Programs of the regional rural development centers are available equally to all people.
Table of contents

Preface ................................................................. 5
Project highlights ..................................................... 7

GOAL I To improve economic competitiveness
and diversification ............................................... 11

GOAL II To support management and strategic
planning for economic investment ....................... 17

GOAL III To create capacity through leadership ........... 22

GOAL IV To assist in family and community
adjustments to stress and change ......................... 25

GOAL V To promote constructive use
of the environment ............................................. 29
Preface

This is a combined report of selected FY92 Extension and research activities, accomplishments and projects of the four Regional Rural Development Centers linked to the Land Grant institutions in the U.S. The Centers seek to expand the range of alternatives open to rural people, communities and businesses as these rural people strive to secure improved standards of living and quality of life. The variety of projects and the diversity of persons involved in the work of the four Centers should attest to the impact of the work of the Centers and reveal something of how this work touches rural people and communities across the U.S.

The report begins with a joint effort of the four Centers and the University of Missouri funded largely out of a special grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. This project built on previous work done at the University of Missouri to address needs of senior citizens across the nation. Through the contacts of the four Centers, it has been possible to effectively supplement and disseminate this work nationally.

Following this introduction, the report is structured around five major themes that have been used from a national perspective for the past few years to organize research and Extension work with a rural focus. Within each of these themes, the research and Extension work of the Regional Rural Development Centers is displayed in a couple of ways. 1) "Joint projects" are efforts of two or more of the Centers. In most cases, all four have collaborated and the project is national in scope. 2) Projects that are truly regional in character where the Land Grant faculty in one region in cooperation with that regional Center constitutes the majority of the work and impact. But several of these regional projects have been picked up and reproduced or adapted for national use. A recent example is the Farm*A*Syst program coming from the North Central Center and the Universities of Wisconsin and Minnesota. This rural-residence water quality program is now in the process of being adopted and adapted in many states in the nation with the other three Centers facilitating the process.

There are also distinctions between research and Extension projects. Actually the four Centers work hard at integrating research and Extension, but the federal funds do come from two sources, Extension Service/USDA and the Cooperative States Research Service (CSRS), with this historic functional distinction. Some work starts with research questions and some with very applied policy questions from the communities. This rough break-out may decide which funds are invested in starting the work and whether research or Extension faculty are primarily involved. In practice, the Centers like all of the research work to have an Extension component and the Extension work to have a solid input of existing scholarship from research.

Following are the research and Extension efforts for FY92 of the four Regional Rural Development Centers in assisting rural people gain access to capabilities of the Land Grant institutions.

Why do the four regional rural development centers exist?

The amount of social science research, and extension of that research, that is available to rural communities across the U.S. is very limited. Simply extending to rural communities our knowledge and experience of the urban situation too frequently does not address the conditions of lower density, long distance, a declining natural resource economy, and volunteer leadership that prevail in many rural communities.

With as much as one-quarter of the nation's population living in rural areas, there is a need to invest some national resources in research and education to assist these people and their communities in finding viable alternatives to enhance their opportunities for the future.

The Land Grant institutions have a long history of applied scholarship and an established presence in rural communities dealing with rural issues. The Regional Centers simply work across state lines with Land Grant faculty to expand this work and make it more readily available.

The rural condition

The social and economic health of rural America continues to decline significantly. National and global economic restructuring has produced shifts in local rural economies. Federal budget outlays for economic and regional development fell by 56 percent between 1980 and 1990, and USDA rural development programs decreased by 52 percent. There are increased pressures on local and state governments to provide services for education, health care, youth and families at risk, and infrastructure improvement.
Conflicts arise over the use of natural resources. Rural community leaders, largely volunteers, often lack the resources, expertise, and specific leadership skills to deal effectively with these issues. What is to be done to enhance the standard of living in small and rural communities?

Understanding rural development
Programs designed for metropolitan areas do not adapt well to rural conditions nor do agricultural programs solve the economic problems of rural communities. Neither is economic development the sole answer. The complex social problems in rural areas make it necessary to strengthen the ability of rural institutions to understand the effects of national and international policies and events and to develop responses reflecting local needs, values, and resources. This will require increased research on rural issues as well as improved education for community leaders.

Role of regional rural development centers
The four Regional Rural Development Centers support and strengthen state efforts in rural areas by developing networks of university scientists and Extension faculty from a variety of disciplines to address rural issues. Strategies for dealing with those issues are developed by leaders across the region and the nation and are shared with rural communities via conferences and publications. Each Center adapts its program to meet the needs within the region. Centers collaborate with state, regional, and national public and private organizations to leverage support from a variety of sources to supplement their regional and federal funding and to increase program effectiveness. The Centers work in liaison with research and Extension faculty; with state, regional, and national policy makers; with community decision makers; and with other rural development professionals. The Centers are accountable to their funding sources and to their Boards of Directors and Advisory Committees through plans of work, annual reports, and on-site visits.

Rural development challenges
The Centers are organized to respond rapidly to rural needs in their region or to collaborate to provide interracial and national programs on critical rural development issues. Quick response has given the Centers the opportunity to be proactive in adjusting to constantly changing conditions. There are several limits and challenges:
- More educational materials and activities with proven ability to assist rural people, businesses, and communities exist than can be delivered with existing personnel.
- Increasing research investment on rural community development issues is imperative.
- Sizable increases in investment in the next generation of academic leadership for rural development are needed.
- Shrinking resources in the public sector require more individual and community self-help.
- Increasingly, more of the rural population is under 18, over 65, and ethnically diverse.
- Conflicts arise over the use of our natural resources and environment. Rural stakeholders are caught in many of these controversies.

Addressing the challenges
The Centers receive modest funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture through the Extension Service and Cooperative State Research Service. Increasingly, private foundations are also investing in the work of the Centers. Supplemental funding from these foundations has been very important to effective Center work.
In July 1991, the Regional Rural Development Centers underwent a national review by the Extension Service and the Cooperative State Research Service. The Report of the Review Panel strongly endorsed the Centers, saying they "performed an extremely valuable and useful catalytic role in research and Extension programs... If the Centers did not exist today, they would have to be invented." The Review Panel recommended that additional federal funding be sought to support increased programs led by the Centers.

Project Highlights

EXTENSION

The Senior Series
Developed by the Center on Rural Elderly at the University of Missouri with funding from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to enhance Extension programming on aging-related issues and out-reach to older adults, the Senior Series consists of eight manuals addressing such topics as nutrition and the elderly, the needs of caregivers, and intergenerational relations. Through further support from the Kellogg Foundation, the four regional rural development centers sponsored five regional conferences to introduce the Senior Series materials to Extension professionals. Following the training sessions, Extension workers in almost every state of the country have introduced the Senior Series to their elderly client with extremely encouraging results. Below are a few anecdotal reports from the field.

In Montana a man told the Extension agent that he had been living with incontinence for several years and just assumed it was one of those things we have to tolerate as we get older. Thanks to the Senior Series material he sought a doctor's help and no longer suffers. A woman in New Mexico, whose husband is an Alzheimer's patient, said she has changed her ways as a caregiver because of what she learned from the Senior Series program on dementia. Now she has a better understanding of him and the way he is thinking. She felt alone and isolated prior to the Series, but knows now how to develop a support network.

Senior Series programming is extremely successful in the Northeast and the Nutrition and Nutrition newsletter are especially popular. A former school principal who retired many years ago says, "I look forward to receiving the newsletter each month. I use the ideas and recipes and share them with my family. I like everything in the newsletter—easy to do exercises and inspirational messages."

A senior who has become confined to her home responds, "I enjoy the newsletter very much. I can't get out very often because of having arthritis, and I look forward to getting it. The inspirational corner gives me a lift."

A Senior Games, similar to the one highlighted in the Senior Series program, was held in Clark County Kentucky in May 1992. One 84-year-old man who won the football toss felt so good about himself and his accomplishment that he has worn his medal every day since the event.

Through the Senior Series program, Stone County, Mississippi Home Economist Judy Edwards gained access to other agencies such as the Area Agency on Aging and AARP. County activities for elders now involve a coalition of agencies and the development of a comprehensive program to a wider audience.

