

eXtension Community of Practice

Community, Local, and Regional Food Systems (CLRFS)

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Acknowledgement

- **USDA NIFA**
- **Katie Wright**, University of Arkansas (Support Specialist)
- EFSNE project that is being led by the **Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development** secured the initial grant from NIFA that served to launch CLRFS (including **Deno DeCiantis** at the Penn State Center in Pittsburgh, **Kathy Ruhf** of NESAWG and the NERCRD);
- **Brian Raison** (Ohio State University) and other leaders and colleagues

Extension.org

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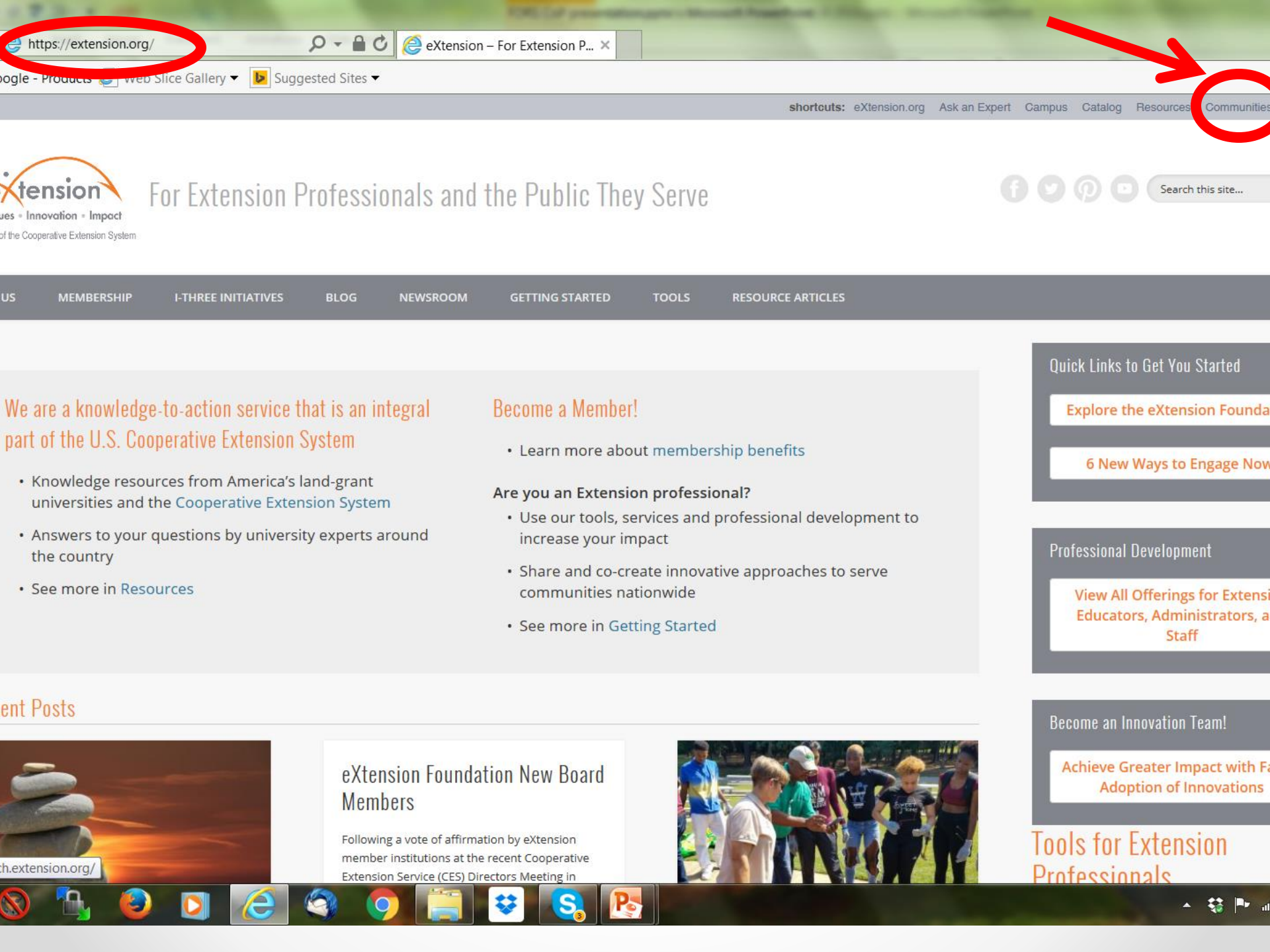
Click on **Community, Local and Regional
Food Systems**

[http://articles.extension.org/community
and regional food systems](http://articles.extension.org/community_and_regional_food_systems)

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An eXtensionID is available to anyone closely associated with the [U.S. Cooperative Extension System](#) — individuals working at Land-Grant Institutions, State Colleges, U.S. Government personnel affiliated with Cooperative Extension or individuals in Extension-related organizations working on projects with Cooperative Extension staff. Benefits vary by type of institution membership in the eXtension Foundation. Find your institution's membership in the [current Membership Listing](#).

