



# 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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# **2005 Annual Report on Accomplishments**



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# 2005 Accomplishments

The rural Northeastern US faces the twin problems of excess growth in some regions and economic stagnation in others, as global forces continue to flatten the economic landscape. Parts of the region are experiencing extreme growth spillovers from urban centers. In Delaware, for example, some communities are unable to provide the classroom space needed by the burgeoning population. Those regions that are experiencing an on-going loss of manufacturing and other natural resource-based industries need new opportunities for their residents if they wish to survive in this Century. In a flat world, communities and regions increasingly have to look inside their own borders for new sources of sustainable economic growth and development.

Local elected officials in the Northeast face overwhelming and often conflicting pressures from their constituents.<sup>2</sup> They must walk a fine line between relying on markets to solve problems of scarcity on the one hand, and providing political leadership on the other hand when markets fail to account for externalities, for example. Residents of rapidly growing regions sense a permanent and irreversible loss of public benefits as farmland is paved over for housing and commercial development. Yet individuals rarely see how their own actions contribute to the aggregate outcomes that they find objectionable. They suffer from a basic cognitive dissonance in this respect.

Homebuyers and their elected representatives need access to the best science available on the causes and consequences of land conversion. This concern is becoming more urgent as the spread of weblogs makes it increasingly difficult for laypersons to distinguish between web-based materials grounded in science and materials that are based on mere opinion. The specific mounting problems associated with seemingly irreconcilable land use objectives include the need to increase the supply of homes so that home ownership remains affordable, on the one hand, and the need to preserve working landscapes and farms while minimizing traffic congestion, on the other. For elected leaders of smaller, rural communities, most of whom are not experts on land use, the underlying challenges and the need for research-based educational materials that provide practical potential solutions are profound.

A key priority of The Northeast Center is to increase the capacity of regions and communities to deal with their local problems that involve public sector decision-making. This is accomplished through the provision of research-based, objective information that decision-makers can use to trace out the anticipated consequences of alternative policy designs. The Center presents these designs objectively, as policy alternatives, without making specific recommendations.

<sup>1</sup> Remark by Board member John Martin of Delaware at the 2005 Board of Director's meeting.

<sup>2</sup> This paragraph draws on comments made by Dr. Frank Boteler, Deputy Administrator, USDA-CSREES-Economic and Community Systems at the 2005 Northeast Center Board of Director's meeting.

We are pleased to present in this report an overview of accomplishments in the last year. The Northeast Center carries out its mission through the following activities, as is described in more detail in this report:

- A. Conferences and Workshops
- B. Research (grants and others)
- C. Publications, Presentations and Educational Materials

Pursuant to the instructions of its Board of Directors, The Northeast Center has as its primary operational objectives the increased involvement and networking of regional partners; increased flows of federal, state and private resources into the region; and continually improved communications with stakeholders. With the hiring of an Associate Director, Mr. Walter Whitmer, who has a wealth of experience in community development decision-making and related outreach, the Center's capacity to delivery programming is expanding substantially. Another important organizational innovation is the development of a system of Center Affiliates, to further strengthen the relationships among community and economic development educators and faculty in the Northeast region.

# Forging Regional Dialog and Collaboration

The center sponsored or co-sponsored six workshops in 2005 to allow the exchange of research-based information and to enhance the capacity of extension educators in the region, as well as nationally, to address critical emerging issues. Workshops addressed questions related to land use and water quality as well as entrepreneurship as an economic development vehicle. The Center also is a founding partner in the effort to launch a National Coalition for Rural Entrepreneurship (http://nationalcoalition.wsu.edu/).

# Workshops, Conferences and Listening Sessions

What's Under the Radar Screen? Small and Mid-Size Animal Operations and Water Quality Workshop, The Maritime Institute, Linthicum Heights, MD, May 2-3, 2005. Organized by Charles Abdalla. http://nww.smallfarmwater.aers.psu.edu/

A workshop to share information about water quality concerns related to small and mid-size animal operations; education, incentive, and regulatory initiatives to address them; and to help shape an action agenda for the future.