The Senior Series project in Brookings, South Dakota has worked with the Coalition on Aging to launch a Volunteer Service Bank. One volunteer match is a 92-year-old woman who calls daily on an 86-year-old housebound woman. They have become friends, providing companionship for both and life support for the 86-year-old, who has no family in the community.

A Kansas Extension agent who attended the Northeast regional session said that the session conducted a monthly 30 minute lesson on nutrition at a local senior center. Two participants credit their newly lowered cholesterol reading to information they gained at the trainings.

WRDC Facilitating strategic management
In January, 1992 a group of 48 Extension workers representing eleven western states and three territories attended a four-day workshop designed to provide the extension community leadership development that are necessary to bring a solid community plan to fruition. Less than six months after that session, workshop participants from Idaho participated in the development of a community and leadership development that are necessary to bring a solid community plan to fruition.

NERCD Cost-saving model for increasing the effectiveness of Extension programming in the northeast states
Considering the economic instability of rural America today, no one can deny the necessity of women working outside the home, but this factor increasingly creates other problems—particularly child care problems. What happens to rural...
American children of working parents? Where do they go? Who takes care of them? Wouldn’t it be comforting to know there are people who are concerned about them? Dr. James E. Van Horn, a professor of Rural Sociology at the Pennsylvania State University, and Project Assistant, Lyn Horning, are concerned about the well-being of rural children and of rural parents and child care providers. Developed in response to a previous Center-funded project, their most recent work provided two years of institutional units (24 issues of Caregiver News) to 300 Northeast regional county Extension offices.

Extension Home Economists and Youth Development Agents were responsible for localizing, adapting, and distributing the newsletter to child care providers in their county. It is estimated that more than 60,000 copies per issue were distributed to northeastern child care providers. With the entry of Caregiver News on MAPP—the national family database that is partially funded by USDA-ES—the regional audience has expanded to include national and international audiences.

SRDC Extension tools for planning rural community infrastructure
An infrastructure task force was organized to encourage creation of cost-efficient delivery systems and new methods of delivering infrastructure services. An outstanding example of its success was the creation of a first-responder system in Ellis County, Oklahoma designed to train and equip volunteers in rural areas to respond to an emergency at the same time the ambulance was dispatched. Because volunteers were strategically placed, they arrived on the scene with traveling emergency medical technicians an average of 1.2 minutes prior to the ambulance.

Shortly after the first-responder system was operational, an emergency room physician in the county visited first-responders who were saving lives. Two high school girls on their way to the prom worried that the lap seat belts might wrinkle their dresses, and only fastened the shoulder belts. When the driver lost control of the vehicle, the shoulder belts blocked the girls’ air passages. Trained first-responders were on the scene within minutes and restored the girls’ breathing. The ambulance arrived about 15 minutes later. Those girls would not have survived if care had not been available until the ambulance arrived.

SRDC Helping black adults age 35-55 and youth age 16-19 develop personal skills to upgrade employability
Many families in rural Texas are unable to find or maintain employment due to lack of basic education and marketable skills. A series of workshops targeting welfare mothers was conducted during eight-week job readiness programs to teach job training skills and how to establish a resume. During the first session, twelve welfare mothers completed the course using materials developed through an SRDC funded project. One week after the first graduation and recognition program, one mother had opened a Family Day Home; one was employed by a major company; one had enrolled in college; one began work on her GED; and two had enrolled in clerical training at Prairie View University.

In two subsequent sessions, twenty-six welfare mothers completed the 8-week course and six more have enrolled in a clerical training program at Prairie View University; one has opened another Family Day Home; an additional two have enrolled in GED classes, and six have found employment.

NCRCD Labor resource constraints on technological innovations by rural businesses
As part of the regional rural revitalization initiative, a work group has developed a videotape and supporting materials to increase the viewers’ awareness of conceptual perspectives on leadership in communities. This includes understanding of leadership roles; linkages to community; barriers, how to develop an answer; motivation and inspiration to become involved in community issues, decisions, and activities. Copies of the videotapes have been widely distributed within and beyond the North Central Region.

WRDC Implant (Multi-regional rural/urban input-output models in the western U.S.)
Just as natural ecosystems consist of a group of interdependent organisms, economic systems are also the result of interdependent forces. This five-state project was organized to support the development of information on the trade flow of commodities and services between rural and urban regions, and to stimulate more effective use of rural-urban linkage models in policy analyses. Software was developed to estimate trade linkages between rural and urban areas and has been applied in Oregon to the Portland area and to the northern Nevada economy with Reno as its core. Regional input-output models have also been constructed for the Seattle-Tacoma region in Washington. Work relating to multiregional input-output models was presented at the Pacific Northwest Regional Economics Conference, an important meeting of academic, bank, and government economists who share a strong policy orientation. The work has also been presented in two seminars for policy analysts and agency economists at the Oregon Economic Development Department as well as a seminar at Portland State University attended by representatives from state government agencies. As part of their efforts to develop wider awareness of this tool, investigators are preparing articles for submission to professional journals and to policy-oriented publications.

NCRCD The economic feasibility of recycling polystyrene waste from small rural communities
Seed money was provided to write a proposal and collect initial data on the economic feasibility of separating, collecting, processing and marketing used consumer polystyrene waste collected in small cities and rural counties. The study is now funded by state and industry sources. In addition to clarifying the actual costs of recycling polystyrene, this project is developing methods that will enable communities to make better informed decisions on all elements of recycle programs.

Begun while the Wisconsin state legislature was still debating the final form of an omnibus recycling law, this research had an immediate impact. Early results helped persuade legislators not to ban the manufacture and sale of certain plastics, thereby eliminating several hundred jobs in small towns. The Legislature chose instead to give the industry until 1995 to come up with an economically viable method for recycling the material.

In response to a proposal developed with NCRCD seed money, Amoco Chemical awarded a $10,000 grant to Wisconsin Intercounty Nonprofit Recycling, Inc. (WNR) for increased processing of polystyrene foam. The City of Fitchburg, Wisconsin allocated funds to educate the public and to underwrite initial costs of adding foam polystyrene materials to their curbside, household-recycling program. That program continues without other funding and at virtually no cost beyond what the city spends for consumer education.
Goal: To improve economic competitiveness and diversification

Research

WRDC: The effects of farm labor contractors and immigration reform in rural America.
Three major findings emerge from the study. 1) Activity among farm labor contractors has increased with immigration reform. Factors contributing to this increase are: employers seeking to minimize the risk of hiring illegal workers; an increased diversity of immigrant workers; and more contractors. 2) "New-new" immigrants are arriving—Mixtecs or Guatemalan Indians—with different language, recruitment, and social service needs. 3) The new legalization program permits many more people to become contractors. Grower/ producers have been able to use the contractors as the "employer" of the immigrant labor while holding costs to the same level as the early 1980s. New labor sources and heavy competition permit producers to shift liability to the contractors for social security taxes, unemployment insurance, and worker compensation as well as the risk of INS or DOL enforcement. The result is lower wages in rural America. This needy population raises troublesome problems in social services, housing, economic development and related issues for rural communities where laborers' families settle.

WRDC Consumer price index for small towns
The Cost and Availability of Selected Consumer Goods and Services in Rural Washington Towns by Paul W. Barkley, WRDC 39, May 1992. This report is based on research partially funded by a grant from the WRDC. The work was done in conjunction with Dr. Refugio Rochin at UC-Davis and Dr. Edward Bradley at the University of Wyoming. The study found, among other things, that food items are the most readily available commodity in small towns, with household supplies and personal care items a close second. Clothing is usually difficult to find. Most prices in rural communities are only slightly higher than in large cities and housing and health care are significantly less expensive.

The Availability and Prices of Consumer Goods and Services in Small Towns of Northern California by Refugio Rochin and Karen Jetter. Giannini Foundation Information Series No. 91-1, Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of California, Davis, CA. Partially supported by the WRDC, this study examines the prices and availability of over 300 consumer goods and services. The study suggests that small town businesses can provide a sizeable range of goods and services within their market confines.

