Items of Interest

Sheldon Jones Receives Honor on Behalf of All Four Regional Rural Development Centers

Sheldon Jones was honored at the Western Rural Development Center annual board meeting on behalf of all four Regional Rural Development Centers for his outstanding contributions to their collective work. Jones has served on all four RRDC boards as the Farm Foundation Representative for nearly eight years. This honor comes as Jones is stepping down from the Farm Foundation to take on a new position in North Carolina. Reflecting on his time with the RRDC Jones said, “I have thoroughly enjoyed addressing the challenges and taking advantage of the opportunities your regions had addressed individually and collectively.”

LEAD, a SRDC Pilot Initiative Is on the Way to “Renew the New River”

As one of the SRDC’s six Leaders in Economic Alliance Development (LEAD) pilots, New River Valley Initiative in Virginia has made huge strides. The regional team is now diligently working on using the LEAD planning process to focus on increasing environmental stewardship in the New River Watershed through expansion of the highly successful ReNew the New program in Giles County, which was founded by Anne Goette. Through LEAD this work will now expand the cleanup project to include Floyd, Montgomery and Pulaski Counties as well as the city of Radford. Many people are coming together to clean up the 350 mile river, with an eye on increasing tourism growth in the region.

Southern CRD Webinar Series Continues:

Tourism in Extension: How We Assist Landowners, Communities and the Public at Large

June 22nd, 2016 11:00am CT/Noon ET

Miles Phillips and Stephen Brueggerhoff of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension will discuss their Extension work in Tourism. If you would like a background on this material follow the links below for a short video from both of them.


Webinars:

Southern CRD Webinar Series:

Tourism in Extension: How We Assist Landowners, Communities and the Public at Large
June 22nd, 2016
11am CT/12 pm ET
Learn More

Using Aging-in-Place to Connect At-risk Youth and Seniors
July 20th, 2016
10am CT/11 pm ET
Learn More

Responsive Countryside: The Digital Age and Rural Communities
August 16th, 2016
10:30am CT/11:30 pm ET
Learn More

Other:

Reaching Urban Veterans through Urban Horticulture
June 21st, 2016
12pm PDT/2 pm CT
Learn More
Coaches Gear Up for Stronger Economies Together (SET), Phase VI
Nine states are gearing up to expand SET to new multi-county regions. Training for the coaching teams was held during the first week of May, preparing Cooperative Extension Service and USDA Rural Development to co-lead these initiatives within their respective states. Participating states for this phase are: Indiana, Michigan, Missouri, New Mexico, North Carolina, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas and Wisconsin.

Four Fellowship Opportunities to Advance Innovation for U.S. Cooperative Extension
The eXtension Foundation is looking for four new fellows. Three will be selected for eXtension’s 2016 fellowship program, based on their submission of a plan of work that begins August 2016 through July 2017. The purpose of this fellowship is to identify and test innovative ideas and working with eXtension’s i-Three Innovation Lab. The fourth fellow will be partnering with the secretariat of Global Open Data for Agriculture and Nutrition. To be eligible, applicants must be employees of a U.S. Land-Grant University. This fellowship will focus on applied innovation in the access and use of open data linking research and U.S. Cooperative Extension information. The deadline for applications is July 7, 2016.

Grant Connections
Agriculture and Food Research Initiative - Food Safety Challenge Area
This AFRI Challenge Area promotes and enhances the scientific discipline of food safety, with an overall aim of protecting consumers from microbial and chemical contaminants that may occur during all stages of the food chain, from production to consumption. This requires an understanding of the interdependencies of human, animal and ecosystem health as it pertains to foodborne pathogens. The long-term outcome for this program is to reduce foodborne illnesses and deaths by improving the safety of the food supply, which will result in reduced impacts on public health and on our economy. In order to achieve this outcome, this program will support single-function Research Projects, multi-function Integrated Research, Education, and/or Extension Projects and Food and Agricultural Science Enhancement (FASE) Grants that address one of the Program Area Priorities (see Food Safety RFA for details). Deadline for application is August 3rd, 2016.

Agriculture and Food Research Initiative: Foundational Program
The AFRI Foundational Program is offered to support grants in the six AFRI priority areas to continue building a foundation of knowledge critical for solving current and future societal challenges. The six priority areas are: Plant Health and Production and Plant Products; Animal Health and Production and Animal Products; Food Safety, Nutrition, and...
Health; Bioenergy, Natural Resources, and Environment; Agriculture Systems and Technology; and Agriculture Economics and Rural Communities. Single-function Research Projects, multi-function Integrated Projects, and Food and Agricultural Science Enhancement (FASE) Grants are expected to address one of the Program Area Priorities (see Foundational Program RFA for details).