Benefits	Institution Membership		
	Non-Member	Basic	Premium
Be a Community Leader .	if grant PI	✓	✓
Be in the i-Three Issue Corps . Corps Members in 2016 also receive access to an eXtension Slack account, their own eXtension Zoom room, Qualtrics, custom program support and participation in a special track at our conference that focuses on the process of designing projects and innovation skill building.	X*	✓	✓
Schedule a Zoom Webinar for the Professional Performance Hub. (Available April, 2016. Adobe Connect currently available.)	X	✓	✓
Create and manage projects in Basecamp .	X	✓	✓
Offer a free or fee-based course in Campus using Moodle.	X	X	✓
Build an Innovation Team . Gain access to monthly innovation webinars, custom education via one-on-one Zoom meetings and the Innovation Strengths Preference Indicator (ISPI) instrument.	X	X	✓
Apply to be a funded eXtension Fellow .	X	X	✓
Apply for eXtension Innovation Project funding.	X	X	✓
Get discounted pricing per person for the National eXtension Conference .	No discount	\$50 discount/person	\$100 discount/person
Get discounted pricing for Professional Development such as the Impact Statement Reporting Course developed at Oregon State University by land-grant communications professionals specifically for Extension professionals. This does not include other offerings available on Learn .	\$80/person	Free	Free



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- Answers to your questions by university experts around the country
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- [6 New Ways to Engage Now](#)


Professional Development

- [View All Offerings for Extension Educators, Administrators, and Staff](#)

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Recent Posts



ch.extension.org/

eXtension Foundation New Board Members

Following a vote of affirmation by eXtension member institutions at the recent Cooperative Extension Service (CES) Directors Meeting in



Tools for Extension Professionals

Our Resource Areas

Community

Agricultural and Food Law
Community Planning and Zoning
Community, Local and Regional Food Systems

Cooperatives
Creating Healthy Communities
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
Enhancing Rural Community Capacity
Entrepreneurs & Their Communities
Geospatial Technology
Internationalizing Extension
Network Literacy
Program Evaluation
Volunteer Administration
Women in Agriculture

Disaster Issues

Agricultural Disaster Preparedness and Recovery
Drought Resources
Floods
Wildfire

Energy

Farm Energy
Home Energy
Wood Energy

Environment

Prescribed Fire
Trees for Energy Conservation

Family

Child and Family Learning Network
Child Care
Companion Animals
Drinking Water and Human Health
Family Caregiving
Food Safety
Military Families
Parenting
Personal Finance

Farm

Ag Safety and Health
Animal Manure Management
Animal Welfare
Apples
Bee Health
Beef Cattle
Blueberries
Climate, Forests and Woodlands
Dairy
Forest Farming
Freshwater Aquaculture
Goats
Grapes
Horses
Marine Aquaculture
Organic Agriculture
Plant Breeding and Genomics
Sheep
Small and Backyard Flocks
Small Meat Processors
Sustainable Marine Fisheries
Wood Products

Health and Nutrition

Community Nutrition Education
Families, Food and Fitness
Healthy Food Choices in Schools

Lawn and Garden

Extension Master Gardener
Gardens & Landscapes
The Garden Professors
Water Conservation for Lawn and Landscape

Pest Management

Feral Hogs
Imported Fire Ants
Invasive Species
Pest Management In and Around Structures
Wildlife Damage Management

Youth

Ag Zone
Science for Youth

Community, Local and Regional Food Systems



An Evolving Classification Scheme of Local Food Business Models

By Allie Bauman, Colorado State University; Dave Shideler, Oklahoma State University; Dawn Thilmany, Colorado State University; Merritt Taylor, Oklahoma...>Read More

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Welcome

This is where you can find research-based information from America's land-grant universities enabled by [eXtension.org](#)

Select a different institution

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Explicit Benefits

- Financial support (small grants, development fund, **scholarship**)
- Integrate research, extension, and education
 - Invite the right people to start the conversation
 - Participate in on-going discussion and projects
 - Share challenges, failure, and issues
 - Contribute to new ideas and innovative strategies
 - Share your outcomes and stories – webinar, blog, case study, publication, report

Working Groups

...

localfoodeconomics.com



- Supported by
USDA AMS
Toolkit project
- Open to
anyone!
- Website,
listserv, forum,
glossary
- Featured case
studies

Urban Agriculture Working Group

Accomplishments

- Conducted survey of Extension's role in urban ag
 - ~ 19 working group members
 - 147 responses

Next Steps

- Compile resource directory
- Prepare journal article
- Identify next activities
- Any interest in co-leading?