NERCRD Development of a proposal to establish a New England tourism information system
This task force is designing a proposal to develop a New England Tourism Information System that will formulate and distribute marketing and development data on market characteristics, economic analysis, and current tourism status. Image, public awareness, and attitudes also will be included.

NERCRD Industrial organization and rural economic development: Two case studies in the Blackstone Valley
This case study of two industries in the Blackstone Valley of Massachusetts and Rhode Island assesses the impact on firms located in rural areas of the trend towards flexible specialization. The study utilizes in-depth interviews, a mail survey, and aggregate data analysis to document changes in industrial organization, their impacts on rural firms, and how firms cope with these changes.

NERCRD Labor resource constraints on technological innovations by rural business
Research of the interrelationships of employers, educators, high school students, and parents in the six-county rural labor-market area surrounding Hagerstown, Maryland, analyzed the labor-resource constraints experienced by rural employers and the problems of high school students in their school-to-work transition period. Training materials documenting the relevance of the topic will be developed for research/Extension individuals in the Northeast.

NERCRD Paths for resolving the tension between economic development and the preservation of the rural way of life
A study of 600 residents in 15 rural counties in Maryland, Delaware, and Virginia examined the residents' attitudes toward economic development. The public attitudes were compared to those of the leaders. This led to options for resolving the economic growth/rural lifestyle tension and the process that produced it. Results of the
Goal 1 To improve economic competitiveness and diversification

RESEARCH

NERCRD Structure of the industrial economy of a two-state region: Large firm/small firm interdependencies and the supplier relationship (Part 2)

This project analyzes the relationships between core industries and their suppliers to determine the extent to which rural and urban areas are dominated by such networks. The entrepreneurship process—how firms originate, where they get ideas, where they get help for start-up, where they get technological help, how they develop a market niche, and whether they are related to core firms—is also being investigated. A study of the relationships of large firms to small firms and to the general economy will be made available to developers and to Extension personnel.

SRDC Participation of rural households in small business employment and income

This study examined employee remuneration as a function of employer size to assist in evaluation of the small business approach to rural development. Results support the conclusion that industrial recruitment may remain a viable strategy for at least some Southern counties, particularly those with a proportionately large black population. Analyses indicate the wage differential between blacks and whites decreases as firm size increases. Expanding the share of establishments with 30 or more employees appears to offer wage advantages to all workers regardless of race, gender and levels of human capital.

NERCRD Accomplishments of NC Region business retention and expansion programs by community and business type

This research project will improve our understanding of Business Retention and Expansion program methods. Special attention will be given to variables that Extension and community leaders can use to facilitate programs toward locally recognized economic development goals. Specific objectives include differentiation of economic and social characteristics of participating communities and targeted businesses, development of recommendations, appraisal of results by participating community and business leaders, and description of collaboration with allied agencies and organizations.

NERCRD A conference on research and applications of cooperative actions for economic advancement in rural communities

This conference will facilitate exchange of information among economic development practitioners and researchers that emphasizes collaborative approaches to economic development, and will emphasize research findings that supplement those of another recent conference. A strong emphasis on application will build upon and supplement that conference, extend its impact on Extension, governmental and other practitioners, and through them to the public. Michigan is providing leadership for this project.

NERCRD Multi-community collaboration: An evolving rural revitalization strategy

There is a growing interest in cooperative efforts between rural communities for sharing services, facilities, and economic development. Using a case study approach, research of three collaboration examples was conducted by a multidisciplinary team. A regional conference on multicomunity alliances was held that included a review of the research results. Experts from the United States, Canada, and Europe were featured. The conference was summarized briefly in a special issue of the Rural Development News. A more complete proceedings has been published and a videotape completed.

NERCRD An investigation of business districts in Indiana, Iowa and North Dakota to determine strategies for rural revitalization of retail and service sectors in small towns in the region

Indiana, Iowa and North Dakota's research on small town retail business districts found that to maintain a retail district, small towns needed to diversify their economic base, provide goods and services the community needs to function, and keep the business community involved in planning. All three states have used these data in their economic development programs, with special emphasis on developing strategies for retail marketing.

Goal 2 To improve economic competitiveness and diversification

RESEARCH

NERCRD Tourism and craft marketing: Producers, retailers, and consumers

Three states, Minnesota, Nebraska and Iowa, conducted research to identify strategies for marketing crafts to tourists and developing educational programming to increase income opportunities for rural craft producers and retailers. Two educational videotapes have been produced from the results, and the principal investigators have worked with tourism groups within their own states and other states to develop strategies for promoting economic development through tourism.

EXTENSION

JOINT Future tourism development: Programming in the Cooperative Extension Service for the next millennium

In a grass roots move to support their collective programming efforts, 78 Extension professionals representing 33 states recently gathered in Wisconsin for a national conference. The following strategic initiatives were set forth:

To outline the education and research roles of CES in travel and tourism to external and internal stakeholders. To establish tourism and travel as a recognized, supported program within the Cooperative Extension System and to develop partnerships for programming in tourism and travel.

To establish training initiatives in tourism and travel for clientele and for Extension faculty.

To establish a nationwide "library" of tourism and travel information, data and reports.

To establish a comprehensive agenda for tourism and travel research and build a national research base.

To hold another National Cooperative Extension Workshop on Tourism and Travel within the next two years.

Approved by the ECOP executive committee, financial support for the conference was provided by: Extension Service, USDA; the four Regional Rural Development Centers; and the Tourism Research and Resource Center, University of Wisconsin, Cooperative Extension.

JOINT Off-farm employment: A symposium

This symposium examined recent trends in part-time farming, and identified the place of part-time farming in modern agricultural industry, including major findings of recent surveys and public policy issues of importance. The papers from this symposium as well as summaries of a recent part-time farming survey, together with policy and programming implications, appeared in a book, Multiple Job-holding among Farm Families, published in 1991 by Iowa State University Press.
Goal 1 To improve economic competitiveness and diversification

**EXTENSION**

WRCDC Training community leaders in computer-assisted information resources to improve local decision making and economic/small business development initiatives.

Conceived to enhance and encourage the use of computer-assisted information retrieval relevant to problem-solving and economic development among businesses, government officials, economic development organizers, and small business owners in some of the states where ICLIS is available (MT, CO, WY, UT). This project has produced a training manual and is in the process of establishing a date and site for a pilot workshop that will involve CES community development staff as well as ICLIS community specialists and library personnel in Utah, Colorado, and Wyoming. The objectives of the workshop are to build information teams in each field site that are trained in methods of community problem-solving and in information technology and analysis, and who can interpret these materials for relevant audiences. Local teams will report results of their work to the ICLIS and Extension systems where they will be shared among participating states and made available to other interested parties. Major funding for the overall ICLIS project came from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

WRCDC Business retention and expansion.

Between 1985 and 1990, 644 new businesses were created by existing businesses in the neighboring communities of Sierra Vista/Huachuca City, Arizona. Tourism increased more than 25 percent last year in Deer Lodge County, Montana, thanks in large part to the improved appearance of Anaconda. In response to the concerns of local businesses, streets have been repaved along 66 city blocks in Kalispell, Montana. Renovation is scheduled for the rest of the streets next summer.

All of the above activities stem from projects at the training level. The training has been directed in Business R & E. At a regional training sponsored by the Center March 3-5 in Tempe, Arizona, 39 participants from three states received the leadership opportunities in community forestry.

Municipalities need to educate their planners, supervisors, and workers in techniques necessary to implement and maintain community forests. The project will conduct a series of educational workshops designed to bridge the gap between these municipality workers. The goal is to create communities that are self-sustaining in terms of forest management.

NRCRD Northeast farmers’ markets as business incubators.

The purpose of this research/action project is to help rural communities harness the economic development potential of farmers’ markets in the Northeast for creating and sustaining rural enterprises, including food and fiber production, processing, and cottage industries. Resulting products will be targeted to cooperative economic development officials, cooperative extension staff, and other local community educators with the hope of broadening their efforts to create jobs, increase household income, generate tax revenues, and improve the quality of life for rural residents.

