Rural growth slows as population, income, labor decline

(EDITOR’S NOTE: The following article is based on a report entitled "Demographic and Socioeconomic Conditions in Rural America Since 1980." The report was prepared by Kenneth L. Deavers, director of the Economic Development Division of the USDA Economic Research Service.)

Population

The 1970s: Perhaps the most widely publicized trend in rural America has been the "population turnaround." Fifteen years ago, rural areas were largely viewed as places of continuing outmigration and economic stagnation. But, by the late 1960s employment and population growth had already begun in most nonmetropolitan counties. During the 1970s, an average of at least 350,000 more people moved into rural and small town communities each year than out of them, in contrast to an annual net loss of about 300,000 in the 1960s. Much of this renewed rural growth occurred in the smallest towns and villages and in the open country. The reasons for this reversal will not be reviewed here except to note that the trend was accomplished through both increased immigration and reduced outmigration, and that it was facilitated by job growth, but also strongly motivated by noneconomic factors.

Post 1980: The prolonged national recession beginning in 1980 which had significant negative impact on rural economic growth would be expected to diminish rural areas ability to retain or attract people, even though the social motivations for rural and small town residence may remain strong. This appears to be the case.

Estimates of the Bureau of the Census show that the rate of growth in metropolitan population was higher than nonmetropolitan growth from 1980-82 (1.0 percent per year vs. .8 percent per year). The data indicate a continuation of metropolitan growth at almost the identical annual rate of increase recorded during the 1970s. In contrast, nonmetropolitan growth is estimated to have occurred at only about three-fifths of the annual rate of the prior decade.

That nonmetropolitan growth should have slowed from 1980 to 1982 is not surprising, given the greater severity of the business recession in rural and small town areas during this time. Unemployment, discouraged workers, and involuntary shifts from full-time to part-time work schedules all increased more rapidly among nonmetropolitan residents than those in metropolitan

(Continued on page 3)

NTHP encourages historic projects with rural grants

Rural communities could be requesting matching grants up to $50,000 for projects linking historic preservation with local economic development.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP), which in the past has had an urban emphasis, is now expanding its horizons to encourage projects in rural areas.

"We're committed to giving extra consideration to rural areas," says Holly Fiala, the assistant director of the Trust's Midwest Office in Chicago.

To qualify for the grants, applicants must be members of the National Trust ($50 annual fee), prove they are able to manage

(Continued on page 4)
Rural elderly in South often live in inadequate housing

Most elderly people in the United States live in adequate housing, but 27 percent of rural elderly renters and 18 percent of all the elderly living in the South have inadequate housing. These findings of the 1979 Annual Housing Survey data recently analyzed by the Economic Research Service.

A major factor contributing to inadequate housing is the low incomes of the elderly. In 1979, 29 percent of the rural elderly had incomes below the poverty level, far greater than 10 percent for the rural nonelderly.

The number of rural elderly households increased 16 percent between 1974 and 1979, compared with an increase of only 10 percent for all U.S. households. In 1979, 15 percent of the rural elderly lived in inadequate housing compared with 8 percent of the urban elderly.

NATAf studies rural areas, policies in report series

Before starting research on economic development in local government, take a look at NAtA's reports on public policy. The research made possible by the National Association of Towns and Townships has sponsored eight public policy seminars that have examined current issues and their impact on economic development in small communities. A report has been written for each seminar and is available for a small fee.

Roads and bridges are falling down, and they're impeding economic development in rural areas. A NAtA report tells the why's and wherefores of the rural infrastructure crisis. Another report reveals how contaminated groundwater supplies can devastate a small community.

One seminar focused on which methods of financing work in rural areas, while another covered how to finance public services and facilities. Before thinking that an abandoned bus line won't matter much, read NAtA's report on transportation deregulation.

To order an order form and free listing of reports, write NAtA, 1925 K Street, NW, Suite 730, Washington, DC 20005.

Housing is considered inadequate if it has one or more of the following flaws, among others: incomplete plumbing facilities, incomplete kitchen facilities, leaking roof, holes in walls or ceilings, and exposed framing.

Other findings in this study include the following:

* 45 percent of the inadequate housing units of the rural elderly are regarded as severely inadequate, with two or more housing flaws.
* The rural South has the highest percentage (10 percent) of severely inadequate housing, especially among renters.
* Many rural elderly have trouble affording their homes. In 1979, 20 percent of the rural elderly living in adequate housing spent more than 30 percent of their incomes for housing.

Small talk on big issues...

* The American Society for Public Administration (ASPA) has organized a Rural Public Administration Network. The Network promotes the exchange of information on issues of concern to administrators of rural public programs. A Network newsletter and membership directory are available. Contact Beth Honadle, USDA/ERS-EDD, 500 12th St., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20520.
* Southern manners, morals, and history; black life and race relations; Southern religion: the family reunion as a popular Southern ritual; and the Kentucky Derby—all of these subjects and more will be found in the Encylopedia of Southern Culture, which will be produced by the Center for the Study of Southern Culture at the University of Mississippi. The Encyclopedia will be available in 1986.
* Five Southern states have come to rely heavily on revenues from user fees, according to a recent report of the Advisory Committee for Governmental Relations. Across the United States, local government revenues from user fees soared above 300 percent for 1974 to 1981. Mississippi topped all states in collection of user fees in 1982, collecting $1.12 in fees for every $1 of tax revenue. Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, and South Carolina also were among the top ten user fee collecting states.

A model Minnesota ordinance can be adapted to other states wanting to regulate drinking water. Developed by the Minnesota Project, a center for public policy study, the ordinance focuses on six ground-water contamination sources: sinks holes, water well construction, water well abandonment, individual sewage disposal systems, livestock waste, and erosion. Copies of the ordinance are available for $4 from the Minnesota Project, Box 4, Preston, MN 55965.

The American Council on Rural Special Education (ACRES) has developed inservice modules on rural service delivery problem areas. Topics include the following:

- Inadequate Numbers of Special Education Personnel
- Transportation Difficulties
- Providing Services on a Regional/Interagency Basis
- Involving Rural Parents
- Serving Students with Low-Income Disabilities
- Providing Educational Programs

A free brochure about the modules is available from ACRES Rural Inservice Modules, ACRES, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI 49008. The modules themselves are also available from the same source at a cost of $20 each.

CAPSULES is published periodically by the Southern Rural Development Center as an information service for educators, officials, and private citizens interested in improving the quality of life in the small communities and rural areas of the South.

The Southern Rural Development Center is one of four regional rural development centers in the nation and focuses specifically on rural problems of the Southern region. The Center is located at Mississippi State University and provides support staff to the extension services and experiment stations of 79 land-grant universities in 13 Southern states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin islands.

Dr. William W. Linder, Director
Jane Rendelro, Editor
David Miles, Editorial Assistant

NTHP grants...

(Continued from page 1)

The projects must address one of the following concerns or a national or regional issue:

* Recognize the contributions of ethnic heritages.
* Create new uses for buildings that are no longer in great demand.
* Change local and state building codes that may be incompatible with preservation needs.
* Address the drawbacks of zoning laws.
* Study the influence of design review processes on the renovation of historic buildings.
* Mediate conflicting development needs, or
* Develop model preservation incentives for buildings unable to produce income.

Persons who wish more information may contact NTHP's Southern Regional Office, 456 King St., Charleston, SC 29403, (803) 724-4711.
Rural growth... (Continued from page 1)

areas. On the other hand, something more basic might be at work. Unpublished estimates by the Bureau for the 1970-80 period indicate the beginning of a turnaround in the nonmetropolitan growth rate before the recession began. The Bureau estimates that more than 800 nonmetropolitan counties had a decline in population between 1970 and 1980. This was double the number that declined from 1970-80, but well below the approximately 1,300 that had done so during the 1960s. Estimates prepared independently by 21 states show much as a reduction in nonmetropolitan growth since 1960 as the Census Bureau does, but still reflect a reduced rural economic growth.

Other Census Bureau data based on land national surveys reveal that from March 1980 to March 1982 there continued to be a net flow of people from metropolitan areas to nonmetropolitan communities, but at a much lower level than in the 1970s. Immigrants from abroad, however, go in a highly disproportionate degree to metropolitan areas. Their add to these areas accounts for the somewhat higher rate of metropolitan growth than nonmetropolitan growth since 1980.

Data on housing starts corroborate those that imply a less rapid growth of nonmetropolitan population since 1980. From 1974 to 1981, nonmetropolitan housing starts were never more than 30 percent of all housing starts in the United States. Since 1974, the rapid recovery in housing starts from 1981-1983 proved to be almost entirely a metropolitan phenomenon. Metropolitan starts rose by 7 percent, while nonmetropolitan starts went up only by 8 percent. As a result nonmetropolitan housing starts fell to just 20.5 percent of the total in 1983.

Since, regardless of the data used, our analyses are based on the North American Census, nonmetropolitan areas are growing at a somewhat lower rate than their metropolitan counterparts. But these data do not show that rural areas are reporting to a pattern of widespread population decline that has been underway since the mid-1970s.

Labor Force

Labor force changes in nonmetropolitan areas since the mid-70s have closely paralleled changes in metro areas, reflecting in part a convergence in the mix of industries between the two. However, the nonmetro economy somewhat outperformed the metro economy during the 1976-82 period. This pattern of faster nonmetro growth occurred in the mid- and early 70s. During the 1976-79 expansion in business and employment, employment increased 70 percent in nonmetro areas, compared with 12 percent in metro areas. And, during the 1981-82 recession, nonmetro employment fell one percent in metro areas. In 1976, the unemployment rate was half a percentage point lower in metro than nonmetro, but by 1982 the nonmetro rate exceeded the metro rate by two percentage points. In the South and South Central during the 1976-82 period, nonmetro employment growth fell far below the metro rate.

Nonmetro areas continue to have a disproportionately large share of slow-growing industries. Since the mid-70s, they have grown mainly by capturing a larger share of these slow-growing industries, mostly manufacturing. The competitive advantage that nonmetro areas enjoyed in the late 60s and early 70s appears to have eroded by intensified competition from foreign producers and by labor concessions in metropolitan areas on wages and other benefits which have held down manufacturing cost in major urban centers.

Income

In 1981, the median income of nonmetro- politan families was $20,935, the median for metropolitan families was $31,010, or nearly 27 percent higher. There has been no progress in closing this gap since 1980, or indeed since the mid-1970s. Nonmetro- politan median family income rose by 15.9 percent from 1980-83, slightly less than the 17.3 percent increase in metropolitan incomes. In both areas average purchasing power declined, as the Consumer Price Index rose by 20 percent.

Under the federal definitions of poverty, 18.3 percent of the nonmetropol- itan population had income in 1983 that was below the poverty level (including cash forms of welfare assistance). This was an increase from 1979. In 1980, unquesstonably a reflection of the seriousness of the recession, tightening of eligibility standards for social security and government aid programs is also thought to have contributed to the rise, as has the increase in the number of persons living in families maintained by women with no husband present. The poverty rate in metropolitan areas was lower than that in rural areas, but it experienced a similar increase from 1980-83 of about the same proportions. Nonmetropolitan poverty rate (13.8 percent in 1983; 11.9 in 1980). Poverty income standards vary by size of family. In 1983, a family of four persons was deemed to be at the poverty level if its income was less than $10,178.

Areas of severe and prolonged poverty concentration are not only nonmetro- politan America. All of the nation's counties that have had consistently low incomes since 1960 are nonmetropolitan.

On Film

The Southern Growth Policies Board (SGPB) has announced a new series of four videoicassettes examining the future of the South, along with an accompanying booklet that guides the documentation for the presentation. The four videoicassettes are as follows:

NOT JUST WHISTLING DIXIE ANYMORE. This tape studies the revolution which is transforming southern United States economy into today's global economy. Through colorful photographs, illustrations, and sound, the 18-minute presentation explores the broad range of consequences this 20-year phenomenon of the South in a global economy.

SGPB FORECASTS. What can we expect in the South and the nation for the next ten years? Where should our policymaking priorities now be placed? What implications can be drawn for our education and training policies? These questions and many others are examined in this 20-minute slide show.

LOOKING SOUTH: CHALLENGE FOR THE 80s. This 20-minute slide tape which looks to the future challenges to Southern economic development and the kinds of investments necessary for a happy and prosperous Southern region in the 1980s and beyond.

A PICTURE OF THE SOUTH. This presentation uses colorful graphics to bring to life the statistics which describe today's South, particularly as they relate to statistics describing the non-South and the U.S. as a whole. There are three sections: demographics, education and the economy. These videoicassettes are available for rental and sale from SGPB, 4500 Peachtree Road, Atlanta, Georgia 30335, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709, (919) 548-3700.

U.S. FARM POLICY AT A CROSSROADS, a 15-minute slide show designed to provide background material for discussions on the 1982 Farm Bill. Prepared by the Photography Division of the USDA's Office of Information. The 97-slide show looks at a specific set of policies and programs which account for the bulk of farm programs spending but which involve only a few basic components. The policy options are production and feedgrains. The slide show is being sent to state USDA research administrators.

UNDERSTANDING GROUND WATER: THE HIDDEN RESOURCE, a 24-minute, narrated slide show, presents basic facts on ground water. Prepared recently by the National Association of Conservation Districts, the slide set was produced through a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The set is available for rent ($5) or purchase ($50) from the Environmental Film Service, P.O. Box 776, League City, TX 77553.
**On Schedule**

**FINANCING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**, Feb. 1-2, Chicago. Cosponsored by the Cooperative Extension Service and County Information Education Services at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, the Public Policy Research Institute at Western Illinois University and the Farm Foundation along this conference will provide a forum for local and state officials, economic development specialists, business leaders and interested university faculty to interact with experts reviewing economic trends and evaluating development incentives. The conference will focus on business location, demographic trends, location incentives and the role of the county in financing economic growth. For further information contact David L. Chiche, Department of Agricultural Economics, University of Illinois, 1301 W. Gregory Dr., Urbana, IL 61801, (217) 333-6582.

**EIGHTY-SECOND ANNUAL MEETING SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENTISTS**, Feb. 3-6, Biltmore Hilton, Biloxi, MS. Contact Dr. Bo Beauleau, Program Chairman, Rural Sociology Section (SAS), 119 Rolfs Hall, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611, (904) 392-1747.

**NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON WATER RESOURCES RESEARCH**, Feb. 4-6, Chevy Chase, Md. This conference is sponsored by the Universities Council on Water Resources. For information call (301) 656-9900.

**DEPENDENCIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD**, The North Central Region, Feb. 12-14, Zion, Ill. Participants for the conference are the regional extension faculty and administrators from the land grant colleges across the region, state, regional, and national administrators and non-grant representatives. Although the conference will specifically address the North Central region, the ideas and their implications will certainly apply to the other three regions. Participants from outside the region are welcome depending on the availability of space. Contact Peter Korschadel, North Central Regional Center for Rural Development, 216 East Hall, Iowa State University, Ames, IA 50011, (515) 294-8320.

**MARKETING EXTENSION WORKSHOP, A TEAM APPROACH**, Feb. 12-15, National 4-H Center, Chevy Chase, Md. This 3-day workshop is a unique opportunity for Extension administrators, assistant directors, state project leaders, and marketing information specialists to consult and train with marketing professionals, assess marketing needs, and develop marketing strategies for a stronger, more visible Extension program. For information or registration call National 4-H Council before January 9 at 7100 Connecticut Ave., Chevy Chase, MD 20015.


**SEVENTH ANNUAL LIFELONG LEARNING RESEARCH CONFERENCE**, Feb. 21-22, University of Maryland Adult Education Center. Administrators, faculty, sponsors, practitioners, and graduate students are encouraged to submit papers relating to the field of continuing education. The conference will feature Dr. Peter Jarvis, Professor of Adult and Continuing Educa- tion, University of Surrey, Guildford, U.K. Deadline for submission of abstracts is Feb. 22. Submit all papers to Lifelong Learning Research Conference, William M. Rivera, Adult and Continuing Education, 0220 Simmons Hall, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742.

**SECOND NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON OUTDOOR RECREATION TRENDS**, Feb. 25-27, Myrtle Beach, SC. Contact Gina McLellan, Coordinator, Clemson Univ., Clemson, SC 29631.

**SYMPOSIUM ON THE AGRICULTURAL SCIENTIFIC ENTERPRISE: A SYSTEM IN TRANSITION, March 4-6, University of Kentucky, Lexington. Sponsored by Cooperative State Research Service, USDA, Experiment Station Committee on Organization and Policy (ESCP) and the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture. To commemorate the 100th Anniversary in 1987, this symposium will focus on issues related to the development of the Agricultural Scientific Enterprise. To submit a paper or receive additional information, contact Nancy Welts, Symposium Coordinator, Committee for Agricultural Research Policy, 223 Scovel Hall, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40546-0004, (606) 257-5757.

**SIXTH ANNUAL PARK AND RECREATION ENFORCEMENT AND VISITOR PROTECTION WORKSHOP**, March 6-8, Cadiz, KY. Contact Bruce Wicks or Carson E. Watt (409) 845-5418 or 845-5419.

**UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS AT PINE BLUFF RURAL LIFE CONFERENCE, March 7, Pine Bluff, Ark. The conferencetheme of the symposium is "Home, Family and Farm: Education for Survival." It is sponsored by the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff Division of Agriculture and Technology. For further information contact John Clark, Rural Life Conference Task Force Chairman, P.O. Box 4007, University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, Pine Bluff, AR 71601, (501) 373-2527.

**THE FIFTH ANNUAL NATIONAL RURAL SPECIAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE**, Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA. For more information, contact Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA 98225, (206) 676-3000.

**AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE**, March 23-27, Indianapolis. Jo Anne Pomerine will be chairing a panel on rural policy and may be contacted for additional information by writing USDA-ERS-EED, Room 494, 14th Building, 500 12th St., SW, Washington, DC 20250.

**FOURTH ANNUAL SWIMMING POOL OPERATION AND MANUFACTURE WORKSHOP**, March 27-28, Houston, TX. Contact Bruce Wicks or Carson E. Watt (409) 845-5418 or 845-5419.

**PARADISE LOST: LIFE IN RURAL VIRGINIA, RURAL VIRGINIA'S SPRING CONFERENCE, April 10-12, Blacksburg, Va. This will be an opportunity for the development of rural policy for the commonwealth of Virginia. For information write Virginia Voiles, P.O.Box 105, Richmond, VA 23201.


**In Print**

Directory of State Resources in Rural Health: A 25-page directory is available from The National Rural Primary Care Association (NRPCA). Copies may be obtained by writing NRPCA, 2220 Holmes, Kansas City, MO 64108.

A Guide To The Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, The Small Cities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), is a new available handbook on The Small Cities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. This handbook tells you "where to apply, what to expect, where to get more details, and whether a proposed or existing CDBG program meets goals and federal requirements." It is available for $8 from NRPCA, 2225 Vermont Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005.
Names in the news...

*DR. BRADY DEATON, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, and DR. LUTHER TWEEDE, Oklahoma State University, are two of the many speakers scheduled to participate in the four-day conference on Interdependencies of Agriculture and Rural Communities in the 21st Century: The North Central Region to be held Feb. 12-16 in ZIon, Ill. Dr. Deaton's topic will be "Impacts of Community Development on Agriculture," while Dr. Tweede will speak on "Implications and Policy Recommendations."

*DR. STANLEY R. JOHNSON has been named Professor of Charge of the Center for Agricultural and Rural Development (CARD) at Iowa State University. Dr. Johnson, who will begin his duties in spring of 1985, succeeds Dr. EARL R. HEARD, leader of CARD since its creation by the Iowa Legislature in 1957. Dr. Johnson has been an economics professor at the University of Missouri in Columbia. He earned his bachelor's degree from Western Illinois University, his master's degree from Texas Tech, and his Ph.D. from Texas A&M. Dr. Johnson will lead CARD in its recently launched new projects in the areas of biotechnology, regional models for the RCA, micro modeling for farms with focus on financial stress and resource conservation easement, impact of agricultural technology advances and impacts of fragile land policies.

*DR. JIM MALLETT of the Texas Agricultural Extension Service has requested to be relieved of his duties as state community development project leader and reassigned as a community development specialist. Real estate specialist DR. DONALD D. STEBBINS has assumed additional responsibilities as acting project group supervisor for community development.

Proposed federal budget cuts may harm rural areas

Small and rural communities may find their capacity to provide needed services and programs to their residents severely limited if the administration's proposed fiscal year 1986 budget is adopted.

Drastic cuts in Farmer's Home Administration (FmHA) community development programs; the withdrawal of FmHA housing programs; and the termination of General Revenue Sharing, the Small Business Administration, Economic Development Administration assistance and the Urban Development Action Grant program would greatly reduce the resources that have enabled small and rural communities to attract new development activities and increase their revenue base.

The community development programs administered by FmHA would be reduced from $726 million in FY 85 to $75 million in FY 86. Funding would be limited to water and waste disposal grants and loans to very low income communities experiencing health and safety hazards. Funding for rural community facilities loans, business and industrial loans, and rural fire protection grants would be totally eliminated.

Under the administration's proposal, federal assistance for rural community development programs would be made available through the HUD Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. To that end, the administration is proposing to increase the CDBG allocation for the state-administered small cities program from 30 percent to 40 percent. This would mean that $1.226 billion of the $3.1 billion requested for the CDBG program would be for small cities—an increase of $203 million over the FY 85 level.

However, the program would also be expected to absorb the $651 million cut from FmHA. The net effect is a reduction of $449 million or 26 percent from last year's funding for small city community development.

Under the administration's proposal to eliminate the rural housing programs administration by FmHA, the $3.4 billion in housing assistance in FY 86 would be reduced to $80 million in FY 86. Funding would be limited to renewing rental assistance contracts and to providing for repairs in existing FmHA financed low-income (Section 502) housing.

After a two year moratorium on additional housing units, the administration intends to expand HUD's role to include rural housing. In FY 86, the administration anticipates allocating a proposed 100,000 units of additional assisted housing equitably between rural and urban areas.

