Georgia receives grant for rural revitalization

Twelve Georgia counties have been selected to participate in a three-year major rural development program according to University of Georgia President Charles Knapp. The project is funded through a $1.17 million grant from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation. The program will be implemented through the Rural Revitalization Initiative of the university.

Major service units at the university and several state agencies will offer training and technical assistance to the county governments and their municipalities, targeting four areas: leadership development for elected officials; management development for supervisors; financial management training and technical assistance; and land-use planning and zoning.

Several programs will be implemented through the grant and will bring the academic and technical expertise of the flagship university to rural communities throughout the state.

A computer-assisted simulation center will be developed as a part of the program. The portable center will incorporate the newest in interactive video, computer-assisted strategic planning and electronic data retrieval. Local leaders can make decisions, react to natural disasters or public crises, and then see the long-range results of their actions. The simulation center will be supported by socioeconomic data developed by the state's universities and businesses and will be adapted to local conditions and trends.

In another part of the project, four models will be developed to focus local, regional and state leadership on developing innovative ways to address rural

Georgia's complex needs in health, education, job training, child care, housing and special populations. Local government leaders will join with business and community leaders to set goals and design plans to meet the needs of their area. The groups will be encouraged to look beyond city and county boundaries and work with other leaders in their region to enhance the quality of life for all rural residents. The collaborative processes used will emphasize local talent and continued on page 2

Grants offered for research on rural poor in US

The Aspen Institute and the Ford Foundation are offering grants of $15,000 to $50,000 for research on the rural poor in the United States. The sponsors are offering the grants to encourage research on poor people and communities, to broaden public awareness and deepen public concern about their plight.

Grants will be awarded to institutions and individuals. Proposals are welcomed from academic researchers, policy analysts, and development practitioners with on-staff research capacity. Minority women and scholars who are in the early stages of their careers are strongly urged to apply. Proposals must be postmarked by February 28.

Information on the specific application procedure is available from Rural Poverty Competition, Rural Economic Policy Program, Aspen Institute, Box 999, Mask Road at Spinney Lane, Durham, NH 03824-0959.
Rural roads offer threatening conditions

Researchers with the National Safety Council have found that it's more life-threatening to be cruising through the wider-open spaces in rural areas than to fight the chaotic traffic battles in urban areas, where a fender-bender is more likely than a major tragedy. Stares or counties with the highest traffic death rates per 100,000 tend to be those with a low population density, while states or counties where people are almost elbow-to-elbow usually have lower rates. About twice as many people are killed in traffic accidents on rural roads than on urban thoroughfares. Several factors are involved. Poor or substandard highways and roads, common in rural areas, contribute to both the likelihood and severity of accidents, especially when combined with high travel speeds. Speeds on rural highways and roads are usually higher than on city streets and expressways. The types of vehicles driven by many rural residents also are believed to contribute to the higher death rates. Pickup trucks and utility vehicles are popular but when they crash, death or severe injury is more likely than with regular passenger vehicles. Another reason lies in the fact that safety belt use is less common among rural drivers. Many old rundown cars and trucks, built before 1968 and still in service in poor rural areas, probably are not equipped with safety belts or other safety features, making them potential death traps in the event of a serious accident. For safety, rural drivers should slow down and be prepared to stop at unsigned intersections and when approaching slow-moving farm equipment. Those who drink should limit consumption to no more than one drink an hour or, even better, have a sober person do the driving.

(COMPANY: NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER, Winter 1988.)

Georgia grant ...

continued from page 1

Leadership to establish local expertise for the future.

The grant will also fund efforts to develop local initiatives, address illiteracy and develop high school-based businesses. A series of conferences for community leaders will be held to improve their awareness of rural heritage, innovation and accomplishments in small communities. School newspapers and radio stations will be encouraged and aided in featuring community and rural issues.

The counties selected for the revitalization project were judged to be representative of the state's rural communities in such criteria as per capita and median family income, poverty level, educational attainment and population trends. Application of programs developed should be of value in other parts of the state. (Source: GEORGIA COUNTY GOVERNMENT, Volume 40, No. 6, November 1988.)

Delta Commission holds organizational meeting

Created by Congress, the Lower Mississippi Delta Development Commission will conduct an 18-month study and recommend solutions to the poverty and social problems of the 187 Delta counties and parishes spread out along the lower Mississippi River in Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana and Tennessee. The nine-member Commission held its organizational meeting recently and elected officers. Governor Bill Clinton of Arkansas was elected chairman, Governor Rey Mabus of Mississippi vice chairman and Representative Ed Jones of Tennessee secretary.

The Commission selected Agricenter International in East Memphis, Tennessee, for its headquarters. Much of the work of the commission will be done in the area studied and from reports already compiled. The group will spend the bulk of the allotted time developing an action plan.

Softened water safe for septic disposal systems

People on households systems, who have suffered through dingy clothes or struggled with precipitate build-up in their homes to have hard water, can now enjoy all the benefits of softened water without worry that it will disrupt the efficiency of the disposal system.

In the 70's, there was a concern about the effects of chemically softened water on septic systems. There were unusual reasoning for what turned out to be an unfortunate concern.

It is generally known that bacterial life forms (found in septic systems) are not particularly tolerant of the strong detergents and delusterizing agents in chemically softened water. Again, in some cases, bacteria were found to be killed by softened water. The concern was that the lack of bacteria in the sewage could cause problems in the sewage system, particularly in pipe and water lines. It was feared that the salt brine produced by the softener would lower the ph level and affect the bacteria.

Subsequently, the University of Wisconsin-Madison and National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) conducted comprehensive studies on the septic areas of the state. The findings answered the three concerns.

These tests confirmed that water softener waste effluents actually exert a beneficial influence on a septic tank system operation by stimulating biological action in the septic tank and cause no operational problems in the soil drain field or anaerobic or the new aerobic septic systems.

- The volume of softener wastes are added to the septic tank slowly and are not of sufficient volume to cause any deleterious hydraulic load problem in septic tank systems. In fact, their volume is usually lower in volume and rate of addition than wastes from many automatic washers.

- Finally, it was determined that water softener regeneration wastes not only should not interfere with septic system drain field减肥 but actually might improve soil percolation, particularly in fine textured soils.

The conclusion then is that water softener regeneration wastes do not cause adverse effects on a normally operating septic system. (Source: WATER REVIEW, Consumer Report, Vol. 6, No. 2, 1988. Copies of the entire report are available from the Water Quality Research Council, K51 Naperville Rd., Lisle, IL 60532.)
SRDC leadership task force publicizes FCL

The board of directors of the Southern Rural Development Center established a task force last year to study some of the issues affecting the region. One of the groups is addressing alternatives for leadership and human resource development in rural communities in the South.

Since the Family Community Leadership program is being implemented in all states in the South, members of the Leadership and Human Resource Development Task Force recommended that the Center publicize the program through CAPSULES. The result is this issue in which you will find a brief description of the program and its history, information on the scheduled national meeting of the FCL Federation, names of state contact persons and summaries of state activities. The SRDC has been actively involved in the FCL project at the national and regional levels.

What is Family Community Leadership (FCL)?

The FCL or Family Community Leadership is an educational program designed to help meet the challenge of developing leadership in rural communities in public decision-making. The FCL model was developed through a W.K. Kellogg grant to six Western states in 1981. Through education, the program develops the leadership and organizational skills of individuals. This enables them to become more effectively involved in identifying, analyzing and resolving issues affecting the family and community.

While the FCL’s primary audience is women, anyone willing to commit 12-24 days a year to the program is eligible. Volunteer participants work with the Extension staff in all decision making, planning and management and evaluation of the program. Participants are taught by peers and are taught to become teachers themselves.

The basic FCL training consists of 30 hours of instruction in six areas:
- Leadership and Communication
- Working with Groups
- Issue Analysis and Resolution
- Community Affairs and Public Policy
- Volunteerism
- Teaching Methods

FCL Federation to hold meeting in Denver

To facilitate communications and networking among state FCL programs, the National Family Community Leadership Federation has been established. Through the organization, continued sharing of ideas, materials and approaches will enhance the efforts of all programs. A steering committee composed of Extension personnel, Extension Homemakers and volunteers has planned a March 1-3 Federation meeting in Denver, Colorado. A permanent structure and organization for the Federation will be presented at that time.

Topics to be addressed at the Federation meeting include: curriculum, funding, marketing, board organization and integration into Extension. Jim Barron and Lois Bassett, consultants from Kellogg, will provide an update on the national expansion efforts. A panel will discuss the responsibilities and relationships between the coordinator and the board. There will be a fund raising workshop as well as an exhibit of materials developed by states.

On a regional basis, the role of Rural Development Centers will be discussed by center directors. There also will be regional meetings to establish networks between states.

Registration is $50. For information contact: C. Hamrick, Extension Co-chair, Purdue University, Stone Hall, C-93, West Lafayette, IN 47907.

FCL leadership programs begin in South

The Family Community Leadership program, known as FCL, is an educational program jointly sponsored by the National Extension Homemakers Council and the Cooperative Extension Services. The pilot program began in six Western states in 1981 with funding for three years from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. The program was funded in 1984 for three additional years.

The success of the program, the need for leadership development and the interest shown throughout the nation inspired the Kellogg Foundation to support the effort nationally. In 1985, funds were approved to begin national dissemination through the Extension Service, USDA and the National Extension Homemakers Council. In 1986, the Kellogg Foundation agreed to provide up to $50,000 per state for FCL programs.

Initial funding is provided by the Kellogg Foundation, participating states contribute the support of the Extension Faculty. Extension Homemakers provide in-kind contributions and volunteers provide support to the training efforts. Plans are now underway in all states to implement the FCL program.

Southern states are in various stages of implementing FCL. Listed below are summaries of some state activities in the Southern region.

Arkansas

The Family Community Leadership Task Force was organized early in 1987 to pursue the possibility of implementing FCL program in Arkansas. The Task Force was made up of five Extension Homemakers and three Extension professionals that participated in a regional workshop in Florida. At that point, the FCL program had been introduced at District Homemaker Rallies. The Task Force had developed a plan to introduce FCL to the state. Work continued on the plan and in the fall of 1987, the curriculum was presented at District Leadership Workshops utilizing team teaching with County Council Officer participation.

During the same period, the FCL Task Force received the seed money grant of $2,000 from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and began making plans for the proposal for a $50,000 state grant. The Arkansas Extension Homemakers Council received the grant in October 1987.

An FCL board is currently being established. Plans are for it to be functioning before the Fall statewide Institute scheduled for May 23-24 and August 15-16.

Arkansas is really excited about the possibilities for FCL in the state and is looking forward to what the program can do for the leadership in the state.

Alabama

The Alabama FCL program was initiated in March 1987 with a one-day dissemination conference. At the conference, an Interim FCL board was organized to help develop the program and to prepare the funding proposal submitted to the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

A permanent State FCL board was organized and began meeting in the spring of 1988. The board is composed of four Extension professionals, four Extension Homemakers representatives and four non-Extension Homemaker representatives. Extension FCL board members include representatives from both 1890 Institutions, Tuskegee and Alabama A&M Universities, and the 1862 Institution, Auburn University.

Recruiting and planning are underway for the first state FCL Training Institute scheduled for February 15-17. This will be a pilot training session for approximately 40 volunteers and 12 Extension professionals from at least eight of the state’s 67 counties. A second Institute will be held later in 1989.

A mailing list of contacts developed from over 100 women’s organizations and interested individuals identified at the dissemination conference is being used to recruit and inform participants for the Alabama Family Community Leadership program.
Georgia

Georgia's FCL program officially began October 11, 1988. Prior planning resulted in the development of a 13-member policy-making board of directors which met November 3-4, 1988. The board membership consists of three Extension staff members with one representing the Leadership Development program area, one representing District Agents of Home Economics and Resource Development and one representing the 1989 program at Fort Valley State College; three members of Georgia Homeowners Council, Inc.; and three volunteers-at-large, including representatives from the Georgia Farm Bureau, Women's Program and the Georgia Home Economics Association. Ex officio board members include the FCL Coordinator and representatives appointed by annual meeting of the Georgia Extension Service, the administrator of Ft. Valley State College's Cooperative Extension Program and the president of Georgia Homeowners Council, Inc.

Year one of Georgia's FCL program will include a 4-5 day institute scheduled the week of July 17 for the 6-8 member county teams from 13 counties. Year two will offer the program to 18 more counties and year three will include 53 additional counties.

Board members and county agents representing the original 13 counties attended a statewide training January 26-28 on Managing Volunteers. During the training, a session was scheduled to kick-off the FCL program in the state by providing an overview and package of materials to assist them in their role as county team members.

The excitement FCL brings is spreading far and wide. People are forward with much anticipation to the development of a successful FCL program.

Kentucky

Kentucky received a start-up grant in September 1987, and conducted a pilot project with 17 counties involved in training a 12-member board for the pilot program.

Following the pilot project, a $50,000 grant was received from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to conduct the training for three years. The second series of institutes was conducted in September and November 1988 with 35 people from 11 counties participating.

The third FCL training series is scheduled for March 14-16 and April 17-19. Participants must attend both sessions to obtain 30 hours of instruction. A participant in the pilot project very aptly described what FCL training meant in four areas of her life:

- as a family member - conflict management and better communication
- as a Homeowners Club member - leadership skills to teach others
- as a citizen - understanding of the public policy process and the ability to identify issues and
- as an employee - team work skills and stress management.

Louisiana

You are Louisiana. Be informed. Be involved. It is the shape for Louisiana's adaptation of the FCL program. A multidisciplinary team of Extension personnel joined with representatives of the Louisiana Homeowners Council for a two and one-half day brainstorming session on the needs of the state and the role of the FCL program. The group recommended establishing a leadership program and appointed a committee to write a proposal. Severe budget problems prevented the Louisiana Extension Service from meeting the requirements for an FCL grant. The proposal and creative thinking by the Extension director and the president of the Louisiana Homeowners Club (LDCH) resulted in a leadership training program integrated into the existing programs.

In October 1988, an introductory session was added to the bi-annual LDCH chairman programs. Parish councils paid travel expenses for two leaders and one agent to attend the five-hour regional training. The state council has provided funds for a follow-up statewide workshop at LDCH staff meetings. The two-day workshop will focus on communication with an introduction to public policy.

Mississippi

The Family Community Leadership program in Mississippi began with a pilot leadership mini-conference in October 1987. Twenty-five persons met for two days of workshops based on several of the components in the FCL curriculum. At the end of the mini-conference, the planning committee completed the draft of a proposal for full implementation of the FCL program.

Funds were received from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation in February 1988. The board of directors, made up of Mississippi Cooperative Extension Service (MCES) representatives, Alcorn State University Extension (ASUE) staff and a volunteer from the Alcorn program, began work to carry out the program as soon as possible. In October 1988, the first statewide training Institute was held with fifty participants. The participants were Extension Homeowners volunteers, MCES staff, ASUE staff and two at-large volunteers.

The training was in the process of forming and offering training at the local level. Several active volunteers will be sent to the FCL coordinator to measure the content and success of the participants. The FCL board of directors has already begun planning the 1989 training institutes. In order to give more persons an opportunity to be involved in the program, two institutes will be planned.

South Carolina

In South Carolina, a cooperative effort between Clemson University Extension (CUE), South Carolina State College Extension (SSCE), and the South Carolina Extension Homeowners Council received FCL pilot grant monies from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to initiate the program. The initial program had two major objectives:

- to select and train county leadership teams in four counties to pilot the FCL program.

- to select, train and establish a state FCL board of directors to plan and implement coordination and expansion of the FCL program.

Three 1986 and one 1989 Extension county programs were selected for the pilot program. Each 6-member county team was composed of one or two county Extension personnel and four or five volunteers. The teams were given a three-day training on the leadership skills of FCL March 30-April 1, 1987, with follow-up training on public policy in October. The initial process was replicated. County teams are implementing their plans and functioning on a local level. The state FCL board has been formed with six volunteers and six Extension staff members.

Following the successful pilot program, a state grant to expand the FCL program in South Carolina was applied for and received from the Kellogg Foundation.

Based on clientele input, a program planning process has been completed. A high ranking program thrust identified was Leadership Competency Development, an interdisciplinary effort with Home Economics, Community Development and 4-H sharing responsibilities. Because of commonalties between it and FCL, joint leadership training resulted. Two four-day workshops were conducted with the regional training session scheduled for February with the follow-up training scheduled in May. There will be 60 Extension agents and 100 volunteers attending the joint Leadership Team and FCL training.