SRDC Rural economic development for community self-reliance.

An educational program was developed and distributed for use with low income audiences in rural communities. Emphasis was on training groups who are located in economically distressed rural communities to engage in local economic development activities.

SRDC Global entrepreneurship management support (GEMS).

This project involved a coalition of selected states. Critical educational needs related to global marketing of food. Value-added other products and services were identified and educational materials were developed to supplement institutional efforts and video tapes already in existence. Local marketing data for pilot states were expanded and the global marketing capacity and capability of Extension, selected businesses and rural communities were enhanced.

SRDC Linking of 1890 and Tuskegee Extension and research for sustainable alternative agriculture for small and limited resource farmers.

This project will identify centers of excellence at 1890 Institutions and Tuskegee University in terms of research and information aspects of alternative enterprises and 2) foster network system between the two networks. The Extension plan will develop sustainable agricultural alternatives for small, part-time and low income farmers.

SRDC Technical preparatory syllabus for rural development in poor rural communities.

This project is injecting into rural high school technical-preparatory programs the fundamentals of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) as an information management tool using local resource management examples. A dynamic school-community program will be initiated. Simultaneously, students will be readied to enter the information age career pipeline.

SRDC Harvesting hometown jobs.

This seminar was held in cooperation with the National Association of Towns and Townships (NATS) for officials from small local governments in Mississippi, Louisiana and Arkansas, and offered training in small town economic development and explored ways to raise money and cut costs.

SRDC Helping black adults age 35-55 and youth age 16-19 develop personal skills to upgrade employability.

Many families in rural Texas are unable to find or maintain employment due to lack of basic education and marketable skills. A series of workshops targeting welfare mothers was conducted during eight-week job readiness programs to teach job training skills and how to establish home-based businesses. During the first session, twelve welfare mothers completed the course using materials developed through an SRDC funded project. One week after the first graduation and recognition program, one mother had opened a Family Day Home; one was employed by a major company; one had enrolled in college; one began work on her GED, and two had enrolled in clerical training at Prairie View University.

In two subsequent sessions, twenty-six welfare mothers completed the 8-week course and six have enrolled in a clerical training program at Prairie View University; one has opened a Family Day Home; two have enrolled in GED classes, and six have found employment.

NCCRD Take charge: Economic development for small communities.

This project was adapted statewide by Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. The leaders of more than 100 communities create employment and training opportunities for economic development through the use of Take Charge materials, with many impacts evident through local decision making.

**EXTENSION**

NRCRD Farmers’ markets, their significance and support: An exploratory study and annotated bibliography.

A review of farmers’ market literature and interviews with market-knowledgeable individuals were conducted to identify structure, problems, and potentials of farmers’ markets. A guide was produced that will be available for distribution to interested Extension faculty for use with farmers’ market entrepreneurs. This information helped generate another Center project, “Northeast Farmers’ Markets as Business Incubators.”

NRCRD Consumer education network systems (CENST)

Through the “Consumer Education Network System,” an integrated consumer education delivery method will be developed to provide access in rural communities to the cooperative Extension resource base. This pilot project will be developed in one selected county in New York and one selected county in Pennsylvania, and then results will be disseminated to each state in the Northeast Region for adaptation and implementation, nationally.

NRCRD Developing employment opportunities in community forestry.

Municipalities need to educate their planners, supervisors, and workers in techniques necessary to implement and maintain community forests. The project will conduct a series of educational workshops designed to bridge the gap between these municipality workers. The goal is to create communities that are self-sustaining in terms of forest management.

NRCRD Technical preparatory syllabus for rural development in poor rural communities.

This project is injecting into rural high school
Goal I: To improve economic competitiveness and diversification

**EXTENSION**

- NCCRD Mid-America, Midstates, Tri-state, Tri-ota community development conferences
  The Center sponsors four annual multistate community development conferences. These conferences consist largely of local leaders and officials sharing their successes and experiences with others like themselves. An annual proceedings is published after each conference.

- NCCRD Visual merchandising and business image
  As part of the regional rural revitalization initiative, a work group has been preparing rural business education materials on visual merchandising and creating a positive business image. Four slide-tape sets and printed support materials are in the final stages of development.

Goal II: To support management and strategic planning for economic investment

**RESEARCH**

- WRDC Implan (Multi-regional rural/urban input-output models in the western U.S.)
  The WRDC, with partial salary support from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, supported a project on multi-regional economics. The objectives were: 1) to identify trade flows between rural-urban regions and 2) to stimulate more effective use of rural-urban linkage models in policy analysis. Objective one has been developed for important parts of Nevada and Oregon. This work has been shared with economists in Oregon with statewide interests and on two occasions the economists asked for follow-up. Work on the second objective has begun with a seminar for regional economists and economic development interests in the Pacific Northwest. Especially important are the state Rural Development Councils in Washington and Oregon and Region 6 of the U.S. Forest Service. Applied work currently exists on timber cut changes associated with the Endangered Species Act and on the impact of these changes for the rural and metropolitan communities. The new model will extend the analysis to impacts on the income distribution of families in both rural and metro areas of the state.

- NERC A user's guide to the 1990 Census
  The purpose of this project is to develop a videotape presentation that will illustrate how research and Extension faculty can use products from the 1990 Census in applied research and thus contribute to the development of ideas for regional research and Extension projects. Upon completion of the project, videotapes will be distributed initially to all members of NEC-24 and 87 and to the State Rural Development Councils (SRDCs) within the Northeast Region. National dissemination to all SRDCs will follow.

- NERC Urban places and spaces focus group
  The purpose of the focus group was to identify the key issues and to establish a logical sequence for prioritizing proposals to be competitively-funded by the Center or other funding sources that address these issues.

- NERC Approaches to community decision-making: An empirical study
  This project will extend a pilot study of leaders and officials to include a representative sample of citizens in State College, PA, the second smallest "metropolitan" area in the U.S. It will compare data derived from using the reputational, social participation, event analysis, and positional approaches to identifying power structures in a single study. It will examine whether an elitist or pluralist structure is identified in the target community and whether the different methods are complementary or tend to portray different power structures.

- SRDC Exploratory studies of occupational structure of the workforce and support of public education in rural Appalachia.
  Results of this study show that effective development strategy appears to require both a better educated labor supply and employers who are more supportive of good schools and who offer job opportunities for those who are better educated. Each may facilitate the other. Employer recruitment may greatly affect education.
Goal II To support management and strategic planning for economic investment

**research**

SRDC Community and family influence on educational performance in Appalachian communities.

From the perspective of local economic development, findings suggest that a variety of local economic factors influence educational performance, which impacts the future quality of the local labor force. Improvements in educational services provide two types of benefits: improvement in the attractiveness of the community to those who prefer communities with a high quality of education for their children, and in the quality of the work force, which increases aggregate productivity. A dual commitment to improve educational performance and attract high quality jobs may lead to a reversal in the spiral of declining economic opportunity in some rural communities.

SRDC Economic impact on Ozark Mountain communities of attracting retirees.

This study will provide information to assist communities in evaluating the potential of attracting retirees as an economic development option. Information on how much households spend on different items and where they spend their money is required to identify economic impacts. Results of a three-state study are being analyzed to clarify and specify the kinds, if any, of economic impacts on communities that attract retirees.

SRDC Black belt of the rural South.

Of the nation's 30 million black residents, 53 percent live in the South as do 93 percent of all rural blacks. Many of the South's poorest conditions are found in the rural black belt, a farming region that stretches from Virginia through Texas, and is made up of approximately 400 counties which have 25 percent or more black population, over twice the national average. This study examines by race the extent of social and economic dependency and its relationship to patterns of location, poverty and employment; and changes in these patterns. The final objective is to raise policy questions and implications of these conditions in a document for widespread distribution (e.g. congressional, state, local).

SRDC Relationship between rural education and economic development: Appraisal of current research and initiation of a program of new analysis.