(Written by Marc Shapiro, this story was extracted from Nation's Cities Weekly, Volume Eight, Number 6, February 11, 1985).

Southern states develop farmland protection plans

State farmland protection activities are in full swing in most of the United States this year.

State and local actions to manage agricultural land resources are more widespread now than ever before. The wide variety of ongoing activities suggests an emerging awareness of the importance of a stable agricultural land resource base.

Most new protection activities exist at the local level through implementation of

(Continued on page 4)

RELATING RURAL DEVELOPMENT TO YOUR COMMUNITY
Can U.S. work force measure up in world competition?

(Continued from previous page)

Instead of prescribing for the other guy how to operate, management inputs up to world class levels are how President Reagan should get investment up to world class levels, of us probably better worry about the things that we control. How do we get our inputs up to world class levels, and how do we proceed with expansion of extension that really can be competitive on world class markets so that we don't have very many industries that come along like the video recorder—a brand new industry in which America has no presence whatsoever.

Nonmetro employment lags behind metro in growth

Nonmetro employment continues to expand more slowly than metro employment, according to research conducted recently by USDA's Economic Research Division. Researchers Herman Bluestone and Stan Dabelkow have been studying "Employment Growth in Nonmetro America: Past Trends and Prospects for the Eighties." They attribute the relatively slower nonmetro growth to the fact that rural labor areas depend more than metro areas on slow-growing natural-resource-based industries.

CAPSULES is published periodically by the Southern Rural Development Center as an information service for educators, researchers, local officials and private citizens interested in improving the quality of life in the small communities and rural areas of the South.

The Southern Rural Development Center is one component of the 800-center national extension system. It is located at Mississippi State University and provides support staff to the extension services of 29 land-grant universities in 13 Southern states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

Jane Rendeiro ............ Editor David Miles .......... Editorial Assistant Sheila Buckner .......... Editorial Assistant

Southern Center loses long-time director

Dr. William W. Linder, director of the Southern Rural Development Center and special projects coordinator for the Cooperative Extension Service, died Feb. 5 after a lengthy illness.

Linder, 51, had headed the Southern Center since its inception in 1974. As SERC director, he coordinated a 13-state program for rural development efforts in the extension services and experiment stations of 29 land-grant universities throughout the South.

A native of Dublin, Ga., Linder came to Mississippi in 1967 as MCS community resource development program leader. In 1970 he was named special projects coordinator and in 1974 directed establishment of the Southern Center.

As special projects coordinator, Linder's work in local government resulted in formation of the Center for Governmental Technology. He provided leadership in the development of more than 38 different programs offered in 106 locations in Mississippi. These programs reached almost every type of state and local government official and represented 10 recognized certification programs for local officials.

Linder also established and coordinated the work of the Mississippi.

Nonmetro... (Continued from page 2)

Industries and nondurable goods manufacturing and less on fast-growing service-producing industries. Jobs in local government, agriculture and other natural-resource-based industries.

Bluestone and Dabelkow predict that a recovery in economic activity in the Midwest Region or a resurgence of growth in the nonmetro South is necessary for nonmetro employment to grow at a rate higher than metro areas. They suggest that while such developments are possible, there is apparently little basis for forecasting these.

Energy Extension Center from 1977 until 1980 when it became a traditional MCES department. He also initiated new extension programs in gerontology, home ownership counseling and small farm agriculture using paraprofessionals.

Linder was a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve and was commander of and instrumental in establishing the 386th Public Works and Administrative Battalion in Starkville, Miss.

Prior to coming to Mississippi, Linder was employed as personnel management specialist with the federal Extension Service in Washington, D.C. He also had served as a county agent in Tifton and Dublin, Ga.

Linder received a bachelor's degree from the University of Georgia in 1954 and a master's degree from North Carolina State University in 1957. He earned additional graduate credit at George Washington University in Washington, D.C., before completing a doctorate at Mississippi State University in 1976.

Surviving include his wife, Carolyn, of Starkville; a daughter, Sara, of Starkville; a son, David, of Houston, Texas; former President of Coca-Cola; and his father, Arma, of Dublin, Ga.

during the eighties will probably be more rapid than between 1970 and 1980, when rural areas were adjusting to the large increases in agriculture and other natural-resource-based industries.
Farmland protection... (Continued from page 1)

state programs or local initiatives.

Highlights of 1986 state activities in farmland protection in the South include the following:

*FLORIDA: Florida passed H5935, which provides for a public hearing and monitoring of agricultural lands in the state. Given a $200,000 appropriation, the Department of Community Affairs as lead agency, with the cooperation of the state Department of Transportation, is implementing the Act on schedule. In April, a report will be made to the legislature on the first mapping scene, which will be made on the state. A two year funding proposal for mapping the rest of the state will be requested. The measure failed to pass and the Florida "Right-to-Farm" law, failed for lack of interest.

*GEORGIA: More than 10,000 farmers, or about one-tenth of the state's farmers, participated in the first year of the state's use-value taxation of farmland. The program saved farmers a total of $1.5 million in taxes.

*LOUISIANA: A "Right-to-Farm" bill died in committee due to lack of support. Farmland loss issues in the state concern the foundation of coastal Louisiana's agricultural lands by the waters of the Gulf, attributed to river channelization for oil leasing activity.

*MISSISSIPPI: The successful "Hold Our Topsoil Top priority" design to combat soil erosion will be expanded in its second year, 1985, to have one demonstration farm in each of the 82 counties in the state. The projects is now under state and county cooperation.

*NORTH CAROLINA: North Carolina counties actively protected their farmland through the adoption of agricultural districts, establishment of the Local Land Assessment (LESA) committee, and options for local agricultural land property tax assessment. The cooperation of Orange and Mecklenburg counties as well as the six counties composing the Triangle J Council of Governments, Forsyth county was unique in becoming the first county in the southeastern U.S. to institute a Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) program.

*SOUTH CAROLINA: A report on agricultural land use trends in South Carolina was published in 1986. Also, a South Carolina Task Force on Agricultural Land was established to develop an agricultural land protection education program and a "comprehensive planning enabling legislation" proposal.

*TEXAS: Early 1986 efforts to develop new Statewide farmland protection activities failed to gain wide coalition support. However, the state Soil and Water Conservation Board and the Soil Conservation Service came to an agreement which allows the Board to designate agriculture as a Statewide or local importance. The Texas Department of Agriculture continues to try and affect state policy that would have high negative impacts on farmland, i.e., hazardous waste disposal. The Department of Agriculture will also hire a full time economist and research and extension institutional changes were needed to provide local government decision makers with the best technical data available.

Funded by the federal Extension Service, the workshop will emphasize infrastructure development including: land use policies and practices; state and local government decision making; and public policy (Legislative) decision making.

National conference to study investment decisions

A national conference for extension and research professionals involved in the area of infrastructure investment decision making will be held in Arlington, Va. on April 17-19 in Arlington, Va.

"We will try to determine what the state of research and funding are for infrastructure investment decision making," explained Dr. Tom Johnson, one of the conference co-organizers. Johnson is an agricultural econo- mist at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

"We want to build on the theories and the models that have been developed, we want to build on the practical experience and institutional changes needed to provide local government decision makers with the best technical data available."

Funded by the federal Extension Service, the workshop will emphasize infrastructure development including: land use policies and practices; state and local government decision making; and public policy (Legislative) decision making.

It's an idea...

The village of Deerfield, Illinois, (19,000) is fighting juvenile vandalism by not only assigning a fine to any child, but by cracking down on the parents. The "Parental Responsibility Ordinance," if a child's offenses are considered, parents will be presumed to have failed to exercise proper parental authority. Even after parents are charged, the ordinance states that there may be no opportunity to present evidence in court of their efforts to properly supervise their child. For the first two years that ordinance was in effect, it was not necessary for the police to question any parent with a violation of the ordinance. The decrease in juvenile vandalism has been dramatic.

Newly created ERS group will research rural credit

The Rural Credit Section of the USDA-ERS-ERS was created in order to study the cost and availability of nonfarm credit to farmers.

The Section hopes to see that more emphasis is placed on rural credit research that has been done in the past. According to Patrick Sullivan, the Section's leader, a number of projects and publications are currently in progress. Two projects are currently in progress: the效果 of the Energy Policy Act on the Rural National Money Markets Project. The Rural Money Markets Project will examine the effects of financial institutions operating within rural areas, as well as the ability of rural borrowers to obtain funds at reasonable rates. The National Money Markets Project will examine regional flows of credit and the impact of national money market conditions on rural credit markets.

For more information, contact Patrick Sullivan at (202) 447-8874.

States develop programs for emergency training

Less than half of the states have responded to the need to develop prevention and response strategies to eliminate accidents involving toxic substances. The states are among those states which have developed such programs. In Colorado, for example, the state has responded to the need to develop emergency training programs for the first professional school to be devoted entirely to the systematic training of public emergency response personnel. Since its establishment in 1980, CITI has prepared more than 5,000 individuals to moderate public exposure and reduce the social and human losses resulting from mishaps that occur during the transportation of hazardous substances. Congress is now beginning to recognize and address the problem. During its last session, Congress directed the Federal Emergency Management Administration's (FEMA) to study the problem and recommend short- and long-term options for the funding of local, state and federal emergency programs.

FEMA is consulting with local, state and other federal agencies with hazardous materials responsibilities to evaluate training programs for shipmasters, inspectors, and law enforcement and emergency response personnel. FEMA is also looking at existing local, state and federal plans, such as those in Colorado and Georgia, for responding to accidents before reporting back to Congress in June of this year.
Small talk on big issues...

* A special work group appointed by the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) has developed a comprehensive plan for groundwater quality research which has been in the development of the ARS budget for FY 1986. The comprehensive plan acknowledges evidence that the nation's groundwater resources are being affected by man's activities, including those associated with agriculture. Since about one-half the United States population and 95 percent of rural households depend on groundwater for drinking supply, research programs are needed (i) to define the extent of the problem, (ii) to develop procedures for estimating potential loading of chemicals to groundwater systems, and (iii) to develop alternative management systems to alleviate or minimize the occurrence of agricultural chemicals in groundwater.

* The Virgin Islands Agricultural Experiment Station (VIAES) and the Caribbean Research Institute (CRI) have been consolidated so that research and development of these two organizations is under one umbrella, Dr. D. S. Padda, Director of VIAES and of Virgin Islands Cooperative Extension Service, is providing leadership for this new organization as Vice President for Research and Land-Grant Programs.

State governments have major regulatory power over banks and insurance companies that are chartered in their states. Consequently, state legislatures are being flooded with bills from banks or insurance companies deregulation would not have a significant effect on rural communities. Rural advocates and legislators are not often confused about which policy position is best for rural communities.


CDBG aids community in housing improvements

When the small town of Middlefield, Conn., took over the nearby rural area of Lake Bessee, it encountered many of the serious problems which abound in rural housing.

Lake Bessee, an exclusive summer resort area in the 1930s, had changed with the times. The fashionable summer cottages had become year-round residences for modest-income families.

When Middlefield took over responsibility for Lake Bessee, it acquired the community's poorly built roads, uninsulated and unheated homes, and insufficient septic fields and wells, and Lake Bessee homes were in serious violation of local zoning and planning regulations. Middlefield leaders queried about their town's eligibility for a "Small Cities" Community Development Block Grant. The CDBG provided funding, and learned that the grant idea looked promising for Middlefield. After an application process which took several months, the town received $300,000 for a water and sewer block grant for the target area of Lake Bessee.
Academic and Psychosocial Effects of Relaxation Training on Rural Preschoolers reveals the results of a study conducted by Dr. Doris Matthews, professor of education at South Carolina State College. The study implemented a stress management program of relaxation exercises during homework periods at rural middle schools. The purpose of the study was to assess the benefits that relaxation skills have on learning. Findings suggest the existence of a threshold of relaxation, a level necessary for cognitive gains. For more information, write Dr. Matthews at the Office of 1900 Research, South Carolina State College, Orangeburg, SC 29117.

Case Studies in Rural Transportation Resource Management: A Guide for Local Elected Officials, prepared by Daniel Doman and Carrie Saell, is the result of a compilation of case studies which highlight management practices proven to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of local transportation resources. The report, publication #071-104-41, is being distributed by the Office of the Secretary of Transportation, I-30, Washington, D.C. 20590.

Conference Proceedings: ARES Fourth Annual National Rural Special Education Conference, the proceedings from the 1989 National Rural Special Education Conference (ACRES) National Rural Special Education Conference, are now available. The conference theme, proposed by Dr. Matthew W. Haines, was "The Future of Rural Special Education: A Rising Tide of Optimism." Topics discussed included culturally relevant transitions, policies, transitions between school and work, and family living, cooperative/ regional/ community programs. The sessions were attended by students with severe low-incidence handicaps. To receive a copy, send $15 (includes shipping) to the National Rural Program, Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA 98225.

Directory of Business, Trade, and Public Policy Organizations, an October 1983 publication of the Small Business Administration, lists small business organizations. The directory is designed to improve communications between government and the small business community. An updated version is to be made available. Dr. Doris Matthews is the author of a 1989 publication distributed to each state CDR office by Extension: "Effects of Modern Farming Practices," has been published recently by the Center for Rural Affairs. The report suggests that "agriculture has become not only the most dangerous occupation in America, but one which is frighteningly unhealthy as well. ... Farm families in the heartland of America are now exposed for a lifetime to chronic health risks which a generation ago were largely unknown." While conceding that farmers have consistently "resisted regulatory oversight of their farming operations," the report states that this is not always done with full awareness of the facts and that the need is for more disclosure of the risks associated with various aspects of farming. Copies of the report may be obtained, for $6 postpaid from the Center for Rural Affairs, P.O. Box 405, Walthill, NE 68067.


Poor People Control of CDBG in Small Cities: A Handbook on the State Administered Program is a booklet on the CDBG program. Prepared by the Working Group for Community Development Reform (WGCDR), the guide to the program, followed by seven appendix items, including an annotated copy of the basic legislation. A series of appendices is also included in the book. Written by Anthony Pannell and others, the book is available for $6 from the Publications Office, The Rand Corporation, 1700 Main St., P. O. Box 2138, Santa Monica, CA 90407. Ask for Publication R-3124-HS/SP/FF,EBBP.

It's Not All Sunshine and Fresh Air, a report on "The Impact of Modern Farming Practices," has been published recently by the Center for Rural Affairs. The report suggests that "agriculture has become not only the most dangerous occupation in America, but one which is frighteningly unhealthy as well. ... Farm families in the heartland of America are now exposed for a lifetime to chronic health risks which a generation ago were largely unknown." While conceding that farmers have consistently "resisted regulatory oversight of their farming operations," the report states that this is not always done with full awareness of the facts and that the need is for more disclosure of the risks associated with various aspects of farming. Copies of the report may be obtained, for $6 postpaid from the Center for Rural Affairs, P.O. Box 405, Walthill, NE 68067.


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Protecting Farmlands, a book written for officials of all levels of government, planners, conservationists, agricultural economists, soil scientists, extension agents and environmentalists, reviews the issues and describes successful approaches that local governments and states have used to protect agricultural land. The book is a two-volume set from AII. Publishing Co., 250 Post Rd. East, P. O. Box 831, Westport, CT 06881, (203) 226-0783.

Restructuring Policy for Agriculture: Some Alternatives, edited by Donald S. Battle and J. Paxton Marshall, is a collection of papers prepared for the 14th National Meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The papers examine five policy areas of concern to agriculture: 1) policy alternatives to current commodity programs; 2) policy to achieve lower rates of soil loss; 3) policy and alternative programs for the small farmer; 4) policy to increase access to capital services in rural areas; and 5) impacts of recent agricultural policies on farm families in rural communities. A copy of the publication may be obtained from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Blacksburg, VA 24061.

Solid Waste Economic Planning Model: An introduction and Application is a model for planning waste systems in cities, counties, and states. The model is a two-volume case study of solid waste management for Guernsey County in Ohio. A variety of systems and costs are included. The model includes an analysis of the cost for a system which has an urban population of 19,480 and a rural population of 23,544. The model can be used to design combinations of collection systems, transfer stations, landfills, and resources.
In Print... (Continued from page 9)

recovery facilities and information can be helpful in feasibility studies for counties or townships. The report also contains environmental information including subroutines descriptions, flowcharts of selected subroutines, overall model flowcharts and most definitions. A limited number of copies of Volume I, which provides a general description of the model, is available for the public. Volume II, which is directed at computer programmers, is available for free for research purposes. For more information contact John Rohrer, Community and Natural Resource Development, 2120 Frye Rd, Oh 43224, Columbus, OH 43210-1099, (614) 422-8436.

Small Cities and Counties. A Guide to Managing Services, compiled and published by the International City Management Association, is a basic guide to small town government and its functions. This paperback book, intended for city, town and county officials, takes a thorough look at how governments provide and manage services. Emphasis is on inter- and intergovernmental cooperation. Copies of the book may be purchased for $25.50 from the International City Management Association, 1720 G St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005.

Patterns and Trends in World Agricultural Land Use is a USDA study which discusses the availability and trends and examines specific land constraints to world food production increases. The FAO Forestry Economic Report No. 198, is available from the USDA, Washington, D.C. 20050.

Things Are Piling Up: Kentucky's Solid Waste Problem is a report of a study conducted by the University of Kentucky. The study focuses on illegal waste disposal in rural areas, recycling, attitudes of the general public and public officials regarding solid waste, door-to-door waste pickup companies, and the task of managing the massive volume of waste products. Providing adequate location and disposal services and facilities is a major concern of the study with potentially far-reaching impact on the areas of public health, environmental integrity, and state and local economies. The report also suggests that additional technical study and public discussion are needed to ensure that future expenditures are spent in a way that is satisfactory to the public and its various levels of official representatives.

For more information contact Dr. Robert McDonald of the University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40506-0091, (606) 257-7594.

Serving the Rural Adult is the series title for four publications developed by the Action Agenda Project of the U.S. Department of Education's Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE) which address the needs of rural adults. Collectively the publications in the series offer rural educators valuable information on programs, adult learners, consultants and funding agencies. Following are the individual titles in the series:

* Inventory of Model Programs in Rural Adult Postsecondary Education provides descriptions of 54 illustrative programs across the entire range of educational providers.

* A Demographic Portrait of Rural Adult Learners merges data from the National Center for Educational Statistics (NCES) with additional information and site visits to provide a demographic portrait of the needs, characteristics, motivations and participation patterns of rural adult learners.

* Directory of Consultants for Rural Adult Postsecondary Education presents information on more than 80 experienced professionals. This offers a valuable resource to rural adult educators seeking advice on new programs.

* Private Funding Resources for Rural Adult Postsecondary Education highlights 91 private foundations involved in rural adult postsecondary education.

Available at cost, the publications in this series can be obtained by writing the Action Agenda, University of Kentucky, 1121 Thruston, Manhasset, KY 65602.

On Schedule

THE FIFTH ANNUAL NATIONAL RURAL SPECIAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE, Western Washington University, March 19-22. For more information contact the National Rural Special Education Conference, Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA 98225, (206) 676-3000.

AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE, March 22-27, Indianapolis. Dr. Bohler Honalde is chairing a panel on rural policy and may be contacted for information by writing USDA-ERS, 4944 E 6100 W, Athens, GA 30606.

FOURTH ANNUAL SWIMMING POOL OPERATION AND MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP, March 27-28, Houston, TX. Contact Bruce Wicks or Carson E. Metcalf (409) 843-5418 or 843-5419.

PARADISE LOST? LIFE IN RURAL VIRGINIA, RURAL VIRGINIA'S SPRING CONFERENCE, April 10-12, Blacksburg, Va. This will be an opportunity to contribute to the development of rural policy for the commonwealth of Virginia. For information write Rural Virginia Voice, P.O.Box 105, Richmond, VA 23201.

1890 RESEARCH DIRECTORS, EXTENSION ADMINISTRATORS, AND DEANS OF HOME ECONOMICS AND AGRICULTURE, ANNUAL SPRING MEETING, April 15-16, Whitehall Hotel, Houston, Texas. For additional information and a copy of the agenda contact Hoover, Administrator, Cooperative Extension Program, Texas A&M University, Prairie View, TX 77445, (409) 857-2073.

SOUTHERN NATURAL RESOURCE ECONOMICS COMMITTEE MEETING, May 16-17, Lexington, Ky. The theme is "Managing Exhaustible Resources." For further information contact Dr. R. Angelos Pagoulatos or Dr. David F. Colvin at University of Kentucky, Dept. of Agricultural Economics, 500 Agricultural Science Bldg. South, Lexington, KY 40506-0215, (606) 257-5762.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CLEAN WATER THROUGH CONTROLLED SOURCES, May 19-22, Kansas City, MO. The conference will demonstrate state-of-the-art technology of financial and legal aspects. The conference is sponsored by U.S. Environmen-

SMALL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP, July 12-14, Ramada Inn Airport, Southwest, Miami, Florida. For information contact the Small Business Development center, University of Miami. (305) 284-6550.

CDBG... (Continued on page 7)

The Middlefield rehabilitation program, which is now in progress, is a loan program. No grants are offered, but loan payments may be deferred indefinitely in the case of elderly, handicapped, or other "hardship" applicants.

Both resident homeowners and landlords are eligible. Loans range from $500 to $10,000; interest rates may be set from 1 percent to 8 percent, depending on family size and disposable income, the maximum repayment period.

The Greater Middletown Community Corporation (GMC) is the non-profit housing corporation which runs the program locally, will provide program assistance to interested communities. Other agencies or local government groups who wish to request sample materials may write or call GMC, Inc., 1500 Main Street, Middletown, CT 06457, (203) 347-6924.
Reagan proposes soil, water conservation cuts

The Reagan Administration proposes to abolish the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service and to eliminate three-quarters of the Soil Conservation Service in two years. Federal subsidies "have not achieved their purpose," according to the budget statements.