Tennessee

In every county and in every community, Tennesseans are developing skills to advocate for families, improve their communities and to become better leaders. Through The Family Community Leader continued on page 8
FCL state summaries continued

ship program, University of Tennessee Agricultural Extension Service profession-
s and volunteers are teaching other professionals and volunteers that they can
make a difference on any issue that is important. The training is part of the
program made possible by a $50,000 grant from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation.

In February 1988, a six-member Extension team began training nine volunteers
and nine professionals in each district during Family Community Leadership
institutes. The institutes for District Teams was completed by April. The three teams
trained in each district have completed plans to expand the program in every county
in the state by training county teams. Plans and budgets have been
submitted to the state board of directors for approval.

In addition to the benefits of the skills training received, Tennessee has
some special incentives for receiving training. Certified home economists
taking the FCL training will receive 30 professional development units (PDUs)
from the American Home Economics Association. Continuing education units (CEUs)
are offered by the University of Tennessee for professional staff and volunteers, and
Certified Volunteer Hours are awarded to the Homemakers who are keeping volunteer
records.

Extension staff and volunteers have voted their approval of the training received and much enthusiasm has been
demonstrated for FCL in Tennessee.

Texas

The Texas Extension Homemakers Association (TSHA) initiated FCL funding in
1986, and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation awarded a planning and development grant in
1987. Involvement of District Extension Directors, TSHA District Directors, other key volunteer leaders and Extension
administrators planned strategies for program delivery in a state that requires
flexibility and diversity. These plans were the basis for a state grant from the
Kellogg Foundation through the TSHA.

The FCL program has equipped 43 volunteers, 64 county Extension Agents,
two 1890 Extension program aides and 13 District Extension Directors to teach a
core of 12 leadership and public policy
lessons. Teams from 31 additional coun-
ties will complete the training in March.

Each county team is composed of one or
more members of Extension Homemakers and other volunteers who are co-equals
with the county Extension agent. They complete the training program and plan and imple-
ment local leadership development and public policy education programs.

The state FCL board of directors has
been established and is composed of three Extension Homemakers, three other volun-
teers and three Extension Faculty. The
board gives leadership to keeping the program content relevant and current. The
board plans to send 28 FCL volunteers to the Texas Legislative Days conference this year and in 1990 will host an advanced FCL
state public policy workshop. Texas expects to see FCL volunteers continue in key community and state
leadership roles and in preparing others for such roles.

On Schedule

INPUT/OUTPUT MODELING AND ECONOMIC DEVELO-
MENT APPLICATIONS, February 28 - March
2, Kansas City, Missouri. Objectives include acquaintance with an array of
personal computer software for state and substate I/O modeling. Information on
limitations, cautions and evolving topic areas of I/O research, and encouraging
exchange and dissemination of models and economic development applications.
For registration information contact Jo
Sedore, Iowa State University, Office of
Continuing Education, 102 Schramm Build-
ing, Ames, IA 50011-1112, (319) 294-4817.

NATIONAL FAMILY COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP
FEDERATION, March 1-3, Denver, Colorado. Topics
will be addressed to enhance state
programs. Regional break-out meetings
will be held to establish networking
between states. Registration is $50.
For information contact Ann C. Hancock,
FCL Federation Co-Chair, Purdue
University, Stone Hall C-53, West
Lafayette, IN 47907.

State contacts for FCL programs

Alabama
John E. Burton
Auburn University
Extension Hall
Auburn University, AL 36849-5621

Georgia
Aycock
Com, Extension Service
Duncan Hall
Auburn University, AL 36849-5621

Arkansas
Kaye F. Jones
P.O. Box 591
Little Rock, AR 72203

Florida
Etta Van B. Bolton
University of Florida, IFAS
3041 McCarty Hall
Gainesville, FL 32611

Georgia
Thaia C. Phillips
9 Bayview Drive
Shalimar, FL 32579

Georgia
Mary H. Bass
Blackburn Extension Home Economics
Hoke Smith Annex
University of Georgia
Athens, GA 30602

Kentucky
Jeff C. Cockrell
University of Kentucky
205 Crovall Hall
Lexington, KY 60546

Louisiana
Jill S. Baker
Louisiana Coop. Ext. Service
LSU, Stagg Hall
Baton Rouge, LA 70803-1900

Mississippi
Deborah B. Heil
Extension Home Economics
P.O. Box 5464
Meridian, MS 39301

Mississippi
Kathy M. Ellis
State University
North Carolina
Linda F. Mitchell
North Carolina State University
Box 7605
Raleigh, NC 27695-7605

North Carolina
Neil D. Cherry
State, Box 360
Rochester, NC 28201

North Carolina
Durna S. Wiltz
Oklahoma State University
Stillwater, OK 74078

Oklahoma
Don T. Kelliher
Oklahoma State University
Stillwater, OK 74078

South Carolina
C. Tom Houser
Clemson University
243 FMRS Building
Clemson, SC 29634-0312

Tennessee
Barry D. Martin
Agricultural Extension Service
University of Tennessee
Knoxville, TN 37901-1071

Texas
Lynn White
Extension Home Economics
Texas Agricultural Ext. Service
203 Special Services Bldg.
College Station, TX 77843-2141

Virginia
James McClintic
Virginia Polytechnic Institute
and State University
Blacksburg, VA 24061
Editor’s Note

You’ve made a believer of me! CAPSULES readers are informed on the issues and know their statistics.

On page 3 of the October issue, the graph reproduced from the USDA Agricultural Chartbook contains an incorrectly labeled legend. Several readers immediately questioned the figures as presented. When asked by the editor for data supporting the figures, Margaret Butler of the Population Section, USDA, reported the error in labeling.

Reproduced below is the chart with the correct legend. It does make a difference. Thanks to those who took the time to call or write.

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**Educational Level of Nonmetro Adults**

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**Farm exports affect farm, nonfarm business income**

Farm exports take the production of about one of every four harvested cropland and livestock products. Without these exports, one-fourth of the nation’s productive cropland would not be farmed, driving up per-unit costs of farm production and retail prices.

In 16 states, one-third to one-half of the total farm income comes from agricultural exports. Of those, six are Southern states: Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma and South Carolina. Farm exports have a major positive impact on the nation’s nonfarm businesses. Every dollar in agricultural exports generates another $1.50 in related economic activities. These agricultural facts and figures are from AGRICULTURE YESTERDAY & TODAY, a publication of USDA, US Government Printing Office # 2087-D-193-971.
Grid maps help emergency teams react quickly

DataLine Rural America! Emergency personnel are sitting by the telephone. Suddenly it rings, and the excited caller states, "There's a fire at Smith's farm," and hangs up without giving any directional information. How would your town's fire and medical responders locate the trouble?

A local official of Washington County, Pennsylvania, Mary Jo Brown, picked up on the idea, which was presented and rejected 10 years ago, of developing a grid map that would provide local emergency personnel with a quick and easy system for locating an emergency even in remote or unfamiliar areas. Since there seemed to be little interest at the county level, Brown presented the idea to fellow members of the Cross Creek Valley Regional Planning Commission. Representatives from four townships and one borough liked the idea and set out to produce a grid map for their areas.

After applying for and receiving a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Community Affairs, the commission had a local engineering firm design the map. The map was used on a U.S. Geologic Survey map so it could be expanded to add future incorporations and eventually the entire state. It was scaled to fit in a manageable size.

Each grid map is assigned a letter and number. Then when an emergency exists, a person can report it ... in Grid A-2, N, 30.

To reduce costs, the local governments took on the task of data collection themselves, taking the individual grid maps and canvassing the roads and streets. They made a list of the mailboxes on the map. They also tried to get the owner's name, address and phone number. This was a labor intensive task. Although the entire area has only 10,000 people, it is fairly rural with a number of widely scattered small villages.

A necessary component of the system is public awareness and individual knowledge of grid locator numbers. The system is 80 percent complete and the awareness discussion presented at present centers on rural segments in each yard and/or stickers with grid numbers on local telephones.

Additional information may be obtained by contacting Mary Jo Brown, Cross Creek Township, Rt. 2, Antis, PA 15532, (412) 587-3462.

Source: NATAI'S REPERTORY, Oct./Nov. 1990, No. 06.

Report describes crisis/impact of South's illiteracy

Illiteracy in the South's work force is a barrier to improved economic opportunities for its people. Therefore, an educated, skilled, flexible work force will be the key to Southern economic development. The South must have workers better equipped to learn modern, ever-changing work skills. The lack of these skills prevents the region from achieving the productivity gains it could otherwise accomplish.

Studies indicate that in the 1990s, jobs will require significantly more years of schooling. By the start of the 21st century, few jobs will require some education beyond high school.

There is growing interest in the part of policymakers throughout the South in attacking the problems of illiteracy and undereducation in the adult population. Nearly all of the Southern states have created some sort of coalition to coordinate various literacy efforts--sometimes in conjunction with state financed education programs and sometimes as entirely separate entities.

The Southern Growth Policies Board, in its November 1989 Issue of SGP Alert entitled Adult Functional Literacy in the South: Program Responses and a Proposal for a Regional Approach, describes the TTTT Literacy crisis in the South and its impact on the region's economic development. In addition, it discusses how Southern states are mobilizing their resources toward eliminating adult functional illiteracy. Finally, it suggests how state policymakers might respond by combining the resources of individual states and taking a regional approach.

The report was prepared by Dr. Oliver Johnson, Senior Staff Associate for Human Resource Policy. Copies are available for $3.00 from the Southern Growth Policies Board, P.O. Box 12202, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709.

Coalition formed to study water policy/education

Increased public concern over groundwater-quality brought one group of universities and foundations together to work on a groundwater-policy education project.

Under the leadership of Charles W. Abdalla, former Pennsylvania State University, representatives of Cooperative Extension Systems, the Freshwater Foundation and the Soil and Water Conservation Society formed a coalition to develop methods and materials for groundwater-policy education.

The project was funded by a grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation in association with the Freshwater Foundation. With financial support from the four Regional Rural Development Centers, the policy education project was conceived by the Student Group from Pennsylvania State University, Cornell University, University of Florida, North Carolina State University, Iowa State University, University of Wisconsin, University of California and Montana State University.

More than half the U.S. population depends on groundwater for its drinking water and some form of groundwater contamination has been found in every state. Government at every level is responding to the problem which has emerged as a major public policy issue of the 1990s.

The project's coalition will create linkages with key agencies of state and local governments to develop new materials that can enhance the abilities of policymakers to deal with groundwater quality issues. The three-year project results will be piloted in seven states and made available for use nationwide. To learn more about the Groundwater Policy Education Project, contact Charles W. Abdalla, Project Director, 2 Weaver Building, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA 16802, (814) 865-2561.

Comments for EPA?

Here's how to do it

Persons interested in commenting on the Environmental Protection Agency's proposed rule for municipal authorizations and to RCRA Docket Information Center (OS-305), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M Street SW, Washington, DC 20460. Comments should include the docket number F-88-CLMP-FFFFF.
Small towns hardest hit by EPA regulations

Eight-five recent and forthcoming environmental regulations will have large and far-reaching impacts on small communities, according to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Households in smaller communities already spend a larger portion of their income to obtain drinking water and wastewater treatment services than do households in larger communities. To meet the requirements of the 85 regulations, the user fees of 20 percent of the municipalities under 2,500 population may rise over 100 percent above current levels by 1996. An additional 35 percent may find their environmental bills increasing between 50 and 100 percent. Many of the households expected to experience initial “rate shocks” are in communities under 2,500 persons.

The potential cumulative cost of the environmental regulations may require that the average household in small municipalities spend an additional $170 per year by 1996. Because smaller municipalities tend to have lower average household incomes and higher unit costs for improved environmental services, households in affected communities will be required to pay a greater proportion (0.7 percent) of their income on average, for these services than will households in larger cities (0.5 percent).

The municipalities most likely to experience financial difficulty in meeting the expected increases in environmental regulations will be those with populations of 2,500 or less. Between 21 and 30 percent of these communities may have difficulty because of the high cost of some individual regulations, the cumulative costs of recent legislative requirements and the limited margin for expanding financial obligations in small communities due to existing demands for environmental and other infrastructure services.

The individual environmental regulations also account for a significant portion of costs borne by smaller communities. In its study of impacts on small businesses, EPA found high costs for compliance in some industries (electroplating, wood preserving and pesticide formulation and packaging). If costs cannot be passed on to consumers, some small businesses in these industries may be forced to discontinue part of their operations or close. By contrast, EPA found that none of the regulatory scenarios examined led to the closing of farms that would not close for other reasons.


Risk management institute to help Ext. specialists

One of the most critical issues facing officials of small local governments in the decade of the 90s is the insurance and liability crisis. Local governments constantly run the risk of property damage or personal injury through routine service delivery.

For many small communities, liability insurance is either unavailable or unaffordable. Additionally, an increasing array of liability suits are being filed against public agencies based on section 1983 of the Civil Rights Act of 1875.

The impact of this situation is far-reaching for local officials often frustrated by the lack of time and resources to seek answers on their own. The National Institute of Municipal Law Officers estimates damage claims against local governments across the country to have exceeded $4.5 trillion for the 1980-85 period.

Responding to this problem, a comprehensive program directed at risk identification, risk assessment, risk financing, and risk avoidance techniques is underway. The project team consists of Ted Maher of ES-OSHA, Gary Holland of Oklahoma State University, and staff of the Public Risk Management Association.

The products of the developmental project are:

- A risk management manual to be used as a reference tool by Extension specialists and local officials,
- Implementation workbooks,
- Video taped illustrations of risk management concepts,
- A handbook of risk reduction techniques,
- A trainer's guide.

The project is designed as a training institute forExtension specialists is scheduled for 19-23 at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater. The Institute is designed to train Extension educators from across the country in risk management concepts as well as in use of the educational materials. The training will be conducted by risk managers and other specialists of the Public Risk Management Association. For more information on the training institute, contact Ted Maher (202-447-7185) or Gary Holland (405-744-5132).

Miles is bi-vocational minister, SRDC printer

The SRDC is fortunate to have in-house printing facilities. We are more fortunate to have a qualified experienced printer.

David W. Miles has been producing quality printed documents for SRDC since 1978. He also writes some of the CAPSULE articles.

A bi-vocational minister since 1974, David is presently the Overseer Elder of the twelfth district of his church which includes the states of Texas and New Mexico. This is in addition to currently pastoring churches in Birmingham, Alabama, and Starkville, Mississippi, where he has been assigned since 1977. Also, for the past 10 years he has served as treasurer for the Starkville Ministerial Association.

Educated in the public schools of Chillicothe, Illinois, Rev. Miles majored in English at the University of Illinois (Navy Pilot). Before receiving his degree, however, he served the military in Korea from 1954-1958.

After graduation, David was unable to find work as a writer since newspapers at that time did not readily hire Black reporters. He then entered the printing profession and has been at it for 29 years. We're glad he did.

David and his wife, Joan, have three children, Jeannine (28), Shondell (16), and Gerard (11).
In Print

Guideline for Rural Economic Development

Training: Mike Wood, Gordon Staggart, David Boekes and Larry Sanders of
Oklahoma State University is intended for Extension workers or economic develop-
ment specialists for use in designing workshops for local leaders who are
seeking help to increase economic activity in their communities. The guideline was
used in several pilot workshops and found to be adaptable to different, regions and
audiences. It is available for $10 from Southern Rural Development Center, Box
5446, Mississippi State, MS 39762, (601) 325-3207.

Impact of the Changing Farm Economy on
Rurit Communities is by Linda Jones and
Robert Hancock from Texas A&M University.
The objective of the study reported was to
develop the capability to quantitatively
analyze the impacts of changes in agri-
cultural activity on the economy of rural
communities through models, and
pursuing to receive a copy of the
Inter-active agricultural impact model on
Diskette should contact Lonnie Jones (409)
845-3555. Copies of the report are
available from Southern Rural Development
Center, Box 5446, Mississippi State, MS
39762, (601) 325-3207.

Marine Fishery Allocations and Economic
Analysis is the proceedings of a regional
workshop to facilitate understanding about
the role of economic analysis in marine
fishery allocation decisions. It was
sponsored by the Southern Natural Resource
Economics Committee, Gulf and South
Atlantic Fisheries Development Foundation,
Farn Foundation and the Southern Rural
Development Center. A limited number of
copies is available from Southern Rural
Development Center, Box 5446, Mississippi
State, MS 39762, (601) 325-3207.