This project involves: 1) a survey of the primary literature of the returns to rural educational investment catalogue the concepts employed, the approaches used, and the conclusions reached; 2) identification of the resources used in generating human capital through public education; and 3) assessment of the value of new and more precise estimates of returns to educational investments.

NCRCD Basic demographic methods: Self-instructional programs for microcomputers

This project involves designing, creating, testing and distributing a series of self-guiding instructional diskettes on demographic methods. The integrated lessons may include the following modules: population pyramids, measures of fertility, measures of mortality, age standardization, measures of migration, life tables, population estimates and population projections. The lessons will run on IBM-compatible computers.

NCRCD Population growth management policy

The general goal of this research is to better understand the forces that impact population change, employment and wage levels in rural areas. Not all of these forces occur in the rural areas; some occur in the urban areas. If the research could shed light on the controversy of how and where to direct growth for a better quality of life for more people.

NCRCD Location incentives in the North Central region

Rural development policy has shifted from federal farm income stabilization programs to the encouragement of economic diversification through manufacturing growth. In their efforts to achieve this, communities offer both financial and nonfinancial incentives to businesses. While the use of these incentives is widespread, they are poorly understood. State and local decision makers need more information about what types of incentives exist and their costs and benefits. This project will document the types and levels of incentives offered or allowed by states in the North Central Region.

Goal II To support management and strategic planning for economic investment

**extension**

JOINT ISTEA (Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991)

The Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991, commonly referred to as ISTEA, provides new transportation opportunities for rural areas and urban areas seeking to remain economically competitive. It emphasizes program and funding flexibility, intermodalism, new and innovative partnerships among federal, state, and local government and private organizations involved in transportation, and long-range, comprehensive transportation planning. States are now responsible for determining state transportation needs and setting transportation priorities to meet those needs. Eight workshops on ISTEA, two per region, are being organized and coordinated by the regional rural development centers in collaboration with Agricultural Marketing Service and Forest Service, USDA; National Association of Counties; National Association of County Engineers; and Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration, USDOT. Participants will include all sectors of rural and small urban America.

SRDC/NCRCD 21st Century survival of rural America

The purpose of this conference was to provide information on effective strategies, educational programs, and research regarding rural economic development; to promote interaction between public and private agencies as well as between the land-grant university system and local and state officials; and to identify promising sources of jobs and income in the Southern region of the United States, as well as other regions of the country. The conference was jointly sponsored by the Council of State Government, the Southern and North Central Rural Development Centers and the Farm Foundation.

NCRCD Rural community services networking

Rural social scientists from several of the North Central states will develop a regional research proposal on rural service delivery. A set of position papers on conceptual and measurement issues relating to community services research will be written and published.

WRDC Facilitating strategic management

Many groups have developed strategic plans, but far too few have been successful in implementing them. Consequently, WRDC sponsored a workshop to present elements of sustained community and leadership development that are necessary to construct and bring a solid community plan to fruition. Extension workers representing eleven western states and three territories attended the four-day training.

Less than six months later, Bob Gorman reported organizing strategic planning sessions for Wrangel, Alaska, a community besieged by the economic vicissitudes of timber and fishing. As many as 50 residents turned out to participate on three consecutive evenings to help identify issues for confrontation. Alaska Cooperative Extension is pledged to support implementation of the plan over the next 24 months. Utah team reports using the skills and techniques developed in Seattle to conduct strategic planning sessions with the Utah Soil Conservation Districts' planning committee, the state Department of Agriculture's conservation division, the Association of Conservation Districts board of directors, and with the Utah Resource Conservation & Development state program. In January, extension director in Wyoming, is so taken with the work that he's offered the state legislature to conduct sessions statewide, county by county, and hopes they will accept.
Goal II To support management and strategic planning for economic investment

**NERC RD** Cost-saving model for increasing the effectiveness of Extension programming in the Northeast States

A model was developed and successfully tested to demonstrate the cost-effectiveness of utilizing the expertise of one or two states to share an educational program delivery method across the region. Two years of instructional units (24 issues of *Caregiver News*) were developed and distributed in-camera-ready form for localization, duplication and distribution to the 300 counties in the Northeast region. With the entry of *Caregiver News* on MAP — The National Family Database that is partially funded by USDA-ES — the regional audience has expanded to include national and international audiences. Without this project, these educational materials would not have reached caregivers and parents. Possibilities for support of other appropriate topics utilizing this delivery technique are being explored with the Northeast Extension Directors.

**NERC RD** A proposal to develop an implementation model for a New England Cooperative Extension consortium

Due to intensified clientele needs, increasingly scarce resources, and new institutional demands, changes in Extension programming are necessary. This project explored the various ways these challenges can be met by creating a New England Consortium. The publication, *Shared Vision*, approved by the six Extension directors and the six land-grant presidents in the Northeast Region, outlines the basic implementation strategy. Copies are available.

**NERC RD** Public policy education related to children, youth, and families: Development of a model for Cooperative Extension programming

The status for youth-at-risk public policy research and education in the Northeast will be identified using formal survey methods. The results of the survey will be disseminated to the Northeast Cooperative Extension System. From the data, a model for public policy education programming will be initiated and disseminated nationwide.

**NERC RD** New England local government risk management

Key individuals were invited to attend a local government risk-management-education workshop. A risk management model (based on the national USDA-ES and W.K. Kellogg Foundation projects) was developed and tested as a series of case studies. From other states were shared. As a result, communities are re-examining their risk liabilities and developing plans to address them before lawsuits are initiated.

**NERC RD** Agriculture and development planning on the rural/urban fringe

Using focus groups and a survey, planners and Extension community development specialists and other rural development experts are being encouraged to participate in objective discourse about the future of agriculture in the rural/urban fringe areas of the Northeast. The promotion of a region-wide response to this issue also is being studied. The data will be analyzed and then presented at a conference targeted at planners and educators.

**SRDC** Extension tools for planning rural community infrastructure

An infrastructure task force was organized to encourage creation of cost-efficient delivery systems and new methods of delivering infrastructure services. An outstanding example of its success was the creation of a first-responder system in Ellis County, Oklahoma designed to train and equip volunteers in rural areas to respond to an emergency at the same time the ambulance was dispatched. Because volunteers were strategically placed, they arrived on the scene with traveling emergency medical technicians an average of 12 minutes prior to the ambulance.

**NERC RD** Retailing and access to goods and services for rural communities

Availability of goods and services is a major concern for the residents of rural communities. The symposium provided a forum for envisioning a retail scenario for the year 2020 for rural communities through consideration of extant multidisciplinary research, and the identification of future research needs.

**NERC RD** Financial management in rural counties: An examination of current practice and the role of education in improving methods used

This project will gather information on financial management practices of a selected group of government officials in 3-4 rural counties in four states: Illinois, Iowa, Indiana and Michigan. The purpose of the research project is to define both the process of the key individuals, as the basis for determining how education programs can build on the knowledge and skill base.

**NERC RD** Innovative community services and facilities

As part of the regional rural revitalization initiative, a work group conducted a regional survey to develop an inventory of rural community service and facility innovations. A compilation of innovative programs is being published as well as a pamphlet on unique and innovative programs relating specifically to problems and issues of the rural elderly.
GOAL III: To create capacity through leadership

RESEARCH

SRDC Status of education in the rural South.

Results conclude that events in the school and in the educational process itself are strongly influenced by factors which exist beyond the school and over which schools have little or no control. Without an increased understanding of the role played by non-school factors, doubts are immediately raised about the effectiveness of reform efforts which focus specifically on schools without explicitly addressing non-school influences. Equally dubious are state/federal efforts to evaluate schools based on output measures such as test scores, with no attempt to adjust for the influence of family or community inputs over which schools have little or no control.

EXTENSION

JOINT Association of Leadership Educators

Support from the Kellogg Foundation and the regional rural development centers helped coalesce a group of educators with roots in Family Community Leadership and other Cooperative Extension-related development programs into the Association of Leadership Educators, a national organization devoted to strengthening and sustaining the expertise of professionals. Publication of the proceedings of ALE’s annual meetings has been partially supported by the four regional rural development centers.