Gone in 1986 would be any new funding by the ASCS for its programs in agricultural conservation, forestry incentives, the water bank, rural clean water, dairy indemnity and emergency conservation. This comes to $262 million for fiscal 1985, with $190 million coming from agricultural conservation.

SCS would lose 24 per cent of its 1985 funding in 1986 and 76 per cent by 1987. The biggest cut for next year would take place with its watershed and flood prevention operations. These would be cut to $63 million from $173 million in 1985, a 64 per cent reduction.

Only the SCS's conservation technical assistance program—with its 3,800 staff members, its soil survey and its plant materials centers—would survive.

"The Federal government has spent over 25 billion for conservation since 1936, Southern Rural Development Center, P.O. Box 5406, Mississippi State, MS 39762 and is currently spending over $800 million annually with little noticeable effect in recent years," the budget argues. "Despite this massive expenditure over 50 years, the most recent SCS Natural Resource Inventory identified 245 million acres of cropland (over 58 per cent of the total) as needing some type of conservation treatment."

"While appealing at first glance, this many-faceted program has simply not been effective. Subsidies have not achieved their purpose."

The budget reasons that soil and water conservation measures have often been nullified by market forces that have made "hence row to fence row" planting profitable. Good conservation practices also have been undone by changes in land ownership. Even then, only a third of the nation's farmers took part in the USDA soil and water conservation programs as of 1983.

"Older terraces and contour patterns aren't efficient for the larger farming equipment currently in use," the budget adds. (Extracted from Feb. 15, 1985 issue of Water Information News Service.)

Tenn-Tom Waterway may help Southern wood industry

With the help of the newly completed Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway, "the South could become the woodbasket of the nation. Currently, all of the wood that the waterway includes 159 Southern counties in the states of Mississippi, Alabama, and Georgia."

Wood producers of the region predict the waterway will help increase their wood exports. They also expect the Tenn-Tom to help generate additional jobs for their economies. The Southern region includes about 39 percent of all commercial timberland in the U.S. and in 1982 accounted for about one-sixth of the total U.S. timber exports.

The Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway may have opened to traffic at a good time: global consumption is increasing. The Southern states have the potential to replace the Pacific Northwest as the nation's woodbasket and to profit from the increased global demand.

Regardless of the South becomes the nation's leading wood-producing region, however, depends on more than just the Tenn-Tom Waterway.

There are ample supplies of hardwood and softwood in the area for both present and future production, since annual growth is exceeding removal. The area has an abundance of skills, many of which are already exporting part of their production. The transportation system in the area—highways, railroads and waterways, particularly the Tennessee-Tombigbee—is efficient and adequate. Problems do exist, however. Although the Southern soil, climate and native trees have given the region many natural advantages, there is concern that many private landowners are not adequately

regenerating their harvested lands. To take advantage of growing world markets, the management and care of private, non-industrial forests must be improved. In addition to these production problems, there are long-term environmental considerations. Southern forests may face some of the same pollution problems that are thought to be destroying European forests. Suspected dangers include acid rain and other deposits of pollution from the air. These and other environmental changes may limit the growth of the Southern wood industry.

The Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway may be a boon to the Southern wood industry and help it to economic prosperity. However, the South must continue to concentrate on wood, wood products, and ways to improve production.

Southeast education levels catching up with nation

With its improving educational infrastructure, the Southeast is about to catch up with national norms of educational attainment. The educational level of the Southeast's population, historically lower than the rest of the country, is catching up with levels of other regions, according to Gene Wilson and Gene Sullivan, the authors of "Educational Inventory: Where Does the Southeast Stand?" The article appears in the November 1984 issue of Economic Review. Wilson and Sullivan conduct an "inventory" of the educational assets in the Southeast, providing the following statistics:

NUMBER OF TEACHERS: In the past 60 years, the number of teachers in the (Continued on page 3)
"Public interest in rural conditions, as gauged by media coverage, grew once again during 1984. This time, however, the message contained in the popular media appeared to be that rural America is reverting to its earlier pattern of widespread decline and out-migration. Our analyses indicate that while rural areas have not exceeded their metro counterparts in population and employment gains, they have reverted to decline. There appears to be a convergence of growth rates between rural and urban America."

--David L. Brown, Associate Director Economic Development Division U.S. Department of Agriculture

Study presents statistics on farm population, labor

Most farm wage workers commute from nonfarm residences to their farm jobs. In a November 1984 study, "Farm Populations of the State of Illinois," Vera Banks and Karen Mills of USDA-ERS revealed that only 44 percent of those persons employed in agriculture lived on farms. The figures were 63 percent in 1970 and 75 percent in 1960. The decline in the proportion of agricultural workers who are farm residents is due largely to the general trend among farm wage workers to commute from nonfarm residences to their farm jobs.

Most employed farm residents (55 percent) worked solely or primarily in agriculture. Only about one-third of employed farm women had farm work compared with two-thirds of farm men. The report says that 62 percent of the average farm operator family income in 1982 came from nonfarm sources.

The survey shows that only 3.6 percent of the farm-resident labor force was unemployed in 1983, compared with 10.2 percent of the nonfarm labor force. The frequency of farm resident seeking more than one job has contributed to the lower unemployment rate. Farm work is considered as employment even with the loss of a nonfarm job.

The farm population in 1983 was 5,787,000, representing 2.5 percent of the total population, or one out of every 40 people.

Other highlights from the report are:

- The farm population distribution was 44 percent in the Midwest, 35 percent in the South, 15 percent in the West, and 6 percent in the Northeast.
- About 18 percent of the farm population lived within metropolitan areas; four-fifths of them in areas with fewer than 1 million inhabitants.
- The farm population's median age was 35.7 years compared with 30.7 for the rest of the nation.

Economist suggests economic development strategy

No single economic development strategy can cure the economic ills of the farm sector, but University of Wisconsin economist Glen Pulver has at least five suggestions for a local development strategy.

- Improve the efficiency of existing firms.
- Help small businesses to expand.
- Create additional local jobs.
- Conduct research directed toward making technology more accessible to local firms.

Local leaders often overlook the business opportunities already in the communities.

Forward-thinking leaders visit with local firms, listen to their concerns and learn of their plans for the future. By knowing where to locate new investment, specialists can help encourage bank-sponsored employment opportunities. They also can make their local economies more competitive and productive.

Survey the community's ability to capture existing income. Dollars flow into and out of the local economy. A healthy economy limits the economic out-flows, or leakages, from the community. Leakages result when local residents make purchases at regional shopping centers, vacation away from home, invest in out-of-town businesses and real estate or pay wages to commuting workers. Obviously, no community can keep all of the dollars that flow into the local economy. But local leaders can work to plug some of the leakages.

Surveys and assessment tools help officials to find the best and develop strategies for retaining income. Such strategies may emphasize downtown revitalization, job training for special community events, housing development or other development techniques.

Despite the fear that businesses may not stay, although business recruitment has received more attention than it deserved, it is a viable development option. Basic research centers often sell goods or services outside the community, which generates income to be dispersed among local citizens. Then this income is... (Continued on page 8)

It's an idea...

- The city of Milaca, Minnesota, (2,500) has reduced personnel costs significantly in the police department by instituting a new work week shift for some department employees. After two employees retired, the work week for their replacements was reconstructed in such a way that one crew member would work Sunday through Thursday, while the other would work Tuesday through Saturday. This new work schedule allows seven day coverage of any emergencies or service needs that may arise. Previously, three to four hours of overtime each weekend day had been devoted to maintaining the water and sewage system. By having a public works employee on duty both on Saturday and Sunday, the city eliminated overtime costs for weekends.
Bankers predict 8% drop in agricultural land values

The value of the nation’s farmland declined modestly in 1987 and is expected to drop another 8 percent in 1988, according to a survey of agricultural bankers.

William Herr, chairman of the Department of Agribusiness Economics at Southern Illinois University, said that in the recent past, only 900 agricultural bankers whose institutions issue about one-fifth of the country’s farm loans.

"Eighty-five percent of the banks report declining land values, with only 5 percent reporting increases," Herr said.

Bankers expect the value of farmland in the Corn Belt to decline this year and the value in the Plains to fall 9 percent, he said.

"This is the heart of the grain production area and the grain makes up a lot of our exports," Herr said. "But exports have been stymied, and the reduced demand has lowered grain prices and the income of farmers."

With the income-producing potential of the land down, its value also decreased, Herr noted.

"What it’s going to take is an improvement in those grain prices and in farm income to get those land values up, but the bankers don’t see that anytime soon," he said.

The decline in farmland values hurts not only the farmers who are trying to sell out, but also those who use land as security for operating loans, he said.

"It reduces the value of the collateral they can put up for loans," Herr said.

That means, in some cases, bankers will be "very nervous" and unwilling to lend to farmers as much money as they once did, Herr explained.

Herr’s survey, conducted in the late summer and early fall of 1987 for the American Bankers Association, showed that 4 percent of the banks expect farmland values to continue to decline, while 96 percent believe they will be stable.

Federal scientists develop sewage disposal technique

Two federal scientists have developed a new sewage disposal technique that reduces sewer line replacement costs by 40 to 50 percent.

Jerry Newman and John Simmons, scientists with the Agricultural Research Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture at Clarksburg, W.Va., have designed a variable-graide, gravity sewage system. The system’s savings stem from the use of small digesters placed at key points in the land’s contour, eliminating the need for special grading of sewer lines.

The project, which is federally sponsored by the Tuskegee Institute, the Alabama State Health Department, and the Farmers Home Administration, Newman or Simmons can be reached at (503) 654-3644. The system is also described in the USDA publication, Design of Small-Diameter Variable-Grade Gravity Sewers (AB-203), which is available from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. The stock number is 001-000-044k-5 and the price is $1.25. The publication may be ordered by calling (202) 783-3238.

SRDC, Stoll study benefits of lower property taxes

Tax programs that reduce property taxes on agricultural land are generally unsuccessful at saving the land from urban development. However, the programs do go some way toward foresting land until it is actually developed for urban growth.

These are the findings of a study by Dr. John Stoll, an agricultural economist with the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station. The study was conducted for the Southern Rural Development Center (SRDC).

Appointments

The U.S. House of Representatives of the 99th Congress has made the following subcommittee appointments. (This article continues...

Extension to study soil, water conservation

A $75,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture has been awarded to the North Carolina Agricultural Extension Service to study "Options for Future Cooperative Extension Programs in the Management and Conservation of Soil and Water Resources."

"They will review present Extension programs at the national level and then offer proposals for strengthening soil and water conservation as it relates to the reduction of erosion and the improvement of water quality," said Assistant Director of the USDA’s Extension Service.

Newman or Simmons can be reached at (503) 654-3644. The system is also described in the USDA publication, Design of Small-Diameter Variable-Grade Gravity Sewers (AB-203), which is available from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. The stock number is 001-000-044k-5 and the price is $1.25. The publication may be ordered by calling (202) 783-3238.

Study shows local groups affect local growth rate

In a study of small Wisconsin towns, "Local Growth and the Outside Contacts of Influentials," David McGovern of the USDA’s Economic Development Division finds support for the hypothesis that local groups can affect the rate of local growth. One such group can provide support for the hypothesis focused on local government projects. The results of McGovern’s Wisconsin study, published in Rural Sociology, Winter 1984, suggest that most of growth-promotion takes place in the private sector. Success depends less on local promotion than on the ability of local businesses to deal effectively with organizations of the broader society.

Thirteen Southern states, including Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia, were included in the study of the effects of differential assessment legislation (DAL) on annual acres of cropland, pastureland and forestland between 1958 and 1975.

Stoll found that the benefit of lower property taxes is not the determining factor in the final disposal of agricultural land. For example, in some cases farmers sold their land to finance their retirement, particularly when they have no heirs to take over the farm. The effect of the DAL on this decision to convert agricultural land to non-agricultural use is directly related to a landowner’s decision to convert agricultural land to non-agricultural use.

Stoll concludes that other policies are needed to prevent the eventual loss of farmland to non-agriculturaluses. The study, published by the SRDC and entitled "A Differential Assessment of Agricultural Lands in the South," is available for $5. Write SRDC, Box 5406, Hattiesburg, Miss., MS 39406.
In Print

Guide to Information Resources and Planning for the Smaller Business, published by the U.S. Department of Commerce National Technical Information Service, identifies resources—including more than 50 federal and state government offices—which offer information for small businesses in bringing new technologies to market. To order by phone or mail, ask for publication No. PB84-176034/A4H. Call (703) 487-4450, or send $13.50 to U.S. Dept. of Commerce, NTIS, Springfield, VA 22161.

Major Socioeconomic Patterns Among U.S. Nonmetropolitan Counties is a paper written by Peggy Ros, Bernaill Green and Robert Hoppie and prepared for the USDA Economic Research Service. This paper classifies 2,073 counties (85 percent of nonmetro counties) into seven distinct types based on their industrial and nonfarm land or population. For information, contact Bob Lovan, USDA-ERS-NRARD, Room 3871-S, Washington, D.C. 20250.

Rural Resources Guide, a publication of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of Rural Development Policy, is a directory of approximately 4,000 public and private technical and financial assistance programs available to rural communities. To order, request publication 000379-1 from Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. The price is $12.00.

Microcomputers in Local Government, by James V. Alpert and Warren M. Alpert, describes computer—its role, impact and potential uses in government organizations. Intended for nontechnical readers, it aims to provide the tools needed by local officials, managers and supervisors to understand and direct the use of microcomputers in their local organizations. To order, call (202) 724-2504 plus a $2.25 processing charge to ICMA, 1120 15th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005.

Main Street, Ohio: Opportunities for Bringing People Back Downtown offers separate chapters on the entire revitalization process: organization, studies and surveys, public improvements, building improvements, and financial strategies and resources. Although it was written for township and village officials in Ohio, most of the material is applicable to leaders in small communities throughout the country. Available from the Ohio Development Services, 25th Floor, 30 E. Broad St., Columbus, OH 43215.

The Financial Capability Guidebook will help a community determine how much a new wastewater facility will cost and whether a community can afford it. Available for $6 from the Government Finance Research Center, 1750 K St., N.W., Suite 200, Washington, D.C. 20006.

Citizen's Guide to Planning, by Herbert H. Smith and Herbert H. Smith, Jr., discusses the planning process using case studies of local communities. Designed for the newly appointed member of a planning board, this guide avoids professional jargon, complicated formulas and exhaustive case studies. In conversational language, Smith defines planning, explains its role in local government and explains its relation to community development. Available from the American Planning Association, 1313 E. 60th St., Chicago, IL 60637.

Rural Environmental Planning describes 30 local and regional planning efforts in rural Vermont. The book is of special import to rural communities that are interested in preserving their present and their water, forest and agricultural resources. Send your order to the Small Towns Program, Vermont Agricultural Science Bldg., South Burlington, VT 05401.

Design Resource Book for Small Communities concentrates on rediscovering traditional and local amenities around which to organize revitalization efforts. Examples are drawn from all over the country and are referenced. This is a valuable guide for a community that is considering restoration or for a small commercial area. The book is available for $10 from the Small Towns Institute, P.O. Box 517, Ellensburg, WA 98926.

What Do People Do Downtown? is based on a national demonstration project funded by the National Trust. The book examines the program's four essential elements: organization, promotion, design and economic restructuring. Order from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, 1785 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

On Schedule

Pollution of Groundwater: Sources, Processes, Prevention and Mitigation, April 10-12, Indianapolis, Ind. This course, offered by the International Ground Water Modeling Center, is directed toward geoscientists, hydrogeologists and environmental and water resource engineers in federal, state and local environmental agencies. For nonmember, $72; for international, $99. The registration deadline is May 15. For information, contact Joanne M. Mielke, Program Co-chairperson, University of Missouri-Columbia, School of Social Work, 709 Clark Hall, Columbia, MO 65211.

Rural Sociology and Sociology (RSS) ANNUAL MEETING, Aug. 21-25, Virginia Tech. The theme for this year's meeting is "Community Development." For registration information, contact John A. Ballweg, Rural Sociology and Sociology, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA 24061; (703) 961-5779.

Southern legislatures fund state education reforms

Education was the number-one issue in many Southern state legislatures in 1984. Sales taxes were hiked one cent in South Carolina and Tennessee to fund educational improvements. Tax reform was also marked for education as well. Spending for education was significantly increased in eight Southern states: Alabama, Florida, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia.

Teacher raises were funded in Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia.

German ladder pay for performance or master teacher plans for teachers were authorized in Florida, North Carolina, Tennessee and Texas.

Skills testing or other evaluation of teachers was required in Kentucky, South Carolina and Texas.

Kindergartens were funded in Alabama, Kentucky, Louisiana and South Carolina.

Math, science or technical education was boosted in Alabama, Tennessee and Virginia.

Building legislation for new buildings was called for in Kentucky, North Carolina and Texas.

High school academic standards were strengthened in South Carolina and Texas.
Economic development... (Continued from page 3)

spent on other goods and services consumed locally, creating still more income and employment.

Today's new jobs are coming from service-producing industries, not large manufacturing operations. Among the new basic employers are insurance companies, research and development laboratories, wholesale businesses, transportation firms, business services, recreation and tourism, colleges and universities, hospitals, military establishments and non-local government offices.

- Encourage the formation of new businesses. There are more entrepreneurial energies in small communities than you might think. New businesses are continually needed to meet changing needs. Young firms can capture some of the dollars currently leaking to other communities and to new local job opportunities. New home-based businesses are particularly compatible with the small town landscape.

- Business formations need three things: capital (resources and financing), labor (hopefully, specially skilled) and technology (computer connections are now possible in even remote, rural areas). Community surveys, inventories, business training sessions, help from experienced retirees and bank-sponsored loan programs can help local leaders to inspire new business growth.

- Increase financial aid received from federal and state governments. It is to the economic advantage of communities to retrieve some of the money taxed away by county, state and federal governments. There are two forms of financial aid: individual transfers received by citizens (social security, public assistance and pensions) and community-level transfers, such as grants, loans and contracts.

- Senior government grants awarded to communities for streets, water and sewer, health programs, education, parks and recreation, and housing provide the necessary infrastructure for business development. And often, the funds received from individual transfers are spent on local goods and services, contributing to the community's economic health.

- (Extracted from February 1985 issue of National Community Reporter, a publication of the National Association of Towns and Townships.)

Southern Rural Development Center
P. O. Box 8406
Mississippi State, MS 39762

A regional training workshop to provide community development specialists with small business management training materials will be conducted June 12-14 at the Ramada Inn Southwest Airport in Memphis.

The Southern Rural Development Center is one of four regional rural development centers cooperating to publish the materials for use in assisting retail and service businesses in small communities.

The materials were primarily developed by Dr. Dennis Fisher, a business development economist with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service at Texas A&M University.

"Dr. Fisher is one of a small number of Extension specialists with specific assignments in the area of small business," according to Dr. Doss Brodnax, coordinator of the Memphis workshop and the new interim director of the Southern Center.

"Dr. Fisher can take a group of retail merchants and conduct a two-hour or a two-day workshop on almost any topic that will help them be better business managers," Brodnax said.

The Memphis workshop is a train-the-trainer session designed to teach Extension community development specialists in the South how to use the new materials and how to market Extension programs to a business audience.

The Southern Center has worked with Fisher to make his workshop materials available to other Extension specialists throughout the nation. The material has no regional limitations and can be used in small or large communities.

The materials will be compiled in a large three-ring notebook that will include such aids as teaching outlines, student worksheets, slide sets, overheads, and discussion materials for 10 topics essential to good business management.

The topics include customer relations, developing a business plan, forecasting profits and cash flow, time management, visual merchandising, computer use in business, financing a business, analyzing your market, personal management and starting a new business.

"While this is a regional workshop, we welcome other community development professionals from other regions and from non-Extension organizations," Brodnax said.

The workshop requires a $25 registration fee.

(Continued on page 4)

Brodnax appointed interim director of SRDC

Dr. Doss Brodnax, extension economist with the Mississippi Cooperative Extension Service, has been named interim director of the Southern Rural Development Center.

Brodnax succeeds Dr. William W. Linder, who died in February after a lengthy illness. Linder had directed the activities of the Center since its beginning in 1974.

Brodnax was appointed by the SRDC Board of Directors to serve an interim six-month appointment. During that time, he will continue working on a part-time basis as a Mississippi extension economist with primary concern for farm policy and public affairs; use-value appraisal of agricultural land; and livestock, poultry and forage economics.

Brodnax also has an appointment as professor of agricultural and extension education and professor of agricultural economics for the Mississippi State

(Continued on page 3)

RELATING RURAL DEVELOPMENT TO YOUR COMMUNITY
Study reveals small hospitals at high risk of closing

Small rural hospitals may be more likely to fail than larger urban hospitals with more resources to a recent, recently, recent study.

Bawman and 1983, 40 hospitals a have year shut their doors. This failure rate is expected to increase to 100 annually in the next, next, next years. According to the article, rural hospitals have a greater chance of closing than large institutions, since they may lack adequate resources to adjust quickly to their new environment.

Daniel R. Longo, director of research at the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals, and Gary A. Chase conducted a national study of hospital failures at Johns Hopkins University. The object of the study was to determine if a small hospital that fell in the May 1984 issue of Medical Care, was to identify variables associated with hospital closure.

The study reveals that hospitals with occupancy rates lower than 65 percent are at higher risk of closing.

Small hospitals may be at a higher risk due to their smaller size and fewer resources.

Council opposes moving rural programs to HUD

The Council for Rural Housing and Development says the Reagan administration is wrong if it tries to move rural housing and development programs from the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Joseph A. Shepard, president of the nonprofit organization based in Washington, D.C., said the council will make an all-out effort to save the programs in USDA's Farmers Home Administra-

"Transferring responsibility for rural housing to HUD would mean transferring federal housing assistance for rural areas from local county offices located in rural communities to HUD area offices located in a remote large city," Shepard said.

In a recent statement, Shepard said that moving the programs to HUD would lead to a remote housing authority that would lose contact with the communities it serves.