Contact

Lucy Diekmann at
ldiekmann@scu.edu

Available online at:

<http://articles.extension.org/pages/73826/survey-of-extensions-role-in-urban-agriculture-results>

PRELIMINARY RESULTS:

Survey of Extension's Role in Urban Agriculture

By Lucy Diekmann, Julie Dawson, Jacqueline Kowalski, Brian Raison, Marcia Ostrom, Rob Bennaton, and Connie Fisk
May 2016 • Community, Local & Regional Food Systems (CLRFS) Community of Practice

INTRODUCTION

Extension educators throughout the country are involved in work focused on urban agriculture. To date, however, few if any studies have been completed that examine the scope and extent of that work. In 2015, the eExtension Community, Local and Regional Food Systems (CLRFS) Community of Practice conducted a national survey aimed at measuring Extension's role in urban agriculture. The CLRFS Community of Practice is a national network of more than 400 educators, researchers and practitioners who collaborate to conduct new research and programs, expand professional networking, and create innovative educational opportunities.

1 SURVEY DISTRIBUTION AND RESPONSE

This survey was developed collaboratively by members of the Urban Agriculture Working Group, a sub-team that provides opportunities for CLRFS members to share information, learn, and collaborate on topics and issues related to urban agriculture. The survey included both open and closed-ended questions asking respondents to describe their Extension work, their activities related to urban agriculture, challenges they face, and Extension programs and resources relevant for urban agriculture.

For this survey, urban agriculture was defined as the growing, processing, and exchange of food and other agricultural products in and around cities. Urban agriculture encompasses a wide range of activities from small-scale, diversified farmers who sell to urban markets to community-based projects that focus on food justice to individuals growing produce at home. Extension's role in urban agriculture is equally varied and may include support for small farmers, development of local markets, providing educational services, and engaging in food system planning, policy, and assessment.

Survey data was collected online from October to December 2015 using Qualtrics software. The survey was distributed via email to the CLRFS listserv, which had 384 members during the period of survey collection. We also used snowball sampling to recruit additional participants, asking Urban Agriculture Working Group members and CLRFS members to distribute the survey to others in their professional networks. Finally, we did targeted outreach to Extension professionals in two regions—the Pacific Northwest and the Northeast—that did not initially have many survey respondents. Of the surveys we received, we retained those that had at least 30% of the questions completed. In total, we retained and analyzed 147 surveys.

Because of our sampling design, there is likely some selection bias toward Extension personnel who are already engaged in local food systems work. We also are unable to calculate a response rate because there is no way of knowing how many potential respondents the survey reached. While the survey results should not be viewed as representative of all the Extension personnel working in urban agriculture, they do offer a snapshot of Extension involvement in urban agriculture, particularly among members of the CLRFS Community of Practice and their extended networks.

Data from closed-ended questions were summarized in Excel. We used qualitative data analysis techniques to categorize and analyze data from open-ended questions.

Undoing Inequality in the Food System

Working Group Update

- **New Volunteer Co-Leaders:**
 - Lisa Gonzalez (Maryland) and Rachel Lindvall (South Dakota).
 - Contact info: lisacgo@umd.edu and rachel.lindvall@sdstate.edu
- **Survey sent out and completed by 35 people**
 - Strong interest in remaining in/reigniting work around inequalities in food system
 - Food access issues, structural racism in the food system, education programs around food justice, engaging communities and meaningful evaluation were top themes
 - Members very interested in attending and contributing to webinar series
 - The majority of members are most interested in peer-to-peer networking and staying up to date on the issues
 - About half of respondents interested in contributing to efforts such as scholarship, curriculum writing and grant applications
- **Next Steps: Schedule working group conference call, begin scheduling webinars**

Want to be a Member?

- **Katie Wright**

katiew@uark.edu

- Kathleen Liang

cliang@ncat.edu

- Brian Raison

raison.1@osu.edu

Post to forum by email if you are a member

localfoodsystems@extension.org

https://people.extension.org/communities



Issues • Innovation • Impact

A Part of the Cooperative Extension System

Kathleen Liang ▾

Home

Communities

People

Numbers

Hi Kathleen, Welcome Back!