WRDC/NCRCD Four-state community development conference

"It’s great to learn about successful community-based development projects that we can promote back home." In response to a successful “In-Reach” conference, the North Central center has invited community leaders, volunteers and professionals from Wyoming and Montana to join their counterparts from North and South Dakota at a conference in Sundance, WY to share their experiences and acquire new ideas for community improvement and revitalization. Among the 31 issues identified as relevant, 12 are being considered for presentation at the meeting, including solid waste management, health care, leadership, home-based businesses, satellite operations, and financing for economic development.

GOAL III: To create capacity through leadership

1.1 Extension

NERCD Community land use and economics simulation (CLUES)

An analysis of a simulation approach, a program that focuses on land-use planning, social services, and rural infrastructure is being developed. This program will develop sensitivity to skills, without a conflict resolution, vision strategic planning, and technical economic development planning. During a three-day workshop, faculty and Extension administrators in New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont will be instructed on how to use the CLUES program as a community leadership development tool. The simulation can be used in local communities nationwide.

NERCD Leadership development for advanced practitioners

This project is designed to strengthen and expand development of the leadership education efforts and accomplishments of the Cooperative Extension System in the six New England States. Using a “think-tank” approach, twenty-five participants will receive instruction in “think-tank” design and process, and practice “think-tank” methodology as they focus on advanced leadership topics, issues, assumptions, and questions.

NERCD Leadership development: Building strong leadership in soil conservation districts

The purpose of this project is to plan, develop, and implement a two-phase leadership development program for Maryland, Delaware, and the District of Columbia Soil Conservation District personnel. The three phases—grantsmanship, leadership development, legislative networking—focus on the needs identified by the districts through their strategic planning process. Materials developed will be shared nationally.

NERCD Extension/Research Northern New England rural communities training conference

This program is a result of existing human and published resources in futuring and data/demographics analysis. Community case studies offer a practical focus to training in futurology techniques; participants will design individual and statewide strategies for utilizing the information gained, and emphasis will be placed on issues-driven programming rather than budget-driven programming. This should serve as a backdrop for moving Extension into the next century.

SRDC Building a foundation for community leadership.

A pilot course to help rural communities facing the technical, natural and human resource challenges of the 21st century was presented at Wimrock International. The SPARCS program emphasizes the importance of addressing national and global challenges facing rural leadership today. If implemented, it will be used to train USDA professionals to be more effective facilitators of the community development process.

NCRCRD Production of video tape and implementation of regional workshop on “Leadership: Sustaining action on community issues”

An NCRCRD video group was established in 1990 to develop a follow-up program to “Take Charge: Economic Development for Small Communities.” The video group and their organizations giving leadership to economic and other community development efforts specifically where problems have developed in implementing their action plans. The model will be utilized to diagnose the situation in terms of a human action model and to design training inter-
GOAL III: To create capacity through leadership

EXTENSION

vitions that will facilitate progress. A facilitator’s guide complete with lesson plans will be introduced and a conference to introduce the materials to the region will be held in fall 1994.

NCRCRD Youth community leadership development for rural revitalization

As part of the regional rural revitalization initiative, a youth group is developing a curriculum and materials to expand the leadership pool of rural areas by involving youth ages 15-18, the group that is the hardest to reach and involve in community activities. Through a mentor system, the program will foster working partnerships of adults and youth for the purpose of identifying and addressing community revitalization issues, and seek to develop within the youth an entrepreneurial attitude toward their community.

NCRCRD Rural community transportation leadership initiative

As a follow-up on the national conference on Rural Interracial Passenger Transportation, the NCRCRD is working with USDA’s Office of Transportation on a rural transportation leadership initiative. The program would provide local leaders with tools to make cost-effective, strategic transportation decisions to meet long-range, community-defined needs.

NCRCRD Network for development of a proposal for funding of a Native American Family Community Leadership curriculum development project

FCL curriculum and delivery methods will be adapted for use by Native American groups. Through participation by Native Americans, guiding principles will be identified and the overall design for the proposed curriculum will guide proposal development activities. A preproposal will be developed and submitted to the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. If the preproposal is given a favorable reception by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, a proposal will be developed. The Center is providing seed money funding for the project.

NCRCRD Common leaders accomplishing the uncommon

As part of the regional rural revitalization initiative, a work group has developed a videotape and supporting materials to increase the viewers’ awareness of conceptual perspectives on leadership in communities. This includes understanding of leadership roles; linkages to community and economic development; and motivation and inspiration to become involved in community issues, decisions, and activities. Copies of the videotapes have been broadly distributed within and beyond the North Central Region.

GOAL IV: To assist in family and community adjustments to stress and change

RESEARCH

JOINT National Rural Studies Committee Center Associates

As part of its function, the NRSC has supported the development of a small cadre of scholars who are working on rural issues. Each of the nine individuals were selected in a competitive application process and supported by the NRSC with funding from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to the W.K. Kellogg Foundation of Kalamazoo. The Center Associates currently represent six disciplines (sociology, geography, psychology, agricultural economics, social work, and urban studies) and work at six different universities (two private and four public Land Grant institutions). Research topics include the sociodemographic characteristics and health status of rural minority populations, land use and change in agricultural communities, a reinterpretation of rural development theory, agricultural bioethics, the effect of government transfer programs on economic inequality, the spatial restructuring of the computer services industry, economic linkages between rural and urban areas in core-periphery models, and an ethnographic study of the aspirations and life satisfaction of young women in the Mississippi delta. Seven of the associates met in November, 1991 to discuss their papers to build the network of scholars who have been supported by the project; to probe the question of whether there is anything that binds rural scholarship; and to discuss ways to build support for young and mid-career scholars in rural studies. Even though the associates don’t identify a common "conceptual base," they do share a common concern for rural people and sparsely settled places, a belief that the well-being of these people and the viability of these places matter for all of us and that the focused scholarship of a variety of disciplines is critical.

JOINT Task force on persistent rural poverty

Concerned that rural poverty is worsening at an even faster rate than poverty in urban areas, the Rural Sociological Society has assembled a team of five social scientists from throughout the nation. With support from the four regional rural development centers and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, the task force organized itself into five working groups to examine current interpretations of how labor markets generate poverty, how natural resource exploitation may be linked to poverty, and the connections between national policies and persistent rural poverty. Three other groups focused on re-examining social scientists’ understanding of the special circumstances surrounding poverty among the elderly, among women, and among minorities. A volume recently published by the University Press of Kansas is one product of the task force. A volume based on task force findings is also expected from Westview Press and The Society of Natural Resources Journal will publish two special issues featuring their work. A program on children and family issues in rural poverty at the University of North Carolina School of Social Work was also inspired by the task force.

JOINT The Demography of Rural Life

Based on a symposium held at Cornell University, this volume edited by David Brown, James Zuiheis, and Donald Field, highlights current research and future directions for demographic research. The four papers discussed are Migration, population redistribution, and the new spatial inequality, by Daniel T. Lichter of Pennsylvanian State University; The small town in urbanized society, by Harley E. Johnson, University of Idaho; The demography of agriculture, by Calvin Beale, USDA-ERS; and Applied demography, by Paul Voss and Donald Field, University of Wisconsin. Publication of the material was funded by the four regional rural development centers and Cornell University.

WRDC Corvallis conference on rural poverty

Janet Fitchen, chair of the anthropology department at Ithaca College and National Rural Studies Committee Center Associate for 1992-93, spoke about her two decades of study on poverty to a group of thirty rural development scholars and practitioners at Corvallis recently. She pointed out that levels of poverty in the countryside have been persistently and consistently higher than in metropolitan areas. Using slides to illustrate her study area in upstate New York, she spoke of the recently increased migration of poor people from cities to the country, where they find themselves isolated in small towns with depressed economies and inadequate housing. Following her presentation, Director Russ Youmans of the WRDC facilitated group discussions de-
signed to raise awareness, facilitate dialogue and stimulate research on the topic of rural poverty. Practitioners from both policy and program backgrounds were available to share their observations and provide insights and commentary to researchers so that real-world needs might inform future study. This conference was sponsored by the WRDC and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation through its support of the Center for Aging and the National Rural Studies Committee. A second session is planned for April 1993.