"The council's budget plan for cutting back on rural housing and development, and shifting responsibilities to HUD, are an ill-conceived and a slap in the face to rural America," he said.

(Cited from Delaware Cooperative Extension Service's Community Development Newsletter, Vol. 14, No. 1, January 1985.)

Court imposes strict farmland reclamation standards

Proponents of prime farmland reclamation following surface mining won a major battle in October 1984 when a federal judge ruled that the coal company's reclamation plan did not comply with the law.

The ruling was made in response to challenges to the Department of Interior's reclamation standards. The company had implemented the 1977 Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act.

The regulations were challenged by both the coal industry and a group of environmental organizations.

The agricultural and environmental groups argued that the regulations were too lenient and did not protect the environment.

The court, on the other hand, held that the new rules were too stringent since they required that crops actually be grown on reclaimed land.

Federal District Court Judge Thomas F. Flaherty ruled that the Coal Reclamation Plan required too much land to be returned to cropland after completion of mining operations.

He rejected the coal company's request to strike the requirement that crops be grown on reclaimed land to prove restored soil productivity, as well as their argument that conducting a soil survey was sufficient to determine the quality of the land.

The challenged 1983 regulations also required that the coal company's reclamation plan be designed to return cropland to prime farmland in the area where the mining occurred.

The court ruled that the exemption should not be applied to surface mining operations.

Because soil conservation poses one of the greatest obstacles to the full restoration of prime farmland, Flaherty also ruled that the Soil Conservation Service within each state must develop soil density standards as soil density reclamation specifications.

NAFTA guidebook provides grant application advice

Developing federal grant applications is not easy, so the National Association of Towns and Townships (NAFTA) has published a new guidebook to help small town officials. "Keys to Successful Funding: A Small Town Guide to Community Development Block Grants and Other Federal Programs" is designed to help elected local officials and full-time professionals develop a professional set of tools for submitting effective, well-documented, well-planned and affordable grant proposals.

"This publication focuses on the key steps that NAFTA has identified to writing a successful grant proposal," according to Deputy Director Tracy Schiff, NAFTA deputy executive director.

"It is intended to help small-town officials and part-time professionals develop well-documented, well-planned and affordable grants proposals."

The "small cities" CDC program is used to illustrate the grant strategy in this guidebook because it provides over $2 billion a year to small communities under 50,000 in population, and because it is easier to score a proposal than any other federal programs.

Keys to Successful Funding is a development of the National Association of Towns and Townships (NAFTA). NAFTA's National Center for Small Communities published the guidebook as part of the organization's ongoing efforts to support the area of small-town management.

"Copies of Keys to Successful Funding are available for only $5.00 each from NAFTA, 1522 K St., N.W., Suite 730, Washington, D.C. 20005. Inquire about bulk or other discounts.

CAPSULES is published periodically by the Southern Rural Development Center as an information resource for educators, researchers, local officials and private sector groups interested in rural communities and areas of the South.

The Southern Rural Development Center is one of five regional rural development centers in the nation and focuses specifically on rural problems of the Southeast. The Center is headquartered and located at Mississippi State University and provides support to the extension and research units in the states of Georgia, Florida, Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee, and South Carolina.

Dr. H. Doss Brodnax...Interim Director

Jane Rendell...........Editor

Sheila Buckner........Editorial Assistant
NRILN promotes services for rural handicapped

Disabled rural Americans may soon be able to live more independently, thanks to the efforts of the National Rural Independent Living Network (NRILN).

The NRILN is assisting rural communities in developing skills and services networks to provide opportunities for people with physical, mental or emotional disabilities.

Workshop...

(Continued from page 1)

fee which includes two planned luncheons. The sessions begin at 2 p.m. and conclude at noon on June 16. Reservations for the workshop can be made by returning the form below to the Conference Center. Hotel reservations should be made directly with the Radisson Inn Southeast by calling (301) 332-3500. Rooms are $71.75 East Brooks Rd., Memphis, TN 38116. Hotel reservations should be made by June 5 in order to receive the conference rates of $36 plus tax for a single or $46 plus tax for a double.

SOUTHERN BUSINESS MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

Registration Form

Please register me (us) for the Small Business Management Training Workshop being held in Memphis. Registration for the workshop is $25 per person and includes two planned luncheons. We accept cancellation with full refund. The registration may be paid upon arrival if desired.

Name ____________________________
Title ____________________________
Institution ____________________________
Address ____________________________
City, State, Zip __________________________

ADDITIONAL REGISTRANTS

Name ____________________________ Title ____________________________

Name ____________________________ Title ____________________________

A check for $ ____________________________ is enclosed.

Each participating community develops an Independent Living Network to meet the area's special needs and resources. The system consists of a group of volunteers and professionals who will provide these services and skills to persons with disabilities.

NRILN currently has established networks in Tennessee, Louisiana, Kentucky, Ohio, New Hampshire, Colorado, Wyoming, Minnesota, Kansas, Idaho and Alaska.

Additional sites are currently being selected which reflect different topographies and population densities within rural America. Communities with potential coordinating groups such as libraries, ministerial associations, corner stores and schools, etc., are selected for participation.

The goal of the NRILN is to establish 500 independent living networks by March 1986.

For additional information, contact NRILN, School of Education, Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA 98225.

Southeastern economy to grow moderately in 1985

Will the Southeast's economy continue to grow in 1985? Although the region's anticipated economic strength in 1985 will differ sharply among individual states and sectors, moderate economic growth is expected. This is the conclusion of several recent studies of "The Southeast in 1985," published in the February 1985 issue of Economic Review.

The studies predict that construction, services and manufacturing of auto parts, building materials, defense equipment and packaging will show a good year. But textiles, apparel and other manufacturing sectors hurt by the reduced prices of imported textiles will continue to struggle in the coming year.

Agriculture, energy and export-related businesses will only if the dollar declines to a substantially lower exchange value against other major world currencies.

The studies, in state-by-state analyses, predict the following for the states of the Southeast in 1985:

GEORGIA: Despite some troubles in important parts of Florida's economy, the state's recent record of relatively fast growth is likely to extend through 1985. The rapid movement of people into the state should boost incomes, consumer spending and construction. Florida's manufacturing sector will profit from continued national growth and from liberal defense expenditures, and a healthy public and local position to promote construction spending further. These factors should largely overcome weaknesses in the tourism, manufacturing and agricultural sectors induced by the high foreign exchange value of the dollar, overbuilding and the Citrus Industry.

GEORGIA: Georgia's economy is expected to build on its healthy 1984 performance, although all major state industries will probably experience somewhat slower growth. Commercial construction and retail trade could face the most abrupt adjustments, while residential construction and services should expand at slightly reduced rates. The restructuring of Georgia's textile industry will continue to burden manufacturing, but the public sector should perk up this year with tax coffers re-

ploated. Georgia's farm outlook is barely better than last year's mediocre showing. Still, overall economic momentum should remain the strongest in the Southeast.

TENNESSEE: Most sectors of Tennessee's economy probably will experience moderate growth in 1985. Continuing advances are likely in the state's personal income and retail sales should continue to grow. Tennessee's construction, agriculture and tourism industries are expected to post good prospects for 1985. The bleak outlook for industrial trade will be troublesome, however, since the state's chief manufacturing jobs are export-related, and import pressures continue in industries vulnerable to import competition.

LOUISIANA: Even with expected accelerations in residential housing and some manufacturing industries this year, Louisiana's economy probably will expand more slowly than the nation's. Simultaneously, widespread demand for energy, coupled with the price-depressing effects of new supplies, has cut deeply into Louisiana's oil-dominated economy. Louisiana's important seaport activity and agricultural and manufactured export industries have also been hurt by international trade problems.

ALABAMA: Alabama's economic recovery has been less spectacular than those in some other Southeastern states because of the state's heavy industrial sector, susceptible to import competition. There will be limited declines in unemployment, income and consumer spending from several sources: commercial, industrial and office construction; production of machinery and equipment; defense-related manufacturing; and state and local spending on public works. In general there will be a more moderate expansion in the state's economy in 1985 than occurred in 1984.
Problems of agricultural banks reflect farm problems

Agricultural banks are few and far between, but they are increasing, says some Stan of the Economic Research Service.

As a group, the ag banks are in sound condition on the whole, but some are not enough to cover their loans. Of those who are, however, are slipping into the problem category as they face a rising tide of delinquent loans and loan losses," Stamat says.

The problems of agricultural lenders reflect the problems in agriculture--measurable. Weakness is shown in the financial condition of many farms, and depressed sales for businesses that serve farmers or farm communities. In California, the Corn Belt and the Northern Plains are hit.

South Carolina acts to cut prime farmland losses

South Carolina is worried about the loss of much of its prime farmland and is preparing to do something about it.

The proportion of land in farms in the state has increased by 49 percent since World War II.

Use value tax assessment of agricultural land has been ongoing since 1975. In 1980, the state passed a "Right-to-Farm" law which states that no agricultural land can be condemned unless use value tax assessment provides certain conditions are met.

But now South Carolina has decided it is time to act on a curtail agricultural land loss.

Officials have established an Interagency Task Force on Agricultural Land.

The task force consists of representatives from the state's natural resource agencies, tax commission, agriculture, NASA and county planners, and includes federal and local officials from such agencies as the Soil Conservation Service and regional council of governments.

The task force will be to develop a statewide public educational program about agricultural land loss, as well as develop legislative recommendations.

(Condensed from a story in the Feb. 1985 issue of National Community Reporter, a publication of the National Association of Towns and Townships.)

Rural areas have high percentage of older people

Nonmetro areas have a higher proportion of older people than metro areas, according to the USGA, a researcher with the USDA's Economic Research Division.

In November, May made a presentation on the geographic situation of the rural and small towns in relation to the Rural Development Conference of the National Commission on Rural," Stamat says.

The presentation included a discussion of the geographic distribution of the population. The findings showed that nonmetro older people are more highly concentrated than the total nonmetro population than are metropolitan areas.

The nonmetro elderly population is concentrated in the South and North Central regions.

Rural and small town elderly people are disadvantaged relative to the metropolitan elderly in such characteristics as income, housing adequacy, access to communication, and health. Nevertheless, grown from natural increase and improvement of people into rural areas has been rapid in recent years.

Older people clearly express a preference for living in rural areas, despite the fact that rural community wealth is lower and fewer services are available.

Large independent firms create new local jobs

A recent study by James P. Miller's article entitled "Rethinking Small Business as the Best Way to Create Rural Jobs" and appearing in the February 1985 issue of Rural Development Perspectives, that show that small local firms create less than a third of new jobs.

Branch plants of large corporations contribute more to employment growth in rural areas than previously thought.

Jobs generated by small independent businesses in rural counties appear to be less stable and less permanent than these businesses are likely to fall within five years.

The data suggest that:

- Affiliates of large corporations--headquarters, branch offices, and subsidiaries--are important.
- Independent firms, particularly small independent firms (sole proprietors, partnerships, and incorporated businesses at one location), create fewer permanent jobs than affiliated small firms. Small independent firms create many jobs when new, but high failure rates and low job expansion lead to net losses after five years.

Large independent firms create fewer jobs, but their stability suggests they may do better.

They also account for proportionally fewer losses from plant closings and employment cutbacks.

Miller suggests that local governments may need to combine small business investment strategies with traditional rural development strategy--braching plants of large corporations. Both are needed, Miller concludes, to assure job growth and job stability.

Sponsors, FMHA provide shelter for rural homeless

The Farmers Home Administration (FMHA) has launched a program designed to help the nation's rural homeless people.

The program, according to the Housing Assistance Council, is a "Right-to-Farm" law which states that no agricultural land can be condemned unless use value tax assessment provides certain conditions are met.

Stamat says that the program also show that migration from metropolitan areas to nonmetropolitan areas is slowing down. Between 1981 and 1982, the percentage of Americans who left metropolitan areas for nonmetropolitan areas, and approximately 2.2 million moved from nonmetro to metro.

These statistics were drawn from the 1982 Current Population Survey.

The program provides a more detailed view of the total United States and individual regions and national and regional totals for all metropolitan areas, central cities, and nonmetropolitan areas together.

This article is from Delaware Cooperative Extension Service's Community Development Communications, Vol. 9, No. 1, January 1985.)
Report links farm crisis, budget cuts, rural problems

The proposed federal budget cuts combined with the farm crisis could have a devastating effect on rural areas while favoring cities. The report of the National Academy of Development Organizations (NADO) cited in a recent report of the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO). The report shows that the budget cuts have bypassed many rural areas, and the report entitled "How Does It Mean For The Development of Rural Areas and Small Cities?"

The report states, "The combination of the potential agricultural disaster and the documented decline in population, income and labor force in rural areas becomes very significant for the future," according to the report.

With thousands of farmers and hundreds of rural businesses depending on federal aid, the elimination of small federal programs is likely to spell disaster.

The study cites research by the Congressional Research Service showing that federal expenditures on agricultural and resource programs, business assistance, community facilities, veterans' housing and native Americans favor nonmetro areas. "These are the areas served by public and nonprofit institutions in the President's budget," the NADO report points out.

In contrast, the federal programs which favor metropolitan areas--education, space, non-veterans' housing, health and social services, employment, training and higher education--are scheduled for increases or modest cuts or freezes.

If programs like Economic Development Administration, Appalachian Regional Commission, Farmers Home Administration and Small Business Administration are abolished, "large geographical areas of the country will lose any hope of participating in economic recovery," the NADO report concludes.


Small talk on big issues

* Urban and rural families are now about the same size, in 1980, rural women 35-44 years old had borne an average of 285 children per 100 women, compared with 286 among non-rural women in that age-about a 12 percent difference. Urban and rural families and small towns have children at a somewhat earlier age than urban women, even though they do not expect larger families.

* The proportion of black children in families with incomes below poverty line is much higher than for other families--46.5 versus 14.4 percent. In 1981, 33.2 percent of non-white, 31.7 percent of white and 41.2 percent of all other children in poverty were in families headed by women.

Survey reveals funding problems of rural libraries

Rural libraries may be inadequate to the job of serving their patrons. If so, that might raise at least a small question about the quality of life in rural areas.

A new survey of 1,100 libraries found that:

- 20 percent of those surveyed had budgets of less than $5,000 per year and nearly half had budgets of under $30,000 per year.

- The average rural library was open nearly 40 hours per week, but 22 were open only 20 hours or less per week.

- Nearly half answered fewer than 50 inquiries per week from patrons, while half of those answered fewer than 10.

The survey's results were published in an article by John Headly in the Spring 1984 issue of the Journal of the American Library Association.

Headly also notes that only a very small percentage of rural libraries had access to online cataloging, interlibrary loans, database searching, or inhouse computers.

Heady concludes that funding is the major problem and will continue to be as long as rural libraries' budgets are dependent on local property taxes. Another problem, though, is isolation. The average patron of a rural library traveled 14 miles to reach it, and the library itself is only 40 miles from the nearest city of more than 25,000 inhabitants.

(Extracted from February 1985 issue of Rural Development Perspectives, a publication of USDA-ERS.)

Agencies plan to develop local government software

The National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) has signed a memorandum of understanding with the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture Extension Service to explore ways to design and develop information and technical assistance packages for local governments.

Under the agreement, NARC and the Extension Service will explore ways to broaden existing technical financial management software programs, and investigate ways to access and utilize the Extension data system to pinpoint programs and techniques that could be used by regional agencies and their local governments.

NARC represents over 300 substate regional councils of local governments nationwide. It was established in 1967 to foster intergovernmental cooperation on issues that are multi-jurisdictional in nature, such as economic development, transportation, environmental management and rural development.

Editor's note...

A recent capsules article entitled "NOCS Aids County Planning in "improvements" was condensed from a larger article which appeared in the Dec. 1984 issue of "Aid News." The capsule was written for publication in the National Association of Counties and Townships. We regret that we failed to give credit, where credit was due, and we take this opportunity to commend the NATA publication for the quality of its news coverage regarding rural and small community issues.

These percentages are all about three-fourths as high in nonmetro areas as in metro areas.
* Immigrants generally do not seek out rural and small-town communities. Only 10 percent of the people living in the United States in 1980 who were born abroad in 1975 lived in nonmetro counties, compared with 26 percent of the total population. This disparity in numbers of immigrants is one of the major remaining ways in which large cities and suburbs differ demographically from rural areas. A chief exception to this pattern is in the Southwest and West where large percentages of hired farm workers are immigrants, including many illegals.

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In Print...

Community Economic Analysis, A How To Manual, by Ron Hustadde, Ron Shaffer and Ron Saultz. It is intended to help individuals who need to bring information to a group of citizens or decisionmakers concerned with the economic future of a community. This publication contains analytical tools that are usually found in disparate forms of analysis and provides a bibliography. For information contact the Department of Rural Studies, Oregon State University, Corvallis.

Physician Recruitment to Rural Georgia Communities presents the results of a research project, the purpose of which was to determine from the financial side exactly what rural communities have in the past, are currently doing, and plan to do to the future to recruit new physicians. The research was conducted by the Center for Business and Economic Studies, the Economic Development Center, Institute for Business, Univ. of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602. For more information, or to make this address or call her at (404) 542-1721.

On Schedule


International Conference on Food and Water, May 26-30, Texas A&M University. The theme of the conference is "Water and Food Policy in World Food Supplies." For additional information, contact Jack L. Cross, Conference Coordinator, Room 138, Memorial Student Center, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843, (409) 845-9519 or (409) 845-4393.

Small Business Management Workshop, June 12-14, Ramada Inn Southwest Airport, Memphis, Tenn. Primarily designed for Extension community development specialists, this conference will provide programming. For information, call (615) 204-7041. The workshop will cover the small business owner/operating under the following management areas: developing a business plan, acquiring management, profits and cash flow, time management, merchandising, computer use in business, financing a business, analyzing your market, personnel management and starting a new business. Nonextension participants welcome. For information, call Sue M. Jones, Southern Rural Development Center, Box 5406, Mississippi State, MS 39702, (601) 325-3207.

Southern Extension Public Affairs Committee Meeting, June 19, Contact Bilton Cliven, Chairman, Cooperative Extension Services, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602.

Tenth National Conference on Social Work in Rural Areas--The Past Charting the Future, July 28-31, Columbia, Mo. This is co-sponsored by the University of Missouri--Columbia and the University of Arkansas College Social Work Program. For more information contact Joanne Medley, Department of Sociology, University of Missouri-Columbia School of Social Work, 709 Clark Hall, Columbia, MO 65211.

Community Development Society Meeting, July 28-Aug. 1, Logan, Utah.

Rural Sociological Society (RSS) Annual Meeting Aug. 21-25, Virginia Tech. The theme for this year's meeting is "Rural Community Development." For registration information, contact John A. Bellwood, Rural Sociology, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA 24061; (703) 961-5779.

National Triennial Extension CRD Program Leaders Workshop, Sept. 24-26, Logan, Utah.

On Film

Agricultural Policy in 1985 and Beyond: A 59-minute discussion on 1985 agricultural choices, was videotaped during the policy conference sponsored by American Enterprise Institute on Jan. 26. Participants were Thomas S. Foley, House majority whip and vice-chairman of the House Agricultural Committee; Clifford N. Hardin, Secretary of Agriculture 1969-71; John A. Schmitz, Schmitz & Associates, Secretary of Agriculture, 1965-69; Clayton K. Yeutter, president, Chicago Mercantile Exchange, Deputy Special Trade Representative and former Assistant Secretary, Executive Office of the President. The tape is available for $25.00 per copy. Orders and returns will be handled without cost. For information call Rob Doyle, (202) 862-5586 or (800) 424-2878.
Junior colleges enhance quality of rural labor force

Junior and community colleges are accomplishing the important task of improving the quality of the rural labor force, according to a recent survey.

The survey, conducted by Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station sociologists, examined 964 young adults from six Southern states: Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina and Texas.

Results indicate a consistent payoff to young, rural adults who achieve junior college associate degrees. In the past, many rural youths were at a disadvantage in competing for good jobs because the appropriate educational opportunities were not accessible to them in rural areas.

One response to the need for better rural secondary education was the creation of a network of junior and community colleges. These schools, offering two-year associate degrees, increased the availability of college training for rural youth and improved their possibilities for achieving a broader variety of psychologically and economically rewarding occupations.

The survey results indicate that junior or community college graduates attain better employment than do those with less education who complete either high school or vocational-technical programs. This holds true regardless of race, sex or migration states.

However, the better employment situation of junior college graduates is only slightly better than that of young adults with less education. Of the five job quality indicators considered (income, supervisory responsibility, and perceived control over speed of work, timing of breaks, and number of hours worked), only the perceptions of having some control over work speed and timing of work breaks were better for junior college graduates.

Completion of a two-year junior college program, then, is a transitional attainment level between high school and college that results in identifiable and real job quality benefits to its graduates.

Southern Rural Development Center
P. O. Box 5406
Mississippi State, MS 39762

Southeastern states suffer from farmland price drop

Since real estate accounts for 78 percent of farm assets in the Southeast, even small changes in farmland prices can seriously alter the financial position of farmers.

Consequently, the generally high drop in land prices since their peak in 1981 has been a factor in the Southeast agricultural sector's financial distress. Until the 1950s, land values were closely related to net farm income. Since that time, however, the link between farm income and farmland prices has become more tenuous.

Beginning in the 1970s, several factors combined to produce rapid escalation in farmland prices. High commodity prices led to high farm income; better farm technology led to prosperity and expansion; and low interest rates encouraged farmers to undertake debt. All these factors led to a jump in agricultural demand for farmland.

Non-agricultural demand also climbed markedly as a result of a boom in residential and commercial construction and increased profits for speculators.

Under the combined influence of these factors, the national average value of farmland rose by 275 percent between 1970 and 1981.

But land price escalation came to an abrupt halt in 1981 when commodity prices and farm profitability plunged, interest rates skyrocketed, and the dollar's soaring value weakened demand for agricultural products.