Rural Poverty in the Northeast: Global Forces and Individual Coping Strategies, Days Inn, State College, PA, May 3-4, 2005. Joint with RUPRI's Rural Poverty Research Center. http://www.cas.nercrd.psu.edu/Regional\_Poverty\_Wksp/reg.poverty2005agenda.htm

This conference explored what is known from current research about the causes and effects of rural poverty in the Northeast and what needs to be known in order to design more effective policies. Other goals were to facilitate future research collaborations, and to contribute to the evolution of a national rural poverty research agenda about causes and effects of rural poverty and the design of effective policies.

Rural Entrepreneurship Development Systems Listening Sessions, June-September 2005, Manchester, NH, Syracuse, NY, Charleston, WV, State College, PA, Annapolis, MD; in collaboration with J. Zuiches, S. Maggard, The Center for Rural Entrepreneurship and the other Regional Rural Development Centers.



http://www.cas.nercrd.psu.edu/NEListeningSessions/index.html

The Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development sponsored five one-day listening sessions as part of an effort to create a national rural entrepreneurship coalition. The National Coalition for Rural Entrepreneurship builds on the momentum created by Kellogg's RFP on Entrepreneurship Development Systems for Rural America.

# The Long-Term Program Goals of the National Coalition for Rural Entrepreneurship

To spur economic, organizational, and community innovation while creating jobs in all sectors of the rural economy, from value-added food processing to Internet-based service and technology jobs.

To increase start-up and growth rates while reducing failure rates of small businesses by creating strong partnerships between educational and organizational support systems for entrepreneurs.



Small Farms Industry Clusters (SFIC) Project Launch Meeting, September 23-24, 2005, Days Inn, State College, PA. The purpose of this meeting was to kick-off the USDA/NRI-funded SFIC project. Team members from New York, Maine, Massachusetts, Maryland, Pennsylvania and West Virginia attended.

A project description is provided in the next section.

Web-site: http://www.cas.nercrd. psu.edu/SFIC/SFIC.htm

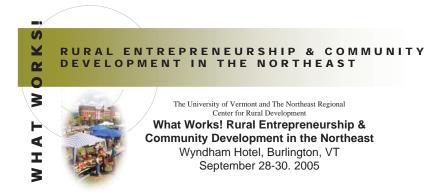


# Small Farm Clusters Program

Rural Entrepreneurship and Community Development in the Northeast: What Works! conference, September 28-30, 2005, Burlington, VT; Mary Peabody, University of Vermont, lead organizer; The Northeast Center was a major sponsor. In collaboration with the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, Farm Foundation, Association for Enterprise Opportunity, New England Small Business Development Centers, Vermont Planners Association, University of Vermont Center for Rural Studies. http://www.cas.nercrd.psu.

edu/entrepreneur\_What\_Works\_Wksp/ entrepreneur2005wksp.htm

What Works! brought together practitioners, researchers, educators, and decision-makers to explore the opportunities and challenges inherent in promoting entrepreneurship as a vehicle for rural economic development in the northeast. Together, participants learned new skills, celebrated successes and explored new



possibilities for collaboration across institutional and political boundaries. This event was the first step in the development of a regional plan of work that capitalizes on our many strengths, provides opportunities for future research and serves as a tool for leveraging resources in the coming years.

The What Works! conference was attended by 152 individuals representing 18 states including Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine, Vermont, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Tennessee, Kentucky, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, Missouri, Iowa, Illinois, and the District of Columbia. One third of the attendees came from Universities, including Extension field agents, specialists and researchers. One third of the attendees were from the non-profit sector representing both public and private community and economic development organizations as well as grass-roots agricultural organizations and local planning and landuse professionals. The final third of the participants were congressional staffers, and state government staff in agriculture, economic development and land-use.

#### Initial feedback

"I just wanted to say thank you for all of your hard work to pull together the conference last week. I think it was really great. I certainly came away with a number of things to think about and try to put into place down here." A regional planning commission staff member

"I just wanted to write and thank you once again for all the work you did to organize an excellent conference. I appreciated the chance to participate and hear many of the fine speakers..." Elaine Edgecomb of the Aspen Institute

"I wanted to take a minute and let you know that I came away from the conference with some new ideas, as well as affirmations ... about issues we all face in Rural Entrepreneurial and Economic Development.