Modern Timber Bridges: A Viable
Alternative for Rural America is a
reprint of a paper that describes
the technological advances and
marketing potential of wood products
to use in rural areas. It is written in a
clear style for local decision-makers and
highway officials, and not as a technical
reference for bridge engineers. Copies are
available for 50 cents each from National Forest Products Association,
Publications Department, 120 Connecticut
Avenue, NW, Suite 200, Washington, DC
20036. Orders of five or more are $1.50
handling fee.

On Schedule

DEVELOPING HUMAN CAPITAL THROUGH
EXTENSION PROGRAMS, August 6, Manhattan, Kansas. This workshop will
feature a professional in the field of
leadership development for one-half day
and papers from Extension professionals
for one-half day. It precedes the National
Extension Homesteaders Conference. For
additional information contact Elizabeth
Ninomiya, Leadership Development Seminar, Groundwater Monitoring Group, Box 5446, Mississippi State, MS 39762, (601) 325-3207.

PESTICIDES IN TERRESTRIAL AND AQUATIC
ENVIRONMENTS, May 11-12, Richmond,
Virginia. For more information about this
national research conference, contact T.
M. Young, Virginia Water Resources
Research Center, 617 N. Main St.,
Blacksburg, VA 24060.

RISK MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE, June 19-23,
Stillwater, Oklahoma. This is a train-the-trainer course for training extension
educators in risk management concepts and
use of the educational materials presented. Trainees will be conducted by risk
managers and other specialists of the Public Risk
Management Association. For more information contact Ted Maher (202)
447-7185 or Gary Holland (605) 744-5132.

EPA's proposed regulations briefly explored

The new proposed regulation by the U.S.
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is
intended to establish minimum criteria for
the siting, operation and closure of land-
fills that accept household waste. The
following brief synopsis, by Patrick
Cash, Solid Waste Specialist with the
University of Wisconsin Extension, explores the scope of the proposed rules
as pertaining to location restrictions, operating criteria, landfill closure, post-closure requirements, financial
assurance, landfill cover design criteria, groundwater monitoring and the implementation schedule.

Landfill development will be restricted in
some areas, including wetlands, unstable
soils and land in the 100 year flood plain or in proximity to an airport. Except
for fault zones, landfills will not be prohibited from these areas but will be
subject to special siting restrictions and performance standards.
The location requirements would apply to all new landfills and expansions of
existing landfills. A number of requirements are imposed for daily operation of a
municipal solid waste landfill. Each landfill owner or operator must implement a
program for detecting and preventing the
disposal of hazardous wastes and polychlorinated
biphenyls (PCBs), including random
sampling, waste tracking, training programs
for landfill personnel and inspection and
inspections. All waste must be covered at the end of each operating
day, and all storage ponds must be
controlled and acceptance of large
quantities of liquid waste such as 55-gallon
drums would be prohibited. Open burning
of solid waste is prohibited, except for
incineration burning of agricultural waste
and forest product waste, land-clearing
debris, diving boards, debris from
emergency cleanup operations, or ordi-
nance. Landfills must also monitor methane
gas levels in the soil, maintain a fire
control line and monitor methane and
to water from entering active portions of the site and keep accurate records.
A landfill must be closed in a manner
that minimizes the need for further
maintenance, and it must solidify the formation
and release of leachate and methane. A
monitoring plan must be prepared detailing
how the closure will be carried out.

For existing landfills a closure plan must be
prepared as soon as the rule becomes
effective. Two phases cover the post-closure
period. For the first 30 years after
closure, the owner or operator must
 maintain the integrity of the final cover,
monitor and operate the leachate collec-
tion system and monitor gas and groundwa-
ter. After the first phase is complete, the
owner or operator must continue to conduct groundwater and gas monitoring for
a period determined by the state.

State law will determine how financial
assurance requirements will be met. There-
fore, all owners or operators of landfills, including local governments,
must demonstrate the financial capability to
perform any needed closure and post-
closure activities or any necessary
remedial action.
The regulations use a design perform-
ance standard to determine whether a
landfill will require a liner, a leachate
collection system, or an engineered final
cover system. The state is required to
establish a design goal for landfills.
Existing landfills will not have to install liners and leachate collection
systems to meet the standards but will be
required to install a final cover that
limits liquid infiltration to the waste
and meets the design standards.

Groundwater monitoring is conducted at
each landfill to determine if hazardous
constituents are migrating to the upper-
most aquifer. The operator will be required to implement the approved remedial action or to take
actions indicating that groundwater standards have been achieved.
The final rule is expected to become
law in January 1990. Once in place,
regulated facilities will have 18 months to come into compliance with the
criteria. States will also have the same
18 months to enact any necessary regula-
tion or rule revisions to bring state regulatory programs into compliance with
the requirements. At the 18 month period, predicted to be approximately
1991, all facilities which have not been
closed and covered according to current state requirements would be covered by
the new rules.

(SOURCE: NATAT'S REPORTER, Oct./Nov.
1988, No. 86.)
Small talk on big issues...

The metric system of weights and measures is being used frequently in discussing agricultural exports. The following are conversions to the U. S. system of weights and measures:

- 1 hectare (ha) = 2.47109 acres
- 1 kilogram (kg) = 2.204622 pounds
- 1 liter = 1.0567 quarts
- 1 liter = 0.264172 gallons
- 1 metric ton (t) = 2.204622 pounds
- 1 metric ton = 1.10231 short tons
- 1 metric ton of wheat = 36.7347 bushels
- 1 metric ton of corn = 30.268 bushels
- 1 metric ton of barley = 43.9296 bushels

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Ala. Experiment Station surveys waste handling

Agriculture can expect to be under close scrutiny in the future as the environmental consequences of present-day farm practices are recognized and evaluated. Just as nonagricultural industries must exercise caution in the way their activities affect ground water, rivers, streams and aesthetic experiences, animal producers also must be careful about the practices used for disposing of animal waste.

In 1986, a mail survey conducted by the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station was conducted to determine current practices and attitudes of farmers about waste handling. The questionnaire went to 680 animal producers in two north Alabama counties. One of the counties is a national leader in broiler production. Both counties have many small beef cattle herds. Dairy and hog producers were also included in the survey. Returned questionnaires numbered 35% (52% return rate). Data revealed that more than three-fourths of the animal producers in the surveyed counties have no waste disposal facilities. Of those with facilities, about 8% reported their facilities are over capacity.

Of all respondents, almost 60% accepted the fact that improving the waste handling facilities on their farms is desirable. However, only 8% perceived any degree of pollution potential for the waste facilities on their farms.

Spreading manure on land as a fertilizer material is the major disposal method used by 80% of most producers and is a year round activity. Most application takes place in the spring during a season of high rainfall. This might be a pollution factor because of runoff into streams.

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Although many animal producers are using reasonable care in handling animal waste, results of the Auburn survey indicate that many farmers may not recognize the potential for environmental pollution. Furthermore, many do not appear to be sensitive to public concern about the issue, which could lead to conflicts in the future.

( Source: HIGHLIGHTS OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, Vol. 30, No. 4, Winter 1988.)

Insurance companies increase land ownership

In 1987, farmland ownership by insurance companies increased 37 percent over 1986 holdings. According to a study released this fall by the Land Stewardship Project and the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs at the University of Minnesota, 12 insurance companies hold 5.2 million acres of farmland. This amount of land is greater than the holdings of the Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) and the Farm Credit System combined. Seventy-five percent of these holdings are due to foreclosures in the past five years. Early analysis indicates that in 1988 insurance companies have continued to acquire more and more farmland, though at a slower rate than in 1987.

"Life Insurance Company Ownership of U.S. Agricultural Land in 1987" includes state-by-state and company-by-company breakdowns, and is available by contacting the Land Stewardship Project, 512 W. Ele St., Stillwater, MN 55082; (612) 430-2166.
Farm exports boosts business, job markets

December 1990 land-grant universities will be celebrating the 160th anniversary of their establishment by the Morrill Act of 1862. The act provided for the establishment of college programs in agriculture, engineering, forestry, forestry, and mechanical arts, with the aim of teaching the practical arts and sciences to those who wanted to improve their economic status. The land-grant universities were to be funded by state and federal governments, and they became the cornerstone of higher education and research in the United States.

The Morrill Act of 1862 was a seminal piece of legislation that transformed higher education in the United States. It established a system of land-grant universities that are now known as the 1890 land-grant institutions, which include institutions that were established to serve historically Black communities. These institutions have played a crucial role in education, research, and economic development in their respective communities.

In recent years, these land-grant universities have continued to play a vital role in the economy by producing graduates who enter the workforce and contribute to the local and national economies. Many of these institutions have also developed research programs that are focused on solving real-world problems, such as developing new agricultural products, improving rural infrastructure, and promoting sustainable development.

The 1890 land-grant institutions continue to be a vital part of the American educational system and have a long history of serving their communities. They remain committed to preparing the next generation of leaders and innovators who will help drive economic growth and improve the quality of life in their communities.
On schedule

NATIONAL EXTENSION WORKSHOP FOR TOURISM TRAVEL DEVELOPMENT, May 10-12, Minneapolis, Minnesota. Participants will learn rural revitalization principles and strategies for tourism and travel development through concurrent workshops. One track will focus on practical implementation and two will focus on research and educational programming. Registration is $125. Contact Nancy Quay, Educational Development System, 405 Coffee Hall, 1420 Erskine Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55102.

RISK MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE, June 19-23, Stillwater, Oklahoma. This is a train-the-trainers institute designed to train Extension educators in risk management concepts and in use of the educational materials presented. Training will be conducted by risk managers and other specialists of the Public Risk Management Association. For more information contact Ted Mahler (202) 447-7185 or Gary Holland (405) 744-5132.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY, 20th anniversary meeting, July 23-27, St. Louis, Missouri. The theme of this year's conference is Community Development's Heritage and Horizons. For more information contact Paul Warner, 208 Sowell Hall, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40546. (606) 257-1903.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE, July 30, August 4, Conway, Arkansas. Held at the University of Central Arkansas, the institute is endorsed by the International Community Development Society. It provides a three-year curriculum of annual one-week workshops. Cost is $250. For additional information contact Bill Miller or Lola Love at (501) 450-5139.

DEVELOPING HUMAN CAPITAL THROUGH EXTENSION LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS, August 6, Manhattan, Kansas. This workshop will feature a professional in the field of leadership development for one-half day and papers from Extension professionals for one-half day precedes the National Extension Homemakers Conference. For additional information contact Elizabeth Bolton, Leadership Development Seminar, Human Economics Programs, 3041 McCarty Hall, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611-0130, (904) 392-1987.

Southern Rural Development Center
P. O. Box 5446
Mississippi State, MS 39762

Rural Studies Committee visits MS Delta

The second meeting of the National Rural Studies Committee was held May 17-19 in the Mississippi Delta at Greenville, Mississippi. The committee is a multidisciplinary group of scholars investigating ways that rural communities have been affected by mental, economic, political and environmental events of the past decade.

The Western Rural Development Center serves as administrative headquarters for the committee, which was established by a grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. The four regional rural development centers and resources for the Future serve as cooperating agencies for the committee's work.

Agriculture myths dispelled by facts

In an article by Steve Lovejoy and Will Ervin entitled Modern Farming: Myths and Realities, a number of agriculture related myths and misconceptions are dispelled with facts. Some of the myths the authors identified and the facts about them are listed below.

Myth: Foreigners have grabbed a major chunk of American farmland.
Fact: In 1986, only 12.4 million acres of U.S. farmland were foreign-owned. That is less than 2 percent of all American farmland.

Myth: Most farms are big spreads.
Fact: Nearly 60 percent of all farms operate less than 180 acres. Only 7.4 percent of farms operate 1,000 or more acres. While the size of the average farm has risen from less than 200 acres in 1940 to over 400 acres, the trend seems to be toward a high percentage of small farms, a larger number of big farms, and proportionately fewer mid-sized agricultural operations.
Study reveals farm, rural life concerns

Concern about farm chemicals in drinking water ranked just after farm prices and the federal budget deficit as matters of concern in the 1988 Iowa Farm and Rural Life Poll. The survey was conducted by the Iowa State University Extension. Nearly three out of four respondents were concerned about pesticides compared to eight out of ten concerned about farm price and deficit issues, says the October, 1988, report. Seven out of ten farmers ranked adverse health effects from exposure to agricultural chemicals as major concerns.

Nearly three out of four farmers responding agreed that economic development that results in the destruction of wildlife habitat should be stopped. But respondents were divided on whether the government should require all farmers to implement an approved conservation plan, with 40 percent supporting that idea, 35 percent disagreeing and 20 percent uncertain.

Myths dispelled

Myth: Farm families are more self-sufficient than the rest of us.

Fact: Years ago, farm families were more self-sufficient because they grew and canned their own vegetables, fruits and meats, but modern farmers exhibit consumption patterns similar to their urban counterparts.

Myth: Farming is a safe, healthy, outdoor occupation.

Fact: While the activities occur outdoors, farming is the second most dangerous occupation (mining is first), with an annual accident death rate of 49 per 100,000 workers and an annual injury rate of 5,312 per 100,000 workers.

Myth: Farmers suffer less stress than others.

Fact: The National Institute of Mental Health rates farming as one of the most stressful occupations because of tremendous uncertainty about weather, yields, prices, etc., as well as a perception that the consequences of sub-optimal decisions might mean financial disaster and the destruction of the family business and way of life.


Editor's note

Due to heavy travel schedules, summer vacations and a variety of other uninviting reasons, the edition of CAPSULES may be reaching you a few days off schedule. The June issue will follow shortly. JFT

Overall, the Iowa farm operators thought that farm financial conditions had improved during the past two years, and 40 percent believe their economic prospects will improve over the next five years. That is twice as much optimism as reported in 1983, 1984, and 1985, says Paul Lasley, the Extension Sociologist who is chief author of the report. For information, contact Lasley at the Iowa State Extension, Ames, IA 50011.


Students rewarded for "A"ccomplishment

Call it a bribe if you want, but the folks interested in education in Forest County, Mississippi, call it successful. The public school program in question rewards straight-A students with gold cards good for discounts of 10-50 percent at area stores.

Students, teachers, parents and merchants all benefit from the gold card idea. Students receive a tangible reward for their hard work while teachers see an improvement in the classroom. Parents are helped financially by using the discounts offered their children. Many of the 28 participating merchants have reported noticeable increases in business especially from new customers.

The effective effort has cost the county very little. Nearly $1,000 to $1,500 contributions from a local electric company and $25 and $50 donations from most of the participating merchants have funded the program.

The innovative program has stimulated students to put forth more effort and to try harder, according to school superintendent Walter P. Cartier. At latest count, the 3,000 student, K-12 county school system had over 425 students with straight-A's compared with 179 when the program began three years ago.

The results of the program have attracted wide spread attention. More than 350 information packets have been mailed in answer to requests. Other systems in Mississippi as well as schools in Kentucky, Louisiana and Oklahoma have started similar programs.

Cartier believes that the degree of the students' improvement is directly related to the gold card incentive. Anything that increases achievement or retains students in school is worth the effort according to the superintendent.

For more information about the program contact Walter P. Cartier, Superintendent, Forest County Schools, 400 Forrest Street, Hattiesburg, MS 39401, (601) 545-6655.

Rural hospitals close, reasons vary

Since 1980, 206 rural hospitals have closed their doors, 43 of them in the last year. By some estimates, 500 more will close by the early 1990s. Reasons for the closings vary by locale. They include:

- a dwindling population and failing economies of many rural areas,
- the large proportions of patients who lack insurance,
- difficulty in recruiting professional personnel,
- frequently poor quality of service, and
- the lower level of Medicare reimbursements in rural areas than elsewhere.

In many rural areas, the loss of some of the acute-care services and the shut-down of some hospitals are depriving many people of adequate health care. The biggest problem for rural hospitals is volume; they have too few patients on a paying basis to fill enough beds to support a hospital.

The Prospective Payment Assessment Commission (PPAC) estimates that while the average urban hospital had almost 60 percent of its beds filled daily in 1985, the rate for the average rural hospital was 41 percent.


No time to read? Here are some hints

Many of us face this problem: too much reading and too little time. Here are some tips on how you can maximize a limited amount of reading time.

- Schedule specific blocks of time each week for business reading (and stick to your schedule).
- Prioritize your reading material. Read the most important information first.
- Skim each piece of material to quickly determine if you need to read further. Look at the table of contents first. Then read the headline and first sentence of sections and paragraphs. The greatest goal of speed reading is to not read material you aren't interested in or that isn't needed.
- Delegate reading to people in your department. Let them know what kind of information they should forward to your attention.

