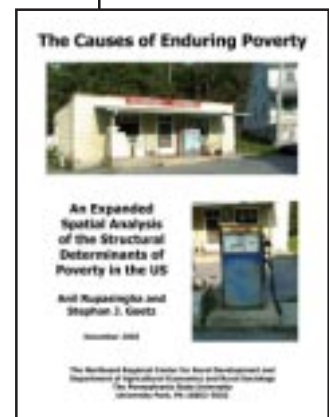
5. Community Viability Initiative

1. National Poverty Initiative with RUPRI (national and regional conferences are being organized)
2. A Comparison of State and Local Economic Development Strategies: Entrepreneurship; Business Retention and Expansion; Industrial Recruitment (workshop planning is in progress)
3. The Causes of Enduring Poverty: An Expanded Spatial Analysis of the Structural Determinants of Poverty in the US, **RDP No. 22**

Executive Summary

Persistent rural poverty is one of the most stubborn social problems facing policy makers. Despite decades of intervention, and the spending of billions of public dollars, many rural communities remain mired in poverty. The economic boom of the 1990s not only failed to reduce poverty in all counties, but it was also associated with rising poverty rates in certain counties. This in turn presents an opportunity to discover the factors that perpetuate or ameliorate poverty.

This report expands knowledge of the determinants of poverty by focusing on two sets of structural causes that have not been considered in econometric analyses of poverty: social capital and so-called political power or democratic governance variables. Like human capital or education, social capital is



increasingly recognized as essential to community well-being and economic growth. Further, recent case study research reveals that some community leaders may deliberately prevent local development to maintain their position of power.

We also incorporate variables that have previously been excluded from county-level analyses, including self-employment as a pathway out of poverty, and the importance of Big-box (as opposed to “mom-and-pop”) stores to measure the industrial organization of a county’s retail sector. This is also the first county-level study of poverty that explicitly accounts for the geographic clustering of poverty, which has implications for the statistical modeling. Finally, we use all of the variables that have been used in previous county-level studies to control for structural and individual-level determinants of poverty.

Systematic and consistent measurement of the effects of political power and social capital on poverty in settings that involve a large statistical population has been problematic. We were able to incorporate these effects by making innovative use of existing and new secondary data sets. The political influence variables include the degree of political competition in a county, per capita federal grants, income inequality and ethnic polarization, and the ratio of current local government expenditure to total expenditure in a county.

Our results show that greater political competition in a county is associated with lower poverty rates. Political competition is measured as the absolute value of the deviation between local and national shares of votes received by the Democratic presidential candidate; it is therefore not a measure of voter participation, which could

itself depend on poverty rates. Instead, political competition measures the degree to which a candidate faces competition in the election from a candidate representing the other party.

