

Around the South

July 2006, Vol. 2 No. 7

■ SRDC Publications

- **SRDC Surplus Publications Available Upon Request**

The SRDC is doing some summer cleaning--and you can benefit from it! A list of surplus publications with a request form is available at

<http://srcd.msstate.edu/publications/06surplus.htm>. The publications listed are available on a first come, first serve basis. Available quantities vary by issue. Requested quantities will be honored when possible. There is no charge for these publications.

■ National Items of Interest

- **Amber Waves Feature: "Meat-Processing Firms Attract Hispanic Workers to Rural America"**

The June 2006 of ERS's *Amber Waves* includes a feature on how Hispanics increasingly meet labor demand arising from industry restructuring. Read more about this topic by accessing this article on the ERS website at

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/AmberWaves/June06/Features/MeatProcessing.htm>.

- **Annie E. Casey Foundation's 2006 KIDS COUNT Data Book Now Available**

The 17th annual national and state-by-state study profiles the well-being of America's children and seeks to enrich discussions concerning ways to secure better futures for all kids. The annual Data Book ranks states on 10 key measures and provides data on child health, education, and the economic condition of families. This year, the Casey Foundation also looks at the critical role that early childhood development plays in preparing millions of American children for success in school and life and discusses ways to support family-based child-care providers. The 2006 KIDS COUNT Data Book materials can be viewed, downloaded, and ordered (at no cost) by visiting

<http://www.aecf.org/kidscount/sld/databook.jsp>.

- **EDUCATION WEEK Releases "Diplomas Count"**

Diplomas Count: An Essential Guide to Graduation Policy and Rates provides detailed data on graduation rates across the 50 states and the District of Columbia, and in the nation's 50 largest school districts. Along with a wealth of statistical information, *Diplomas Count* features closer looks at why high school graduation matters, states' wide differences in measuring graduation rates, the factors that predict whether a student is likely to drop out, the worth of the General Educational Development credential, and research-backed ways for educators to help more students stay in school and earn diplomas.

The online version of the report includes "State Graduation Reports," containing policy

indicators related to important graduation-rate issues as well as state-level graduation rates for specific subgroups, broken out by race and gender. Another helpful feature is a mapping tool that provides comprehensive data for individual states in the following categories: access to technology, use of technology, capacity of use, state data system, and data access and analysis tools. It also provides ways to compare multiple states' data in all categories, as well as states' overall grades.

- Report: <http://www.edweek.org/ew/toc/2006/06/22/index.html>
- State graduation reports:
<http://enews.edweek.org/GoNow/a15864a149004a147999147a1>
- Mapping tool: http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2006/06/22/41s_map.h25.html

(no cost registration is required)

- **HUD's Series of Nine Reports to Examine Hispanic Homeownership Gap**

Despite recent gains, a sizeable gap remains between the homeownership rates of Hispanics (50%) and non-Hispanic whites (76%). The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has commissioned a series of nine reports that examine the homeownership barriers faced by Hispanics, as well as strategies that are aimed at increasing Hispanic homeownership. Barriers are found to include Hispanics' concentration in higher cost urban areas, information gaps about home buying and mortgage qualification processes, and demographic factors such as income, age, education and immigration status. Access the report series at http://www.huduser.org/publications/homeown/hisp_homeownership.html.

- **New Quarterly Information/Policy Series Launched by the RSS: First Issue Focuses on Rural Poverty**

The Rural Sociological Society has just launched a new information/policy series. This first issue addresses the problem of poverty in rural America, making note of the set of options that might offer hope in tackling this difficult issue. It is titled, "At the Razor's Edge: Building Hope for America's Rural Poor." It is authored by Leif Jensen from Penn State University. Bo Beaulieu, the SRDC Director, is serving as the editor of this exciting new RSS series.

The primary intent of *Rural Realities* is to offer a social sciences lens to the host of critical issues impacting rural people and places in the United States and beyond. The aim is to share insights on key issues through the use of sound, social sciences-based research. In other words, *Rural Realities* is not intended to advocate, but rather serve as a vehicle for sharing quality information on policy options in a format that can prove most useful to policymakers/policy analysts, to foundations, nonprofit organizations, and to others who have an interest in rural issues.

This issue is available on the Rural Sociological Society website at <http://ruralsociology.org/pubs/RuralRealities/RuralRealities1-1.pdf>. If you are interested in receiving this publication, please contact the RSS at ruralsociology@missouri.edu to be placed on the mailing list.

- **RSS Releases New Policy Brief Series on Rural Development**

The Rural Sociological Society, in connection with the Southern Rural Development Center and three other Regional Rural Development Centers, recently released a series of briefs based on its book, "Challenges for Rural America in the Twenty-First Century." The six briefs, each drawn from a different chapter, stress the importance of promoting collective community action and developing the capacity of people and organizations to meet the special needs of rural communities. The briefs synthesize the context and substance of important issues raised in the book and address alternative policy options, with the goal of bringing important research to the policy community. The six briefs address:

- The Changing Face of Rural America -- <http://www.ruralsociology.org/briefs/brief1.pdf>
- The Challenges of Rural Poverty -- <http://www.ruralsociology.org/briefs/brief2.pdf>
- Tourism and Amenity-Based Development in Rural Communities -- <http://www.ruralsociology.org/briefs/brief3.pdf>
- Competition, Cooperation, and Local Government -- <http://www.ruralsociology.org/briefs/brief4.pdf>
- Improving Rural Educational Attainment -- <http://www.ruralsociology.org/briefs/brief5.pdf>
- Catalytic Community Development -- <http://www.ruralsociology.org/briefs/brief6.pdf>

■ Funding Opportunities

- **2006 Southern Region Sustainable Community Innovation Grants Announced**

The new round of Sustainable Community Innovation Grants have just been announced. A partnership of the Southern Region Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program, the Southern Rural Development Center and the Appalachian Regional Commission, the deadline date for submissions is November 28, 2006. The grant information is available at <http://www.southernsare.uga.edu/currentcalls/sci.doc>.