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 inner cities and rural areas of the South.

The Southern Rural Development Center is one of 50 regional rural development centers in the nation, focuses specifically on rural problems of the Southern region. The Center is located at Mississippi State University and provides support staff to the extension service and experiment stations of 29 land-grant universities. 13 Southern states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

H. Doss Brodnax Director

Jacques Thodos

Sandy Markley

Editorial Assistant
Unidentified SRDC staff revealed

Their names may not appear on the roll of SRDC staff, but they are definitely members. Introducing Shonda P. Reeves and David Alexander.

Reeves and Alexander are both seniors at Mississippi State University and are student workers at SRDC. Former classmates at the local Starkville High School, the pair now work together part-time in addition to attending college full-time.

LaShonda is a Business Education major with an emphasis in Office Administration. She hopes to become an office manager upon graduation or as she said, “something big.” The mother of three-year-old Clifton D., LaShonda is an accomplished seamstress and likes to sew in her spare (7) time.

At work, Shonda, as she is called, works as a backup computer operator and general all round office worker. She cheerfully fills in where she’s needed and certainly brightens up the office.

David is majoring in Communications and ultimately wants to go into TV news as a producer. From a military family, he has lived in 13 states. A quiet person, David is an avid reader and likes to play softball.

Summer’s here, use caution

Summer in the South brings lots of hot work to the farm, but also provides opportunities for family recreational activities out-of-doors. Working, playing or driving during the summer months will be both more productive and pleasant if certain precautions are taken.

- Protect against over-exposure to the sun. It can cause premature aging of the skin and increase skin cancer risk. Wear a brimmed hat and cover sensitive skin areas. Use an effective “sunscreen” lotion when wearing a bathing suit or shorts.
- When the weather is hot and/or humid, pace energy output accordingly. Watch for signs of heat stress such as headache, dizziness, weakness, heavy sweating or hot and dry skin, extreme weakness or loss of consciousness. Drink plenty of non-alcoholic liquids. Whichever the activity, work or play, do it comparatively, especially where incompetence could elevate risk of injury. Make sure all equipment and gear are in good shape.

In addition to a daily round of errands, mail-outs are David’s main responsibility. He also assists, as does Shonda, in most phases of the print production of our publications. You should appreciate David as the person who logs the heavy bags of mail containing CAP-SULES to the post office.

Quality individuals, these students provide ongoing support to the regular staff. With them, our work is made easier. Thanks, Shonda and David.

Unemployment Rates by State
December 1988

NAMES IN THE NEWS

WILLIAM BOYKIN, retired extension administrator at Alcorn State University, died March 28. He first joined Mississippi Cooperative Extension Service in 1971 as extension coordinator of the Alcorn A&M Branch. In 1974, he was promoted to associate director for the Alcorn Branch and associate director for the Southern Rural Development Center. In 1978, his employment was transferred to Alcorn State University. He retired in 1980.

JAMES F. JOHNSON has been appointed acting director of the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service, effective April 1. He succeeds MITCHELL GEESLER, who resigned as vice provost for Extension and director of VCES. Dr. Johnson holds degrees from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and North Carolina State University.

Info on INFO South

Information on how to use INFOSouth, the Forest Service’s natural resources and environmental concerns library, discussed in the April issue of CAP-SULES is available from INFOSouth, Science Library/Room 409, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602, (404) 546-2477.

IN PRINT

Good Practices in Public Works Features: descriptions of 20 public works activities with a proven track record. Chapters include how to improve maintenance, increase service without expanding facilities, streamline public works management and expand revenue sources. Developed by the Research Foundation of the American Public Works Association, it is available for $25 from APWA, 1313 East 60th Street, Chicago, IL 60637-2881.

Looking Forward Together: Proceedings of Four-State Heartland Economic Development Conference contains excerpts from the workshops of the October 1997 meeting. The conference topics were resources and tools for economic development, tourism, community economic development and expansion and expansion. Copies are available from Ed Henderson, Northeast District Area Extension Office, 201 Court Street, Suite 801, Moxkobe, KJ 74401, (918) 687-2468.

Making Connections: After the Factories Relocated: takes another hard look at the diverging path between rural and metropolitan counties in the South. This in-depth analysis updates the original study and provides fresh insights about the factors which influence growth and the interdependences between the manufacturing and service sectors. It is available from Southern Growth Policies Board, Box 12293, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709, (919) 541-5145.

Operational and Strategic Planning in Small Business is a report on the findings of a study that examines the effects of formal long-range strategic planning, operational planning, and various types of strategies on the performance of small firms. Ninety-seven Iowa small businesses, in manufacturing, retailing and service industries participated in the survey. Available from North Central Regional Center for Rural Develop, 216 East Hall, Iowa State University, Ames, IA 50011, (515) 294-6332.

Community Transportation Report, the January 1998 special edition, is a detailed resource guide for rural transportation issues. It contains sections on federal assistance programs, national associations and resources, federal and regional contacts, and state contacts and funding levels. Copies may be obtained by $7.90 from Scott Bogan, CTR, 725 18th Street NW, Suite 900, Washington, DC 20005, (202) 638-1480.

THE INNS & OUTS OF INNKEEPING, June 13-14, Jason, Georgia. This is planned for persons not yet in the industry as well as those already involved. Legal aspects, necessary financial and personal investments and successful business operations will be covered. Registration information is available from Bed & Breakfast/ROD, Box 1209, Tifton, GA 31793, (912) 386-3416.

RISK MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE, June 19-23, Stillwater, Oklahoma. This is a train-the-trainer institute designed to train extension educators in risk management concepts and in use of the educational materials presented. Training will be conducted by risk managers and other specialists of the Public Risk Management Association. For more information contact Ted Maher (202) 447-7185 or Gary Holand (405) 744-5132.

AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY FORUM, July 15-16, Baltimore, Maryland. In joint sponsorship with SRDC, the Southern Legislative Conference Agriculture and Rural Development Committee will hold its annual policy forum in conjunction with the SLF annual meeting. For registration contact Ken Fann, SLC, 3384 Peachtree Road NE, Suite 30, Atlanta, GA 30326, (404) 266-1271.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY - 70th anniversary meeting, July 25-27, St. Louis, Missouri. The theme of this year's conference is Community Development's Heritage and Horizons. For more information contact Paul Warner, 208 Swensell Hall, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40546, (903) 257-1637.

AMERICAN AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS ASSOCIATION, July 30-August 2, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The 1999 annual meeting will be held on the campus of Louisiana State University. Register before July 6 or pay a $35 late fee. For complete information contact AAA Business Office, Iowa State University, 80 Heady Hall, Ames, IA 50011-1207, (515) 292-7112.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE, July 30-August 4, Conway, Arkansas. Held at the University of Central Arkansas, the institute is endowed by the international Community Development Society. It provides a three-year curriculum of annual one-week workshops. Cost is $250. For additional information contact Bill Miller or Lois Love at (501) 450-1122.

DEVELOPING HUMAN CAPITAL THROUGH EXTENSION LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS, August 6, Manhattan, Kansas. This workshop will feature a professional in the field of leadership development for one-half day and papers from Extension professionals for continued page 8
On Schedule
continued from page 7

one-half day. It precedes the National Extension Homemakers Conference. For additional information contact Elizabeth Bolton, Leadership Development Seminar, Home Economics Programs, 3041 McCarty Hall, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611-0130, (904) 392-1987.

RURAL SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIETY, August 5-8, Seattle, Washington. The Sociology of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Rural Policy Interest Group meetings are August 5 followed by regular sessions. Registration deadline is June 25. For registration information contact Emmett P. Fluke, RSS Meeting, WSU Conferences and Institutes, 7812 Pioneer Way, Royali-
up, WA 98371-4988, (206) 840-4575.

EXPANDING THE FUTURE OF THE SMALL FARM: WHAT WORKS?, September 24-27, Columbia, Mis-
souri. This is an interactive three-day program of practical knowledge and techniques to enhance the skills

and networking capabilities for service-providers to the small and limited resource farmer. The registration fee
is $50. For registration contact Jay Williams, Small Farms Future, 348 Hearnes Center - UMC, Columbia,
MO 65211, (516) 882-6305.

IT'S AN IDEA...

A clayton county, Georgia, has purchased 3,500 small blue reflectors which are installed on roadways to signal the location of fire hydrants. Being a different color from lane markers, they show up easily, especially at night. Firefighters can quickly find the nearest hydrant to their response address. These markers cost less than $2 each and are cemented to the pavement.

Southern Rural Development Center
P. O. Box 5446
Mississippi State, MS 38762

Economist studies Southern migration data

Migration to the South may slow in the 1980s, according to an Atlanta Federal Reserve Bank economist.
The latest available migration data indicate "a possible reversal of inter-regional migration trends, although the emerging pattern is not yet clear," said
William J. Kahley in the Winter 1989 issue of the bank's publication, Regional Update.
The data show a recent dramatic decline in migrants to the South--from 426,000 in the year ending in March 1984 to 160,000 in 1985 and 35,000 in 1986.
Kahley attributed the slowed migration to several factors, including the unexpected drop in oil prices, renewed competition from inexpensive foreign labor, and heightened importance of a more educated labor force.
According to Kahley, previously the South was considered a good source of low-cost, unskilled labor. As the world economy has become more integrated, how-
ever, companies seeking cheaper labor have looked outside the U.S. Meanwhile, other businesses are expanding in areas of the nation offering better educated workers. (continued on p. 7)

ACC launches attack on rural adult illiteracy

Raising rural education levels by working with high school dropouts is an approach being taken by Appalachian Communities for Children (ACC).
The group is working, with some success, to reduce the highest adult illiteracy rate in the country, found in the eastern Kentucky counties of Jackson and Clay.
In the two years it has been open, ACC's tutoring program has helped 240 high school dropouts obtain their high school equivalency certificates.
The tutoring usually occurs in homes and community buildings rather than in schools, which often intimidate dropouts. ACC provides transportation and child care when necessary and actively recruits students.
ACC also helps students with college and job opportunities and tutors court-referred 16- to 21-year-olds in reading, math and job skills.
For more information, contact Judy Martin, executive director, at (606) 364-3524.
(Extracted from the February 1989 Issue of Rural Development Perspectives, a publication of the USDA Economic Research Service.)

RELATING RURAL DEVELOPMENT TO YOUR COMMUNITY
Inhabitants of an urban Virginia county have found a safe way to dispose of their household hazardous wastes. Rapid growth, dwindling landfill space, and the concern of local environmentalists prompted Chesterfield County to create a county collection day for items considered too hazardous for the landfill, such as pesticides, paints, motor oil, kerosene, pool chemicals, fertilizers, solvents, paint thinners, and glues.

Coordinated by the local Extension Service, the first collection day was held in October 1986 and was considered such a success that two additional collection days were held in 1989. After the three collection days, a total of 191 drums of hazardous materials were collected for disposal at a hazardous waste landfill in South Carolina. The county contracted with a chemical service company for collection, transportation, and disposal services.

To publicize the events, several methods were used. Flyers were distributed to county homes through utility bills announcing the date, time, and place. Every fourth and fifth grade class in the county elementary schools were given brochures and a lesson on “Danger in the Home.” Brochures were also distributed at the landfill to people bringing household hazardous wastes for disposal. Posters were displayed in area businesses, and local television and radio stations advertised the project.

Several county departments helped with the disposal days. A hazardous materials van from the Fire Department was on hand to assist in the event of an emergency. Police helped with traffic control. The Sanitation Department had a truck available to collect items safe for the landfill.

The final costs for the three disposal days exceeded $75,000, and county officials expect future costs to rise, thanks to increased awareness within the county of the dangers of household hazardous wastes.

Costs were met by appropriations by the Board of Supervisors and donations by area businesses, but the Extension Service is now examining the possibility of developing a permanent building at the local landfill to be open periodically for storage of hazardous materials. Besides reducing disposal costs, this would provide more convenience to county citizens.

For more information, contact Susan E. Craft, CED Extension Agent, Virginia Cooperative Extension Service, P.O. Box 146, Chesterfield, VA 23823, (804) 751-4401.

Farmers disadvantaged in job market

In their search for off-farm employment, farmers are likely to meet stiff competition in the local labor force. Labor force analysts predict that as many as 300,000 farmers may leave farming by the turn of the century, while many others will seek supplemental off-farm jobs to help keep them in farming.

A chief obstacle to finding off-farm work is the average age of farmers: they tend to be older than other workers. According to the 1980 Census, 41 percent of farm operators are between the ages of 45 and 64, and another 23 percent are over 65, leaving only 36 percent under 45. In contrast, over 70 percent of the local labor pool and the total labor force are under 45.

Farmers are also disadvantaged by their slightly lower levels of education when compared to the local labor pool or the total civilian labor force. Of the farmers age 25 to 64 (the group most likely to seek off-farm employment), 57 percent completed high school, compared with about 75 percent of the local labor pool and 76 percent of the U.S. labor force.

Also contributing to tough competition for off-farm jobs is the fact that farmers tend to live in areas where unemployment is greater. In general, farmers face an average unemployment rate of 6 percent, compared with 7 percent for the U.S. total. Farmers in the South and West lived in areas with even higher unemployment levels (8.7 and 8.9 percent). Farmers are also likely to be competing for jobs in areas where employment opportunities are limited and wages are low.

The off-farm employment picture varies by region. The Northeast offers the fewest employment advantages for farmers, but only 6 percent of all farmers live there. At the same time, the West, having the greatest employment disadvantages, contains only 12 percent of all farmers. The Midwest and South fall in between.

(Condensed from "Farmers and Their Search for Off-Farm Employment," by Dorothy S. Parker and Leslie A. Whiteman, in the February 1989 issue of Rural Development Perspectives, a publication of the USDA Economic Research Service.)

Outlook for farm credit improves

According to Gregory Gajewski of the USDA Economic Research Service, well-capitalized farmers should have little trouble getting credit from agricultural banks with the improvement in farm income and cuts in farm debt since the early 1980s.

In the March 1989 issue of Agricultural Outlook, Gajewski offered the following information regarding recent developments in farm finance:

- Despite last year's drought, agricultural bank failures are projected between 21 and 43 this year, down drastically from the 1987 peak of 75. A total of 94 to 136 banks will fail, down from more than 200 in each of the past two years.
- Bank failure patterns show that financial stress has shifted from the farm to the oil well. In 1985, agricultural banks accounted for almost 59 percent of all bank failures. Last year, only about 10 percent of the 211 failed banks were agricultural. In 1987, there were 45 bank failures in agricultural counties, but in 1988 there were only 20.
In Print

Focus on the Future: Options in Developing a New National Rural Policy presents the results of four regional rural development policy workshops held in the fall of 1988. The workshops were sponsored by the Dept. of Labor, Extension Service, Economic Development Administration, Farm Foundation, and Aspen Institute, in cooperation with the National Association of Development Organizations, Small Business Administration and National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. Volumes available include an Executive Summary ($5) and Proceedings ($17). Available from Ron Knutson, Dept. of Agricultural Economics, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843-2124, (409) 845-5913.

Making Connections: After the Factories Revisited, published by the Southern Growth Policies Board (SGPB), reexamines the findings of After the Factories (1985). This in-depth analysis takes another hard look at the diverging path between rural and metro counties in the South, updating the original study and providing fresh insights about the factors which influence growth and the interdependencies between the manufacturing and service sectors. Available for $10 from SGPB, P.O. Box 12293, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709, (919) 941-5145.

Signs of Progress: A Report on Rural America's Revitalization Efforts, by Secretary of Agriculture Richard Lyng and Under Secretary of Small Community and Rural Development Roland Vauteur, outlines the major programs and initiatives of the USDA and the federal government related to rural development. Although not a comprehensive listing, the report breaks down current rural development programs by federal agency and details future rural development strategy. Available from the USDA office of the Under Secretary for Small Community and Rural Development.

NATat publication focuses on recycling

Recycling should become as much a part of a community's disposal plan as landfilling, according to Hamilton Brown, principal author of a small town guide to recycling.

Why Waste a Second Chance?, published by the National Association of Towns and Townships (NATat), is a step-by-step approach to setting up a successful recycling program in any community.

The entire package includes the guide, an audio visual that shows how recycling has worked in communities throughout the country, and a user's guide to help in setting up a showing of the video and to provide "talking points" on the merits of a recycling program.