More recently, prices in the Southeast have turned up enough to erase most of the 7 percent decline that had occurred since 1981. On the average, Southeastern land prices declined by less than 5 percent during 1984.

Within the Southeast, however, farmland prices vary considerably between areas and by type of farmland. The value of land with development potential has changed little recently as has the value of land suitable for specialty crops. The most severe price declines have affected land devoted to crop farming, with minimal potential for non-farm development. Such land has declined from 25-50 percent in price over the past four years.

The following state-by-state summary of land prices in the Southeast reflects the

Speaker questions rural renaissance of 70s

The "rural renaissance" of the '70s never happened, according to John Fraser Hart of the University of Minnesota, a speaker at the "Financing Economic Development" conference held in Chicago Feb. 1-2.

The much-ballyhooed "population turnaround" of the '70s, Hart said, was not really rural growth but actually "urban exodus.

Hart cited statistics showing that most growth happened in the "urban fringe" or counties adjacent to metro areas.

Although Hart conceded that retirement-age migration to rural resort-type areas is real and substantial, he seemed to refute the idea that people were being attracted to rural areas, at least in the Midwest states he studied.

(Condensed from a story in CRD News-letter March 1985.)

RELATING RURAL DEVELOPMENT TO YOUR COMMUNITY
Southern poverty increases after 25-year decline

After a 25-year decline, poverty in the South increased between 1979 and 1984. Although the overall decline continues to grow, unemployment and underemployment (employment with lower than average wages and weekly earnings) continue to retard the prosperity of people in lower income brackets.

As a result, the number of poor people and the rate of poverty in the Southern states rose sharply, returning the number of poor in the South to levels existing 25 years ago.

Blacks in the South remain the hardest hit by poverty. Poverty among black Southerners in 1983 was probably as high as 39 percent. More than 60 percent of Southern black families headed by single females lived below the poverty level.

Most indicators suggest that these trends will continue. Almost half of the Southern states have unemployment rates above the national level, and the average decline of manufacturing jobs, this trend appears certain to continue in several parts of the region.

These Southern towns continue to face the coming years to offer more workers lower wages than the nation’s, and to create jobs and occupations which pay lower wages. The decline of manufacturing and public service jobs continue to offer fewer opportunities for employment.

Study reveals regional malls hurt rural retail sales

What effect does a regional mall have on rural small communities? A study conducted by Timothy O. Borich, James R. Steward and Harlene Hail attempted to find out. The results of their study were published in the January 1985 issue of The Rural Sociologist.

"Behavior patterns associated with shopping on local streets are changing with an increased emphasis toward urban migration, especially the areas that have "large shopping malls," the researchers said. "Retail consumers are increasingly leaving their local streets for what is more readily available in their home communities."

"This synergetic shopping pattern presents a genuine threat to the survival of small retailers," according to the study.

Borich, Steward and Hail based their results on their study of the opening of a regional shopping mall in Sioux City, Iowa in 1980 and the results of the adjacent four-county area.

They found that the opening of the mall resulted in a decrease in total retail sales in the surrounding four counties (Plymouth, Lyon, Woodbury and Winneshiek), while the county in which the mall is located (Woodbury) enjoyed an increase in total sales. This decrease occurred at a time during which the population of the area experienced no growth.

The implications of this growing market leakage from rural areas are varied, the study concludes, but "all have negative consequences for the small community."

Potentially negative effects include:

- Isolation of the less mobile rural population, decline of local tax bases, decline of public services, decrease in population, and alteration in the age structures of rural towns.

CAPSULES is published periodically by the Southern Rural Development Center as an information service for educators, researchers, local officials and private citizens interested in improving the quality of life in the rural communities and rural areas of the South.

The Southern Rural Development Center is one of four regional rural development centers in the nation and focuses on the problems of the Southern region. The Center is located at Mississippi State University and provides support staff to the extension service of the 29 land-grant universities in 13 Southern states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

Dr. H. Doss Brodnax, Interim Director
Jane Rendleiro, Editor
Sheila Buckner, Editorial Assistant

Arizona program takes performing arts to rural areas

The performing arts are thriving in rural Arizona communities thanks to a performing arts touring program of the Arizona Commission on the Arts.

For free, performing artists of all kinds—mimes, dancers, musicians, puppeteers, and storytellers—are touring rural Arizona towns. At the same time, the small towns are becoming artistic magnets of their own. These small towns are reminders of the difference they can make in the state of Arizona.

The program is sponsored by Tonda Gorton, a Phoenix businesswoman, and the Arizona Commission on the Arts. The program is conducted in conjunction with the Commission on the Arts, in the April/March 1985 issue of Small Towns.

The Arizona Arts Program began six weeks ago. Today, according to Gorton, 10 communities provide yearly performing arts services for small towns.

To plan and conduct the arts program, according to Gorton, town sponsors meet yearly at a major arts festival. The Commission on the Arts provides workshops during the festival on fund raising, block booking, summer concerts and programming.

Sponsors, working with workshops, listen to and watch artists performing at the arts festivals, as well as getting tips from the festival’s program coordinator. There are also tape-of-the-availability of available performers. All the performers are eligible for bookings for the rural communities participating in the arts festival.

The Commission’s community development specialist works year-round to provide technical assistance and to help communities in finding performing arts vehicles.

The Commission’s goal is to help small towns provide business services for small towns.

The Arizona Arts Program sponsors include community colleges, community centers, private foundations and municipal governments.

The program is to match the federal state funds awarded by the Arizona Commission on the Arts.

Visiting artists, says Gorton, do more than just perform. They interact with people of all ages—"providing ideas, stimulating creativity and encouraging active participation in the arts. The arts also help to demonstrate the potential for performance, workshops and lecture demonstrations in schools, fairs, public parks, libraries and community service clubs."

Each participating town has a story. A town, for example, which is essentially isolated, is closely linked to the state’s arts programs. In 1980, 4,17 W. Roosevelt, Phoenix, AZ 85003.

It’s an idea...

* Patience, loving care, and dedication has created a new respite care facility located at Parrish, Fla. The purpose of this facility is to provide enjoyable vacations for the disabled person while giving his family respite time to take care of other responsibilities. The facility, fully staffed by recreational therapists, aids and a dietitian. Disabled persons are taken to several area attractions including Disney World, Sea World and local beaches. All levels and degrees of mental and physical handicap condition are admitted except those diagnosed as emotionally disturbed. For more information, contact Denise Gant, Ed.D., Parrish, FL 33554, (813) 756-3160.

* Another recreation program designed to give families of disabled persons a break from the day-to-day hassles of raising their child. The program is staffed by professionals and held in Kentuck Kanto, Park. The program, which is known as the Camp Kommet, which is a five-day program, includes swimming, hiking, swimming, arts and crafts, camping, nature study and more. For more information, contact Gayle Allison, Kentuck Kanto, 950, Owensboro, KY 42302, (502) 694-0606.
Small talk on big issues...

* The Southern Regional Sociological
Association is sponsoring a new journal, Southern South. The purpose of the
journal is to stimulate rural sociologi-
ical research and application in the South,
encouraging research on social and regi-
onal concerns. One volume was pub-
lished in 1983, with another scheduled
for publication in 1984. Individual and
library subscriptions are $15.00 per year.

To order, write Editorial Office, Rural
Sociology Department, A&M University,
College Station, TX 77843.

* Members of the Rural Sociological
Society interested in rural health recently
formed a Rural Health Interest Group.
Curtis Horstman, University of
Wisconsin-Madison is the current chair-
man. For information, contact her at the
Department of Rural Sociology, 350 Agricul-
ture Hall, 1410 Linden Dr., Urb., of
Wisconsin, Madison, WI 53706 (608)
262-1510.

* The South is aging faster than
the rest of the nation, according to a
recently published report by the Committee
on Southern Trends of the Southern Growth
Policies Board entitled Forward: Visions of the Future of the South. This
is due in part to its climate and environ-
ment attracting elderly from other regions. The over-80 population
segment is the fastest growing segment of the region. This segment is expected to grow by about 140 percent
between 1970 and 2010, nearly nine times
the growth rate of the total population.
The over-65 population in the region is expected to increase by 63
percent. There will be a wide disparity
between incomes of the elderly. Although
the elderly are becoming more affluent on
the average, the elderly poor tend to be
very poor. One out of every seven persons over 65 lived below the
poverty level in 1981.

* The Campbell Center for Historic
Preservation Studies will offer 21 summer
workshops on architectural preservation,
care of museum objects and furniture
conservation. The workshops, varying from
one to five days in length and scheduled
from June 3 through July 17, will be taught
by practicing professionals from throughout
North America. The Campbell Center, a
not-for-profit organization established in 1980, is the only such organiza-
tion devoted exclusively to offering
short courses in the identification and
preservation of cultural resources. A Summer Workshop News Bulletin detailing
workshop contents, registration and fees,
accommodations and transportation is
available upon request from Campbell
Center, 350 Agriculture Hall, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX
77843.

* Three of the four states top-ranked
in industrial growth in 1984 are in the South, according to a latest published by the
Industrial Development Magazine. Texas,
Florida and Alabama are ranked second,
third and fourth after number one ranked
California. The 1984 figures count busi-
nesses either moving into the states or
expanding existing operations in 1984.
They do not count firms investing less than
$500,000.

* More blacks and Southerners are coming
home. According to a recently published report
by the Committee on Southern Trends of the Southern Growth Policies Board, between 1965 and 1970 the South lost a net of
216,000 blacks. Between 1975 and 1980, the region gained a
net of 195,000 blacks. This trend has
three between 1965 and 1980, there seem to be two distinct populations
returning—their descendants who have become economi-
cally successful and those still unable
to find work. In-migrants were more
likely than those-born to be employed as
professionals, but they were also more
likely to be unemployed. Second, black
females tend to return to rural areas and
black males to return to Southern cities.
Returning women are more likely to be
poor, contributing to a rise in the overall
rate of poverty. The men in their lives often
remain in the urban centers of the North.
Third, in-migrants are more often
globally dispersed. Many couples
live in multi-spell residences, with husbands in the North
and wives and children alternating between the
two regions.

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and wives and children alternating between the
two regions.

Farmland... (Continued from page 1)
diversity prevalent between areas:
ALABAMA: Market activity for Alabama
Farmland is reportedly slow, with ample supply
but not sustained. The Alabama Land prices are expected to decline moderately
(2-5 percent) in 1984. Wide variations exist across the state, with prices
steadily in the peanut-producing area, but declining in Alabama's backbend area from
Montgomery westward, where most acreage
is devoted to grasslands and soybeans. The prices are up in the northwestern Valley,
some of the most fertile land in the state, turned up during 1984, as it did in the
western part of the state along the Tennesseee-Tombigbee Waterway.

FLORIDA: For the state as a whole, prices
increased significantly during 1984. In the Panhandle region, prices
apparently held stable in 1984 although they were 25-40 percent below the 1981 peak levels. Farther east, land prices
are down about $100 in recent years. As a result of the serious freeze of December 1983, extremely damaged citrus groves in
central Florida have dropped sharply in value and unmanaged citrus groves have risen in value. Land devoted to most other types of farming has increased in value, and there is less pressure for development.

LOUISIANA: The average land offices declined moderately in 1984. Since
1981, land prices in central and southwestern Louisiana have
ranged from 25-50 percent. Prices have tended to
decline more severely for land where row
cropping or sugarcane has been grown than for land suitable for peanuts and
tobacco. For the Piedmont area, land prices have varied widely. The
highest prices have been paid in the northern half of Georgia, where
poultry farms did well in early 1984, prices in the southern half have
remained stable.

Louisiana: Average prices for the state
decreased by $100 per acre since 1981. In
the state's backbend area, land prices have
remained relatively stable. In the northern half of the state, casual sahness, snow, and
drought have reduced prices. Positive land-prize developments have emerged in
suburban sprawl and rapid local economic growth have supported land prices in some areas.

MISSISSIPPI: Land values declined 8
percent in 1984. In the area surrounding
Columbus and southward toward Meridian and Jackson, where land values are tied largely to prices from soybean production, prices
dropped by 10 percent in 1984.
In the south-central and western Mississippi, prices have declined by 10
percent. South of the Yazoo River, land values are tied only to prices from cotton production. In the Delta region, prices have declined by 10
percent.

TENNESSEE: Tennessee farmland prices
apparently held steady slightly in 1984. In the major crooping areas
in western Tennessee, land prices have declined by 10 percent. In central and eastern Tennessee, price trends were positive in 1984, except in the most rural areas where agriculture is the
only potential use for the land. The increasing or stable land values in eastern Tennessee, combined with declining
land values in the western part of the state, have nearly closed the former gap between prices in the two areas.

In summary, land values have varied greatly in recent years for various
reasons, including changing market conditions, changing land use patterns,
land use potential, and potential use, Land with potential for development or land which could produce specific crops for
specific purposes at a price more than land on the market. The demand for land has dropped. Except for Florida, the Southeastern states are struggling to recover from the 1981 farmland price plunge.

Condensed from "Farmland Price Behavior: A Study in Diversity," an article by Gene
Wilson and Gene Sullivan appearing in the
April 1985 issue of The Economic Review.

Names in the news

* MR. GEORGE ENLOW has been named
Assistant Director of the Extension Pro-
grams at Lincoln University in Missouri.

* DR. WESLEY CORNELIUS McCLURE, vice
chancellor for academic affairs at Southern
University in Baton Rouge, La., has been
temporarily appointed to serve as research
director of the university's Evans-Allen
Research Program.
In Print...

Building Neighborhood Organizations, by James V. Cunningham and Milton Kollers, provides a model of urban neighborhood organizations to examine how small, volunteer groups form, pursue issues, and solve problems. Many of the insights can be applied to community groups operating in small towns. To order write Univ. of Notre Dame Press, Notre Dame, IN 46556-0774. Price is $7.95 for paperback and $15.95 for hardcover.

Conserve Neighborhoods, published by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, funnels information on neighborhood revitalization. The book covers movements in the United States to grass-roots agencies and neighborhood organizations around the country. It provides information about public meetings, workshops, grants, and legislation, as well as much information on how to rehabilitate deteriorating housing, promote neighborhood, prevent arson, plan for a community's future, revitalize commercial areas, plan community events, raise money and make effective public relations on a small budget. A one-year subscription (10 issues) costs $15. Order from Conserve Neighborhoods, 1133 4th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

Creative Capital Financing, intended for state and local governments, describes new sources of capital, analyzes pros and cons of state bond issues, and helps to evaluate alternatives. The book may be obtained from Municipal Finance Officers Association (MFOA), 180 N. Mich. Ave., Suite 800, Chicago, IL 60601; (312) 977-9700. Cost is $18.50 for MFOA members and $31.50 for nonmembers, plus a $2 handling fee for all billed orders.

Friends of Recreation: Getting Started is a free booklet discussing the method of encouraging citizen involvement and volunteer effort in ensuring facilities and the provision of services in municipalities. This method, "Friends of Recreation," is a private, nonprofit corporation that works with a municipality to expand local recreation programs and upgrade public facilities. The group is basically a small-scale community charita-

bility founded to the expansion of recreational opportunities. This booklet explains the program, how to organize a membership drive, raise money and incorporate, and what is available from the New Hampshire Office of State Planning, 25 Beacon St., Concord, NH 03301.

A Health Care Agenda for the States is a new publication of the Conference on Alternative State and Local Policies that details an agenda for health care for American state legislatures. Edited by Lee Webb and Louise Arnhem, the book was written to help lawmakers, legislators, and their advisors understand and advocate for a health care system. The book contains over 30 state agendas, and the editors have made sure that the documentation is accessible to people. A one-year subscription (10 copies) costs $15. Order from Conserve Neighborhoods, National Trust for Historic Preservation, 1133 4th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

On Schedule


SOUTHERN REGIONAL INFORMATION EXCHANGE GROUP (SIREX) MID-AMERICAN ANNUAL MEETING, May 21-23, Washington, D.C. Contact Christopher N. Hunte at (504) 771-8685 or call (202) 447-5772.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FOOD AND WATER, May 26-30, Texas A&M University. The theme of the conference is "Water and Water Policy in World Food Supplies." For additional information, contact Jack L. Cross, Conference Coordinator, Room 138, 6127 Kings Gate, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843, (409) 845-2591 or (409) 845-6658.

SMALL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP, June 12-14, Cambia Indiana University, Airport, Memphis, Tenn. Primarily designed for Extension community development specialists, the materials to train the small town business owners/operators in the following management areas: customer relations, forecasting profits and cash flow, time management, visual merchandising, computer use in business, financing a business, analyzing your market, personnel management and starting a new business. Nonparticipants welcome. For information, contact Sue H. Jones, Southern Regional Extension Public Affairs.

SOUTHERN EXTENSION PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING, June 19. Contact Bill1 Given, Chairman, Cooperative Extension Service, University of Georgia Athens, Ga. 30602.

TENTH NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON SOCIAL WORK IN THE RURAL AREAS--THE PAST CHARTING THE FUTURE, July 28-31, Columbia, Mo. This is conducted by the University of Missouri-Columbia School of Social Work and the Arkansas College Social Work Program. For more information contact Joanne Mermelstein, Program Co-chairperson, Univ. of Missouri-Columbia School of Social Work, 709 Clark Hall, Columbia, MO 65211.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY MEETING, July 28-Aug. 1, Logan, Utah.

RURAL SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIETY (RSS) ANNUAL MEETING, Aug. 21-25, Virginia Tech. The theme is "Development for America's Rural Community Development." For registration information, contact John A. Ballweg, Rural Sociology, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA 24061; (703) 961-5779.

NATIONAL TRIENNIAL EXTENSION CRD PROGRAM LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP, Sept. 24-26, Logan, Utah.

SUNBELT AGRICULTURAL EXPOSITION, Oct. 15-17, Noultrie, Ga. For more information write Sunbelt Agricultural Exposition, P.O. Box 1202, Tifton, GA 31793 or call (912) 386-3459.

SIXTH ANNUAL RURAL AND SMALL SCHOOLS CONFERENCE, Kansas State University, Oct. 29-30. Questions regarding the conference may be referred to Charles C. Minor or Karen Keller at (913) 532-5575 or write the Division of Continuing Education, 316 Ungerer Hall, Manhattan, KS 66506.

WATER QUALITY: AGRICULTURAL AND COMMUNITY CONCERNS, tentatively scheduled for November 7-8 at the Airport Ramada Inn, Hapeville, (Atlanta), Ga. Participants will include Extension educators, government representatives and agencies and organizations involved in regulatory activities. For registration information, contact Eddie D. Wynn, 248 Barre Hall, Clemson University, (803) 656-3460.

A 3RD PROFESSIONAL AGRICULTURAL WORKERS CONCERNS (PACW), Dec. 1-3, Tuskegee Institute, Al. Theme: "Human Resources Development in Rural America-A Myth or Reality." For information contact Dr. T. Williams, Director, Human Resources Development Center, P. O. Box 681, Tuskegee Institute, AL 36088; (205) 727-9764.
Phillips says rural areas must adjust to federal cuts

The federal role in rural development has changed forever, and state and local officials must adjust to less federal control, more local responsibility and greater involvement of the private sector in development efforts.

This was the message delivered to the monthly meeting of the Albemarle Commission by the USDA's rural development policy director, Bill Phillips, Jr.

The Albemarle Commission (formerly the Albemarle Regional Planning and Development Commission) is comprised of 24 local governments in northeast North Carolina involved in rural improvement.

"The days of endless federal funds are at an end," Phillips told the Commission, "but the extraordinary investment which those funds represent--in rural roads, health and environmental treatment centers, schools, dams, libraries, industrial parks and other development necessities--is a strong foundation on which the future of rural America can be built."

Phillips said local and state officials must "make the most of this endowment."

Study reveals rural areas attracting more physicians

Rural areas are becoming more attractive locations for public health professionals, according to a study conducted recently by Brian Harmon and Bert Ellenbogen.

The study, entitled "Doctors in Rural Areas in the Early 1980s" and appearing in the Winter 1982 issue of Sociology of Rural Life, reveals that at the same time that the nation's supply of physicians is

(Continued on page 3)

we've been given, and build the future with brains and enterprise rather than just bricks and mortar."

The physical infrastructure of rural America is "in need of some repair," Phillips said, "but while 50 years of federal spending has helped put that infrastructure in place, it's time we wrote the next chapter of the rural development story--the chapter on new jobs, new businesses and new opportunities."

"The federal government cannot be the sole, or even the principal author of this new chapter," he said, "but we can help you make history yourselves, and we will."

Phillips said federal programs have helped point the way toward this new approach to rural development.

"We learned the value of partnerships between various levels of government, and between government and private enterprise," he said. "We learned the value of financial leveraging, of making one dollar do the work of ten. And from every federal development program of the last 50 years, we have learned that Washington doesn't always know best."

Phillips said the "best thing the federal government can do for rural America today is to reform the federal tax code, reduce the federal deficit and rebuild the national economy. We're doing these things, and the people of rural America have shown that you can do the rest."

He cited growing trends of rural business entrepreneurship, technological innovation and public-private partnerships as evidence of "the new chapter in rural development you're writing today."

RELATING RURAL DEVELOPMENT TO YOUR COMMUNITY
Oklahoma Extension offers computer budget studies

Leaders in many local governments are under pressure to provide more and better community services with limited or reduced budgets. Oklahoma Extension offers a program which helps small townships provide maximum quality services that are within their budgets. The program, described by Gerald Doeksen in his paper "Budgeting: The Foundation of Community Service Research and Extension Programs," provides computerized budget studies so that costs and revenues can be estimated for alternative service levels.

Local leaders can then compare costs and

Workshops help county retain small businesses

When an Arkansas county's Community Development Subcommittee noticed that small businesses in the area suffered an 85 percent failure rate in the first year, they decided to do something about it. With the help of Extension, the Subcommittee planned a series of workshops designed to assist small businesses in the area.

Workshops were developed by the county Extension agent, an Extension community development specialist, the Small Business Development University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, local resource people, and the Chamber of Commerce.