WRDC Innovative programs and management practices in rural and smaller local governments

This project concerns the capacity of governments in rural and smaller jurisdictions in four western states (Washington, Montana, Oregon, and Idaho) to meet the challenges that confront them. It is focusing specifically on interest in the use of innovative management programs or practices to enhance effectiveness. The major research themes are identifying the level of interest in adopting innovative management practices in different administrative arenas, the collection of innovative practices which local jurisdictions wish to share with others, and the level of willingness to undertake innovative programs or management practices. With WRDC funding for a graduate student, the Program for Local Government Education at WSU mailed survey forms to officials in the four states and achieved a 47 percent completion rate with returns from 78 counties and 386 municipalities.

WRDC Rural education: Oregon's school budget elections

Analyses of spending by 99 school districts with inadequate tax bases between 1981 and 1986 show that approved funding levels were not random and uncertain, as conventional wisdom has held that they can be explained by variables that reflect a coherent and underlying economic and political structure composed of variables that measure (a) the demand for educational services, (b) the supply of those services, and (c) the voting process itself. Local voters chose to spend less in districts with high tax prices, with high percentages of young and elderly, and with high in-migration among elderly. School spending was enhanced by large commercial and industrial property values, few students, high percentages of people in the labor force, small families, and voters with certain political preferences.

Nercrd Impacts of retirement immigration on the provision of services for the elderly in the nonmetropolitan Northeast

This project is gathering information on the community-level implications of retirement immigration for the provision of public services in rural areas of the Northeast. Surveys will be used to determine the impact. Extension materials will be developed for community leaders relative to the merits and socioeconomic implications of attracting retirees to rural communities.

Nercrd Primary and prenatal health care access in the rural Northeast: A policy analysis

This study, which is a joint effort of West Virginia University andemic University of Maine, will provide information aimed at helping to break the cycle of poverty and poor health that is perpetuated when women cannot afford or do not have access to adequate prenatal care. Networks, previously not possible, among health agencies and educators have been established; through these networks, programs have been implemented, and new sources of funding linkages have been formed.

SRDC Task force on rural health issues

Two publications of a practical nature with value to communities and individuals working with rural health issues were produced this year by task force members: Creating Partnerships in Health Care: A Local Initiative, and Rural Health Care State Programs. The task force also sponsored a symposium to discuss research topics and Extension programs to aid rural decisionmakers as they attempt to provide access to health care for their residents.

SRDC Environmental assessment and development of strategies for enhancing the independence of the rural elderly and their ability to age-in-place

This research involves evaluating the housing environment to find out how competence and environmental variables support or inhibit one's ability to age-in-place, and developing recommendations for changing the physical environment and suggestions for policy to enhance community opportunities to assist the elderly.

SRDC Strengthening social science research at 1890 Institutions and Tuskegee University

This pre-conference activity associated with the 49th Professional Agricultural Workers conference served two functions: to share information on the status and focus of social science research and to provide a forum on how social science research could help fulfill the land-grant mandates.

Nercrd Multi-disciplinary Cooperative Extension programming for rural single-parent families

Needs of single-parent families are being addressed by developing various educational materials, educating volunteers, and creating a community development that increases awareness of the needs of single-parent families. Extension networks of agencies and Extension personnel have been established, and plans to continue the outputs from this project are underway.

Nercrd Health risk communication of drinking water contaminants with a computer support system

Water options is a computerized information system that enables Extension agents to access information about drinking water contaminants. This project developed and evaluated the report generating abilities of the program and increased the availability of information throughout the region.

Nercrd Affordable housing symposium: What communities can do

A symposium was held to assist Extension educators and others as they work with individuals, families, and communities to develop programs appropriate to local housing needs in the Northeast. Dimensions of the crisis were identified, barriers to acquisition of affordable housing and ways to overcome them were examined, and successful approaches to solutions were presented. Follow-up programming is in progress.

Nercrd A regional survey of farm operators and spouses

This survey of farm operators and spouses, conducted as part of Nercrd-coordinated Regional Research Project NC-184, included all 12 states in the region. The survey examined the distribution of personal, family, business, retirement, the recovery, adjustments of surviving farmers and their spouses, and the factors contributing to successful adaptation. Individual state reports and a regional summary have been published, and the data have been used to develop programs to help families adjust to changes and to obtain funding for additional research.

Nercrd Parent education: An innovative approach to dealing with parenting issues

In response to the USDA-ES initiative, "Building Family Strengths," and working in collaboration with other agencies, Children and Youth Services, and the Department of Welfare, a Perry County (PA) Family Living Agent, Jane Mecum, expanded upon her existing parent education program to include a pilot program for parents from and living in dysfunctional families in West Virginia and Pennsylvania. Parent education materials were developed that addressed the most common misconceptions of child development and focused on positive discipline methods. Again, networks were established where none existed, resources were shared, parents/child relationships improved, and individual and family stress has been reduced. The success of this pilot project has resulted in its expansion to two other counties in Pennsylvania. Future plans are to expand the child development notebook—to create one for the appropriate reading level of the parents and another for the professionals (caseworkers, ministers, etc.) who work closely with dysfunctional families. Materials will be disseminated for adaptation and implementation throughout the region.

Nercrd Northeast work-family instructional units

Utilizing the existing Northeast Extension child care network, this project will provide each
GOAL IV: TO ASSIST IN FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ADJUSTMENTS TO STRESS AND CHANGE

EXTENSION

county with camera-ready newsletter copies that focus on information and skills that will be helpful in resolving work and family-related issues. Unsolicited feedback from Extension faculty and community agencies and families has been unanimously positive.

NERCRD Newsletter and one-day in-service education addressing intergenerational issues

A survey of extension agents in the Northeast Region determined the types and extent of intergenerational programming available and those that were operational. The information was gathered and shared in ten issues of the monthly newsletter, Northeast Intergenerational Update, April 29-30. An intergenerational workshop was held for extension personnel. As a result of this project, increased intergenerational networking occurred.

NERCRD Youth-at-risk: The research and practice interface - A workshop

A unified perspective on research and policy directed toward youth-at-risk was presented at a two-day workshop. A regional agenda for research and programming on youth-at-risk in the Northeast will be developed. Linkages with other Northeast Cooperative Extension projects and Center projects are ongoing.

NERCRD Teen assessment project

Based on the Wisconsin Teen Assessment Project model, this Teen Assessment Project will function as a highly-effective community development process by assessing youth issues before program development. Educators from Maine, Vermont, and New Hampshire will work collaboratively with youth, school, and community leaders to survey junior and senior high school students in five targeted school districts. Five educational newsletters focused on the identified youth-priority-issues will be used to increase parent awareness of teen concerns and will measure declines in substance abuse, school dropout rates, and teen suicides.

GOAL V: TO PROMOTE CONSTRUCTIVE USE OF THE ENVIRONMENT

SRDC Community leadership and affordable housing in rural communities

A working conference was held for community leaders, researchers and Extension specialists to discuss resource materials, research and program development needs and implementation strategies for providing more affordable housing for rural communities.

NCRCRD Plight of the young child: Supporting children and families through community based research

In the North Central Region, community based applied research models are being developed to address family issues. The new national initiative, Plight of the Young Child, has as its third goal to "strengthen CES and community organizational commitment to address the needs of children and families." Since several states in the region have developed community needs assessment or community based applied research models which could be adapted to addressing the needs of young children at the community level, this proposal will allow states to share with and learn from each other through a regional conference. The W.K. Kellogg Foundation and the Farm Foundation are cosponsors of this conference.

NCRCRD The economic survival kit for rural unemployed and underemployed families

Individuals and families underemployed or without work must find ways to survive. The basics of life, food and shelter, must be met. Cooperative Extension led the way during the farm crisis by providing a myriad of programs and informational materials to help farm/ranch families deal with every aspect of economic hardship. Today's unemployed and underemployed rural families need similar kinds of assistance. The purpose of the proposed project is to provide county Extension agents with materials designed to meet the specific need of the rural unemployed and underemployed and readily accessible on computer diskettes.