- **SRDC's Grant Connections: Rural Development Funding Opportunities**

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<http://srdc.msstate.edu/funding/jun06.htm>

The SRDC staff compiles Grant Connections primarily for the faculty of land-grant colleges and universities in the South to provide funding information in support of activities in agricultural

economics, education, human sciences, rural sociology, youth development, and other related disciplines.

■ SRDC Sponsored Conferences & Trainings

- **SERA-19 Rural Health**
August 3-4, 2006
Memphis, Tennessee
<http://srdc.msstate.edu/sera19/aug06meeting.html>
- **Joint Meeting of PLN, AEA and ASRED - Early bird registration deadline is Aug. 1**
August 28-31, 2006
San Juan, Puerto Rico
<http://srpln.msstate.edu/conferences/pr/>

■ Other Conferences & Trainings

- **GIS Population Science Training Program**
Center for Spatially Integrated Social Science, University of California, Santa Barbara
July 10-22, 2006
Santa Barbara, California
<http://www.csiss.org/GISPopSci/workshops/2006/UCSB/>
- **Intensive Economic Development Training Course**
Session I: July 24 - 28, 2006
Session II: September 11 - 15, 2006
Auburn, Alabama
<http://www.aces.edu/crd/iedtc.php>
- **Rural Sociological Society (RSS) 69th Annual Meeting**
August 10-13, 2006
Louisville, KY
<http://extension.usu.edu/wrdc/ecommerce2006.cfm>
- **NCR-SARE 2006 National Conference - A Midwest Homecoming: Sharing a New Tradition of Sustainability**
August 15-17, 2006
Oconomowoc, Wisconsin
<http://www.sare2006.org>
- **Celebrating Rural Georgia**
August 21-23, 2006

Augusta, Georgia

<https://www.dca.state.ga.us/celebratingruralgeorgia/index.html>

- **2006 National Extension Tourism Conference - NETworking in Tourism: People, Places and Partnerships**
September 10-13, 2006
Burlington, Vermont
<http://www.esf.edu/NET2006/>
- **Closing the Wealth Gap: Building Assets Among Low-Income Households, A Policy Research Forum**
Held in conjunction with the CFED 2006 Assets Learning Conference
(<http://www.assetsconference.org/>)
September 19-21, 2006
Phoenix, Arizona
- **Community Development Institute East**
September 24-29, 2006
Charleston, WV
<http://www.ext.wvu.edu/cdi-east/>
- **Community and Faith Leadership Development Conference**
September 27-29, 2006
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
Contact: Charlette Byrd-Minor, Assistant Specialist, Community and Economic Development, 225-771-2242 ext. 315 or charlette_minor@suaqcenter.com.
- **Creating Business Success**
October 8-11, 2006
Tallahassee, Florida
<http://srdc.msstate.edu/calendar/famu/famuconf.html>
- **Managing Agricultural Landscapes for Environmental Quality**
October 11-13, 2006
Kansas City, Missouri
http://www.swcs.org/en/swcs_international_conferences/managing_agricultural_landscapes/
- **Southern Region Teen Leadership Conference**
November 9-12, 2006
Rock Eagle, Georgia
https://4h.ifas.ufl.edu/Events/southern_region_teen_leadership/general_information.htm

- **2007 NACDEP Conference**
"Declaration of Interdependence: The Fabric of Community"
April 16-19, 2007
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
<http://nacdep.net>
- **21st Century Families Conference: From Research to Reality**
April 17-19, 2007
Little Rock, Arkansas
http://www.arfamilies.org/21st_century/default.htm

■ Job Opportunities

- Assistant/Associate Professor, Extension Specialist, Gerontology
Oklahoma State University
College of Human Environmental Sciences, Department of Human Development and Family Science
View announcement: <http://ches.okstate.edu/hdfs/jobpostings/>
- Assistant/Associate Professor, Extension Specialist, Family Science
Oklahoma State University
College of Human Environmental Sciences, Department of Human Development and Family Science
View announcement: <http://ches.okstate.edu/hdfs/jobpostings/>
- Associate Director for Operations, MSU Extension
Michigan State University
View announcement:
<http://ceenet.msue.msu.edu/home/director/associatedirectorsearch/applicationinfo.htm>
- Assistant Extension Professor, Extension Educator, Natural Resources
Washington State University Extension
View announcement: <http://www.hrs.wsu.edu/employment/FAPvacancies.asp?id=2067>
- Environmental/Land Use Economics and Policy
Food and Resource Economics Department, University of Florida
View announcement: http://www.fred.ifas.ufl.edu/Land_Policy.pdf
- Assistant Professor, Environmental/Water Economics and Policy
Food and Resource Economics Department, University of Florida
View announcement: http://www.fred.ifas.ufl.edu/Water_Policy.pdf

- Executive Editor/Senior Writer
Ford Foundation
View announcement: <http://www.fordfound.org/employment/jobdetail.cfm?id=118>
- Professor of Agricultural Economics - Greever Endowed Chair Agri-business Development
Department of Agricultural Economics, University of Tennessee
View announcement: http://srdc.msstate.edu/news/jobs/ut_agecon.pdf

■ Submit Announcements

Job announcements and other items of interest may be sent to Emily Shaw, emilye@srdc.msstate.edu, for possible inclusion in future issues.

■ Subscribe to Around the South

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