Planners recognized the high small business failure rate, especially inaccurate recordkeeping and advertising. So the series of three one-day workshops was designed to cover these subjects:

- The workshop on the first day concentrated on general management principles for small businesses.
- The second workshop taught methods of recordkeeping, and the third workshop provided a marketing and advertising instruction.

Representatives of 63 county businesses attended these workshops.

As a result of Extension's efforts in these workshops, the local Chamber of Commerce has established a Small Business Committee. The Extension agent plans to continue working in the area by assisting this Committee.

Study indicates urbanization not threatening cropland

Urbanization presents no threat to most U.S. farmland, according to a recent USDA study of the nation's cropland. Greg C. Gustafson and Nelson L. Bills reviewed the influence of the USDA study entitled U.S. Cropland, Urbanization, and Landownership that the rate of conversion of U.S. cropland to urban or transport bases in the 1970s was modest—probably less than one-tenth of 1 percent per year.

During the 70s, the decade which saw widespread electrification and area conversions, more than 70 percent of the population growth was confined to 216 U.S. counties that contained only about 6 percent of total U.S. cropland. More than 80 percent of U.S. cropland (and land that could be converted to cropland) lies in rural areas subject to little or no urban encroachment. Only in the Northeast is most of the cropland close to urban areas and therefore under greater pressure.

The USDA study was begun in response to fears rising in the past 15-20 years that U.S. cropland could entirely disappear. Two factors helped to foster such an impression, according to Gustafson and Bills. First, the population in rural areas rose in the 1970s, increasing the nonfarm demand for farmland. Second, food and fiber commodities in the 1970s rekindled historical concerns about resource scarcity and food and fiber prices.

These developments brought federal, state, and local policies for rural land use under close scrutiny and accentuated the need for additional evidence on cropland conversion and land inperability of our cropland supply to nonagricultural influences.

The conclusion of this study is that the influence of rapid population growth and urbanization on U.S. cropland is concentrated in those areas in close proximity to metropolitan areas. Only about 6 percent of our nonmetropolitan cropland is in fast-growing counties. Most U.S. farmland, therefore, is in no danger of being urbanized at this time.

The future rate of farmland conversion in urbanized counties will ultimately be determined by far more factors, chiefly cost/price relationships in commercial agriculture, the rate of population growth, and new housing construction, and the intensity of public policy efforts to protect farmland from nonagricultural influences.

Gustafson and Bills do point out, however, that the delay in implementation on land use may extend far beyond the acreage actually converted.


Physicians... (Continued from page 1)

Increasing, rural areas are showing a greater ability to pay and are increasing their bases of potential patients. These factors are contributing to a more supportive environment for the practice of medicine in rural counties, according to the report.

In the past, rural counties have traditionally done without adequate medical care. Doctors tended to concentrate in metropolitan areas, where the opportunities are greater for high incomes, modern medical technology, and similar amenities.

The nation's supply of physicians, however, has undergone a dramatic increase in recent years. Physicians are now being made in the medical profession that there is already a surplus of physicians in some metropolitan areas. There may be a nationwide glut by the year 2000.

The expectation is that as nonmetropolitan areas become saturated, physicians will find it more advantageous to locate in nonmetropolitan areas.

Furthermore, nonmetropolitan areas have increased their bases of potential patients, and they are likely to remain underserved. These areas continue to offer the least supportive medical environment, fewest community amenities and fewer opportunities for high incomes.
Southern states develop customized training programs

Customized training programs can be important factors in attracting new industry to a state. That’s one of the reasons why most southern states have developed customized training programs.

These programs train local workers in whatever skills are required by new or expanding industries within the state. Not only do they help local workers find employment, but they also provide obvious economic benefits to the companies.

Although Southern customized training programs differ, several states’ programs have unique features. South Carolina, for example, was one of the earliest states to develop such a program, but many other states have based their programs on South Carolina’s. In this state, the philosophy underlying the training program is that technical education and economic development go hand in hand.

There are two basic approaches. One consists of a system of 16 regional technical schools which train local workers for employment in industry. The other approach, the Southern Workforce Program, aims to meet the training needs of industries currently expanding or considering South Carolina as a possible location site. The program will fund such things as the cost of advertising for job applicants, and the cost of any necessary on-the-job training.

Alabama’s customized training program is unique in that it is mobile. Thirty-six trailers are equipped and available to be taken to the training sites of any new or expanding industry in the state. Specialized training materials are developed by staff, and usually the entire training program can be underway in a few days.

Texas limits its customized training to helping new and rapidly expanding firms. The training curriculum is designed by several state agencies—the Texas Employment Commission, Texas Enterprise Development Commission, and Texas Education Agency—in cooperation with the interested firm.

State laws restrict the use of employment for these purposes, so firms must generally bear more of the equipment and payroll costs here than in other states. Workers missing skill upgrading are referred to regular technical education programs.

Puerto Rico offers a variety of customized training programs. For example, the Economic Development Administration offers industries training programs and assistance in start-up and day-to-day operations. Fomento provides non-refundable grants which may be used for training. Training is also available at area vocational schools, in-plant and on-the-job training programs, and at periodically offered seminars, workshops and conferences.

(Condensed from a paper by Andi Reynolds, Marcia McCracken and Carol Howarth appearing in the Dec. 1984 Foresight, a publication of the Southern Growth Policies Board, P.O. Box 12223, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709.)

It’s an idea...

* The council of Leesburg, Virginia, (7,000) has established an optional benefits program. Instead of adding 8 to 10 percent cost of life, health and disability insurance (COLA) plus in-grade service raises to the employees base pay, the town gave each employee $500 in added service raises. Since every dollar in raises will cost Leesburg another 20 percent in taxes, retirement contributions and insurance, the town has been able to save taxpayers’ dollars and still help its employees. The amount is earned in monthly increments of $41.67 and is used to help improve their health, athletic condition, and physical fitness in the manner the employees choose. This benefit was in addition to a four percent COLA and the five percent service raise received by most employees.

Farmwomen’s roles on farm important, varied

Farmwomen are often perceived in the stereotype role of mother, wife and homemaker. In reality, however, they frequently make important contributions to farm operations and income, beyond their traditional roles.

Although nearly 50 percent of farmwomen surveyed in 1980 participated in ancillary services—the traditional farmwomen’s activities such as running errands, maintaining records or bookkeeping, and tending a garden—11 percent were highly involved in farm management. Over half considered themselves to be one of the main operators of the farm.

Women’s roles on the farm varied by commodity and type of farm. Women on very large, commercial farms with hired management were involved in fieldwork and farm management, while women on smaller, specialty, marginal and tenant farms participated most in fieldwork and farm management.

Another important role for many farmwomen today is to earn income from off-farm employment. About 40 percent of farmwomen surveyed reported off-farm employment. This off-farm employment significantly improves the financial status of many farm households. Besides providing additional incomes, their salaries and benefits, such as life and health insurance and retirement plans, provide a buffer against fluctuating farm income.

One farm role for which the proportion of women participants is increasing is that of farm operators. Although overall farm population has been declining, the proportion of farm operators who are women doubled over the last decade. As of 1978, about 128,000 farmers were women. More than half of all farms run by women were in the South, particularly in Texas, Kentucky and Tennessee.

Thus, farmwomen are actively involved in nearly all of the activities of running a farm. As new farm production and management technologies are adopted, farmwomen will have even more opportunities to become involved in operating and managing the family farm.

(From a series of articles on “Farmwomen’s Contributions to Agriculture and the Rural Economy,” edited by Leslie Whitener with contributions by Carolyn Sachs, Peggy J. Ross, Judith Z. Kalbacher and Priscilla Salant, in the Feb. 1985 Issue of Rural Development Perspectives.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Farmwomen’s involvement in farm activities varies by commodity and by farm type</th>
<th>Average scores</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Commodity group:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash-grain</td>
<td>25.3</td>
<td>22.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tobacco</td>
<td>26.4</td>
<td>20.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Livestock</td>
<td>35.9</td>
<td>31.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy</td>
<td>34.0</td>
<td>31.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horse/other animals</td>
<td>55.2</td>
<td>54.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farm type:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial</td>
<td>26.4</td>
<td>22.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hired management</td>
<td>20.4</td>
<td>18.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large family</td>
<td>31.2</td>
<td>23.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family</td>
<td>31.0</td>
<td>26.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Specialty</td>
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<td>40.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marginal</td>
<td>39.3</td>
<td>35.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small tenant</td>
<td>35.7</td>
<td>27.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The higher the score, the more actively the woman involved.
Rural areas dependent on farming to suffer from cuts

In areas where economic dependence on agriculture is high, agriculture problems quickly become economic problems.

Major farming areas--the western edge of the Corn Belt, Great Plains, the Mississippi Delta, southeastern coastal plains, and mountain states such as eastern Washington and Idaho--will thus likely be hardest hit by the Administration's proposed changes in farm commodity policy.

Under the administration's proposed programs, farm commodity prices are projected to fall. Policy recommendations are designed to decrease direct involvement of government in tending and strengthening the role of commercial and cooperative lenders.

Changes in age structure affect rural growth

With current changes in the age structure, only those nonmetro areas attractive to retirees are assured of continued growth over the remainder of the 1980s.

Research conducted recently by David McGrahman of the USDA's Economic Development Program Division revealed that the baby boom generation became adults in the 1970s. rural community growth was one of the results.

It was no coincidence that the entry of the baby boom generation into adulthood and renewed nonmetro population growth occurred in the same decade, according to McGrahman.

In births, suggests McGrahman in his report entitled "Changes in Age Structure and Rural Community Growth," was more pronounced in metro areas so that in 1970 (in contrast to 1960), nonmetro areas had an excess of labor market entrants relative to metro areas. The reduced net migration of young adults from nonmetro to metro areas was a major factor in the renewal of nonmetro population growth.

As a result of the baby boom, the young adult farm population declined only 3 percent in the 1970s after decreasing 43 percent in the 1960s. The middle-aged farm population declined by 20 percent in both decades.

For more information, contact David McGrahman at EDD-ERS-USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250.

Names in the news

* DR. F.A. WOOD has relinquished his position as head of the University of Florida's Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) 1. He has accepted the newly created position in IFAS as Director of Bio-
technology and will head the biotechnology program in research, extension and teaching. Dr. VERNON PERRY will serve as Acting Director until the position is filled permanently.

* DR. PRENTISS E. SCHILLING, Dean of the College of Agriculture at Louisiana State University, died of a massive coronary on Tuesday, May 14.

On Schedule

TENTH NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON SOCIAL WORK IN THE RURAL AREAS--THE PAST CHARTING THE FUTURE, July 28-31, Columbia, Mo. This is co-sponsored by the University of Missouri- Columbia School of Social Work and the Arkansas College Social Work Program. For more information, contact Joan-image steer, Program Co-chairperson, Un. of Missouri-Columbia School of Social Work, 709 Clark Hall, Columbia, MO 65211.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY MEETING, July 28-Aug. 1, Logan, Utah.

40TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SOIL CONSERVATION SOCIETY OF AMERICA (SCSA), Aug. 48, St. Louis, MO. Theme: "Conservation: A Matter of Motivation." For additional information contact SCSA, 7515 N.E. Ankeny Rd., Ankeny, IA.

RURAL SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIETY (RSS) ANNUAL MEETING, Aug. 21-25, Virginia Tech. The theme for this year's meeting is "Rural Community Development." For registration information, contact John A. Ballweg, Rural Sociology, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA 24061; (703) 961-5779.

NATIONAL TRIENNIAL EXTENSION CRD PROGRAM LEADER'S WORKSHOP, Sept. 24-26, Logan, Utah.

SUNBETT AGRICULTURAL EXPOSITION, Oct. 15, Des Moines, Ia. For more information write Sunbelt Agricultural Exposition, P.O. Box 1209, Tifton, GA 31793 or call (912) 386-3459.

SIXTH ANNUAL RURAL AND SMALL SCHOOLS CONFERENCE (ANRASC), Oct. 29-30. Questions regarding the conference may be referred to conference coordinator Kendall Wlliamson or write the Division of Continuing Education, 316 Obermayer Hall, Manhattan, KS 66506.

WATER QUALITY; AGRICULTURAL AND COMMUNITY CONCERNS, Nov. 7-8 at the Airport Ramada Inn, Hangtown, Ga. Events will include speakers, Extension educators, government representatives and agencies and organizations involved in regulatory activities. For further information, contact Eddie D. Wynn, 246 Barre Hall, Clemson University, (803) 656-3460.

43RD PROFESSIONAL AGRICULTURAL WORKERS CONVENTION, Oct. 24-28, Tuskegee Institute, Ala. Theme: "Human Resources Development in Rural America--A Myth or Reality?" For information contact Dr. T. T. Williams, Director, Human Resources Development Center, P.O. Box 681, Tuskegee Institute, AL 36088; (205) 727-8704.

In Print...


The Citizen's Guide to Zoning, by Herbert B. Henlein, is for planning commissioners, zoning board members and general citizens. It offers an easy-to-read coverage of all aspects of zoning, such as the fundamentals of zoning, the ordinance, variances, public hearings, and relation to research planning. The book is available for $18.95 (in paperback) from the American Planning Association, 1313 E. 60th St., Chicago, IL 60637.

Small talk on big issues...

The National Agricultural Library (NAL) is currently cooperating with land-grant universities from 12 Southern states in the microfilming of documents produced by state agricultural experiment stations, extension services, colleges of agriculture and other similar agencies. Documents to be microfilmed include annual reports, certain series and other documents of lasting importance. Project coordinators predict that the filing and proofreading should be completed by the end of 1985. Bibliographic control and access will be a problem, however. No comprehensive index will exist, although there are some state-level indexes.

The 1984 Business Week survey of plant site selection reveals that in 1976, 1980 and 1984, the Southern states of North and South Carolina, Texas, Georgia, Florida, Tennessee and Alabama were among the top-ranked states. The leading manufacturing industries moving to the South were chemical, food and non-electrical machinery industries.

Southern Rural Development Center
P. O. Box 5406
Missippi State, MS 39762

* Rural sociologists say farm children are suffering emotional stress from the crisis that is forcing increasing numbers of farmers out of business. "One of the relatively undiscovered social costs of the rural crisis is the impact it is having on the children," said sociologists William and Judith Heffner of the University of Missouri.

* Tell children to farm? No, you probably wouldn't, a Gallup survey indicates. It shows that Americans believe farmers work hard in a risky business and that the government doesn't help them enough—and they wouldn't want their children to go into agriculture. On government policy, nearly half of Americans think federal aid is inadequate. But more than half—58 percent—believe farms would be more efficient if federal price supports were removed; 73 percent say current government policies help big farms and not family-sized farms; and 77 percent say farmers often receive less for their crops than it costs to produce them.

Extension develops retention and expansion program

Ohio Extension is showing its communities how retention and expansion (RAE) of existing firms can be an important tool for successful economic development as the search for new industries.

In its efforts to help Ohio communities promote RAE, one approach Extension is taking is the local industry visitation approach, according to George W. Morse, a community resource economist with Ohio Extension.

Morse cites a U.S. Chamber of Commerce study which found that 82 percent of the economic growth of an average American community results from the creation and expansion of locally owned and operated enterprises.

For its part, Extension has developed bulletins, newsletters, slide sets, workshops and local meetings to help new communities learn about RAE possibilities and procedures.

Ohio has 33 active local industry visitation programs and more than 50 percent of them are in communities with populations less than 25,000. Thousands of jobs have been trained or expanded as a result, according to Morse.

Using this approach, communities form local visitation teams that regularly visit all local industries. The teams provide the industries with assistance in a variety of areas, such as information about government regulations and concerns; identification of financial programs; training of management and labor; securing of engineering or research for improved products; arrangements for improved transportation, utilities and safety services; information about vocational training programs; maintenance of a good climate and attitude for business; and location of such resources as sites or buildings suitable for expansion, suitable employees, capable subcontractors and financial services.

The goals of the visitation programs are improved profits, expansion opportunities, survival rates and competitiveness of local firms and industries.

Visitation teams are formed of at least three or four members who know the community's people, potential and limitations. Morse recommends that they be established, respected community leaders who are willing to serve, participate actively and make long-term commitments to RAE.

Ideally, they should also possess some

(Continued on page 4)

State aid to cities up, federal support down

While federal aid to cities has diminished, state support continues to grow, according to a Joint Economic Committee study.

Between 1983 and 1984 federal aid to cities declined by an average of 1 percent, according to the study. In the same period, state aid increased 7 percent.

The study projected that in 1985 federal aid will decline to 5.6 percent of the average city operating budget, down from the 11 percent contributed by the federal government in the late 1970s.

State aid, on the other hand, will grow to 10 percent of the average city budget in 1985.

By 1986 state assistance to cities will represent 13 percent of total city operating budgets, or more than twice the percentage of federal contributions to cities.

RELATING RURAL DEVELOPMENT TO YOUR COMMUNITY
SRDC offers training manuals for local officials

Training and technical assistance for rural local government officials is now available in a series of training manuals. "How to Survive a Time of Change" is a series of eight training manuals highlighting some of the most critical issues in government today. The series was published by the Southern Rural Development Center (SRDC) in cooperation with the USDA and the Rural Governments Coalition.

Working closely with several rural development agencies of the USDA, the

inefficient irrigation may end in water shortage

The loss of irrigation water before it reaches crops threatens shortages that could limit food production and economic growth, according to a study by the Worldwatch Institute, an environmental research group.

Since 1920 International Irrigated cropland has nearly tripled, totaling 675 million acres, but comparatively little attention has been paid to efficiency. Often, governments sell water for less than actual costs, removing incentives for farmers to reduce water use.

"Worldwide, the efficiency of irrigation systems is, on average, only 37 percent," said Sandra Postel, a senior researcher at the Worldwatch Institute.

Postel does see hope in use of new systems, such as the low-energy precision application system gaining popularity in northwest Texas, where an underground water supply from the Ogallala Aquifer is declining.

The system can upgrade conventional irrigation sprinklers from 70 percent to 95 percent efficiency and pay for itself by reducing pumping costs in five to seven years.

The research group called for a shift in the way water is used, valued and managed.

"Sustaining economic growth and supply growing cities will require recycling, reusing and conserving water to get more production out of existing supplies," Postel said.

(Copied from an article by Jane Rendefer of DEM, from 9-21-85 by farm editor Sonja Hillgren.)

Georgia center offers export aid to small businesses

More small businesses in Georgia are exporting their products thanks to the services of the International Trade Development Center (ITDC).

Established to help small firms exploit overseas opportunities, the state center offers services ranging from market research and counseling, market research and publications on the complex process of exporting.

The Georgia lumber industry was one of the first to benefit from the services offered by the ITDC. The resources of the School of Forestry at the University of Georgia, the center employed a forester to work from training, counseling and market research on the industry's exports. The ITDC was ultimately able to provide an informal brokerage service for matching buyers and sellers of Georgia lumber.

The manuals are available for $1.45 each from the SRDC Box, Mississippi State, MS 39762, (601) 325-3207.

Proposed bond restrictions could hurt rural areas

A proposal that small-issue industrial development bonds and "revitalization areas" could increase bias against rural areas if passed.

A group of state and local industrial development authorities, the Council of Industrial and Quality Development has made the recommendation, defining a "revitalization area" as an area with an unemployment rate below the state average, an adjustment per capita income below the state average, and a valuation of real property below the state average.

The recommendation also specifies that no more than 15 percent of a state's total population can be included in target revitalization areas. These criteria may distort rural areas significantly, especially for the purpose of state discrimination against depressed rural areas.

The per capita value of real property does not indicate the economic condition of the population, especially in areas where the valuable land is held by a small number of owners or is leased from property taxes.

Wide disparities in state unemployment rates, for example, mean that areas in more prosperous states would qualify for the more easily than areas in depressed states. In Massachusetts an area would need an unemployment rate of less than 4 percent to qualify, while in West Virginia a rate of over 12 percent would be required.

Poor rural areas would also be hurt by the stipulation that a qualifying area have an adjusted per capita income below the state average, even if that area were below the state average.

The center also assists individuals and small businesses. One Georgia-based company, for example, requested a feasibility study on exporting moslem prayer clocks to the Middle East. As a result of the research conducted by the ITDC, the company has exported the products abroad successfully for more than a year. The research report is also available as a booklet for other firms interested in exporting to the Middle East.

Only one other state, Alabama, has an ITDC.

For more information, call Karen Palfour of the Georgia ITDC at (404) 542-8860.

(Condensed from an article by Paul Brann in the July 15, 1985, issue of Southern View, a publication of the Washington Office of Southern States Organizations.)
Retention... (Continued from page 1)

knowledge of industrial sites, financing, utilities, labor, transportation, con- stitutional, local government, taxation, media or environmental con- siderations.

Morse also recommends that several steps be taken by the team in preparation for the actual visits. First, team members should be given a realistic tool of the goals and techniques of the program. Orientation should include an overview of the local economic structure, information on state and federal programs, information on program procedures and instruction in how to use the Industrial Outlook.

After orientation, the team should compile a list of all local firms, including industrial, commercial, and service establishments. Other local resources also are inventoried, including labor supplies, taxes, housing, possible sites (ownership, acreage, prices, utilities), transportation (trucking, railroads, interstate, airports, etc.).

In addition to the inventory, the team further prepares for its visits by compiling a list of other specialists to consult—other agencies, training specialists, utility development specialists, research facilities, trade journals, etc.

Another step in preparation for the visits is for the team to study the U.S. Industrial Outlook for each local industry. Here data are given for each industry and many of the past 10 years, new marketing and technology developments, new federal laws and regulations, and growth estimates for the upcoming year and for the next five years. Also included for each industry is a list of references and trade journals. This resource enables team members to become familiar with the likely trends and developments for each local industry.

A final action taken by the team before the actual visits begins is the development of questionnaires to be used in the visits. Questions should seek general information about each firm—number of employees, principle products or services, officers, etc.—as well as information related to R & E concerns. Problems, plans, or potential for expansion and plans to change location should be explored in the questionnaires.