I learned from all [sessions] I attended, and appreciated the opportunity to talk one-on-one with presenters and other attendees." *An Economic Development Coordinator in Norwich, NY* 

"Just a quick thank you for the wonderful information that was presented during the What Works Conference. [Our] team came away more knowledgeable and impressed with the depth of the conference and especially the attendees. Champlain is very interested in business and entrepreneurship and as we noted we're open to discussing any possible collaborations with UVM that might be of mutual benefit to our combined students and constituencies." Director of Business & Management Programs at Champlain College

Selected Follow-up Actions to Date

Research findings from one presentation have been used by a nonprofit agency in a legislative report on the importance of entrepreneurship as a rural economic development strategy.

A regional ad hoc group including representatives from 6 land grant universities has formed to plan a regional initiative directed at rural entrepreneurship. The group will meet in January 2006 to begin work on collaborative funding proposal.

An executive summary of the conference proceedings has been prepared and posted on the website.

Findings from the What Works! conference are being used to inform the eXtension Community of Practice (CoP) related to rural entrepreneurship that has received funding from the national eXtension effort.

In-Service on Valuing Public Benefits of Extension, Oct. 26-27, 2005; Ithaca, NY with Laura Kalombikidis, Univ. of Minnesota and the Northcentral Regional Rural Development Center. http://www.cas.nercrd.psu.edu/Comm\_Capitals\_Conf/CommCapFramework.htm

This dynamic in-service provided tools to extension professionals: 1) to discuss their work from a "public value" perspective and 2) to identify outcomes and indicators for their educational programs. The community capitals framework was integrated into the in-service to document the public value created by extension programming. State teams were encouraged to attend and use this as an opportunity to apply the material to a specific program in their state.

## In the Planning Stage

The Creative Economy: Implications for Rural Areas, June 13-14, 2006, Mystic, CT; in conjunction with the Northeast Agricultural and Resource Economics Association annual meeting, with Todd Gabe, Univ. of Maine and Dan Lass, Univ. of Massachusetts. This workshop builds on the work of Richard Florida's *The Rise of the Creative Class*.

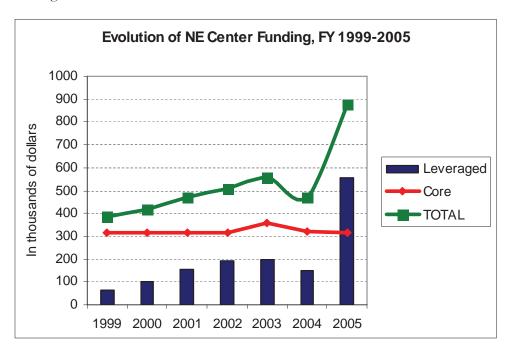
Connecting Communities/Digital Futures NE-NACDEP Conference on e-commerce, e-gov, e-community, \$20,000 external support, Sheraton Society Hill Hotel, June 6-7, 2006, Philadelphia, PA; W. Shuffstall, lead.

**NACDEP 2007**: The Northeast Region will host the Annual National Association of Community Development Professionals (NACDEP) Conference; Rod Howe, lead.

International Land Use Workshop, Spring 2007 (tbd), Baltimore, MD (tentative); with Adesoji Adelaja, Hannah Chair in Land Use, Michigan State University and Larry Libby, Swank Chair in Rural-Urban Policy, Ohio State University. In partnership with USDA-CSREES, NASULGC and the Interuniversity Consortium for Agricultural and Related Sciences in Europe (ICA)

# Expanding the Regional Funding Portfolio

During the last year, The Northeast Center and its partners secured or leveraged additional grant funding of close to \$500,000 in a number of key topic areas and from a variety of funding agencies. Central among these is an NRI-funded multi-state, multi-functional and multi-disciplinary grant that will allow us to build the science base needed to enhance the competitiveness of small- and medium-scale agriculture in the region.



# **External Regional Grant Funding**

**USDA/NRI Small Farms Industry Cluster** grant (\$319,859) to explore the use of industry clusters and networking for raising returns to farming in the Northeastern US: Massachusetts, Maryland, Maine, New York and Pennsylvania, and other states. Multi-state, multi-disciplinary and multi-functional; S. Goetz (NERCRD), Project Director and PI. Grant No. 05-55618-15744.



