



August 2008 Vol. 4, No. 8

SRDC ITEMS OF INTEREST

Save the Date: Bridging the Culture Divide Inclusive Extension Programming for Latinos

Learn about immigration trends in the Southern United States, implications for Extension educators, and effective methods of reaching and including Latinos/Hispanics in Extension programming. This interactive training on October 14-15 will provide Extension professionals of all disciplines with the tools to address challenges associated with changing demographics and include train-the-trainer materials for use in teaching others how to develop effective local programs. *Bridging the Culture Divide: Inclusive Extension Programming for Latinos* is sponsored by the New Hispanic South (SERA-37), the Southern Rural Development Center and North Carolina State University-Cooperative Extension.

Bonnie Teater Award Deadline Approaches

Nominations are being accepted for the 2008 Bonnie Teater Community Development Educator Lifetime Achievement Award until August 22. The award is for superior lifetime work by an individual (not a team) who has made an important contribution to the Extension Community Development (CD) area. The nomination packet must be postmarked no later than Friday, August 22, 2008. For nomination guidelines and more information, visit <http://srdc.msstate.edu/articles/award.pdf>.

2008 RFP for the Sustainable Community Innovation Grants Program Released

The Southern SARE Program and the Southern Rural Development Center are pleased to announce the release of their *2008 Sustainable Community Innovation Grants* program. The *Sustainable Community Innovations Grant (SCIG)* Program is designed to invest in projects that pursue local strategies to link sound farm and non-farm economic development with agricultural and natural resource management. The program's intent is to blend sustainable agriculture practices, including the growth of local food systems, with new community development strategies to help build resilient farms, businesses, families and communities in the South. Potential applicants are encouraged to access the full request for proposals to determine the variety of topics that are being given major priority. To access the full Request for Proposals, visit <http://www.southernsare.uga.edu/currentcalls/sci.doc>.

The National eXtension "Entrepreneurs and Their Communities" Team to Host Three Webinars This Fall

A fall series of webinars, being sponsored by the eXtension entrepreneurship team, is slated to

kickoff on September 10 with Elaine Froese's presentation "Ten Tools for Talking about Tough Issues." Offering practical tips and strategies for keeping the lines of communication open in a family business, Froese – a columnist and speaker – has inspired many families to revitalize their relationships and farm businesses. Upcoming on October 8, the webinar, "The Nebraska EDGE Program: Highlights from 5 Years of Growing Entrepreneurs," will be hosted by Marilyn Schlake from the Center for Applied Rural Innovation at University of Nebraska. And rounding out the series on November 12, Glenn Muske from Oklahoma Cooperative Extension will present "Effective Networking Tips and Techniques for the Business Owner," a webinar focused on building an effective network of helpful individuals who can help answer questions, solve problems, or expand markets. All webinars are scheduled from 2-3 p.m. EST. For more information about these eXtension-sponsored webinars, visit the following site: www.extension.org/entrepreneurship.

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

Save the Date for an Upcoming "Food Desert" Workshop

With increases in obesity and chronic diseases associated with poor diet, more attention has come to those Americans who live in poor and rural communities and have less access to affordable and nutritious foods. These areas have become known as "food deserts." To bring together key stakeholders to discuss how to conceptualize and measure food deserts and their impacts, the Economic Research Service of the USDA will host a workshop, Access to Affordable and Nutritious Food: Understanding Food Deserts, on October 8, 2008 in Washington, DC. This workshop is free, but registration is required due to limited space. More information will soon be available at <http://www.ers.usda.gov/> or by contacting Shelly Ver Ploeg at SVERPLOEG@ers.usda.gov.

New USDA Publication Discusses Change in the Food Marketplace

A recently released report "Supply Chain Basics: The Dynamics of Change in the U.S. Food Marketing Environment," by the USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service focuses on helping small-and medium-sized farmers take advantage of the shifts in today's retail food marketplace. In addition to examining the changes in the retail marketing environment, it also covers such areas as consolidation in the retail food marketing sector, increases in direct collaboration between retailers and vendors, and the ways retailers can differentiate themselves from their competitors by featuring greater varieties of specialty or locally produced or manufactured items. This evolving marketing environment, combined with the increasing flexibility of individual stores to make procurement decisions, offers new opportunities to smaller-scale growers and processors. Read the full report at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/getfile?dDocName=STELPRDC5070995>.

What's Driving Food Prices?

Farm Foundation's new report, *What's Driving Food Prices?*, is a comprehensive, objective assessment of the forces driving food prices. Identifying three broad sets of forces driving food

price increases, the reports cites global changes in production and consumption of key commodities, the depreciation of the U.S. dollar, and growth in the production of biofuels as leading forces to give a clearer picture of what has been happening. To read the full report, listen to audio files or a webinar, or just to learn more, visit <http://www.farmfoundation.org./news/templates/template.aspx?articleid=404&zoneid=26>.

Missouri Town Is Running on Vapor – and Thriving

As the United States grapples for ways to break its dependence on foreign energy sources, one tiny town in Missouri seems to have it figured out. Rock Port, in the northwest tip of the state, has been on the decline for decades, and its population dwindles each year. But a walk up to the old cemetery shows something that has put the wind, literally, back in the town's sails: four massive turbines. Find the full article about the first community in the United States to be powered completely by wind at <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=93208355>.