After these preparations have been made, team members can begin the visits. Each local firm is visited and interviewed in person by a team member. Once the necessary information has been obtained for each firm, the team can begin to try to help the firms solve their prob- lems. Other specialists or state agen- cies may be brought in to assist. The firm itself should be regularly consulted and encouraged to participate in the problem-solving process.

Morse said the results of a good pro- gram can be local industries that are flourishing, a dispersing, more local jobs and an enhanced overall economic prosperity for a community.

For information, contact George W. Morse, Commonwealth, 2120 Uffle Rd., Columbus, OH 43210-1099, (614) 422-7922.

Book lists small business investment companies

A new directory may help small towns and rural areas promote the creation and expansion of new businesses in their areas.

The directory, Venture Capital: Where to find it, lists more than 400 small Business Investment companies (SBICs) and minority business investment companies (MBICs). These are privately managed and operated financial institutions licensed by the Small Business Administration to provide equity capital, long-term loans and management assistance to small firms.

SBICs have an impressive record. Over the past 27 years, they have helped to create hundreds of thousands of new jobs and promote major advances in technology and innovation by channelling nearly $6 billion into some 10,000 independent firms.

To get a copy of the directory, send $1 and a self-addressed, stamped envelope to the National Association of Small Business Investment Companies (NASBIC), 1156 15th St., N.W., Suite 1101, Washington, D.C. 20005.

(Condensed from an article in the August 1980 issue of Nata's National Community Reporter, a publication of the National Association of Towns and Townships.)

Small school districts survive with resource—sharing

One way for small rural school districts to survive is through the sharing of resources.

Fourteen schools in Sheldon, Illinois, for example, practice cooperative pur- chases. They buy everything from athletic goods and food services cooper- atively, realizing substantial savings in all of those areas that make up their bulk order.

In Warsaw, New York, shared resources helped solve the problem of small en- rollments in specialized classes. An "electronic blackboard system" was created to offer advanced math, foreign languages and other subjects. A college professor teaches the courses and transmits the classes to the

Warsaw district and three other districts in the area.

Joint power agreements between schools covering legal services, data processing, transportation, health insurance, etc., are very important. Medical and casualty insurance, and athletic and health supplies are among the resources shared by rural school districts. Many small districts share library, audiovisual and bookkeeping services.

Other ideas for cooperation include sharing a business manager, inservice training, video programs, mobile computer classrooms, custodial supplies, curriculum guides, cable TV and training for ad- ministrators.

Decline in Southern college enrollment to continue


Enrollment in two-year college declined in seven Southern states and grew more slowly in five others (see Table 1). Only in Alabama and Arkansas did enrollment rise.

Enrollment in four-year colleges also fell.

The decline is expected to continue until at least 1992 in all Southern states except North Carolina.

Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>+56.6%</td>
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<td>North Carolina</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia</td>
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<td>-0.6%</td>
<td>+8.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Condensed from a story in the Summer 1985 issue of Southern Growth, a publi- cation of the Southern Growth Policies Board.)
Foreign ownership of U.S. farmland increases

Foreign ownership of U.S. agricultural land rose to 14 million acres from 13.7 million in the first nine months of 1984. According to a report in the Agricultural Economic Research Service report, that figure represents more than 1 percent of total agricultural land. Foreigners now account for 57 percent of all foreign-owned acreage; cropland, 14 percent; pasture and other agriculture, 24 percent; and non-agricultural and unreported uses, 5 percent.

Persons from Canada, United Kingdom, Hong Kong, and the Netherlands Antilles own 73 percent of the acreage. The corporations own 83 percent of the 14 million acres held by foreign interests; partnerships, 5 percent; individuals, 7 percent. The remaining 1 percent is held by estates, trusts, associations, and unincorporated firms.

U.S. corporations with 5 percent or more foreign ownership reported owning 62 percent of the foreign-held acreage. The rest is owned by foreigners not affiliated with a U.S. corporation.

TVA seeks papers for new publication

The Tennessee Valley Authority is seeking original papers for a new scholarly journal to be published beginning in winter, 1986. The journal will explore policy issues on energy, natural resources and economic development. According to its statement of purpose, the forum encourages the independent exchange of ideas at individual, institutional, and interinstitutional levels, especially among the regions served by the TVA. Papers will focus on policy issues and development strategies. Interested individuals or groups are invited to submit papers. The deadline for submission is June 1, 1986.

Number of new businesses rise in Southern states

Several Southern states registered substantial gains in the number of new businesses incorporated in 1984, according to a report in the Dunn & Bradstreet report. Nationally, a record number of new businesses incorporated in 1984. The number was 634,991, or 5.6 percent more than the 600,400 incorporated in the previous year. In the South, the increase was 15.8 percent.

South Carolina led the way in new incorporations with 53,192, or 6.6 percent, according to the report. Other Southern states reported annual percentage gains of at least 10 percent. Arkansas reported a 16.7 percent increase, Texas reported a 16 percent gain.

Sauer suggests rural development strategies

As farms become increasingly dependent on off-farm sources for income, improving the economic relationships between farmers and the rural communities around them becomes a clear and urgent objective of rural development, according to Richard J. Sauer, Deane Vice President for Agriculture, Forestry and Home Economics, Director of the Rural Experiment Station at the University of Minnesota, sees an urgent need for continued expansion in research and extension programs. In his keynote address at the "Conference on Interdependencies of Agriculture and Rural Communities in the 21st Century: The North Central Region," Sauer predicted that the pattern of commercialization of the farm family income derived from off-farm sources will significantly exceed the growth of off-farm employment in Agriculture. Part-time farming, according to Sauer, has come to represent a permanent and important part of farming.

Rural development strategies should be designed with these changing conditions in mind. The American farm and the vital rural community must move forward together," he said. Sauer suggested several strategies to aid in the accomplishment of this goal. First, he encouraged the development of farm-related and rural-employment programs to improve the quality of life for many rural residents. Second, Sauer said, "With the physical location of rural consumers as broad as their urban counterparts, the number of rural residents generally on the rise, the range of businesses that can succeed in rural America is greatly expanded." He also stressed the necessity of technical and management assistance for rural developers. "I'd suggest Extension Services could play an expanded role in coordinating and providing technical assistance at the local level," he said. Sauer made six suggestions for strengthening rural communities: Technical assistance is needed for rural governments. "Rural roads and bridges are essential to rural economies, methods must be developed to assess local transportation conditions and requirements." More for information contact George Strowbridge, Research Director, Rural America, 1301 18th St., N.W., Suite 302, Washington, D.C. 20036, (202) 659-2800. The abstract is from the 1985 issue of Safari's "National Community Reporter, a publication of the National Association of Towns and Townships."
Texas farmers oppose proposed nuclear waste site

The trade-offs that must be made between agriculture and nuclear waste disposal are difficult. Texas farmers in the Deaf Smith and Swisher County area are discovering.

The area is one of several under consideration by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) as a possible nuclear waste site. Deaf Smith County ranks third nationally in value of livestock, poultry and agricultural products sold. The area already produces 85 percent of the world's sorghum seed and hosts a 3,200-acre foundation seed farm for the national sorghum seed industry. The Southwest's red winter wheat seed. Many agricultural products from the two counties are sold to feed the world internationally.

The prospect of the waste disposal site makes local farmers worry not only about the reputation of their products but also about land and water quality.

If the Texas area is chosen, nuclear waste will be stored in underground salt beds lying below the Ogallala aquifer, the nation's largest freshwater aquifer. The salt formations also lie below the deeper and locally important Santa Rosa aquifer.

In order to create the necessary storage capacity, shafts would be drilled through the aquifers, and 200 million cubic feet of salt would be excavated.

New ERS division to study rural economics

A new division within the USDA Economic Research Service has been created to concentrate on agricultural and rural economics.

The division, named the Agriculture and Rural Economics Division (ARED), takes over some functions of the Economic Development Division (EDD) and the Economic Development and Natural Resource Division (NERD) now have six branches each, and there is no longer an EDD.

Kenneth Deavers, formerly director of EDD, is now director of ARED. The new division will focus on the farm sector and its contributions to overall economic development and employment. The division will attempt to integrate agricultural and nonagricultural aspects of the rural economy.

Small talk on big issues...

A new program is available to help farmers and their families contend with stress. "Stress Down on the Farm" consists of a series of one-hour home visits on stress and stress management techniques, developed by James E. Van Horn, family sociology extension specialist at Pennsylvania State University.

Citizens in the region have been trained as stress management assistants. Van Horn and Maten have also developed support materials on stress for extension agents, including an manual, overheads and handouts. For more information contact James E. Van Horn, 204 Weaver Bldg., Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA 16802.

City kids will learn country ways this fall when a new high school opens its doors. They won't learn how to farm, but they will be instructed in agricultural-related occupations. The Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences is the first school in the Midwest and the second in the nation dealing specifically with the agricultural sciences. It will offer courses in agribusiness, food science and plant and animal science.

The Mississippi legislature this year provided for the regulation of groundwater. Now large users of water must obtain permits from the Department of Natural Resources if they use wells six inches or larger in diameter. Local water management districts are beginning to construct supply systems using surface water and to take measures to prevent the overuse of supplies. Recent state and federal studies have shown that all of the 15 major groundwater aquifers in Mississippi are declining by as much as four feet a year.

Railroad companies have increasingly dropped unprofitable stretches of rail lines. ARD, then AED, now AERD provided $20,000 to Hutton of the Economic Research Service. Rail line abandonments in 1986 amounted to 2,270 miles, compared with 3,270 miles abandoned in 1983, a drop of almost 10 percent. Between 1974 and 1983, the total length of line in service declined an average of more than 5,000 miles per year. Indian reservation railroad lines have strengthened the financial situation of many railroad companies, but it has reduced rail service to some farm communities and cut competition within the transportation sector, according to Hutton. In the communities affected, rail service among homes and small businesses will increase distribution costs for farm input suppliers and shippers. In many instances, loss of rail service forces the use of trucks, Hutton says.

A USDA report on farm financial conditions estimated 277,000 farms, or one third of farms with sales over $40,000, had zero or negative cash flows for 1984. For the farm sector as a whole, the debt/ asset ratio climbed from 2.3 to 2.5, to up to 21.2 percent for 1980. A major reason for the problem is the fact that farmers have invested in farm assets 11 percent down since 1977.

About 122,000 farms, or 5.4 percent of the national total, are solely or primarily operated by women. This represents an 8 percent increase since 1978.

The Texas state comptroller is providing free help to local governments interested in improving their financial management. The program includes step-by-step, how-to manuals covering all areas of financial management and technical assistance in evaluating problems and systems, telephone consultations, and statewide seminars.

Current agricultural genetic research could eventually lead to genetic engineering in the dust. During the 1980s, U.S. corn production averaged more than 100 bushels per acre, but a group of agricultural experiment station directors said in a survey last year that they expect the gene-power revolution to result in the average corn yield reaching nearly 180 bushels per acre by the year 2000.

Names in the news...

* Dr. W. J. Moline has assumed the position of Director of the Cooperative Extension Service at Michigan State. Previously Extension Director at the University of Arkansas, Moline succeeded Gordon Conyer, who retired.
In Print

Agricultural Policy, Rural Counties, and Political Geography, by Berna L. Green and Donald F. Kellin, identifies the location and socioeconomic characteristics of rural counties dependent on farming for at least 20% of their income and employment. This USDA-ERS Staff Report #GERS-50429 is available for $7.00 from National Technical Information Service, 5285 Port Royal Rd., Springfield, VA 22161.

Developing Small Firms in Local Communities asks questions about starting and operating a small new firm and about how local entrepreneurs can help in the process. Included are chapters on the following: Starting a New Firm, Characteristics of Different Types of Business, Economic Market Areas, Types of Business Organizations, Size and Composition of the Small Business Committee, Establishing and Maintaining Communication, Working with People Who Want to Go Into Business, and Working with Established Firms. A useful appendix provides a checklist to be answered by prospective small business starters. Written by Dr. Harry B. Strawn, this publication is available for $2.50 from the Alabama Cooperative Extension Service, Auburn University, AL 36849.

Directory of Rural Development Researchers contains the names, addresses and subject areas of about 350 university faculty in the Southern states from Virginia to Texas who are engaged in research in rural development. Available free from the Southern Rural Development Center, 1501 W. State, Mississippi State University, Mississippi State, MS 39762, (601) 325-3207.

Establishing and Operating Private Sector Development Organizations: A Technical Assistance Guide focuses on private sector development organizations (PSDO) such as chambers of commerce, industrial development and economic development councils. The book tells how to establish a PSDO and provides case studies of 12 such organizations operating in diverse regions of the country. The case studies are grouped into policy/planning, area improvement, and business development PSDOs, in addition to giving details on the origins, organizational structure, staffing, funding, tax status, legal status and governmental relations of these PSDOs, the guide summarizes PSDO facts and figures in a quick-reference format and also lists the ingredients for success identified by key staff of the organizations studied. The book is available for $10.00 from the National Rural Development Council for Urban Economic Development, 1730 K St., N.W., Suite 1009, Washington, D.C. 20006.

The Loss of Farmland: The Process of Urbanization in Alabama’s Black Belt, by Harry L. Moon, is an empirical analysis of the rural-to-urban land conversion process. Following a review of multidisciplinary literature, the author documents the farmland conversion process between 1950 and 1980 in Montgomery County, AL. The study was written and published (including postage and handling) from H.E. Moon Jr., Geography Dept., 1418 Patterson Office Tower, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40506-3207. Make checks payable to the University.

Preparing a Historic Preservation Ordinance and guide on the drafting, implementation, and legal defense of a historic preservation ordinance and discusses criteria for designating landmarks and historic districts. Available for $16 from Planners Bookstore, 1313 E. 60th St., Chicago, 60637.

Private Sector Development Organizations: The Role of Private Sector Development Organizations (PSDOs) that have been in existence more than a year. In addition to the name, address, telephone number, and number of each organization, the guide provides facts about membership, funding, objectives, and special publications. The 50 organizations cover a broad range of industries including small and large cities, counties, or entire states. Available for $10 from the National Rural Development Council for Urban Economic Development, 1730 K St., N.W., Suite 1009, Washington, D.C. 20006.

Taking Stock: Rural People and Poverty from 1970 to 1983 provides massive statistical information on the dimensions of rural poverty. Case studies of seven counties where more than a quarter of the residents fall below the poverty line document the unemployment, poor health and sanitation, and substandard housing and low educational levels common to all. Prepared by the Housing Assistance Council, the report is available for $9.50 from the Housing Assistance Council, 1730 K St., N.W., Suite 606, Washington, D.C. 20005.

Troubled Waters—Financing Water in the West, by Rodney R. Smith, shows how states are trying to pay for financing water investments, initiate more effective regulatory policies, create more efficient methods of planning for water development, and assist local governments in supporting their water needs. The book is available for $17.95 (plus $2.50 postage and handling) from the Publications Dept., Council of State Planning Agencies, 601 D Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001, (202) 624-7880.

Water Law and Water Rights in the South, A Synthesis and Annotated Bibliography, by Roy R. Carriere, is intended to serve as a time saver for individuals who, without training in law, need have information about law as it pertains to state and regional water policy issues. Included are annotated entries for articles from Selected Water Resources Abstracts, Index to Legal Periodicals, Journal of Economic Literature, Journal of Irrigation and Drainage Division, and Management and Planning Division and ACORN. Available for $5 from the Southern Rural Development Center, Box 5406, Mississippi State, MS 36762, (601) 325-3207.

What Choices Do You Have Besides Selling Your Farmland for Development? exists to help farmers and landowners who are conservation-minded but who need cash from their land. Land rental, sale or development rights, taxes, wills, and estate plans are discussed. The handbook explains how each option works, what the landowner gets from exercising the option, and what types of professionals to contact for more information. The book is available for $1.25 from the Franklin, Hampden and Hampshire Conservation Districts, 4 Whalley St., Hadley, MA 10135, (413) 584-1464.

On Schedule

33RD PROFESSIONAL AGRICULTURAL WORKERS CONFERENCE, January 21-20, Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, The Human Resources Development in Rural America—A Myth or Reality Conference. Contact Dr. T. Williams, Director, Human Resources Development Center, P.O. Box 681, Tuskegee Institute, AL 36088, (205) 727-8764.

INNOVATIVE FINANCING FOR TRANSPORTATION—PRACTICE EXPERIENCES, A NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM, Dec. 11-13, Fredericksburg, VA. Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Department of Civil Engineering and Division of Continuing Education of the University of Virginia. For information and registration contact Dr. Robert R. Bradford, Director of CCAP, Florida A&M University, P.O. Box 165, Tallahassee, FL 32307.

SOUTHERN RURAL SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING, Feb. 2-5, Orlando, Florida. Theme: Community and Agriculture: Who is Impacting Whom? For information contact E. Young, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, P.O. Box 4371, Fort Valley State College, Fort Valley, GA 31030, (912) 825-6446 or 625-6447.

For registration information, contact the Division of Continuing Education of the University of Virginia at (804) 924-7141.

REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON SMALL FARM RESEARCH AND EXTENSION EXPERIENCES IN THE MIDWESTERN REGION, Jan. 21-22, Florida A&M University, Tallahassee, FL. Sponsored by the Center for Innovative Agricultural Programs (CCAP), the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences at the Univ. of Florida, and the Southeastern Science and Education for registration information contact Dr. Robert R. Bradford, Director of CCAP, Florida A&M University, P.O. Box 165, Tallahassee, FL 32307.
National small business conference slated for August

The White House Conference on Small Business will convene for a second time in Washington, D.C., in August 1986. Through this conference, small business people from across the country will formulate specific small business recommendations for government policymakers. In 1980, delegates to the national conference sent 60 recommendations to the President and Congress. Since then, two-thirds of these recommendations have been acted upon legislatively and administratively.

A series of state conferences has already begun in preparation for the national conference. One-day conferences are being conducted in each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

Programs for the state conferences will consist of an opening session, forums on key issues of concern to small businesses, a luncheon and election of delegates to the national conference. Anyone may attend the state conferences, but only owners, partners and corporate officers of small businesses employing under 500 people are eligible to run as delegates.

Dates for Southern state conferences include the following:

- San Juan, Puerto Rico: Jan. 24
- Raleigh, N.C.: Jan. 28
- Columbia, S.C.: Jan. 31
- Orlando, Fla.: Feb. 5
- Miami, Fla.: Feb. 14
- Jackson, Miss.: Feb. 19
- New Orleans, La.: Feb. 21
- Louisville, Ky.: Feb. 25
- Nashville, Tenn.: Feb. 28
- Houston, Texas: March 18
- Dallas, Texas: March 21
- Little Rock, Ark.: April 18
- Oklahoma City, Okla.: April 22

Registration fee for the state conferences is $35, including the cost of registration and meals. Registration information is available from The White House Conference on Small Business, P.O. Box 18359, Washington, D.C. 20036.

NCSC studies corporate role in rural America

What's the corporate stake in rural America? The dwindling of federal involvement in community affairs has forced many local officials into the discovery that they can solve their communities' problems with help from the corporate world.

To help understand the potential for relationships between rural communities and corporations, the National Center for Small Communities (NCSC) is currently conducting a study. The study addresses the question of why corporate leaders are interested in rural America.

For the first phase of the study, NCSC is interviewing some of the nation's leading corporate officers and other Fortune 500 executives. These corporate officials are providing information about their companies' roles in rural America.

For information, contact Alice McAndrew, NCSC, National Association of Towns and Townships, 1522 K St., N.W., Suite 730, Washington, D.C. 20005; (202) 737-5200. (Condensed from an article in the Spring 1985 issue of The Town Crier, a publication of the NCSC.)
Conference to highlight ongoing small farm research

A regional conference designed to provide discussion of ongoing small farm research and extension efforts in the Southern region will be conducted during Jan. 21-22 at Florida A&M University, Tallahassee, Fla.

The national scope, scope, and value of small farm research and extension efforts will be presented. Exposure to working being done in the different states will enable conference participants to extend successful techniques over a larger area.

Possible topics include socio-economic studies, soil and plant science studies, animal science studies, and agricultural engineering studies.

Sponsors of the conference are the Center for Cooperative Agricultural Programs at the University of Florida and Agricultural Sciences at the University of Florida, and Florida A&M University.

Registrants will pay a fee of $50. Registration reservations can be made through Dr. Robert R. Bradford, Director of CCAP, Florida A&M Univ., P.O. Box 165, Tallahassee, FL 32307.

Hotel reservations will be made directly with the Hilton Hotel of Tallahassee at (904) 224-5000. Conferences range $65 per night for single or double occupancy.

Nonmetro banks cope with financial deregulation

Spurred by deregulation, rural banks are swiftly becoming as competitive and sophisticated as their small urban counterparts.

That's the finding of economist Daniel Mikko of USDA's Economic Research Service.

"Many rural banks do take fewer risks than urban banks," says Mikko, "but that's because of the modest value of assets in many rural banks."

He adds that a bank's lending policies, its aggressiveness in competing for large deposits, and the variety of services it provides depend more on the size of its assets than on its urban location.

"Similar analysis based on an earlier time period might support the notion that nonmetro banks are more conservative," Mikko said.

To cope as financial deregulation continues, engineers must be able to maintain their independence from large institutions.


SRDC develops materials on microcomputer selection

New extension programming materials from the Southern Rural Development Center will soon be released to help local Extension officials make informed choices about selection and use of microcomputers in rural governments.

"Some government officials have delayed computing the functions of their offices because of the process of selecting the right computing equipment," said the center director, Dr. M. Doss Brodnax, Jr., SRDC director.

Brodnax hopes to simplify that process by providing each state Extension Service with the proper program for helping local leaders take logical, rational steps to computerize data processing.

Using a workshop setting familiar to traditional extension programming, the Southern Center will cooperate with Texas A&M University and Mississippi State University to develop a model workshop that can be duplicated in any state.