Researchers, development professionals and policy makers increasingly recognize that industry clusters are critical to regional development and competitiveness. However, cluster research to date has not focused on agricultural producers. This project examines the potential of, and variations in, economic clusters of



small- and medium-scale farms for achieving agricultural economic development and environmental

management objectives; identifies the unique characteristics of clusters that may support long-term farm viability and the sustainability of surrounding rural communities; explores the use of computer algorithms to analyze cluster relationships, and engages farmers and development professionals as integral partners in the research/outreach process.

**Progress Fund** grant (\$59,983) to conduct evaluation research and strategy development for tourism business development, including agri-tourism in West Virginia and Pennsylvania. M. Shields (PSU), D. Hughes (WVU) and S. Goetz (NERCRD), PIs.

Tourism is increasingly recognized as a viable local economic development strategy. Tourism-based businesses create jobs, bring new money into the local economy, are often "clean," and can help diversify the local economic base, making an economy less vulnerable during economic downturns. Because of long-term declines in natural resource extraction and manufacturing, a strong tourism economy may be especially important in rural areas. While tourism is documented as one of the leading industries in both West Virginia and Pennsylvania, business growth in the sector remains constrained by a number of well-known challenges, including seasonality and access to capital. Yet there are other factors at work that can hinder the sector's growth. One especially daunting challenge is indifference from state and local policymakers and the local economic development community, as jobs in the sector are often viewed as low-paying. While there is legitimate concern about the quality of jobs, the industry's (potential) role in rural economic development suggests that dismissing the industry entirely is short-sighted. In this project we examine the role of the tourism industry in general and Progress Fund-sponsored initiatives in particular, on economic development in West Virginia and 39 counties in western and central Pennsylvania. The goal is to strengthen the Progress Fund's regional efforts in tourism enterprise development.

**Pennsylvania Department of Labor** and Keystone Research Center grant (\$21,000) for research on food industry workforce development issues in the context of clusters. M. Shields (PSU) and S. Goetz (NER-CRD).

**Kauffman Foundation** grant (\$20,000) to study the determinants of returns to entrepreneurship over space [Northeast Region, and nation]. S. Goetz (NERCRD), PD and PI.

Considerable progress has been made in understanding the origins of entrepreneurial behavior, and in designing educational programs needed to nurture and expand this behavior as a backbone of national eco-

nomic growth. The progress has been accompanied by a growing interest in entrepreneurship as an economic development strategy, as policymakers and community leaders realize that most of the jobs lost in natural resource-based and manufacturing industries will not return. This study of entrepreneurship as an engine of local economic growth identifies specific local policy levers available



to stimulate such activity, links local structural conditions to entrepreneurship, and isolates factors that influence returns to entrepreneurial endeavor. Unlike most previous work, this research focuses on county-wide relationships rather than only individual firms or entrepreneurs. The approach complements the past work of The Kauffman Foundation.

Farm Foundation grant (\$20,000), Vermont Technical Assistance Providers' Association.

Farm Foundation; Federal Reserve Bank of Boston; New England Small Business Development Centers; University of Vermont Center for Rural Studies; Association for Enterprise Opportunity and others to support the "What Works: Entrepreneurship and Community Development" workshop in the Northeast (Vermont and other Northeastern States); M. Peabody (UVM) PI, NERCRD major sponsor; see above purpose statement.

Health and Human Services and Rural Policy Research Institute (\$15,000) funding of poverty conference and proceedings [Northeast Region]; RUPRI/RPRC (PI) and RRDCs. [see purpose statement above]

**Kellogg Foundation** (\$12,500) to host Listening Sessions on developing entrepreneurial systems in rural America [five sessions have been held to date] and to disseminate copies of Challenges for Rural America in the 21st Century throughout the region. J. Zuiches, S. Maggard, RRDCs, PI. [see purpose statement above]

Building Local Economies of the Future: Entrepreneurship Education and Information Systems for Rural People and Places. eXtension Communities of Practice Grant, funded, \$75,000. L. Beaulieu (PI) and RRDCs, co-PIs (\$18,500 received so far).