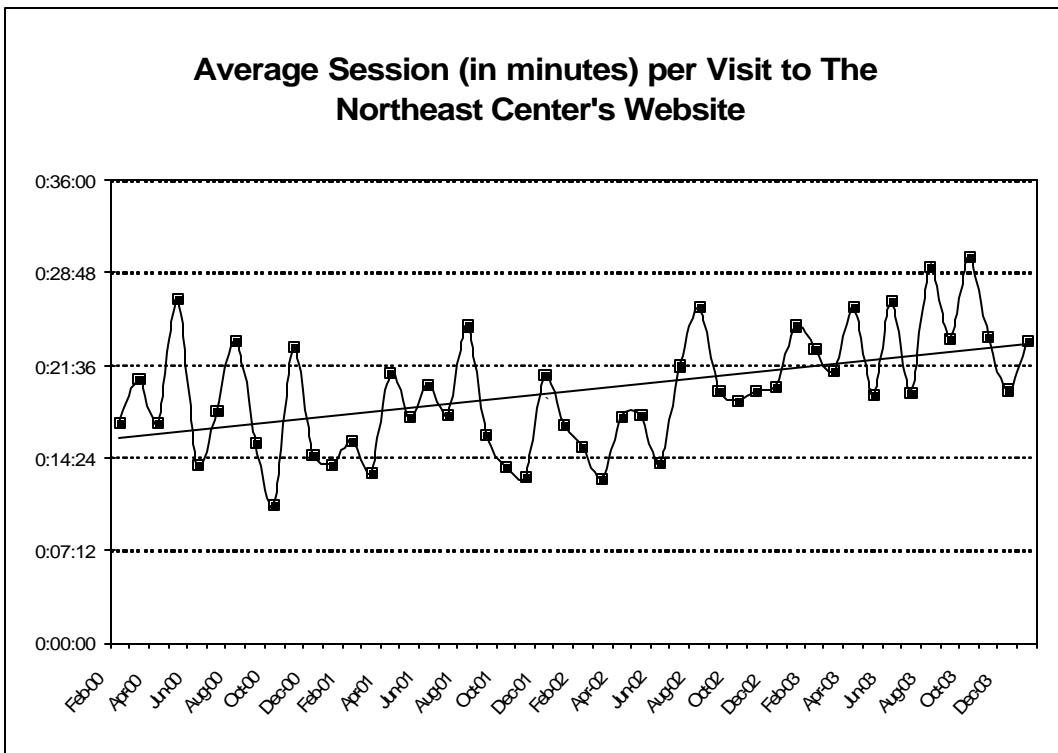
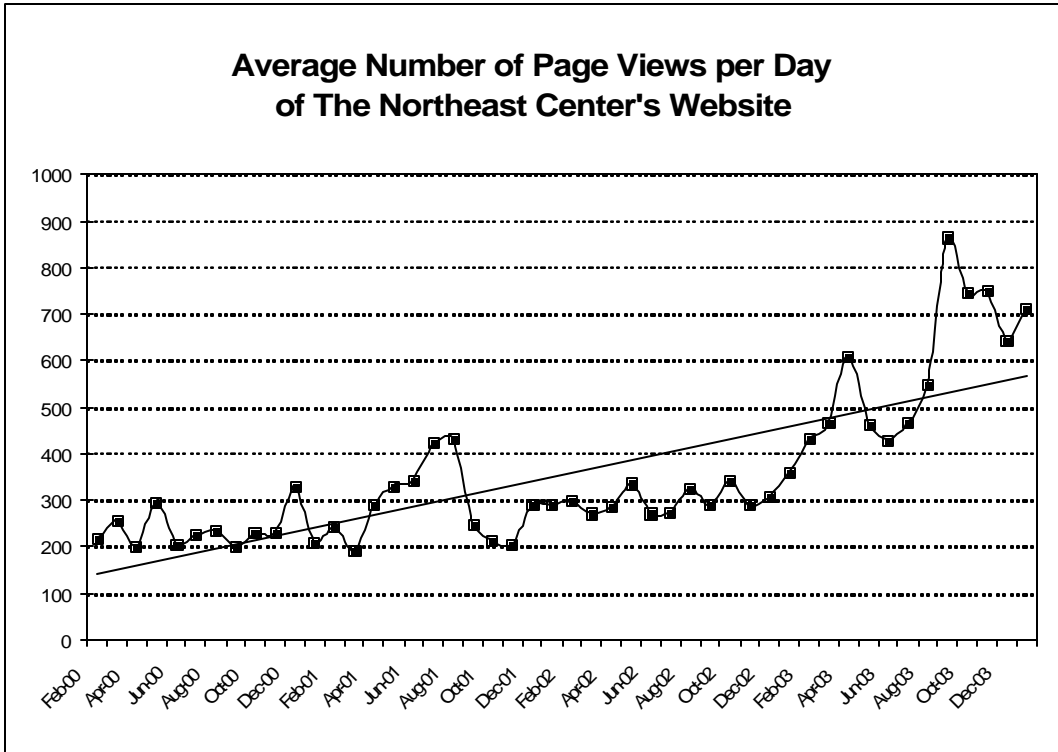
Social capital levels, measured in the form of civic participation and presence of membership organizations (including social and clubs as well as bowling alleys), are unequivocally associated with lower poverty rates and greater reductions in poverty over the decade. Two other key findings include the fact that self-employment

is associated with lower poverty rates, while the presence of Big-box retailers is associated with higher poverty rates when we include all US counties (this effect is not statistically significant when only rural counties are included). This latter finding has profound implications for public policy, but the causal paths are not fully understood.

One implication of these results is that certain communities – those with low levels of political competition – will not be able to reduce poverty on their own, even with the injection of external resources. Our analytical framework and data allow us to identify these specific counties, as well as the degree of vulnerability of all counties to the different causes of enduring poverty.

... greater political competition in a county is associated with lower poverty rates. Similarly, higher levels of social capital and higher rates of self-employment are associated with lower levels of poverty, after we control for a host of other determinants of poverty.

6. Selected Web Server Statistics for The Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development



Maximum number of unique monthly visitors: 4,058 (May 2003).

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