Why Waste a Second Chance? is the first of three self-training packages to be produced with a grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

Cost of the guidebook is $6 for NATat members, $10 for others, plus $1.50 postage and handling. Volume discounts are available.

Cost of renting the video for two weeks is $20 for NATat members, $40 for others, plus $5 postage and handling. Each video package includes a copy of the guidebook and user's guide. Purchase cost of the video package is $50 for NATat members, $80 for others, plus $5 postage and handling.

Order from NATat, 1522 K St., N.W., Suite 730, Washington, DC 20005, (202) 737-5200.
On Schedule

AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY FORUM, July 15-16, Baltimore, Maryland. In joint sponsorship with USDA, the Southern Legislative Conference Agriculture and Rural Development Committee will hold its annual policy forum in conjunction with the SLC annual meeting. For registration contact Ken Fern, SLC, 3384 Peachtree Road NE, Suite 30, Atlanta, GA 30326, (404) 266-1271.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY - 20th anniversary meeting, July 23-27, St. Louis, Missouri. The theme of this year's conference is Community Development's Heritage and Horizons. For more information contact Paul Warner, 208 Scovell Hall, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40546, (606) 257-1803.

FEE-HUNTING ON PRIVATE LANDS IN THE SOUTH, July 23-25, Clemson, South Carolina. The purpose of this symposium is to exchange information on the subject of income generated from selling access to wildlife on private lands in the South. Registration and program details are available from Greg Yarrow, Department of Aquaculture, Fisheries and Wildlife, Clemson University, Clemson, South Carolina 29634, (803) 656-3117.

MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS FOR THE COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE, July 24-28, Auburn, Alabama. This course will teach principles of management as developed through research in colleges of business and applied to problems and situations found in the cooperative extension service. Course fee is $495. For registration contact Center for Management and Executive Development, College of Business, 205 Trench Hall, Auburn University, AL 36849-5244, (205) 844-4012.

NEW DIRECTIONS IN DATA, INFORMATION SYSTEMS, AND THEIR USES, July 28-29, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. One of the AERA pre-meeting conferences, sessions will be held on issues involved in the collection and dissemination of statistics as they relate to the changing dimensions of rural areas. A major general session will focus on results from a survey of priorities for data on Agriculture and Rural Areas conducted by the Economic Statistics Committee. Registration is $75 for members and $40 for students. For details contact Ruthie Buike, Dept. of Agricultural Economics, University of Wisconsin, 427 Torch Street, Madison, WI 53706, (608) 263-4844.

AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS AT THE 1890s: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE, July 30, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. This is an AERA preconference meeting which begins the centennial celebration of the establishment of the 1890 land-grant colleges and universities. The registration fee is $30. For additional information contact William Langston, Dept. of Agricultural Economics, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40596, (606) 257-1803.

AMERICAN AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS ASSOCIATION, July 30-August 2, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The 1969 annual meeting will be on the campus of Louisiana State University. Complete information contact AAEA Business Office, Iowa State University, 80 Old Main, Ames, IA 50011-1070, (515) 294-7121.

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DEVELOPING HUMAN CAPITAL THROUGH EXTENSION LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS, August 6, Manhattan, Kansas. This workshop will feature a professional in the field of leadership development for one-half day and papers from Extension professionals for one-half day. It precedes the National Extension Homemakers Conference. For additional information contact Elizabeth Bolton, Leadership Development Seminar, Home Economics Programs, 3041 McCartney Hall, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611-0230, (904) 392-1867.

EXPANDING THE FUTURE OF THE SMALL FARM: WHAT WORKS, September 24-27, University of Missouri-Columbia, Columbia, Missouri. It's an idea...

- An Ohio county has taken an unusual approach to the problem of sign vandalism. Franklin County officials introduced a public awareness program that included news releases, presentations to local groups, and displays. Schools were also targeted. Students were told of the seriousness of vandalism and the costs associated with repair and replacement. Contributing to the program's success is the distribution of a series of eight free miniature replicas of actual signs, reproduced in color on heavy paper. A Franklin County official estimates that the program has reduced vandalism and associated costs by as much as 40 percent.

To obtain registration information, write Small Farms Future, 340 Hearnes Center, UMC, Columbia, MO 65211.

11TH ANNUAL RURAL AND SMALL SCHOOLS CONFERENCE, October 30-31, Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas. Conference theme is "Small Schools: Educational Assets for the Rural Community." Registration information is available from the National Conference Office at (800) 255-2757.

RURAL FAMILIES: CHARGE AND CONTINUITY, November 15-17, Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas. For more information, contact the National Conference Office at (800) 255-2757.

Migration... (continued from p. 1)

"In addition," noted the economist, "the extent of migration to date could by itself be ending the South's boom because of adverse effects of rapid population influx--such as infrastructure strains, overcrowding of amenities, and rising living costs."

Kahley suggested that some of the most important forces reducing migration to the region are demographic. During the next decade, for example, there will be fewer people at an age likely to relocate.

"The post baby boom generation is smaller, and the baby bust cohort born during the Great Depression will reduce the number of new retirees during the 1980s," Kahley predicted.

Kahley also warned that as migration slackens, many of the economic benefits brought by the large influx of migrants that began in the 1970s will dwindle.
Mobile unit reaches Georgia counties

A one-of-a-kind mobile teaching unit allows Extension workers in Georgia to carry educational technology to small towns in Georgia.

"It puts new technology in town settings so that no matter what the future brings, community leaders will be familiar with technology and its basic applications. It helps them move from the print age to the video age," according to Mercedes Parker, the Fort Valley State College Extension education specialist who travels with the trailer.

Computers, audiovisual equipment, a satellite receiving system and interactive video are housed in a customized 45-foot trailer visited by more than 300 people in six counties since it was unveiled last fall.

Available computer systems include graphics, word processing, desktop publisher and database programs covering everything from bookkeeping to problem-solving. The satellite receiving system lets users view educational programming from universities and colleges across the U.S. Audiovisual equipment demonstrates how even simple technology improves educational programs.

According to Parker, public response has been good and possibilities are expanding. For example, small businesses are requesting visits from the unit.

The project is financed by W.K. Kellogg Foundation grants.

(Condensed from "On the Road--With Technology," by B.K. Litja, p. 14 of the Winter 1989 issues of Extension Releas, a publication of the USDA Extension Service.)

State develops geographic information system

New businesses may soon have an easier way to find development sites in South Carolina. State leaders have developed a geographic information system believed to be the first of its kind in the U.S. dedicated solely to economic development issues.

The computer system will evaluate the economic readiness of any area of the state and will be used in state funding decisions about water, sewers and highways.

More than a million dollars in state and federal money have been spent on the project so far, including a $200,000 Housing and Urban Development grant.

The system, centered in a computer operat-
Nonmetro areas need both local, urban banks

Should rural communities fear bank deregulation? Maybe not, if the community is lucky enough to be served by both local and urban banks, according to Daniel J. Mikelov and Patrick J. Sullivan, economists with the Agriculture and Rural Economy Division of the USDA Economic Research Service. Some rural advocates believe that locally owned and operated community banks are critical for economic development in rural areas. Because local bankers know the local residents and their businesses, they can confidently make loans that would not meet the rigid standards required of large, urban-based banking firms. Other experts stress the ability of large banks and multibank holding companies to provide a wider variety of loan products and other financial services, and the implicit safety that arises from geographic diversification. Mikelov and Sullivan suggest that special concern to rural areas is whether deregulation will lead to the demise of locally controlled community banks, which have preceded, or to banks abandoning rural markets.

Neither of these extreme outcomes had developed by 1986, according to Mikelov and Sullivan. Large urban-based banking firms neither drove rural banking organizations out of business nor abandoned rural markets, though at least one large multibank holding company did sell off its affiliates that made mostly agricultural loans. Instead, urban-based banking firms substantially increased their presence in rural America through mergers or by establishing new branches. And rural-based banking firms democratized their adaptability to changing macro and regulatory environments as well. Although convincing evidence is hard to come by, Mikelov and Sullivan believe that urban-based banks do play an important and increasing role in rural markets, but rural-based banks can coexist with their city cousins and continue to serve rural credit needs.

Future deregulation will probably change rural banking structure less than urban, they suggest. New urban banks often promote themselves for specialized market segments. But rural markets cannot sustain such specialization, and less than a fourth of new banks are rural. For similar reasons, few rural banks are likely to be interstate banking targets, unless indirectly because they belong to urban-based firms. Some communities may regain local ownership of their banks because multibank holding companies decide to sell off rural affiliates that do not meet corporate growth and efficiency standards. (Condensed from “Should Rural Communities Fear Bank Deregulation?,” by Mikelov and Sullivan, in the February 1989 issue of Rural Development Perspectives, a publication of the USDA Economic Research Service.)

Interest group formed

Rural sociologists interested in rural racial and ethnic minorities are organizing an interest group within the Rural Sociological Society. For more information, contact Bill Kukley, Department of Sociology, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843.

Deavers studies federal aid to rural America

The record suggests that the nation does not care much about the lagging performance of rural America, according to Kenneth L. Deavers. "The federal response to the current problems of rural communities and rural poverty has been extremely modest in comparison to federal assistance to farmers," Deavers said in a recent article.

The article, entitled "Lagging Growth and High Poverty, Do We Care?" appeared in the Second Quarter 1989 issue of CHOICES, a publication of the American Agricultural Economics Association. Deavers is director of the Agricultural and Rural Economy Division of the USDA Economic Research Service. According to Deavers, from 1980 to 1988, federal assistance for rural development totaled only $24 billion. Most of this assistance was in the form of grants and loans to public authorities rather than in the form of direct cash payments to individuals or firms experiencing stress.

In contrast, income transfers to farmers (direct cash payments) from 1980 to 1988 totaled more than $75 billion, while the over all cost of farm programs exceeded $115 billion. Deavers pointed out that the 1980s have been a time of economic stress for farmers as well as the rest of the rural economy. Many factors, including high real interest rates, a high-valued dollar, shrinking exports, and falling farm prices, all combined to push many farmers to the brink of financial failure. However, federal financial support to farmers increased dramatically in order to assist the sector through the tough times.

In the rest of the nonmetro economy, during the two recessions between 1980 and 1982, the rural manufacturing sector lost 550,000 jobs, and the sharp break in energy prices that came slightly later in the decade caused a drop in employment of 110,000 in that sector by 1983. According to Deavers, while there has been a modest recovery in the rural economy since 1982, employment has grown at only two-thirds of the U.S. rate.

Deavers said that farm poverty is now a relatively small share of total rural poverty and few farming dependent counties are among the nation's poorest. In fact, in terms of average per capita income, the farming dependent counties have been above the average of all rural counties for the past 20 years. According to Deavers, the rural areas that have continued to grow strongly during the 1980s are those with high amenity values, i.e., they are attractive to growing numbers of mobile retirees moving out of cities and other rural areas, and to managers of footloose industries with a preference for a rural location. They also have assets such as lakes, mountains or shorelines, making them desirable as residences and for recreation.

Nonmetro counties adjacent to metro areas have also grown rapidly during this decade. Measured by employment change, Deavers said, the poor performance of the rural economy in comparison with the metro economy during this decade is striking. During the recession period, metro growth continued at a slow rate, but nonmetro areas actually lost employment, and the recovery which began in 1983 has widened the gap in employment performance between metro and nonmetro labor markets.

Deavers also pointed out that stagnation in rural economic growth has led to a resumption of rural outmigration. Between 1980 and 1984, for example, the total outmovement was only about 30,000, while in the past few years, the annual outmovement has been closer to 500,000.

The recessions of the early 1980s pushed both urban and rural poverty rates up, but since 1983, the metro poverty rate has trended down, and in 1987 it was 12.6 percent. In contrast, the nonmetro poverty rate has been very difficult to reduce, and in 1986 it was still nearly 17 percent.

Nonmetro poverty is heavily concentrated in the South, according to Deavers. In 1986, 54 percent of the rural poor lived in the South, where the nonmetro poverty rate was over 21 percent. All seven states with poverty rates above 20 percent in 1980 (the latest year for which state data are available), and the eight states which had at least 300,000 poor rural people were in the South.
### EPA lists contaminated waterways of South

Just how bad is water pollution in the South? The answer can be partly found from a list released by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in mid-June of contaminated waterways across the U.S. Shown below, by state, are the total number of waterways—rivers, oceana, streams, and lakes—along with the number of waterways the EPA cites as being polluted by private or government-owned facilities. Also shown is the total number of industrial facilities discharging into those waterways, along with the number of facilities discharging with the permission of the EPA.

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### Oklahoma Extension develops co-op software

Management software for co-ops is now available from the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension service. The software system, entitled CoopSm, is designed to assist managers in analyzing trends in sales, expenses, net savings, Farm fires fatal, should be prevented

Farm fires cause many deaths and injuries, plus tens of millions of dollars of property loss each year. Preventing fire is your first line of defense, knowing what to do should fire strike is your backup. Keep your place clean and undisturbed. Follow directions on containers or labels of flammable products. Store them in their original or safety containers. Develop, then practice a home fire escape plan, so everyone knows what to do. Teach children how to get help in case of fire. Post emergency phone numbers by all phones. Repair or replace faulty electrical wiring, tools and appliances to help eliminate a major cause of residential and farm fires. Equip your home, outbuildings and machinery with fire extinguishers. Consult a fire authority or fire protection dealer concerning your needs. Test smoke detectors periodically.

### Alabama town helps save local factory, jobs

After a fire seriously damaged a garment factory in a small Alabama town, the town and the factory's employees joined together to help save the nearly 100 jobs at stake. "A lot of small communities let jobs go down the drain because of local problems," said Warren McCord of the Alabama Cooperative Extension Office. "People came together, looked at their options, and look at what they have done." When the fire first broke out at Apparel Creations in Notasulga, the company's employees were the first on the scene. The day after the fire, employees volunteered to help with the cleanup. Within a week, the company was able to resume operation by moving to other buildings. The town helped by reacting its industrial development board and reviewing the options of constructing a new building or renovating the building. They opted to buy and renovate the existing building. Apparel Creations was then able to move in.

### Unique training pack targets local leaders

A new one-of-a-kind training package provides mail-order training in local government. Community Leadership ActionPack, published by the International City Management Association (ICMA) is intended for use by county and city boards, commissions and committees. Developed in partnership with the Kellogg Foundation, the program provides the key strategies and skills needed to make a board or commission efficient and effective. Available from ICMA at 1130 G St., NW, Washington, DC 20005, (202) 668-4600.
DEVELOPING HUMAN CAPITAL THROUGH EXTENSION LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS, August 6, Manhattan, Kansas. This workshop will feature a professional in the field of leadership development for one-half day and papers from Extension professionals for one-half day. It precedes the National Extension Homemakers Conference. For additional information contact Elizabeth Bolton, Leadership Development Seminar, Home Economics Programs, 3041 McClarty Hall, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611-0130, (904) 392-1997.

1969 RURAL INSTITUTE: GLOBAL SUSTAINABILITY, AGRICULTURAL TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT, September 10-16, Walla Walla, Nebraska. The goal will be to explore the links between U.S. agricultural trade policy and global sustainability. Sponsored by the World Agricultural Project of the Center for Rural Affairs and the Trade and Development Program. For registration and conference information, contact Annette Higly, Center for Rural Affairs, P. O. Box 405, Walla Walla, NE 69067, (402) 846-5429.

22ND ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS, September 23-26, Seattle. Focus will be on trade and development, and how regional development organizations can help small cities and rural businesses grow and export their own products. For information, contact NADO, 400 N. Capitol St., NW, Suite 372, Washington, DC 20001, (202) 664-7866.

EXPANDING THE FUTURE OF THE SMALL FARM: WHAT WORKS!, September 24-27, University of Missouri-Columbia, Columbia, Missouri. Sponsored by the Farmers Home Administration, Missouri University Extension, University of Missouri-Columbia, Lincoln University, and Missouri Department of Agriculture. For more information, contact Dr. Rex Campbell at (304) 882-6358 or Alma Owen at (314) 681-5545.

3RD ANNUAL STATES' AGENDA FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE, September 24-27, LaCrosse, WI. Focus will be on state and regional policy for rural economic development. Sponsored by the Center for Agriculture and Rural Development (CARD) of The Council of State Governments and the U. S. Small Business Administration. For information, contact Lynda Wilkerson, CARD, Council of State Governments, Iron Works Pike, P. O. Box 1191, Lexington, KY 40578-9989, (606) 231-1862.

REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON YOUTH IN CRISIS: PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION, September 5-6, Montgomery, Alabama. Sponsored by the Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Program, Alabama Cooperative Extension System at Auburn, Alabama A&M University, and various Tuskegee University departments. For registration and conference information, call (205) 727-8811 or 227-8808.

SUCCESSFUL STRATEGIES FOR RURAL SCHOOLS, October 7-11, Reno, Nevada. The National Rural Education Association's 81st Annual Conference. For more information contact George Foldesy, Department of Educational Leadership, College of Education, University of Nevada-Reno, Reno, NV 89509-0029, (702) 784-6518.

11TH ANNUAL RURAL AND SMALL SCHOOLS CONFERENCE, October 30-31, Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas. Conference theme is "Small Schools: Economic and Educational Assets for the Rural Community." Registration information is available from the National Conference Office at (800) 255-2757.

FINANCING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN THE SOUTH, October 31-November 1, Atlanta, Georgia. Hosted by the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta and intended for community leaders, state and local policymakers, bankers, and business people interested in regional economic development issues. For information contact Linda Donaldson at (404) 521-8742.

RURAL FAMILIES: CHANGE AND CONTINUITY, November 15-17, Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas. For more information contact the National Conference Office at (800) 227-2757.

In Print

Community Development in Perspective presents strategies for social and economic policies that can improve communities and lead to individual life changes in the 1990s. Edited by James A. Christian,信心 and Jerry W. Robinson, JR. Available from Iowa State University Press, Ames, IA 50011.

Energy Management: Theories and Their Use in Real Development, by Martha Frederick and Donald A. Lingle. An annotated bibliography documenting applications to general research as well as to works on rural development in particular. A ILA/BRAND, it is available by the local 1044.00 from 12190507, P.O. Box 1988, Rocky- butt, 68390 (5959), (809) 959-4799. Ask for ILA-74.

Broad Practices in Public Works is a series of papers written by the American Public Works Association. This series will make better ways to handle public works projects. Topics covered include water and sewer infrastructure, financing electric systems, recycling, traffic control, and much more. The series is available from the APWA, 3001 N. Parker Rd., Dallas, TX 75287.

Mississippi Counties: Population Trends to 1987, by Cameron Wells, provides estimates and projections for the counties of Mississippi. To order, write Research Report Series, Dept. of Sociology and Anthropology, P. O. Drawer C, Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS 39762.

Upper Mississippi River Basin: 1971-1985, by the Upper Mississippi River Basin Water Quality Board, for the Upper Mississippi River Basin Watershed Management Board. This report outlines the water quality problems and the steps that have been taken to improve them. Available from the Board, 3721 N. Ingersoll Dr., Des Moines, IA 50310.


Science and Technology Trends in the South is a fact book describing the relative positions of member states of the Southern Technology Council along a number of important dimensions of science and technology, and showing how positions have changed over time. The book's purpose is to point out where the region stands relative to others and where it can most effectively invest its dollars. Complete with numerous tables, it provides a detailed portrait of technological capacity in the South. Available for $10 from Southern Growth Policies Board, P.O. Box 12538, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709, (919) 515-6145.

It's an idea...

A program created by the West Central Texas Council of Governments offers emergency aid to the elderly. The Emergency Response Program gives 500 elderly citizens a measure of increased independence. They are provided with small electronic units. Carried or worn by participants, the units are easily activated in an emergency, summoning medical assistance. The program gets support from a variety of sources, including the Texas Department of Human Services, Older American Act funds, and private donations. For more information on the program, contact Brad Helseth at (815) 672-8544.

Small talk on big issues...

- Of all agricultural media, radio is the most heavily used and the first choice of farmers and ranchers, according to a Doane survey. The survey compared and evaluated radio, general ag publications, network and local television, newspapers, enterprise special publications, direct mail, video cassette recorders, ag newsletters, regional farm publications, satellite television, electronic ag information services, and cable television. Results revealed that radio is the only medium whose usage increases in the critical spring, summer, and fall months. For more information, contact Roger Olson, National Association of Farm Broadcasters, (812) 224-0508.

- Elderly women are poorer than elderly men, especially in nonmetro areas. Living below the poverty threshold are 24.7 percent of elderly non-metro women versus 16.7 percent of non-metro elderly men. In metro areas, 15.3 percent of elderly women and 8.9 percent of elderly men live in poverty. Women live longer than men, outnumber men in their age group, are more likely to become widowed and to live alone than men, and yet must cope with problems of aging on more limited financial resources.

- Foreign interests owned less than 1 percent of U.S. farmland as of December 31, 1988. The new total, 12.5 million acres, shows an increase of 99,100 acres over the previous year. Thirty-six percent of foreign holdings are concentrated in the South and 35 percent in the West. The state with the largest foreign-owned acreage is Maine. (Source: the April 21, 1989 issue of Doane’s Agricultural Report.)

Hildreth views status of ag econ research

The article below is, in the author's words, one professional's view of the status and condition of the agricultural economics research establishment.

R. J. Hildreth is managing director of the Farm Foundation and secretary-treasurer of the International Association of Agricultural Economists. Dr. Hildreth wrote “A Critique of the World Agricultural Economics Research Establishment” for the Journal of Agricultural Economics. The following directly quotes from that article.

At times, a good way to look at a profession is to step back, strip away the complexities, and simply ask: How are we doing? The answer for agricultural economics: Our work matters but innovation and flexibility will make us better.

SRSA Issues 1990 call for papers

The Southern Rural Sociological Association has issued a “call for papers.” The annual meeting is scheduled for February 3-7, 1990, in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Rural sociologists, agricultural economists, home economists, extension specialists and other social scientists interested in the rural South are encouraged to submit one-page abstracts of papers and proposals for sessions, roundtable panels and business meetings by OCTOBER 6.
Palmetto Leadership to revitalize rural SC

Palmetto Leadership is a program designed to revitalize rural South Carolina communities through local leadership development.

The initial three-year project, funded in part by the W. K. Kellogg Foundation in 1988, brings together a broad range of resources and leadership development services.

Both experienced and emerging leaders begin with a 12-week, 36-hour leadership development program. As part of the program, they identify special problems in their counties and focus on three or four. The goal is to provide these leaders and potential leaders with the training they need to get involved in the decision-making process in their counties and state.

In each of four counties, 25 to 35 current leaders take part in intensive leadership training. These groups have a race, sex and age mix.

Project steps include initial training, identifying major issues to be addressed, and attacking the problems.

The pilot counties selected to take part in the initial program are Abbeville and Kershaw, chosen because of the rapid changes they have experienced, and Dillon and Saluda, selected because they have undergone less social and economic change in recent years.

Within 6-12 months of the pilot project, ideas and materials tested in the pilot communities will be implemented in several other South Carolina counties with similar problems.

More information about the Palmetto Leadership program is available from the State Extension Director's Office at Clemson University (903) 636-3332.

Hildreth continued from page 1

...concern about profitability as opposed to maximum yield per acre, and the broad-ranging implications of the internationalization of agriculture in all countries have led users in the agricultural industry to value agricultural economics research more highly.

- Agricultural economists are doing their jobs well.

Placing a value on the information produced by the world agricultural economics research establishment is a way to judge how well agricultural economists do their jobs. Although a demand for the information produced by agricultural economists exists, it is not easily available, especially on a worldwide basis, and that leaves personal observation and interpretation.

The price (salaries) of agricultural economists is a function of both the supply and demand. The salaries of agricultural economists appear to be climbing. The inference: agricultural economists are doing their jobs well.

I conclude that while agricultural economists are doing their jobs well, they will have to do their jobs better to offset the political, social and economic forces that affect the organizations for which they work.

- Agricultural economics research needs to balance emphases among problem solving, subject matter and disciplinary analysis.

Clearly, excellence in disciplinary and subject matter research is necessary, but not sufficient, for useful problem-solving analysis. The ability to perform useful problem-solving research demands advances in analysis. Undue attention to the discipline of economics for its own sake leads to a neglect of useful analysis.

Thus, the world agricultural economics research establishment needs to give continued attention to achieving a proper balance of the role of disciplinary, subject matter and problem solving analysis.

A brief essay like this one cannot attempt a comprehensive assessment of the details of agricultural economics. Instead, my four assertions represent my personal perspective and observations.

Priority issues identified for Southern Center

The Southern Rural Development Program Advisory Committee (SRDPAC) recently identified priority issues for SRDC for the next two years. As representatives of 23 of the 29 land-grant institutions in the Southern region, the Committee discussed a number of issues before establishing a list of four priority issues and four additional issues for the Center emphasis.

- Priority Issues
  - Economic Development
  - Human Capital/Education
  - Rural and Community Leadership
  - Environment/Natural Resources

- Additional Issues
  - Rural Health
  - Small Scale/Alternative Agriculture
  - Rural Development Theory and Policy
  - Infrastructure

Directors and Administrators disseminated requests for proposals for extension and research projects for FY90 in July to all program areas. While any rural development subject area will be considered, the specific issues recommended by the SRDPAC members will receive highest priority. This is one last reminder that the deadline for postmarking your proposals is September 15.

Southern Program Advisory Committee listed

Southern Experiment Station Directors, Southern Extension Service Directors, Administrators of 1890 Extension Programs and Administrators of 1890 Research Programs recommend individuals to the Southern Rural Development Program Advisory Committee (SRDPAC). The Program Advisory Committee meets biannually and offers recommendations to the SRDC Board of Directors. Members currently serving SRDPAC and the institutions they represent are listed below:

- Quentin A. L. Jenkins
  - Louisiana State University
- Jerome L. Burton
  - A&M State University
- Larry H. Graves
  - Mississippi State University
- Billy E. Coldwell
  - North Carolina State University
- Robert Williamson
  - North Carolina A&T University
- Raymond Campbell
  - Oklahoma State University
- Gilbert Tampkins
  - Longhorn University
- Jose A. Velaz Delgado
  - Puerto Rico

The Executive Director of the Center for Southern Rural Development, John E. Burton, announced the following changes in the Southern Program Advisory Committee:

Edward L. McLean
Clemson University

Gordon Holdeman
University of Tennessee

Joseph W. Morris
Tennessee State University

Renny Locken
Francis A&M University

Steve Murdock
Texas A&M University

Douglas McMiller
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

Besides all this, Doss has a direct kind of insight into rural development problems: he owns a farm on which he raises musk and other farm animals. He also collects old farm implements and farm memorabilia, and is something of an expert at hog-cooking and barbecuing. Doss and his wife, Morna, are the parents of a son, Hal, and daughter, Monica. Although they do not all share his unbridled enthusiasm for farming activities, the family enjoys many aspects of country living.

Directory offered for small-scale ag

The Agricultural Department has a new list of experts who can help beginning and veteran small-scale farmers find just the right information about raising game birds, exotic herbs and hundreds of other specialties. The 109-page soft-cover book, "The Directory for Small Scale Agriculture," is for anyone seeking to establish a small farm or improve the operation of existing acreage. Howard W. (Bo) Kerr, Jr., director of the department's Office of Small-Scale Agriculture, said the publication is not only for those who have the acreage but for those who are contemplating getting into the ownership of a small parcel of ground. The book tells how to trace subject matter to hundreds of sources listed alphabetically, with addresses, telephone numbers and specialties. Kerr said the directory is a pioneering effort for his office, which is part of the Cooperative State Research Service, an agency that has close working ties with land-grant and other state institutions.

The intent of the book is to link the vast network of people in the federal and state systems with others who work the nation's small farms. The book is $5.50 from Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, National Capital Street NW, Washington, DC, 20405, (202) 783-3238.
Extension inservice water training planned

The SRDC will host an inservice training workshop for extension personnel with current or anticipated water programming responsibilities in all program areas. Entitled "Southern Extension Water Training Workshop: Actions for Working Together," the training activity will be held at the Radisson Hotel Central in Birmingham, Alabama. Located at 808 South 20th St, it was formerly the Hilton.

Beginning at 1 pm November 13, the workshop will continue until noon November 15. There is a $75 registration fee.

At the direction of the Southern Directors, the workshop was planned by persons recommended by the Directors from the four program areas and the Southern Region Water Quality Planning Committee.

The non-technical workshop will include the following:

**Format presentations**
- Understanding the Nature of the Water Resource
- Transition to Action: What are the Issues?
- Role of Public Policy in Water Quality Protection
- Actions for Working Together

**Concurrent Sessions**
- Toxic Substances
- Public Policy Education
- Water Supply and Wastewater Management
- Solid Waste Management

**Roundtable Discussions of Regional Priorities**

**Resource Fair**

Speakers, discussion leaders, facilitators and recorders have been selected and are preparing an informative in-service training activity in this area of critical need.

The Resource Fair is expected to be an integral part of the workshop. Innovative ideas, training materials, programs, models, videos, etc. will be displayed. If you have any of the above related to water, please contact Jim Thomas, Box 5446, Mississippi State, MS 39762 or call him at (601) 325-3103.

For additional information or to register, contact Southern Rural Development Center, Box 5446, Mississippi State, MS 39762 or call (601) 325-3207.

**When play is work, work is play**

Is playing a computer game at the office really work? Yes, when playing the computer program game which simulates the development of a small community.

The Resource Economics department at the University of Rhode Island has developed a computer game which does just that.

The game is a self-contained program where the player assumes the role of a community planner who has the job of maintaining the quality of life for residents while stimulating economic growth. Controls include the power to tax residents, businesses and tourists and to set the budgets for social, environmental and economic programs.

Upon completion of the game, the program computes the impact of actions taken using measures of unemployment, average wages, crime rates and water pollution levels.

News headlines are displayed which correspond to public agency and public interest group sentiments. Other events that can influence the results include bad weather, pollution disasters and unforeseen media attention.

The IBM PC program is on a 5.25" disk with documentation and role play instructions for small group individuals as well as large group roles.

For additional information contact Timothy Turner, Resource Economics, 401 Uplift Hall, The University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI 02881-0814.

**On Schedule**

**3rd ANNUAL STATES' AGENDA FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE**, September 24-27, Carlsbad, NM. Focus will be on state and regional policy for rural economic development. Sponsored by the Center for Agriculture and Rural Development (CARD) of the Council of State Governments and the U. S. Small Business Administration. For information, contact Linda V. Wilkerson, CARD, Council of State Governments, Iron Works Pike, P. O. Box 1191-D, Lexington, KY 40579-9869, (606) 231-1862.

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**FARMER PARTICIPATION IN RESEARCH FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE - October 8, Fayetteville, Arkansas. This one-day meeting is sponsored by the Arkansas/Oklahoma Low Input Sustainable Agriculture (LISA) network and the University of Arkansas International Agriculture Program. Pre-registration fee is $20. For information call Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas (ATTRA) at 1-800-346-8140.

**SUCCESSFUL STRATEGIES FOR RURAL SCHOOLS - October 7-11, Reno, Nevada. The National Rural Education Association's 81st Annual Conference. For more information, contact George Foldesy, Department of Educational Leadership, College of Education, University of Nevada-Reno, Reno, NV 89557-0029, (702) 784-7519.

**A WORKING REGIONAL CONFERENCE: THE ROLE OF EDUCATION IN RURAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT -** September 23-25, Roanoke, Virginia. Sponsored by the Rural, Small Schools Program, Appalachia Educational Laboratory for persons interested in working together for the betterment of rural communities and their schools. Registration is $35. Contact Mary Fairley, conference coordinator, Appalachia Educational Laboratory, Box 1384, Charleston, WVA 25305, (304) 624-9150 (outside VA) or (800) 344-6646 (in VA).

**22ND ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS, September 23-26, Seattle.** Focus will be on state and local policy for rural economic development organizations can help small city and rural businesses grow and export their own products. For information, contact NADO, 400 N. Capitol St., NW, Suite 372, Washington, DC 20001, (202) 624-7808.

EXPANDING THE FUTURE OF THE SMALL FARM: WHAT WORKS? September 24-27, University of Missouri-Columbia, Columbia, Missouri. Sponsored by the Farmers Home Administration, Missouri University Extension, University of Missouri-Columbia, Lincoln University, and Missouri Department of Agriculture. For more information, contact Dr. Rex Campbell at (314) 882-6358 or Alma Owen at (314) 681-5545.

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**RURAL FAMILIES: CHANGE AND CONTINUITY, November 15-17, Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas. For more information, contact the National Conference Office at (900) 255-2757.
Names in the news

JAMES A. CHRISTENSEN, chair of the Department of Sociology at the University of Kentucky, was recently selected as director, Arizona Cooperative Extension Service. His appointment was effective August 1.