Building on the Experiences/Insights of Partner Organizations: Key partners with a strong history of involvement in research, policy and outreach activities related to entrepreneurship and rural economic development, will serve as a valuable sounding board for the ideas, products and innovations that the Community of Practice (CoP) will be proposing in response to the needs of the Communities of Interest (CoIs). Moreover, they will serve as critical eyes for the educational products that are ultimately developed by the CoP, a role that will improve the likelihood that these products will prove valuable to the CoI. External partners that have committed to collaborating with the eXtension Entrepreneurship CoP include: the RUPRI Center for Rural Entrepreneurship, the Center for the Study of Rural America/Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, the Northwest Area Foundation, the Farm Foundation, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, the Association for Enterprise Opportunity, the Appalachian Regional Commission, and the Minnesota Rural Partners.

# Grants submitted or in progress

The Viability of Agriculture: Do Communities Have a Role? NRI Grant, submitted December 8, 2005; Maryland, New York, Vermont, Pennsylvania and West Virginia, cooperating; original submission was ranked in the top 10.1 percent ("outstanding") but was not funded because of a lack of funds. Funds requested: \$496,696. K. Brasier/NERCRD, PD.

**Determinants of Rural Quality of Life**, led by Todd Gabe, University of Maine; in cooperation with Penn State University faculty and four other universities around the country. Disciplines included in this innovative project, that addresses CSREES Strategic Goal no. 2, are agricultural economics, sociology and psychology. Funding requested: \$500,000.

### Grants co-funded



Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education; Sustainable Community Grant Applications, in partnership with The Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development, which will provide limited matching funds (amount and PIs tbd); due date Nov. 18, 2005.

Over 80 applications were received in this first year of funding.

# Creating and Sharing New Knowledge for Rural Development

In addition to having an edited proceedings volume on land use conflicts and problems published by Routledge, the Northeast Center either directly or indirectly contributed to the generation and transmission of new knowledge through its newsletter as well as the numbered Rural Development Paper (RDP) series. The research results on the impacts of big-box retailers on local community conditions were reported in newspapers across the nation, including the Philadelphia Inquirer and the Atlanta Journal Constitution, as well as on C-SPAN.

# **Northeast Center Publications**

Four Issues of *Network*05, vol. 20, Nos. 1-4, A Quarterly Newsletter for Northeast Rural Development. URL: http://www.cas.nercrd.psu.edu/Publications/newsletter.html

From the Director columns, published quarterly in Network05

"NACDEP Successfully Launched" (no. 1), March 2005

"Focus on Rural Entrepreneurship" (no. 2), June 2005

"Economic and Community Development Extension Priorities Identified" (no. 3), September 2005

"National Coalition for Rural Entrepreneurship Launched" (no. 4), December 2005

# Rural Development Paper Series

Ready, R.C., **RDP No. 27**, "Do Landfills Always Depress Nearby Property Values?" 28pp. May 2005. http://www.cas.nercrd.psu.edu/Publications/rdppapers/rdp27.pdf

Using the hedonic pricing method, marginal implicit prices are estimated for proximity to three landfills. Two large landfills that are visible from surrounding areas negatively impacted property values within two to three miles. The third landfill, which is much smaller and less visible, had no impact on nearby property values. A simple meta-analysis of all available hedonic regressions showed that the average landfill depresses nearby property values at a rate of 4.1% per mile of distance, but that the impact varies among landfills. The value of a house located immediately adjacent to the average landfill is depressed by 9.2%, relative to a similar house located outside the landfill's area of influence. An estimated 5-8% of landfills have no impact at all on nearby property values.

McLaughlin, Diane, **RDP No. 28**, "Rural Poverty in the Northeast: Global Forces and Individual Coping Strategies" Workshop Summary Proceedings, 23 pp, October 2005. http://www.cas.nercrd.psu.edu/Publications/rdppapers/rdp28.pdf

Poverty in rural areas of the Northeastern United States shares causes and consequences with rural poverty in other regions, yet it also is unique. The purpose of the conference "Rural Poverty in the Northeast: Global Forces and Individual Coping Strategies" cosponsored by The Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development, RUPRI's Rural Poverty Research Center and Penn State's Population Research Institute was to "...explore what is known from current research about the causes and effects of rural poverty in the Northeast and what needs to be known in order to design more effective policies. Other goals are to facilitate future research collaborations, and to contribute to the evolution of a national rural poverty research agenda about causes and effects of rural poverty and the design of effective policies."