National Neighborhood Day Announced

September 21st is National Neighborhood Day, where people in neighborhoods all over America gather with their neighbors to foster caring and concern for each other and to promote civic action and stronger more effective communities. Visit the [National Neighborhood Day Web site](http://www.neighborhoodday.org) at <http://www.neighborhoodday.org> to learn more about the event and to find tools and resources to build strong neighborhoods.

New Volunteering Web Site Launched

USA Freedom Corps and the Corporation for National and Community Service recently launched the Volunteering in America web site, which highlights volunteering trends throughout the United States. Users can access volunteering statistics and information for the nation, U.S. regions, states and major cities, and see how states and cities rank by volunteer rates and volunteer hours. The site also features new research findings, customizable reports, information on how people volunteer, and helpful tools and training links including volunteer retention, recruitment, human capital strategies and cost saving approaches. Visit the Web site at <http://www.volunteeringinamerica.gov/>.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

SRDC's Grant Connections: Rural Development Funding Opportunities

Volume 10, Number 5, June 2008.

The latest issue will be released August 30 at:

http://srdc.msstate.edu/funding/gc_august08.html

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.

CONFERENCES AND TRAININGS

Galaxy III Conference

"Celebrating the Extension System: Strengths, Diversity and Unique Qualities"

September 15-19, 2008

Indianapolis, Indiana

<https://sharepoint.agriculture.purdue.edu/ces/galaxy/default.aspx>

Biomass South 2008: Charting a Course for Biofuels, Biopower, and Bioproducts

September 21-23, 2008

Raleigh Convention Center

Raleigh, NC

<http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/nreos/forest/feop/biomass-south/2008.html>

"A New Beginning-Expanding Beyond Charity"

September 24-26, 2008

Shreveport, LA

<http://www.suagcenter.com/leadershipconference2008/index.html>

Caring for the Caregivers Conference

"Preparing the Caregiver to Give: Issues, Challenges, Solutions"

October 1-3, 2008

Chattanooga, TN

http://www.clemson.edu/fyd/Assets/Adobe_Acrobat_files/caregiver_flyer.pdf

SERA-37

"Bridging the Culture Divide Inclusive Extension Programming for Latinos"

October 14-15, 2008

Raleigh, NC

Contact the SRDC for further information at srdc@ext.msstate.edu

Transition to a Bioeconomy: Environmental and Rural Development Impacts

October 15-16, 2008

St. Louis, Missouri

View Call for Papers:

<http://i-cares.wustl.edu/Callforpapers5-12-08.pdf>

Making Social Impact Assessment (SIA) Count for Planners and Resource Managers

October 23-24, 2008

Arlington, VA

<http://www.socialimpactassessment.net/WashingtonDCSIACourse.htm>

National Extension Tourism Conference

June 14-17, 2009

Park City, Utah

<http://www.rpts.tamu.edu/tce/NET/Conference.htm>

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Russin joins LSU AgCenter

Dr. John Russin has just joined the LSU AgCenter as Associate Vice-Chancellor and Associate Director of the Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station. Dr. Russin has had a distinguished career in the field of plant pathology (soybean and aflatoxin research) and most recently in agricultural administration. He received a B.A. degree in biology from the University of Maine in 1976, his M.S. in entomology from the University of Delaware in 1978, and his Ph.D. in plant pathology from the University of Kentucky in 1983. He spent one year as an extension entomologist at the University of Delaware before starting his Ph.D. program. He served as a post-doctorate in entomology at the LSU AgCenter from 1984 to 1989, a research plant pathologist with Crop Genetics International from 1989 to 1991, and held Assistant and Associate Professor positions in the Department of Plant Pathology and Crop Physiology in the AgCenter from 1991 until 1998 before joining the Department of Plant, Soil and Agricultural Sciences at Southern Illinois University. He became Head of the department in 2001 and Associate Dean –Research at Southern Illinois University in 2004. He is eager to begin working with the Southern Association of Experiment Station Directors, and I ask that you extend your welcome and cooperation as he transitions into his new position.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Agricultural Economist, Economic Research Service/USDA

View announcement:

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/AboutERS/Employment/OpportunitiesPage.htm>

Director of Workforce Development, Regional Technology Strategies

View announcement:

http://srdc.msstate.edu/newsletters/work_director.doc

Economist, Appalachian Regional Commission

View announcement:

<http://www.arc.gov/index.do?nodeId=3281>

Strategic Initiatives Director, Mountain Association for Community Economic Development (MACED)

View announcement:

<http://www.maced.org/SID-ad.html>

Research Associate, Institute for Human Development, University of Missouri

View announcement:

<http://www.umkc.edu/adminfinance/hr/acadpostingview.aspx?seq=310>

Vice President, Farm Foundation

View

announcement: [http://www.farmfoundation.org/news/templates/template.aspx?articleid=402
&zoneid=23](http://www.farmfoundation.org/news/templates/template.aspx?articleid=402&zoneid=23)