SRDC Institutional structure influences on progress in water quality management across Southern states

Selected states' (Florida, North Carolina, Oklahoma) institutional structures for environmental management are being reviewed. Programs in the three states will be compared and evaluated. Conclusions will be drawn about institutional structure and conduct with possible measures of performance which can be used to assist other states in developing and implementing water quality programs.

NCRCRD Water resource values and rural development programs: A four state study of Mississippi River communities

The Center provided seed grant to Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin to develop a proposal on balancing economic growth and environmental quality for Mississippi River communities. A planning meeting included three federal agencies, four state agencies, two U.S. commissions and two U.S. Senate offices. A major regional research project resulted from the seed grant.

NCRCRD The economic feasibility of recycling polystyrene waste from small rural communities

Seed money was provided to write a proposal and collect initial data on the economic feasibility of separating, collecting, processing and marketing used consumer polystyrene waste collected in small cities and rural counties. The study is now funded by state and industry sources. In addition to clarifying the actual costs of recycling polystyrene, this project is developing methods that will enable communities to make better informed decisions on all elements of recycling programs. Began while the Wisconsin state legislature was still debating the final form of an omnibus recycling law, this research had an immediate impact. Early results helped persuade legislators not to ban the manufacture and sale of certain plastics, thereby eliminating several hundred jobs in small towns. The Legislature chose instead to give the industry until 1995 to come up with an economically viable method for recycling the material.

In response to a proposal developed with NCRCRD seed money Amoco Chemical awarded a $10,000 grant to Wisconsin Intercounty Nonprofit Research (INR) for increased processing capacity and incorporation of foam plastic. The City of Fitchburg, Wisconsin allocated funds to educate the public and to underwrite initial costs of adding foam polystyrene materials to their curbside, household-recycling program. That program continues without other funding and at virtually no cost beyond what the city spends for consumer education.
GOAL V: TO PROMOTE CONSTRUCTIVE USE OF THE ENVIRONMENT

EXTENSION

JOINT Farm*A*Syst
The Farm*A*Syst program was developed in Wisconsin and Minnesota with partial funding from the North Central Regional Rural Development Center to help farmers voluntarily assess and reduce their risk of contamination resulting from farmstead activities. Using easy, step-by-step worksheets, each activity or structure that could cause contamination is ranked. Other variables such as soil and geologic and hydrologic features are also rated and used to identify specific actions to protect drinking water. The system can be used by farmers on their own or in consultation with local experts.

Developed and tested in Wisconsin and Minnesota Extension Services and by Region V of the Environmental Protection Agency, Farm*A*Syst is now a national program supported by the USDA Extension Service and SCS and by the U.S. EPA. The regional rural development centers have been instrumental in hosting workshops around the nation. Nine states in the North Central region are implementing the system and 15 states sent 91 individuals to workshops in the Western region this fall.

WRDC/NCRCD Solid waste management
By the end of 1992 more than half of the cities in this country will have exhausted the landfill capacity and yet the generation of municipal solid waste continues to increase. Unless waste is reduced, it is projected to reach 4.4 pounds per person per day in 2000. How to treat it and where to put it are increasingly urgent questions for rural America.

Exploring ways to implement the Extension Waste Management Initiative, almost 80 people from 17 central and western states attended a workshop in Denver last March. Emphasis was on community education and involvement in solutions to their waste management conundrum. The two one and one-half day program was funded by the Farm Foundation, the Western Regional Biomass Energy Program, USDA Extension Service, and the Western North Central Rural Development Centers.

WRDC Environmental conflict resolution
If anyone doubted that Cooperative Extension has a role in settling environmental disputes, those doubts were erased during a regional workshop at Portland in February. More than 80 people from almost every state in the West, Guam, and Micronesia registered for the 1992 Regional Training Workshop on Environmental Conflict Resolution, which was sponsored by the WRDC. Non-extension people came as well, including representatives from state agencies in Washington and the National 4-H Foundation.

Employing a recent dispute in Washington as a case study, a team from several states provided a framework for facilitating environmental conflict resolution. The model was fresh in their minds as they had been intimately involved in a difficult nine-month negotiating effort that helped 16 disputing parties at least temporarily resolve a decades-old conflict over field burning that pitted growers against clean air interests in the Spokane and Coeur d'Alene, Idaho area. The result was a voluntary agreement to reduce the amount of smoke created by open-field burning.

At the close of the conference, state teams reported what they planned to do next. An extension range and pasture specialist at the University of California, Davis, has drafted a fact sheet to help the ranching community and agents understand the conflict resolution process "so that they can become better participants.

NERCDF Volunteerism in renewable natural resources education
A symposium was held that provided a basic understanding of the skills necessary to integrate volunteerism into educational efforts. Case studies were presented as examples of successful existing programs, and a model was developed for volunteer programs for incorporating the best most appropriate aspects of the case study programs.

NERCDF Green River watershed management plan
Using the Geographic Information System, this project will assist Montana, Idaho, and Vermont communities in developing management strategies for the Green River Watershed. The primary goal of maintaining and enhancing water quality will be supplemented by other important community goals such as economic development, recreation, and protection of the rural values in the watershed. An advisory group of planners, local officials, citizens, and university researchers will work to see that the project, as recommended by the Planning Opportunities Committee, is implemented.

NERCDF Income opportunities for the private landowner through management of natural resources and recreational access—Part 2
Four Extension publications on relevant and timely topics of bed and breakfast operations, campgrounds, and wild plants for income, and insurance related to recreational access were produced. The publications, designed to enhance and expand rapid rural economic development, were well received by the 420 workshop participants and have been in heavy demand nationwide by agency and university personnel but, perhaps most importantly, by small business entrepreneurs.

NERCDF A national symposium on enhancing rural economies through amenity resources, May 2 - 5, 1990
The proceedings from this symposium served as the database for a congressional and agency briefing. Information exchanged has been one source used in public policy legislation concerned with these copies.

NERCDF Northeast youth and citizen watershed monitoring
In this program, guidelines will be developed for consistent water quality monitoring to train teams of youth leaders from the northeastern states. The program will include techniques for chemical, physical, and biological monitoring of surface waters. Additionally, the linkage between water-quality protection and land use in the surrounding watershed will be highlighted by training participants in use of remote sensing imagery for land use analysis. Youth will present their findings to planners, local agency and governmental officials, and community organizations.

NERCDF Forest stewardship education modules: Increasing knowledge/reducing conflict and estate planning to reduce forest fragmentation: A video training program
The project will develop educational modules for informing nonindustrial private forest owners, the general public, and public officials about how forest stewardship can both sustain forest-based industries and satisfy expanding demand for amenity values.

SRDC Improving rural tourism Extension and research in the South.
A conference is scheduled to provide economic development specialists, rural development specialists, tourism professionals, and planning specialists with information, techniques and strategies for using tourism as a development mechanism in rural communities. It will focus on "how-to" develop rural tourism.

SRDC Guidebook for evaluation of solid waste collection
A guidebook is in development for Extension professionals to use in working with local decision makers on rural solid waste collection problems. It will provide procedures to estimate capital costs of various alternatives, provide procedures to estimate operating costs of various alternatives, discuss possible revenue sources and highlight relevant EPA regulations.

SRDC Water quality and waste management: Roles and opportunities for Extension initiatives programming
This conference combined two initiative areas, water and waste, and involved all disciplines. The goals were to highlight successful Extension programs, update participants on technical and regulatory developments, familiarize participants with available resource materials to support programs, encourage interdisciplinary programming and networking and to develop a prioritized list of research needs to support Extension programs.

NCRCD Farmstead assessment system
The Farmstead Assessment System, a tool farmers can use to assess farmstead vulnerability to groundwater contamination, was developed as a joint effort between the Center, the Universities of Minnesota and Wisconsin, and the Environmental Protection Agency. The system has been proven in field tests, and because of demand, will be marketed nationwide with financial support from the Extension Service, the Soil Conservation Service and the Environmental Protection Agency.