Goetz, S. et al. **RDP No. 29**, "Introduction to The Small Farm Industry Clusters (SFIC) Project," 32 pp October 2005 (slide show and cluster profiles). http://www.cas.nercrd.psu.edu/Publications/rdppapers/rdp29.pdf

Whitmer, W. et al. **RDP No. 30**, "Economic and Community Development Issues and Priorities in the Northeastern US: Results of a Survey of Extension Educators." Forthcoming.

Lapping, Mark. **RDP No. 31**, "Rural Policy and Planning," 59pp. Nov. 2005. http://www.cas.nercrd.psu.edu/Publications/rdppapers/rdp31.pdf

Goetz, S., W. Whitmer and R. Howe, **RDP No. 32**, "Strategic Directions in Community and Economic Development Extension and Research in the Northeast: Building a Stronger Network in a Critical Time," 8pp, forthcoming.

#### Conference Presentations Available on The Northeast Center's Website

**Presentations from the Industry Clustering/Targeting Workshop**, Orlando, FL http://www.cas.nercrd.psu.edu/Industry\_Targeting/ResearchPapersandSlides/IndustryClusterWksp.htm and http://www.cas.nercrd.psu.edu/Industry\_Targeting/ExtensionPapersandSlides/IndustryClusterWkspExtPapers.htm

Poverty Conference presentations, State College, PA

http://www.cas.nercrd.psu.edu/Regional\_Poverty\_Wksp/reg.pov2005WksTOC.htm

What Works in Entrepreneurship, Burlington, VT

http://www.cas.nercrd.psu.edu/entrepreneur\_What\_Works\_Wksp/entrepreneur2005wksp.htm

Land Use Organized Symposium, presentation, Providence, RI

http://www.cas.nercrd.psu.edu/Other/AAEA.2005Presentation.pdf

**Proceedings from The Water Quality Workshop**, Linthicum, MD (in progress) http://www.smallfarmwater.aers.psu.edu/regional\_and\_state\_reports.htm

## Other Scholarly Works

### **Books and Book Chapters**

Shields, Martin, Stephan J. Goetz and Qiuyan (Cindy) Wang, "Out-Migration from the Northeast US: The Relative Roles of Economic and Amenity Differentials," chapter in G. Greene, S. Deller and D. Marcouiller, editors, *Amenities and Rural Development: Theory, Methods and Public Policy*, Edward Elgar Publ., Northhampton, Mass., 2005.

Jensen, Leif, Stephan J. Goetz and Hema Swaminathan, "Changing Fortunes: Poverty in Rural America" Chapter 6 in David Brown and William Kandel, editors, *The Population of Rural America: Demographic Research for a New Century*, Kluwer Academic Publishers, Dordrecht: The Netherlands, 2005.

Stedman, Richard, Stephan J. Goetz and Benjamin Weagraff, "Locations and Selected Effects of Second Homes," Chapter 14 in David Brown and William Kandel, editors, *The Population of Rural America: Demographic Research for a New Century*, Kluwer Academic Publishers, Dordrecht: The Netherlands, 2005.

Goetz, Stephan J., James S. Shortle and John C. Bergstrom, editors, *Land Use Problems and Conflicts: Causes, Consequences and Solutions*, Routledge Research in Environmental Economics: London and New York, 2005, 361+xvii pp.

Goetz, Stephan J., James S. Shortle and John C. Bergstrom, "Contemporary Land Use Problems and Conflicts," Chapter 1 in Goetz, S.J., J.S. Shortle and J.C. Bergstrom, editors, *Land Use Problems and Conflicts: Causes, Consequences and Solutions*, Routledge Research in Environmental Economics: London and New York, 2005, pp 1-5.

Goetz, Stephan J., "Socioeconomic and Health Outcomes of Land Use," Chapter 10 in Goetz, S.J., J.S. Shortle and J.C. Bergstrom, editors, *Land Use Problems and Conflicts: Causes, Consequences and Solutions*, Routledge Research in Environmental Economics: London and New York, 2005, pp 132-148.

Goetz, Stephan J., James S. Shortle and John C. Bergstrom, "Future Research Needs for Rational Land Use Decisions," Chapter 21 in Goetz, S.J., J.S. Shortle and J.C. Bergstrom, editors, *Land Use Problems and Conflicts: Causes, Consequences and Solutions*, Routledge Research in Environmental Economics: London and New York, 2005, pp 310-315.



# Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

Zimmerman, J., S.J. Goetz and D. Debertin, "People and Places: Welfare Reform and the Separate Effect of Caseload Characteristics and Local Conditions," *Sociological Spectrum*, forthcoming.

Rupasingha, Anil, Stephan J. Goetz and David Freshwater, "The Production of Social Capital in US Counties," *Journal of Socio-Economics*, 2006 in press.

Debertin, David and Stephan J. Goetz, "Rural Poverty, Amenities and Social Capital" *Southern Business and Economics Journal*, 2005.

Goetz, Stephan J., "Random Variation in Student Performance across Pennsylvania School Districts with Different Class Sizes: Implications of NCLB for Rural Areas," *Journal of Research in Rural Education*, 2005.

Goetz, Stephan J. and Hema Swaminathan, "Wal-Mart and County-Wide Poverty," *Social Science Quarterly*, June 2006.

Goetz, Stephan J. and Anil Rupasingha, "The Determinants of Growth in Self-Employment in US Counties," *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, in second review.

Rupasingha, Anil and Stephan J. Goetz, "Social and Political Forces as Determinants of Poverty," *Journal of Socioeconomics*, forthcoming, 2006.

## **Other Scholarly Presentations**

Shields, M. and S. Goetz, NACDEP session presentation, "Using employment data to better understand your Community," Feb. 2005.

http://cecd.aers.psu.edu/pubs/using\_employment\_data\_to\_better.htm

Goetz, Stephan J., "Setting a Regional Agenda for Land Use Policy Research and Outreach," symposium presentation, American Agric. Econ. Assoc. annual meeting, July 2005, Providence, RI. http://www.cas.nercrd.psu.edu/Other/AAEA.2005Presentation.pdf

Workforce Development Symposium (with PA Dept. of Labor and Keystone Center); Food, Agriculture and Forestry Industry Clusters, pres. by Martin Shields, June 10, 2005.

Goetz, Stephan J. and Martin Shields, "Factors Determing the Prevalence of and Returns to Self-Employment in the 1990s: Research in Progress." Presented in Burlington, VT conference on Entrepreneurship. http://www.cas.nercrd.psu.edu/entrepreneur\_What\_Works\_Wksp/SlideShows/GoetzShields26part2.pdf

Presentations at the conference on Creating Pennsyvania's Future, State College, PA, December 5-6, 2005.

1. Regional and Local Factors that Increase Entrepreneurship (Goetz and Shields) and 2. Higher Education Institutions as Economic Growth Engines (Shields and Goetz).

# Networking Regionally and Nationally

In addition to sponsoring or co-sponsoring conferences and workshops, the Northeast Center is helping with the creation of a Northeast Extension Land Use Network (NEELUN). This group will serve as a network of and for Extension educators dealing with the complex issues of land use in the Northeast region. An informal network consisting of individuals interested in building on the momentum created at the What Works in Entrepreneurship conference is exploring opportunities for obtaining additional funding in this important area.

# Networking: Meetings Attended, Presentations Made

\*Attended the Center for Rural PA meeting, Harrisburg, PA, February 7, 2005, as a member of the Board of Directors; travel supported by Center for Rural PA.

Chaired the ESCOP Social Sciences Subcommittee meeting, Washington, DC, February 10-11, 2005.

Attended the W-1133 Meeting, The Economics of Natural Resources, Salt Lake City, UT, February 14-15, 2005.

Presented on How to Analyze Local Employment Data, at the NACDEP Conference, Las Vegas, NV; also hosted a regional summit for the Northeast (~20 attending), to discuss regional programming and research priorities; February 15-18, 2005.

Attended the NE-1011/WRSA Meeting, San Diego, CA; discussed the need and opportunities for improved impact reporting with the Technical Committee, February 23-26, 2005.

Attended the Science-on-the-Hill annual event, Washington, DC; featured a slideshow on Center efforts in the Water Quality/Natural Resources subject area, March 1-2, 2005.

Hosted the Rural Poverty Conference for the Northeast, State College, PA, May 3-4, 2005.

Attended the ESCOP Science & Technology Meeting, Cincinnati, OH, May 10-11, 2005.