You are joining **1,957** colleagues that have been active in People within the last month.

Exploring eXtension

- Learn more about eXtension at [About eXtension](#) and [eXtension Create](#).
- Explore the content at [eXtension.org](#) produced by our Communities of Practice.
- See the public courses available at [eXtension campus](#).
- Interact with the public and answer questions at [Ask an Expert](#).
- Search all of Extension through [Extension Search](#).
- Find professional development opportunities through [Learn](#).

Find Colleagues

Search

You can also [browse the directory](#) of **18,002** accounts and [filter the list by communities, locations, positions, and social networks](#)

Search for Communities and Institutions

Search

You can also [browse the list](#) of the eXtension Communities of Practice and the newest communities created by your colleagues.



Kathleen Liang

Kellogg Distinguished Professor

North Carolina A & T State University, Extension and
College of Ag & Envi. Sci

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Social Network Connections [change](#)

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eXtensionID: kathleenl3
Google Account: kathleenl3@extension.org
[Learn more about your eXtension Google Account](#)

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Preferred Phone: (336) 285-4683
Position: Faculty
Location: North Carolina
County: n/a
Time zone: Eastern Time (US & Canada)
Contributor Agreement: [Accepted](#) (September 12, 2013, 4:15 PM EDT)
Interests: [community development](#) [entrepreneurship](#)
[innovation](#) [local foods](#) [sustainable agriculture](#)
[youth development](#)

Last Active At: September 30, 2016, 10:08 PM EDT

[View Activity](#)

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[Leadership Development for Organizations & Communities](#) Member
[North Carolina A & T State University](#) Member
[University of Vermont](#) Member

Retired?

If you are no longer working or associated with Extension, you can retire your account.

[Retire my account](#)

Community, Local and Regional Food Systems

BACKGROUND: With over 400 members, our goal is to put "knowledge to action." We provide resource materials, training opportunities, and peer interaction for Extension Educators, community-based practitioners and individuals involved in work related to building sustainable, equitable, and just food systems. Please join our group. Watch for opportunities to get involved. Learn more at our eXtension web pages: (<http://create.extension.org/node/91605>)

You are a leader of this community

[Leave Community](#)

People and Activity

[View member gallery](#)

8 Leaders

406 Members

6 Invitations

[Invite others to join](#)

[View connection activity](#)

Activity Notifications: **ON**

[Turn Off](#)

Elsewhere in eXtension

Links to information for this community in other eXtension applications

create.extension.org
[Community Dashboard](#)

Community Forums

Community Forum (Google Group)

Post to forum by email:

localfoodsystems@extension.org

Community Leader Forum (Google Group)

Post to leader forum by email: localfoodsystems-leaders@extension.org

Community Attributes [edit settings](#)

eXtension Community of Practice

Membership:

Open Membership

Created by:

[Brian Raison](#)

Created:

December 4, 2009, 4:19 PM EST

Other Resources and Opportunities of Collaboration

Agricultural Business Management

<http://www.extension.umn.edu/agriculture/business/farm-financial-management/benchmark-your-farm/>

Business planning

Commodity marketing and risk management

Crop Budgets

Farm bill

Farm financial management

Farm tax and legal issues

Farm transfer and estate planning

Farmland rental rates and land economics

Human resources management

Long-term health care

Benchmark your farm to improve your profitability and financial position

Don Nitchie, Extension Educator, Agricultural Business Management

Introduction

Benchmarking is the practice of measuring the financial health and performance of your farming business compared to the performance of your business in the past and to similar or peer farms. Without some standard to benchmark to, or compare, you have little idea if a measurement is good, bad or makes any difference at all. There are many production benchmarks commonly used such as yield per acre or pounds of gain per pound of feed fed. Financial benchmarks focus on how effective annual expenditures on inputs and long term investments in farming assets are. Whole farm financial benchmarks indicate the profitability, financial efficiency and risk-bearing ability of the entire operation. Individual enterprise benchmarks compare how effective expenditures on specific inputs are in producing income, for example seed and chemical for crops or feed for livestock.

<https://www.extension.umn.edu/community/research/reports/docs/2015-Financial-Benchmarks-Local-Food-Operations.pdf>



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA | EXTENSION

EXTENSION CENTER FOR COMMUNITY VITALITY



Financial Benchmarks and Economic Impact of Local Food Operations

A STUDY OF THE FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE OF 11 COMMERCIAL VEGETABLE OPERATIONS IN CENTRAL MINNESOTA

Authored by Ryan Pesch and Brigid Tuck

USDA Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS)

...