The workshop will be designed to help local Extension Service officials make decisions when they deal with computer salesmen and will include sessions on the following topics: introduction to computers, computer basics, types of computer systems, selection of a computer, report on on-site materials and computer use, assessing computer needs, purchasing considerations, working with programmers and maintaining the computer, and operating a computer system.

The program materials will be developed by Dr. Mike derivatives on the Extension Service at Texas A&M University. Dr. Woods has conducted similar workshops throughout Texas for city and county officials.

The programming materials provided to each state will include a program summary, teaching guides, and material for lecture notes, overheads, handout materials, slides, and set and script, and a publication to serve as a reference guide.

The materials will be used during a test workshop November 7-8 at Mississippi State University and county officials from throughout the state will meet for a two-day workshop that will include an introduction to computer systems available to local governments.

After the workshop, Dr. Woods will make any revisions or alterations necessary in the materials and then the SRDC will prepare the training package for distribution throughout the region.

"Our goal is to keep up with the states by January or February," Brodnax said. "We want to make it available to any community decision-making group that sees a need for this type of educational effort.

"Bringing the county courthouse into the computer age is part of developing the rural community," he said.

For further information, contact the Southern Rural Development Center, Box 540, Mississippi State, MS 39762, (601) 325-3207.

NLC Congress to offer small-city workshops

Several workshops on small cities will be offered at the National League of Cities (NLC) 1985 Congress and Exposition to be held December 7-11 in Seattle.

A Small City Development Strategies: Explores such urban challenges as the difficulties of developing sound strategies; the choice of development resources and the setting of priorities and priorities; the involvement of the private sector in the development between success and failure.

2 State Government as a Small City Resource: Governments are increasing assistance to small communities through new programs. Also studies those mechanisms that allow state governments' access to state resources.

Sharing Resources Among Small Cities: Explores how state governments are helping local governments' access to state resources.

Small City Government: Examines the technical, managerial and policy questions of computerization with a panel of experts and colleagues.

Registration information is available from NLC Conference Registration Center, P.O. Box 1745, Dallas International Airport, Washington, D.C. 20014; (202) 666-3200.
It's an idea...  

* When a Carbondale, Illinois, (23,000) boy scout approached the city manager with a project that would benefit the city and fulfill the requirement to receive an eagle badge, the city was interested. The scout wanted to improve the lighting on the city's sidewalks. Code enforcement staff were not responsible for street lighting; however, the city did have a better account of all curb conditions: which ones were usable by a person in a wheelchair and which needed repair. The city did not have the time and resources to conduct such an evaluation itself but it could easily supervise an evaluation conducted by the scouts. The assistant director of code enforcement provided the scouts with a map of all streets and intersections and guidance on how to evaluate the condition of the curbs. The scouts spent two Saturdays surveying the curbs and then coding the information on large city maps. They also made a presentation to the city council at the completion of the project. This information will be used to guide the city on curb improvement efforts in the future.

Extension aids in community economic development

Effective local leaders don't launch economic development programs without first analyzing their community's strengths and weaknesses.

The Tennessee Valley Authority, through the University of Wisconsin Extension Service, has developed an intensive community economic development program designed to help communities do just that. The program helps local leaders think through what can be done, explain their community's economic situation, and develop a plan of action to create jobs and income in the community.

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The Tennessee Rural Development Committee received a group honor award recently from the U.S. Department of Agriculture for its outstanding record of concern and response to the needs and challenges of Tennessee's rural communities.

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Four educational sessions are conducted by Extension agents in the interest of the community. Each session lasts approximately four hours.

The first session of the program, in addition to Extension agents, usually consists of 15-20 community leaders representing local government, education, business, industrial developers, bankers, business people, and other concerned citizens.

The second session, the first full-day session is to assist the community leaders in understanding the forces in the larger economy that are affecting their community and opportunities for local action. It consists of a review of recent and anticipated changes in national and state economies, as well as the shift from goods to service-producing industrial activities.

In the second session, participants concentrate on economic activities within the community itself, emphasizing the interplay between the economy of the community and the economic activities of similar communities. Such factors as income, sources of employment, change in employment over time, characteristics of the trade area, level of current trade activity, and other similar data are analyzed in detail.

Session Three calls for the completion of a Community Economic Preparedness Index. The index, developed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, is composed of a four-page checklist of activities and projects that affect the economic condition of the community, thereby providing themselves with a self-evaluation of economic development activities already underway in the community.

In the fourth and final session, participants chart the community's economic future. Priorities for future action are set and an action agenda is compiled.

To aid in this process, a well-planned and executed community survey can be used to develop the list of economic development activities. The North Central Regional Center for Rural Development at the University of Wisconsin has developed a manual to assist in the community economic analysis process.

A Manual is written by Ron Hustvedt, Ron Shaffer, and Glen Pulver. For information and to receive a copy of the Wisconsin program, contact Ron Shaffer at (608) 262-9405 or Glen Pulver at (608) 262-4963.
Study reveals health, nutrition problems of rural poor

The infant mortality rate is approximately 50 percent higher in the nation's poorest rural counties than in the rest of the nation, the study found.

The study found a critical discrepancy in nutrition and health between the rural poor and the rest of the nation. Conducted by Public Voice for Food and Health Policy with support from the Ford Foundation, the study was designed to examine the nutritional status of the rural poor. It analyzed statistics from the 83 poorest rural counties of the nation, located in Arkansas, Arizona, Colorado, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, South Dakota, Tennessee, and Texas.

From 1981 to 1983, the overall national infant mortality rate fell from 11.9 to 10.9 per 1000 births. But in rural poor counties, that rate increased from 15.8 to 16.26; a rate 50 percent higher than the national rate. The study also revealed a gap between the number of low birth weight infants and the nation and for the rural poor. Nationally, low birth weight infants fell from 6.81 births per 100 births in 1980 to 6.73 in 1983. In the poorest rural counties, the rate fell from 8.21 in 1980 to 8.73 in 1983.

Eileen H. Haas, executive director of the group conducting the study, linked the widening gap to recent cuts in federal spending for nutrition programs, to the recession, and to the declining farm economy. But whatever the reasons for the rural poor are clearly not getting appropriate nutrition and health care, accord- to Haas.

According to the study's results, Rep. Mickey Leland, chairman of the House Select Committee on Hunger, promised to follow up in the House with a comprehensive examination of the plight of the rural poor.

Rep. Leon Panetta, also active in nutrition-related House committees, acknowledged the need to strengthen domestic food assistance programs.

"If we are unwilling to invest now to augment our efforts to improve the nutritional health of all Americans, we will pay stiff health care, educational and disability costs down the road," Panetta said.

1986 Extension Winter School slated for January

A variety of courses designed to help Extension professionals improve their community development programs will be offered at the 1986 Extension Western Regional Winter School January 20 through February 7.

Sponsored by the Cooperative Extension Service at the University of Arizona, the Winter School will offer courses on Marketing Extension Programs; Personal Effectiveness; Local Government and Extension; and Extension: A Working Partnership.

A total of 12 scholarships will be offered--three from each regional center.

The Farm Foundation is providing $200 scholarships for "The Public Policy Issues" course and for the "Extension Supervision and Administration" course.

To apply for a scholarship contact Dr. Norm J. Redeker, Extension Winter School Director, College of Agriculture, SFCR Bldg., University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ 85721; (602) 621-3347. Applications for scholarships must be received by Dec. 5. Those people registered for enrollment in the designated classes will be given first consideration for scholarships.

Winter School participants can earn a maximum of three hours graduate credit by attending the Winter School. To receive graduate credits, a participant must be accepted by the University of Arizona graduate school.

The regional Rural Development Centers are providing scholarships of $200 for the course entitled "Local Government and Extension: A Working Partnership." A total of 12 scholarships will be offered--three from each regional center.

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Average U. S. farmland values decline 12 percent

Farmland values dropped for the fourth straight year between 1984 and 1985, according to USDA figures released in early June.

Nationally, the average value of agricultural land fell 12 percent between 1984 and April 1985. This latest drop follows declines of 1 percent from 1981 to 1982, 6 percent from 1982 to 1983, and 1 percent from 1983 to 1984, said USDA economist William Henneberry of the Economic Research Service.

The most dramatic one-year decline on record was 19 percent in 1983.

The Corn Belt, Lake States, and Northern Plains were hardest hit, with declines of 20 percent or more. In Iowa, where farmers faced an 11 percent drop in farmland values last year, this year's news is worse: farmland values fell 29 percent. Nebraska was next on this year's list at -28 percent, followed by Illinois at -27 percent. Since 1981, values have dropped nearly 50 percent in Iowa and Nebraska, and more than 40 percent in Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio.

There were a few bright spots in the generally gloomy farmland picture. In the New England states of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut, increases averaged 14 percent. More than likely, however, this reflects a demand for residential and other nonfarm uses for land currently classified as farmland, according to Henneberry. Other farmland value increases were reported for Texas and New Jersey.

The average acre of U.S. farmland was valued at $679 on April 1, down from last year's $762. The U.S. average includes a wide variety of productivity and use classes of land, from semi-arid rangeland to high-value specialty crops, Henneberry pointed out.

Prospects for recovery in land values are clouded. The major reasons for this, according to Henneberry, are continued high real interest rates, low commodity prices, prospects for large 1986 crops, lower export forecasts, uncertainty over farm income, and the large number of farms for sale.

Although Farmland Values Declined in Almost Every State, the Corn Belt, Lake States, and Northern Plains Were Hardest Hit

Percent change between April 1984 and April 1985:

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FARMLINE/July 1985
Small talk on big issues.

The South continues to dominate the nation in the business climate category. In the latest Alexander Grant Survey of business leaders, six Southern states ranked among the top 10. North Dakota and South Dakota were ranked first and second for the second time in Florida, Nebraska, Utah, Mississippi, Arkansas, and Tennessee.

Tuskegee Institute became Tuskegee University on June 26, 1985 when Alabama Gov. George C. Wallace signed the official document. Tuskegee, founded in 1881 by Booker T. Washington, the university offers 45 undergraduate and 29 graduate degrees.

A study released recently by the Children's Defense Fund found that black children are twice as likely as white children to die before age one, three times as likely to be poor, four times as likely not to live with their parents, and five times as likely to be on welfare. The study also found that black children have "sliding back" over the last five years and are subjected to "inadequately financed opportunity to millions of black children."

Twenty-one of the nation's 25 fastest growing counties are located in the Sun Belt, according to a Dun and Bradstreet Corporation study. The study examined changes in population in each of the nation's 3,123 counties between 1980 and 1984. The research is meant to help continue the rampant growth of the Sun Belt. Eight of the 25 fastest growing counties are in Texas, and seven are in Florida. Georgia and Louisiana each have two of the fastest growing counties. The two fastest growing counties in the nation are Fort Bend County, Texas and Montgomery County, Texas, have grown by 46 percent and 45 percent since 1980. Both are a part of the Houston area, which contains the City of Houston.

* Besides being on the increase, rural agricultural crime is costly not only to the perpetrator but also the consumer. The FBI Investigates crimes involving millions of dollars of stolen equipment, livestock, chemicals, fuel, grain, herbicides and household items yearly. The most popular types of rural crime are nuisance crimes such as vandalism. Also popular in rural areas are large-scale activities. The FBI recommends identification, training, conflict resolution programs, and neighborhood involvement programs as prevention devices.

Florida Extension initiates cable TV outreach.

The traditional tools for Extension outreach—public meetings, workshops, demonstration projects, and written word—have been superseded by a dynamic, new approach to the Extension office. Pinellas County Cooperative Extension in association with the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) of the University of Florida, has initiated what is possibly the only on-site, in-house cable television production capability for an extension county staff in the U.S. The regular cable production, called "Extension by Cable," delivers educational programs dealing with topics like agriculture/horticulture, home economics, marine science and 4-H youth activities.

The project began in December 1983 when a cable channel was dedicated to the use of the county government went on the air. Extension envisioned the possibilities the media offered, including a chance to provide educational content on programs to be shown commercial-free at various times, lengths and frequencies. Extension Coordinator presents one 30-minute program. The program is shown three times daily, five days a week. Program topics vary, but all are designed to enhance the quality of life of the county's residents. Each 30-minute program is related to a single topic to ensure an in-depth approach. The programs reach a potential audience of 180,000. Future plans are to make the programs available for local broadcast and other television stations. For more information, contact Judy Yates, County Extension Director, Pinellas County, Largo, Florida.

Names in the news...

After serving a six-month term as interim director of the Southern Rural Development Center, Dr. H. DOSS BRONXON has been named the official director during a recent meeting of the SROD Board of Directors. Bronxon will continue to serve as an extension economist with the Mississippi Cooperative Extension Service. He succeeds DR. WILLIAM W. LINDER, who died in February after a lengthy illness.

* DR. MERLY C. BROUSARD joined the USDA's Soil Conservation Service September 15 on a joint CSRS/Experiment Station Aquaculture two-year appointment. Broussard, a native of Louisiana, will serve as National Program Leader for Aquaculture in the Natural Resources and Rural Development Unit.

* JOHN COLLINS retired July 1 after a 30-year career with the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service. Collins served 12 years as specialist-in-charge of the extension community development program at North Carolina State University before being named a district program leader in 1982.

* DR. GLENN COLLINS, a former professor of agronomy at the University of Kentucky, has been named associate dean of research and associate director of agricultural experiment stations at UK.

* DR. MIKE DUFF, an extension community development specialist, retired recently after 34 years with the Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service.

* DR. DARYL HEASLY has been named director of the South Central Regional Development Center at Pennsylvania State University. Heasly is a rural sociologist and has been associated with the Pennsylvania Cooperative Extension Service and an associate professor of rural sociology at Pennsylvania State University. He will assume his new duties October 1 when the Northeast Center moves from Cornell University to a new headquarters at Penn State.

* DR. C. OREN LITTLE was recently named director of the Agricultural Experiment Station at Louisiana State University after the retirement of DR. DOYLE CHENNELL. Little is a former associate dean for research and associate director of Agricultural Experiment Stations at the University of Kentucky.

* DR. DALTON MOFFET, of North Carolina A&T, DR. JAMES MCRAHAN, of Texas A&M, have been appointed to the Extension Committee on Policy (ECOP) Task Force on Electronic Technology.

* DR. W. J. NOLINE, of Michigan State University, and DR. ZERLE CARPENTER, of Texas A&M, have been appointed to the Extension Committee on Policy (ECOP) Task Force on Biotechnology.

* DR. BOBBY RAY PHILLIS has been appointed Dean of the College of Agriculture and Research Director at Southern University, Baton Rouge, effective September 1. Formerly Research Director at Tuskegee Institute, he replaces DR. WESLEY MCLURE, who served on an interim basis from March through July.

* DR. HAZELL REED has been appointed Dean of the Division of Agriculture and Technology at the University of Arkansas, Pine Bluff. He will provide general leadership and supervision of resident instruction and international agricultural programs within the division.

* JOHN VANCE, a career employee of USDA, was named Deputy Administrator for Natural Resources and Rural Development in June 1985. He transferred from the position of Director of Area Planning and Development with the Forest Service.

* DR. F. ALOYSIUS WOOD, Director of Biotechnology and former Dean for Research and Associate Director of the Institute for Food and Agricultural Sciences at the University of Florida, died of cancer Aug. 22. As Dean for Research at the University of Florida, Dr. Wood was active in all facets of agricultural research in the State of Florida. He was regarded as a leading proponent of the outstanding contributions as a research administrator.
On Schedule

AGRICULTURAL CHANGE: CONSEQUENCES FOR SOUTHERN FARMS AND RURAL COMMUNITIES, Oct. 9-11, Atlanta, Ga. Sponsored by the S-198 Regional Technical Committee. For program information contact Joseph Molnar at (205) 826-4800, or registration information contact Gae Broadwater at (912) 386-3416.

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BY RETENTION AND EXPANSION OF EXISTING BUSINESSES, Oct. 15-17, Ohio State Univ., Columbus, OH. Sponsored by the Extension Service of the Ohio State Univ., 2120 Fyffe Rd., Columbus, OH 43210.

SUNBELT AGRICULTURAL EXPOSITION, Oct. 15-17, Houtrile, Ga. For more information write Sunbelt Agricultural Exposition, P.O. Box 1209, Tifton, GA 31903 or call (912) 386-3459.

SEVENTH ANNUAL RURAL AND SMALL SCHOOLS CONFERENCE, Oct. 28-29, Manhattan, Kan. Sponsored by American Association of School Administrators, the Mid-Continent Regional Educational Laboratory, and the College of Education at Kansas State University. Theme: Search for Excellence in Rural Schools. For information contact the Center for Rural Education and Small Schools, College of Education, Kansas State Univ., Manhattan, KS 66506.

WATER QUALITY AGRICULTURE AND COMMUNITY CONCERNS IN THE SOUTH, Nov. 7-8, Atlanta, Ga. This workshop is intended for researchers, educators, local, state and federal agency officials, water-related missions; farm or agribusiness-related organizations, government officials. Sponsored by the Southern Rural Development Center (SRDC), the Farm Foundation, the Extension Conference-the Southern Community Development Committee, the Agricultural and Natural Resources Research Committee, and the Southern Extension Public Affairs Committee. For information contact the SRDC, Box 506, Mississippi State, MS 39762; (601) 325-3207.

43RD PROFESSIONAL AGRICULTURAL WORKERS CONFERENCE (PAWCON), Dec. 8-10, Tuskegee Institute, Ala. Theme: "Human Resources Development in Rural America--A Myth or Reality." For information contact Dr. E. F. Williams, Director, Resource Development Center, P.O. Box 681, Tuskegee University, AL 36088; (205) 727-8764.

REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON SMALL FARM RESEARCH AND EXTENSION IN THE SOUTHERN REGION, Jan. 21-22, Florida A&M Univ., Tallahassee, FL. Sponsored by the Center for Environmental Programs (CEP), the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences at the Univ. of Florida, and the Florida A&M Univ. For registration information contact Dr. Robert J. Bradford, Director of CEP, Florida A&M Univ., Box 165, Tallahassee, FL 32307.

SOUTHERN RURAL SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING, Feb. 2-5, Orlando, Fla. Theme: Community and Agriculture: Who is Impacting Whom? For information contact E. Yvonne Beauford, Southern Rural Sociology Assn., P.O. Box 4371, Fort Valley State College, Fort Valley, GA 31030; (912) 825-6446 or 825-6447.

In Print

Building Prosperity: Financing Public Infrastructure, by Daniel H. Rikove, USDA-EVS-ECO, explores the questions of whether bankers in nonmetro areas of the country have more money than the local small businesses. The study suggests that behavior actually varies by size of bank, whether rural or nonmetro status. Copies of this report (Rural Development Research Report #47) can be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Govt. Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402; (202) 783-3288.

Farmland 1985: A Report of North Carolina's Agricultural Land Use is a report examining the farmland loss and soil erosion occurring in North Carolina. The report, written by Anthony San Filippo and James Riggle, is the culmination of nearly a year's work by the American Farmland Trust of North Carolina. Available at no charge from American Farmland Trust, The North Carolina Project, 411 N. Cherry St., Winston-Salem, NC 27101.

Farmland Retention in the Southeast is a publication of the proceedings of the conference on the same name by the state of Alaska, AK, 22-23, 1984. The conference was co-sponsored by the State of Alaska, the USDA-ARS, and the Farm Foundation. The report tells about the problems of farmland preservation and the actions taken to solve them. Copies of the proceedings are available free of charge from the Southern Rural Development Center, Box 5046, Mississippi State, MS 37621; (601) 325-3027.

Local and State Laws Related to Water Conservation, from the California Dept. of Water Resources, provides information for state and municipal officials interested in reforming their states' water laws. The report provides samples of ordinances, resolutions, and other publications adopted by local governments in California and other states addressing water use prohibitions and requirements. The report is available from Dept. of Water Resources, Office of Water Conservation, P. O. Box 388, Sacramento, CA 95802.

Public/Private Partnerships: Financing a National Infrastructure, by Donald A. Hinko, USDA-EVS-ECO, explores the question of whether banks in nonmetro areas of the country have more than the local small businesses. The study suggests that behavior actually varies by size of bank, whether rural or nonmetro status. Copies of this report (Rural Development Research Report #47) can be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Govt. Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402; (202) 783-3288.

Solving Water from the Ground Up, a publication of the Study of Four Commercial Fields, by Gail Richardson and Peter Mueller-Bellischlald, takes a practical approach to water quality and quantity problems that would appeal to both technicians and policy makers. The book focuses on the use of water management practices to help ease the rising costs of irrigated farming and to help solve water problems. Available for $3.00 plus shipping and handling from INFORN, Inc., 381 Park Ave., South, New York, NY 10016.
Study details occupational trends of Southeast

The occupational patterns in the Southeast will remain substantially as they are today for the next 10 years. Southeastern regional changes are expected to mirror national trends in the major occupational categories, according to an article by William J. Kahley in the November 1984 issue of the Economic Review of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta.

The article, entitled "The Southeast's Occupational Employment Outlook," lists those occupations which are expected to thrive and decline in the next 10 years. The three fastest growing occupations in the Southeast and in the nation are professional/technical, managers/officials, and sales workers. Jobs continue to shift out of farming, according to Kahley, and operative and labor occupations are growing only slowly. This contrasts sharply with the quick expansion of white-collar and service occupations, and represents an important trend nationally as well as in the Southeast region.

The Southeast is growing fairly quickly in the services and trade industries. A slight overall decline in the importance of manufacturing is occurring in the region.

Among those occupations that are expected to decline besides farming and manufacturing include private household workers, farm workers, farm owners, tenants, college teachers, telephone operators, typesetters and compositors.

The region has a less favorable outlook than the nation's for registered nurses, kindergarten and elementary teachers, automotive mechanics, computer programmers, operators and systems analysts, and electrical engineers and technicians. The region's outlook is more favorable than the nation's for fast-food restaurant workers, typists and bookkeepers. LPNs as well as nurse's aids are also expected to grow faster regionally than nationally.