Attended the Marriott-USDA MOU Meeting, Washington, DC, June 7, 2005.

Attended the Transatlantic Land Use Conference Planning Meeting, Columbus, OH, June 10, 2005.

Attended the NATaT/NCSC Board Meeting, Bloomingdale, IL, June 19-20, 2005.

<sup>\*=</sup>supported with non-Center funds

Co-Facilitated (with Charlie French, UNH) the Rural Entrepreneurship Listening Session, Concord, NH, June 24, 2005.

Meeting of Center Staff (with Rod Howe, Regional Program Coordinator, Cornell Univ.), Martin Shields (Acting Director, 2006) and Walt Whitmer, State College, PA, June 30, 2005.

\*Attended the Big-Box: Impacts Research Meeting, Washington, DC, July 7, 2005; travel paid for by The Economic Policy Institute.

Attended the NE Joint Land Grant University Summer Meeting (NERA/NEED), Peabody, MA, July 10-12, 2005.

Rural Entrepreneurship Listening Session, Syracuse, NY; facilitated by Rod Howe and Doug Ververs, Cornell Univ., July 12, 2005.

Rural Entrepreneurship Listening Session, Charleston, WV, facilitated by Gayle Vest and David Hughes, WVU, July 19, 2005.

Attended the AAEA Annual Meeting, Providence, RI; made an invited presentation at the Land Use Organized Symposium on cross-state spillovers and resulting research opportunities, July 24-27, 2005.

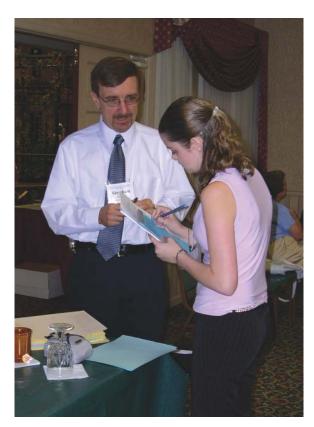
Co-Facilitated (with Walt Whitmer, PSU) the Rural Entrepreneurship Listening Session, State College, PA, July 27, 2005.

Rural Entrepreneurship Listening Session, Annapolis, MD, facilitated by Walt Whitmer, PSU in collaboration with Danny Kuennen (UMd-Eastern Shore) and Stephen McHenry (MRDP), September 9, 2005.

Chaired the ESCOP SSSC Meeting, Washington, DC, September 15-16, 2005.

What Works in Entrepreneurship Conference, presentation on Factors Determining the Prevalence of and Returns to Self-Employment in the 1990s: Research in Progress; meeting attended on behalf of the Center by Martin Shields, Walt Whitmer, Rod Howe and Pam Hearn, Sept. 28-30, 2005, Burlington, VT.

Meeting of Center Staff (with Rod Howe, Regional Program Coordinator, Cornell Univ.), Martin Shields (Acting Director, 2006) and Walt Whitmer, State College, PA, Oct. 7, 2005.



Attended and presented on the NRI-funded Small Farms Industry Clusters project, at the Small Farm Conference, Greensboro, NC, Oct. 16-19, 2005.

\*Presentation at the Community Action Association of Pennsylvania annual meeting on Poverty, October 27, 2005, Harrisburg, PA.

Attended and presented on the NRI-funded Small Farms Industry Clusters project, at the NRI Small Farm and Rural Community Project Directors Conference, Wash. DC, Oct. 1-Nov. 2, 2005.

RRDC Combined Annual Meeting, Logan, UT, November 17-18, 2005.

Attended the conference on Creating Pennsylvania's Future, State College, PA, December 5-6, 2005.

1. Regional and Local Factors that Increase Entrepreneurship (Goetz and Shields) and 2. Higher Education Institutions as Economic Growth Engines (Shields and Goetz).

Illinois MarketMaker meeting, Dec. 6-7 2005, Chicago, IL, to explore adaptation of the entrepreneurial farmer networking system in the Northeast; attended by Jeff Hyde.

eXtension and Rural Entrepreneurship meeting in Nashville, to launch the rural entrepreneurship communities of practice effort; attended by Mary Peabody, University of Vermont, December 2005.

Katrina Recovery Meeting, attended by Rod Howe, Cornell University, in Nashville, TN, December 2005.