WILLIAM R. FOX was named dean of the College of Agriculture and Home Economics effective July 1 at Mississippi State University. He succeeded CHARLES E. "Chuck" LINDLEY who retired June 30 after more than 20 years in that position. Dr. Fox was formerly head of the Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering at MSU.

ALMA C. HOBBS, clothing and textile specialist at Tennessee State University, has been appointed acting administrator, 1890 Extension Programs, TSU. Until her return on August 1, Hobbs was serving in a temporary position as team leader of the ES-USDA National Initiative Team for Building Human Capital.

GERALD L. JOBS, JR. has been named assistant director of the Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station. He had been acting associate director of the Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station and head of the Western Maryland Research and Education Center.

KENNETH L. Koon, head of the Department of Experimental Statistics, Louisiana State University, has been appointed assistant director of the Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station. He replaces WILLIAM H. BROWN who is now associate director.

MAZO PRICE, chairman of the Department of Agriculture, has been appointed research director for the Evans-Allen cooperative agricultural research program at the University of Arkansas Pine Bluff.

Southern Rural Development Center
P. O. Box 3446
Mississippi State, MS 39762

Board of directors to meet at SRDC

The Southern Rural Development Center's Board of Directors will meet October 24-27. This year the annual meeting will be held at the Center on the campus of Mississippi State University. The board establishes policy for the SRDC. Board membership consists of four representatives from the Extension Services, four from the Experiment Stations and one from the private sector. Board members serve three-year terms. Vacancies are filled based on recommendations of the respective Directors and Administrators. The current board is made up of the following persons:

- T. Roy Bogle, Associate Director
- Oklahoma State University
- James M. Boulter, President
- Vanity Fair
- Mobile, Alabama
- Lawrence Carter
- Cooperative Extension Programs
- Florida A&M University
- Leon G. Chavous, Administrator
- Research & Extension Programs
- South Carolina State College
- Verner G. Hurt, Director
- Mississippi Agricultural & Forestry Experiment Station
- Mississippi State University

NASA's R&D efforts treat wastewater in Louisiana

A spin-off from NASA's manned space program research and development efforts now treats wastewater and grows ornamental plants in at least 20 yards in Louisiana. Known as individual on-site constructed wetlands, these wastewater treatment systems produce a high quality secondary effluent suitable for discharge into surface waterways. These systems work where conventional septic tanks and drainfields have failed.

The cost of installation and operation is little more than that of an ordinary on-site system.
Guide offered for proper mailbox installation

As many as 20 million mailboxes stand beside rural roads in the United States. Ten to fifteen million more are along suburban streets. Each year close to 100 people are killed and many more injured in accidents involving motor vehicles and mailboxes and their supports.

The typical single wooden pole support or the light gauge pipe support do not pose serious hazards. Others like the massive steel tractor wheels, concrete filled milk cans, masonry columns, water pumps, group mailboxes on horizontal supports and a host of others are hazardous.

Carefully selected and installed mailboxes can reduce the probability of injury or death to the person involved in an accident with mailboxes. The ideas that follow are from A Guide for Erecting Mailboxes on Highways published by the American Association of State Highway Officials (AASHTO).

**TYPES OF SUPPORTS**

**Wood Posts** - 4½" maximum diameter if round, 4 x 4" maximum if square.

**Metal Pipes** - 2" maximum inside diameter standard steel or aluminum.

Use one support for one box or two supports for group of boxes. Supports should:
1. Yield or collapse if struck.
2. Bend or fall away from vehicle.
3. Not create severe deceleration.
4. Not be fitted with an anchor plate (metal post).
5. Not be embedded over 24" in ground.

**LOCATION**

1. Mailboxes should be on the right of the road in direction of delivery travel.
2. Servicing vehicle should be able to get off the roadway.
3. Mailbox face should be no closer than edge of shoulder.
4. Mailbox should not block sight distance.
5. Mailbox should be behind existing guardrail if present.
6. Mailbox should be mounted 3½ to 4 feet above mail stop surface.


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South has more, spends less on ENR

The South is home to abundant high quality natural resources providing the South with economic advantages other regions do not enjoy. Industries that provide substantial employment, and income in many Southern states, such as forest products, fisheries, mining and recreation and tourism, depend on the conservation and wise use of these natural resources.

In some environmental and natural resource categories, the South invests more than the national average according to a report, entitled State Environmental and Natural Resource Investments, from the Southern Growth Policies Board. Two of the poorer Southern states, Mississippi and Kentucky, invest more across the board relative to the nation.

On average, however, the reports shows that Southern states invest less in conserving and developing their natural resources than do states in other regions, even accounting for differences in overall state spending and the economic strength of states. The Southern states, on average, invested about $15 per person in environmental and natural resources (ENR), compared to over $24 per person outside the South.

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**CAPRUELS** is published periodically by the Southern Rural Development Center as an information service for educators, researchers, local officials and private citizen 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 that focuses specifically on rural problems of the Southern region. The Center is located at Mississippi State University and provides support staff to the extension service's research and experiment station's 29 land grant universities in the 13 Southern states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

H. Doss Bradshaw, Director
Jacque Tisdale, Associate Director
Sandy Markley, Editorial Assistant

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**Demographic and Economic Measures of the Southern States as a Percent of the U.S. (1986)**

| Population | 24.3% |
| Gross State Product | 21.4% |
| Total Personal Income | 21.2% |
| Total State Spending | 22.9% |
| Total Environmental and Natural Resource Spending | 16.7% |
| Forestry Spending | 29.1% |
| Land Management Spending | 28.1% |
| Water Reclamation Spending | 23.2% |
| Soil Conservation Spending | 20.9% |
| Geological Survey Spending | 17.1% |
| Air Resources Spending | 16.2% |
| Fish and Wildlife Spending | 15.7% |
| Pesticide Control Spending | 14.1% |
| Waste Management Spending | 12.5% |
| Water Resources Spending | 12.0% |
It's an idea...

The Louisville, Kentucky, Division of Fire has a new specialized hazardous material response unit—that was once a beverage delivery truck. The state-of-the-art, computerized vehicle was designed and custom built in-house for $72,900, far below the more than $85,000 cost of a manufactured unit.

The refurbished interior contains firefighting gear and equipment, as well as computers and space for three operators. Two complimentary computer programs provide commanders with information critical to tactical decision making.

One, which was developed especially for the unit by a Louisville fire captain and is the most advanced processing system available in the nation today, identifies 5,500 hazardous materials in the city and provides information on dealing with each. The second lists property information on all 2,000 local facilities that contain hazardous materials and was compiled after a major sewer explosion ten years ago.

For more information contact: Fire Chief Russell Sanders, 1135 West Jefferson Street, Louisville, KY 40203, (502) 625-3701.

(Source: NATION'S CITIES WEEKLY, published by the National League of Cities, Vol. 12, No. 25, May 1986.)

Note: The figures in parentheses are percentage change, 1980-1988.

On schedule

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RURAL FAMILIES: CHANGE AND CONTINUITY, November 15-17, Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas. For more information, contact the National Conference Office at (800) 255-2757.

SOUTHERN EXTENSION WATER TRAINING WORKSHOP: ACTIONS FOR WORKING TOGETHER, November 13-15, Birmingham, Alabama. This non-technical workshop is intended for Extension service staff in all four program areas with current or potential water program responsibility. Registration is $75. For additional information contact Southern Rural Development Center, Box 5446, Mississippi State, MS 39762, (601) 325-3207.

THE 47TH PROFESSIONAL AGRICULTURAL WORKERS CONFERENCE - December 5-6, Tuskegee, Alabama. The theme of this year’s conference is “1990-1990, A First Century of Outreach to the Rural Disadvantaged: Moving into the 21st Century.” For additional information contact N. Baharuni, PAWC Program Coordinator, Department of Agricultural Sciences, Milbank Hall, Tuskegee, AL 36088, (205) 727-8454.

American Express offers books on financial phases

The American Express Company, in cooperation with USDA, has published three booklets that cover different financial phases of life.

“Getting Started” (46V, 50 cents) discusses how to establish your financial identity by getting credit, opening bank accounts and getting a job.

“Setting Down” (46V, 50 cents) focuses on the two-income household, how to set goals and manage your mutual and separate money.

“Keeping Pace” (46V, 50 cents) gives tips on managing crisis and changing in a two-income household.

For copies of any of these publications, send your name, address and fees, along with the titles and item numbers to R. Woods, Consumer Information Center, Pueblo, CO 81009.


Educational technology goes to small towns

A one-of-a-kind mobile teaching unit allows Extension workers in Florida to carry educational technology to small towns in Georgia. It puts new technology in town settings, so that no matter what the future brings, community leaders will be familiar with technology and its basic applications. It helps them move from the print age to the video and microprocessor era, according to Mercedes Parker, the Fort Valley State College Education specialist who travels with the trailer.

Computers, audiovisual equipment, a satellite receiving system and interactive video are housed in a customized 45-foot trailer that has been visited by more than 300 people in six counties since it was unveiled last fall. Available computer systems include graphics, word processing, desktop publisher and database programs covering everything from bookkeeping to problem-solving. The satellite receiving system lets users view educational programs from universities and colleges across the U.S. Audiovisual equipment demonstrates how even simple technology improves educational programs.

According to Parker, public response has been good and possibilities are expanding. For example, small businesses are now requesting visits from the unit.

The project is financed by W.K. Kellogg Foundation grants. (Condensed from “On the Road With Technology,” by B.K. Lija, p. 14 of the Winter 1989 issue of Extension Review, a publication of the USDA Extension Service.)

CAPSULES editor last in SRDC series

This is the last in a series of articles highlighting the SRDC staff. The editor did not feel comfortable writing about the remaining staff member - the editor. Therefore, the following article was written by Jane Randel, former CAPSULES editor.

Jacquie Tidwell has a way with words, a natural talent she uses daily as editor/writer for the Southern Rural Development Center.

Since October 1987 she has been responsible for all the SRDC’s many publications—everything from annual reports to proceedings, bulletins and CAPSULES.

Jacquie’s role at the SRDC also includes representing the Center at meetings and conferences around the country.

She brings a diverse background to her job. She earned a bachelor’s degree in elementary education from the University of Tennessee and a master’s in agricultural and extension education from Mississippi State University.

Having frequently moved with her husband, Jim, during his career with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, she has held a variety of jobs including elementary school teacher, Head Start program director, secretary and educational research technician.

Born in south Mississippi, she has lived all over the U.S. — in Alabama, Tennessee, Georgia, Utah, California and Arkansas.

Jacquie and husband, Jim, have three children—Ed, 27; Todd, 25; and Tammy, 21.

Jacquie plans a busy year for 1990. In addition to her SRDC duties, she will be getting in shape to bicycle across Holland next summer with Jim.

Rural Postscripts is out!

RURAL POSTSCRIPT, a periodical published by SRDC after select meetings and conferences, has been mailed to Capsules’ readers. This issue contains twelve pages of articles and pictures reporting on the National Rural Studies Meeting held in Greenville, Mississippi. If you have not received a copy and want one, contact us at the Center (601) 325-3397.
Small talk on big issues

- More than one out of five children are poor. But children don't get poor by themselves. Over half (53%) of the children who live with just their mothers are poor, compared with only 10 percent who live with a married couple.

- The absence of a father leaves more than an emotional gap. It leaves a financial hole into which single mothers and their children fall. Having a job helps single mothers and their children, but even among single mothers who work full-time, year-round, the poverty rate is 9.3 percent.

- Some single mothers clearly have low paying jobs. At $3.35 an hour, a person working 40 hours a week, 52 weeks a year earns $6,968. While this is 21 percent above the official poverty threshold of $5,778 for one person, it is 11 percent below the $7,829 threshold for an adult with one child. It is 24 percent below the $9,151 threshold for an adult with two children. (Source: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TRENDS AND TOPICS IN GEORGIA, Vol. 1, No. 2, July/August 1989.)

- Food costs nearly $75 per week for a couple with two children under 11, according to USDA. This is using the thrifty plan. Low-cost, moderate-cost and liberal cost plans are $99, $219 and $413 respectively. These figures assume that food for all meals and snacks is purchased at the store and prepared at home. Estimates for the thrifty plan were computed from quantities of foods published in Family Economics Review, 1984, No. 1. Costs of the food plan were estimated by updating prices paid by households surveyed in 1977-78 by USDA.

Conference set for revitalizing rural South

At the request of the Southern Extension Directors, the Southern Rural Development Center is hosting a regional rural revitalization conference. Scheduled for January 16-18, 1990, the conference is entitled: Revitalizing the Rural South: Extension's Role in Enhancing Quality of Life.

The conference will offer a regional training opportunity for all four program areas of the Cooperative Extension Services at 1862 and 1890 institutions in the thirteen Southern states, Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands. Participants will receive assistance to aid in planning multi-disciplinary programs for communities, families, youth and business. Realistic alternatives for addressing rural revitalization issues and needs will be offered.

Specific objectives are:
- to provide understanding of current trends and implications;
- to identify the Extension Service's role in rural revitalization efforts;
- to foster opportunities for multistate and regional programming;
- to develop materials, methods, resources and contacts;
- to provide accessibility to local, state and national resources to solve community problems.

The conference will be at the Radisson Hotel Central in Birmingham, Alabama. There is a $75 registration fee that includes program materials, refreshments, meeting room fees, a luncheon, a reception and the proceedings. The registration deadline is January 10. For registration materials contact the Southern Rural Development Center, Box 5446, Mississippi State, Mississippi 39762, (601) 325-3207.

H.S. dropouts, illiteracy focus of task force

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS FOR PEOPLE: ADDRESSING THE RURAL SOUTH'S HUMAN CAPITAL NEEDS was published as a result of the SRDC task force on leadership and human resource development. Some of the near and long-term human resource issues facing the rural South are explored in the report. The publication addresses two key human capital concerns prevalent in the rural South—high school dropouts and adult illiteracy. These issues serve as major impediments to the realization of economic and social progress in the area.

In comparison to other regions of the country, the South has the highest proportion of functional illiterates. In 1975 for example, over 27 percent of Southerners had less than a high continued on page 3

RELATING RURAL DEVELOPMENT TO YOUR COMMUNITY
"Rural Studies" associate positions available

The National Rural Studies Committee (NRSC) is seeking applicants for two Center Associates for the 1990-91 academic year. The National Rural Studies Committee was created under a grant from W.K. Kellogg Foundation to assess the need for additional work in "rural studies" of institutions of higher learning. The Center Associates are part of the program of the NRSC.

The appointments are designed to accommodate professionals who are in a position to take leave from their regular employment. Any discipline or subject matter that can be shown to have a relation to rural studies is eligible for consideration. Qualified women and minority individuals are especially urged to apply. The appointments will be in the Western Rural Development Center at Oregon State University under the direction of Emery Castle and Bruce Weber.

Software available for small farms

A new software package for IBM PCs and compatibles called CORNUCOPIA, THE SMALL FARM PLANNER has been developed. The program, according to the vendor Amber Waves Software, is designed to help farmers, ranchers, extension professionals and agricultural consultants make quick and easy decisions about crop/livestock combinations and cost-cutting strategies.

The program has budgets for grains, livestock, berries, vegetables, Christmas trees, stalkable mushrooms, herbs and pick-your-own fruit. Conventional, sustainable and organic agriculture are also supported. Users can add their own enterprises as well as hundreds of cost items.

A demo disk is available for $15 which is refundable on the purchase of the program. Order from Amber Waves Software, 202-D Central Manor Road, Mountville, PA 17554, (717) 280-3734.

H.S. dropouts, illiteracy (continued from page 1)

School education. Recent figures indicate the numbers may have gone down, but the South retains its position as highest of any section of the country.

Individuals who leave high school prior to graduation commit themselves to a life of economic hardship. Five of the ten U.S. high schools with the poorest graduation rates are located in the South. High school completion rates in rural areas of the South are generally even lower than in urban locales. In nonmetro-
counties of the South, graduation rates are nearly 25 percent below those registered in the region's metro counties.

The task force argues that successful en-
forcement of the human capital resources in the South's rural localities will require collabora-
tive activities among families, schools and com-
munities. Building partnerships among these important elements in the locality is essential. Some may argue that the human resource problems in the rural South are far too signifi-
cant and complex to address in any effective way. This report urges rural communities of the South to repel such pronouncements and begin the process of aggressively responding to their human resource shortcomings.

Credit is extended to Lienet J. Beaulieu from the University of Florida for writing the report with input and review from task force members. Simon Garber from North Carolina State Univer-
sity serves as task force chair.