Deadline for application is August 31st, 2016.

Rural Community Development Initiative
Qualified private, nonprofit and public including tribal intermediary organizations proposing to carry out financial and technical assistance programs will be eligible to receive the funding. The Intermediary will be required to provide matching funds in an amount at least equal to the RCDI grant. The respective minimum and maximum grant amount per Intermediary is $50,000 and $250,000. The Intermediary must provide a program of financial and technical assistance to recipients to develop their capacity and ability to undertake projects related to housing, community facilities, or community and economic development that will support the community.

Deadline for application is July 22nd, 2016.

Conferences, Workshops, Trainings

2016 Joint NACDEP-ANREP Conference: Burlington, VT
June 26-29, 2016
For the first time, NACDEP and ANREP are teaming up for a Joint Annual Conference June 26-29, 2016 at the Sheraton Hotel in beautiful and vibrant Burlington, Vermont. Between our memberships, we are anticipating over 350 attendees, providing an excellent opportunity to broaden your Extension Network, present and learn from your peers, and learn from an expanded topic menu. Our Burlington location features an impressive diversity of both established and new, innovative and best practice programs from community and economic development, forestry, water quality, housing, local food, social justice, place making, environmental education, arts and culture, sustainability, public and private initiatives – plus many more. Registration now open.

79th Rural Sociological Society Annual Meeting: Toronto, Canada
August 7-10, 2016
2016 RSS Annual Meeting Call for Papers, Posters, and Organized Sessions. The theme of the 2016 conference is “Understanding Rural Social Class in an Era of Global Challenge” and will be held in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, August 7 – 10, 2016. The call for papers deadline is Friday, February 5, 2016 11:59 pm (EST).

Archived Webinars:
National CRD Indicators Team Webinar Series:

The Importance of Collecting Impact Numbers to Promote Community Development Work
WEBINAR RECORDING

Shoestring Evaluation: New Hampshire’s Experience Measuring CRED Impacts with Limited Resources and Expertise
WEBINAR RECORDING

Evaluating for Public Value through Impact Narratives
Webinar
WEBINAR RECORDING

Other Great Webinars:
Improving the Health and Safety of NC Farmworker: Connecting Community Resources
WEBINAR RECORDING

Florida’s Urban Extension Strategic Plan
WEBINAR LINK

The Impact of Latino-Owned Business on Local Economic Performance
LEARN MORE
2016 SR-PLN, AEA & ASRED Joint Meeting: Nashville, TN
Creating New Harmonies: Addressing Regional Opportunities
August 22-26, 2016
Registration for the conference is now open.
LEARN MORE

SERA-37 Annual Meeting: Nashville, TN
August 25-26, 2016
This conference focuses on immigrant integration in new destination areas. It brings together folks from NGOs, service providers, educators, researchers, policymakers, students and others to discuss the research and best practices that are working to help strengthen our communities and empower our community members.
LEARN MORE

7th National Small Farm Conference: Virginia Beach, VA
September 20-22, 2016
At the conference, through short courses, oral and poster paper presentations, exhibits, success stories and educational tours in and around Virginia Beach you’ll: 1. Learn about innovative advances in research, extension and outreach 2. Network and strengthen existing partnerships with other small farm professionals 3. Take home new ideas that will help to ensure small farmers and ranchers in your region not only survive, but thrive in today’s economy.
LEARN MORE

Economic Assessment of Local Foods Workshop: New Orleans, LA
Practical Tools and Advice for Local Food Practitioners
September 30 – October 1, 2016
This workshop will precede the Food Distribution Research Society Annual Conference. Participants will be introduced to the new USDA-AMS Toolkit, presented with a typology and benchmarks for local food initiatives to assist in comparing and standardizing data collection, provided insight into using these tools for technical assistance and evaluation of local food activities and taught advanced topics of the AMS Toolkit, along with exercises demonstrating their implementation using new benchmarks.
LEARN MORE  REGISTRATION

16th Annual New Partners for Smart Growth: Saint Louis, MO
February 2-4, 2017
The nation’s largest smart growth and sustainability event, the theme for the 2017 conference is “Practical Tools and Innovative Strategies for Creating Great Communities,” underscoring a stronger emphasis on implementation tools and strategies, and new technologies that will help communities NOW! The program will span three full days with post-conference events scheduled for Sunday, February 5. The main program will kick off on Thursday morning, February 2, with a plenary starting at 10:00 am, and continue through Saturday afternoon, closing at 4:00 pm. The schedule includes a dynamic mix of plenaries, breakouts, implementation workshops, focused training sessions, peer-to-peer learning opportunities, and coordinated networking activities. It will also feature exciting tours of local model projects in and around the greater St. Louis region.
LEARN MORE

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