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 of four regional 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 20 land-grant universities in 13 Southern states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

H. Issac Brotman............. Director
Jacque Tirgale.................. Editor
Sandy Martley................. Editorial Assistant

Persons With Less Than a High School Education (25 Years Old and Above)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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Study reveals rural poor nutritionally deficient

Numerous studies have examined the nutrition and nutrition-related health status of America’s urban poor, yet few have evaluated the conditions among the rural poor. As a result, a common misconception is that this less visible, dispersed population has access to an abundance of cheap food. The rural poor experience a broad array of nutritional deficiencies. They tend especially to eat too few fruits and vegetables rich in vitamins A and C. The rural poor consume less of these foods than the urban poor, indicating a “rural effect,” which exacerbates the nutritional problems of all the poor.

Studies focusing on the functional effects of marginal malnourishment among children have demonstrated its serious impact upon their learning, their cognitive development and their ability to concentrate. The effects are similar among adults: lower resistance to infection, lower work productivity, diminished capacity for prolonged physical work and reduced worker motivation. Poor nutrition is also directly linked to increased rates of abnormally low-birthweight infants and birth defects, as well as increased rates of infant mortality.

No single factor is responsible for the poor nutritional profile. Poverty, which in itself denotes the inability to purchase all basic necessities, including adequate levels of food, is a particularly critical factor. Other conditions, when coupled with inadequate income, can make it even more difficult to attain an adequate diet and good health. Many of these conditions are unique to rural life and therefore affect the nutritional health of the rural poor.

Poor access to supermarkets in impoverished rural regions puts additional pressures on limited budgets. Supermarkets generally offer the best combination of selection, quality and prices. A 1977 House Select Committee on Hunger examination of the availability and use of food markets of varying size found that high-poverty rural counties have fewer large food stores or supermarkets than more urbanized counties, and that residents of these rural areas spend a smaller portion of their food budget in supermarkets than do residents of poor urban areas. With less access to affordable and adequate foodstores, and to foodstores that carry a selection of good quality produce, impoverished rural families have less opportunity to purchase fruits and vegetables on a regular basis.

Even for those with cars, the expense of traveling the distances necessary to reach a supermarket can be significant. Since many of the rural poor lack vehicles, they are further dissuaded from shopping at a supermarket because they often have to pay a friend or neighbor to take them. To compensate for the difficulty in reaching large foodstores, the rural poor buy much of their food from small, local markets or general stores. These stores generally do not carry a wide selection of produce because of slow turnover, up-front costs for refrigeration equipment, irregular demand, difficulty finding wholesalers willing to deliver small quantities and the perishability of these foods.

Low use of food assistance programs may also contribute to poor diets among the poor. The lower participation among rural people might be due to the distance to program offices, eligibility criteria that disqualify many (to qualify for food stamps under Aid to Families with Dependent Children, most states with large rural populations require the family have only one parent living at home), the stigma from being on the dole, which appears to be more pronounced in rural communities and other factors.

Rural bridges older, have more inadequacies

Rural bridges tend to be older than urban bridges and a higher percentage have functional or structural inadequacies, according to a report issued by the USDA.

The report, RURAL BRIDGES: AN ASSESSMENT BASED UPON THE NATIONAL BRIDGE INVENTORY, focuses on various characteristics of rural highway bridges. The data comes from the Nation’s Bridge Inventory (NBI). NBI is maintained by the Department of Transportation’s Federal Highway Administration. As of December 31, 1988, the NBI contained information about 578,094 bridges, 81 percent of which were classified as rural.

The table indicates the condition of rural highway bridges in the thirteen Southern states. The table shows the number and percentage by state of rural bridges that are structurally deficient or functionally obsolete.

Although the responsibility for the improvement of rural bridges varies from state to state, the local governments are responsible for a majority of the deficient or obsolete rural bridges. Given the various and complex bridge funding and management arrangements which exist throughout the United States, future improvements of rural bridges will require continued intergovernmental support and policies which acknowledge the importance of rural bridges to the nation’s economy.

Copies of the report are available from USDA/OT, Box 9575, Washington, DC 20090-9575, (202) 653-6305.

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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 - Structurally deficient
2 - Functionally obsolete
3 - Neither structurally deficient nor functionally obsolete

Names in the news

JAMES A. BOILING has been named associate dean for research, College of Agriculture and associate director of the Agricultural Experiment Station, University of Kentucky.

BILLY G. HCKS, associate dean, recently was appointed dean and director, Agricultural Extension Service, University of Tennessee. He succeeds M. L. DOWNEN, director for 12 years.

VERNE HOUSE, formerly at Montana State University, was recently appointed professor of agricultural economics at Clemson University.

ROBERT NELSON, formerly at Texas A&M University, has been appointed assistant professor of agricultural economics at Clemson University.

DERRELL PEEL, formerly at Auburn University, has been appointed assistant professor at Oklahoma State University.

SRS to commemorate 1890 land-grants

In the spring of 1990, Southern Rural Sociology (SRS) will publish a special volume commemorating the centennial of the establishment of the 1890 land-grant institutions. SRS is the journal sponsored by the Southern Rural Sociological Association. SRS has issued a call for paper submissions for this special volume. Qualitative and quantitative research articles on 1890 institutions and topics of traditional importance to 1890 institutions and scholars are sought.

Sent four copies of proposed manuscripts to Robert L. Moore, Editor, Southern Rural Sociology, Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work, Raleigh, NC 27695-8107. The deadline for submissions is February 15, 1990.

PARR ROSSON has been named associate professor of agricultural economics at Texas A&M University. Dr. Rosson was formerly at Clemson University.

FRED H. TYNER has been named assistant director of the Mississippi Agricultural Experiment Station.

JOSEPH YAEGER was recently appointed associate dean of the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station at Auburn University.

Rural Studies proceedings available from WRDC

The proceedings of the National Rural Studies Committee meeting held in Greenville, Mississippi, during May are now available. The proceedings contain papers addressing issues of rural poverty that were given during the second meeting of the NRSC.

The meeting examined the roots of some difficult problems: rural poverty, rural education and rural economic development. The papers were presented by a diverse group of individuals from throughout the nation with regional and institutional diversity.

Copies are available from the Western Rural Development Center, Oregon State University, Ballard Extension Hall 307, Corvallis, OR 97331-3607, (503) 737-3621.
On schedule

THE 47TH PROFESSIONAL AGRICULTURAL WORKERS CONFERENCE - December 3-5, Tuskegee, Alabama. The theme of this year's conference is "1890-1990, A First Century of Outreach to the Rural Disadvantaged: Moving into the 21st Century." For additional information contact N. Baharanyi, PAWC Program Coordinator, Department of Agricultural Sciences, Millbank Hall, Tuskegee, AL 36088, (334) 727-8454.

REVITALIZING THE RURAL SOUTH: EXTENSION'S ROLE IN ENHANCING QUALITY OF LIFE, January 16-18, 1990, Birmingham, Alabama. This regional training opportunity for the four Extension program areas will provide assistance in planning multi-disciplinary programs for communities, families, youth and business. Registration is $75 and must be received no later than January 10. Additional information is available from Southern Rural Development Center, Box 5446, Mississippi State, MS 39762, (601) 325-3204.

SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENTISTS (SAAS), February 3-7, 1990, Little Rock, Arkansas. The 87th annual meeting will have as its theme "Institutional Legacies and Challenges in the Rural South." SAAS registration fee is $11. Hotel reservations must be made by January 3, 1990, using a housing bureau form from the Little Rock Convention Center. For forms and complete registration information contact Vernon Boggs, 111 Hutchinson Hall, Va Tech, Blacksburg, VA 24061-0402, (703) 231-6295.

Southern Rural Development Center
P.O. Box 5446
Mississippi State, MS 39762

Dear Friends (colleagues):

The staff of the Southern Rural Development Center wishes each of you the best during this holiday season and during the new year. In 1974 the SRDC was organized, and we have had many good years since then. However, 1989 was one of the best for networking with Extension and Research and for nurturing ties with many other groups.

We look forward to the coming year for what it holds for us all.

Seated from left: Shonda Rieves, student worker; Bonnie Tester, assist. to the director; Jan McReynolds, temporary clerical; Santa Doss, Brodner, director; Jacque Tidwell, editor. Standing from left: David Alexander, student worker; Sandy Markley, admin. secretary; David Miles, printer; Shawn Watson, student worker.

RELATING RURAL DEVELOPMENT TO YOUR COMMUNITY
One-fourth US population is rural in 1988

Money income for the year 1987 was lower for households and families living on farms than for those in nonfarm areas. Median income for farm households was $24,130, compared with $36,030 for nonfarm households. Median income for farm families was $26,020, compared with $30,970 for nonfarm families.

The report is available as Series P-20, No. 439 from the US Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Washington, DC 20233.

Youth workshop explores leadership models

A Southern national-invitational workshop has been especially designed for local team-building among adults, youth and agencies working with youth.

Scheduled for March 1-4, 1990, in Atlanta, Georgia, the workshop will assist youth in acquiring the knowledge, skills and understanding needed to become involved in local community leadership and decision making.

Training will be offered in one of four youth leadership and youth volunteerism models that have produced outstanding results in many communities: Is Anyone Listening, Project LEAD, DARE is You and Situational Leadership.

States may send teams of youth (3-6) and an adult from the same community or county.

The workshop is designed for 4-H members and other youth, 14-17 years of age, who are ready for a leadership challenge, whether or not they have realized their potential; for adult volunteers, county Extension specialists, state Extension specialists, and other agency and organization representatives.

There is a registration fee of $140 if paid by January 15 or $165 afterwards. Registration closes February 1. The fee includes all materials, 4 breaks, 2 lunches, 1 dinner, 1 pool party and 1 dance. Teams are encouraged to seek sponsorship in their local communities.

Sponsoring agencies are ES/USDA, Southern Rural Development Center, Building Human Capital and Rural Revitalization National Extension Initiative, Southern Region Extension 4-H and Colorado Cooperative Extension Service.

For further information contact your state Cooperative Extension 4-H office or call Glen Koch at (903) 656-3420. Registration materials are available from SRDC, Box 5446, Mississippi State, MS 39762.

Landfill mining offers solution to solid waste

A small town in New York has volunteered to try out a new solution to the solid waste problem.

Ordered by the state to close its 20-year-old landfill, the town of Edinburg (pop. 1,126) applied to become one of two sites for a landfill mining project to be conducted by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority.

Edinburg's application was accepted and bids will soon be let for reclamation of the landfill site.

Landfill mining is now used in Collier County, Florida, and is being implemented in Thompson, Connecticut.

According to Edinburg Town Supervisor Jean Raymond, the town decided to try the project after learning that the cost of replacing the old landfill would be several million dollars.

The recycling concept also appealed to the town, which already has an aggressive recycling program.

"Recycling is a primary component of the town's overall solid waste management plan," said Joyce Moore, Edinburg's recycling coordinator.

Landfill reclamation or mining is a method of excavating an existing landfill and processing the materials for reuse or recycling.

The mined materials are sorted by a machine. Smaller, soil-like materials consisting of composted, biodegraded materials are suited for use as cover for new solid waste at the landfill site.

The larger materials are first passed over a magnet to separate ferrous materials, which can be sold. The remaining larger materials, consisting mostly of plastics, aluminum, wood, rubber, and glass, can be recycled or fed to a solid waste-to-energy plant.

(Condensed from "N.Y. town may be pilot site for landfill mining," by Beverly C. Nylkwest, in the September 1989 issue of NATAs Reporter, a publication of the National Association of Towns & Townships, 1522 K St., NW, Suite 730, Washington, DC 20005.)
SRDC, NCRCD jointly sponsor ag conference

With a grant from the Lower Mississippi Delta Development Commission, the Southern Rural Development Center and the North Central Regional Center for Rural Development are jointly sponsoring a February 26-28 conference on agriculture.

The conference will be in Memphis, Tennessee. To aid the Commission's effort in developing a ten-year strategic economic development plan for 214 counties along the Southern portion of the Mississippi River, specific objectives of the conference are to:

* examine the role of agriculture in the socio-economic system of the Lower Mississippi Delta Region,
* identify the major constraints to enhancing agriculture's contribution to socio-economic development in the region, and
* make recommendations for eliminating those constraints and capitalizing upon the opportunities that agriculture offers for future development of the Delta region.

The conference will address six specific topics. Sessions will address value-added benefits, alternative agricultural enterprises, sustainable/alternative agriculture/ resource conservation, institutional support, black/limited resource farmers and marketing opportunities.

For additional information and a registration brochure, contact SRDC, Box 5446, Mississippi State, MS 39762 (601) 325-3207.

Grass roots rural educational opportunities given

The following examples of innovative "grass roots" approaches to rural education in the South are condensed from "Dollars Making Sense in Rural Education" by Des Keller, in the October 1989 issue of Progressive Farmer. Box 2951, Birmingham, AL 35202, (205) 877-6494.

ARKANSAS

When first graders in the rural Arkansas school district of Wilmot consistently had some of the worst scores in the state on standardized tests, community members decided to find a solution.

"Their test scores were so low that there was only one explanation," said Jackson Curry, a local farmer and school board member involved in the effort. "Whatever problems students had were occurring before they ever got to school."

Community members found that many of the preschoolers weren't learning shapes, colors and simple numbers during early years at home. Poor, uneducated parents often didn't read to their children. Wilmot's kids were starting school behind and never catching up.

The Wilmot townpeople decided to try the Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY), a program, developed in Israel, that helps parents teach their preschool children skills with numbers, words, shapes, etc. Picture books and games help make the learning fun.

Helping to implement the program is Lois Perkins, a retired Extension specialist who has kept parents motivated and involved.

"They don't want to see their children have a disadvantaged adult life the way they did," Perkins said.

According to Perkins, not only have the children's test scores improved, but many of the parents have decided to complete their high school degrees.

Impressed by Wilmot's progress, the Arkansas governor helped local officials apply for federal grants, enabling the community to continue and expand the HIPPY program.

Small-scale ag workers set to meet at SAAS

The second meeting of professionals working with small-scale agriculture will be in conjunction with the Southern Association of Agricultural Scientists (SAAS) meeting. The group will meet Sunday, February 4, 1990, at one o'clock in the Silver Knight Room of the Carneyx Hotel in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Reports of on-going regional projects will be given. Future plans for the group, possible additional regional projects and ways for interaction between professionals will be discussed.

Persons interested in attending need not preregister but may wish to call the Southern Rural Development Center at (601) 325-3207 for additional and complete information.
Grass roots examples continued from page 5

"In our county, two-thirds of our sales tax money goes to other counties," says Bill Emerson, superintendent of Crockett County school in Atama. Population centers such as Jackson in near by Madison County tend to draw rural shoppers from surrounding areas. The money collected in Madison County helps that county’s school but does nothing for the shoppers’ school in Crockett County.

Court documents in the case illustrate the problem, showing that while one county collected nearly $600 per pupil in local sales tax in one year, another collected only $65.

The problem became acute after 1986 when revenue-sharing money from the federal government was phased out.

Electric Cooperatives, resource to rural areas

For those of you who are not familiar with rural electric cooperatives, you’re making a big mistake. This incredible resource is located in most rural communities in the US. Its avowed purpose is to help develop rural economies. How much better can you get? For information about your local cooperatives, call the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association at 202-857-9000.

On schedule

REVITALIZING THE RURAL SOUTH: EXTENSION’S ROLE IN ENHANCING QUALITY OF LIFE, January 16-18, 1990, Birmingham, Alabama. This regional training opportunity for the Extension program areas will provide assistance in planning multi-disciplinary programs for communities, families, youth and business. Registration is $75 and must be received no later than January 10. Additional continued on page 8
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This conference will examine the role of agriculture in the socioeconomic system of the Lower Mississippi River Delta Region, identify the major constraints to enhancing agriculture's contribution to socioeconomic development in the region and make recommendations for eliminating those constraints and capitalizing upon the opportunities that agriculture offers for future development in the Delta Region. Registration information is available from SRDC, Box 5446, Mississippi State, MS 39762.

YOUTH SERVING AS ADVOCATES OF YOUTH, March 1-4, 1990, Atlanta, Georgia. This workshop will offer training in one of four youth leadership and youth volunteerism models that have produced outstanding results in many communities. Complete information is available from the respective state Cooperative Extension Service 4-H offices or from Glen Krohn, (603) 656-3420. See the related story.

Southern Rural Development Center
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Mississippi State, MS 39762