United States Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Marketing Service

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Local & Regional Food Market News

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Contact
Market News



USDA Market News works with State Departments of Agriculture and local and regional food systems to provide prices, volume, and other information on agricultural commodities sold at local and regional markets throughout the United States.

Information gathered from Farmers Markets, Farmers Auctions, Food Hubs, Direct to Consumer sales, Retail advertisements, and Farm-To-School programs is currently available for select locations. More reports and locations will be added in the future.

News & Announcements

- 09/28 [USDA Awards \\$26.8 Million to Support Farmers Markets and Local Food Promotion Programs](#)
- 08/06 [USDA and Louisiana Officials Launch National Farmers Market](#)

Regional Rural Development Centers

- An example and a change agent to design, develop, apply, and assess Integration of science-based research, extension, and education
- Four Regional Rural Development Centers
 - **Northeast** <http://aese.psu.edu/nercrd>
 - **Southern** <http://srdc.msstate.edu/>
 - **North Central** <http://ncrcrd.msu.edu/>
 - **Western** <http://wrdc.usu.edu/>

The Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development

Based at Penn State University

Dr. Stephan Goetz

sgoetz@psu.edu

Some Current Projects

- Enhancing Food Security in the Northeast (NIFA)
- USDA/AMS Agricultural Marketing Service
 - Technical Assistance (AMSTA) project (2 phases)
 - Local Food Resource Mapping (LFRM) project
- 1890 Capacity Building grant (TSU) using SNA to understand & improve farmer-market connections
- Factors associated with Food Hub locations (statistical and simulation analyses)
- Determinants of F&V consumption



Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development

Community Capacity
Building

Regional Economic
Development

Local and Regional Food
Systems

Entrepreneurship

Balanced Use of Natural
Resources

Land grant university programs helped keep farmers on the farm

Posted: April 19, 2016

Federal cooperative extension programs have helped more than 137,000 farmers stay in business since 1985, according to economists.



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eXtension



Cooperative Extension's *effects on* Farmer Retention

Farmer Retention: Why does it matter?

Between 1984 and 2010

490,000

farmers exited farming

Due to technological advances, fewer farmers than ever are growing our food.

Since the middle of last century, the number of US farm workers has declined by 78%, even while agricultural output has more than doubled.

Even so, there may be a *critical minimum* number of farmers to maintain a viable agriculture.

What can be done to keep farmers on the farm?



The federal Cooperative Extension program was set up in 1914 under the Smith-Lever Act to translate and transmit state-of-the-art research findings from the Land Grant Universities.

A new study shows that investment in Cooperative Extension was directly associated with higher net farm income, which helped farmers stay in business.

Between 1984 and 2010

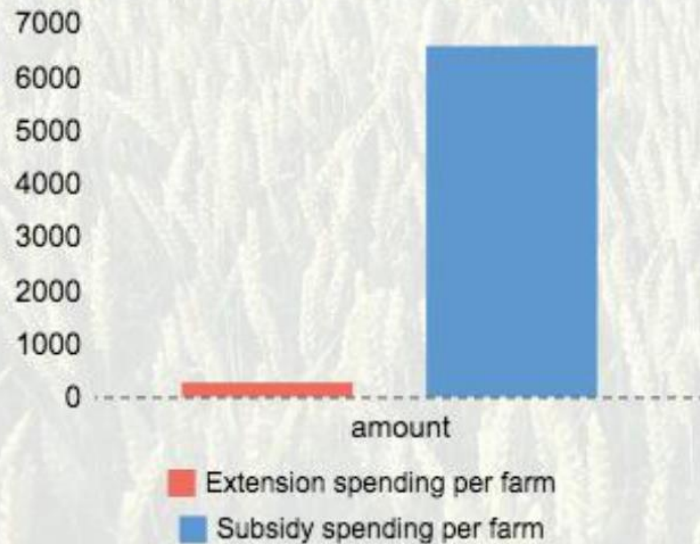
137,700

farmers stayed in farming

as a result of Extension and associated research programs

How much does Cooperative Extension cost relative to other federal investments in farmers?

Extension-infographic



Researchers found that Cooperative Extension programming costs **\$266 per farm,** while farm commodity programs and subsidies cost **\$6,572 per farm.**

The same study found that higher levels of commodity payments or subsidies to farmers were associated with more farmers *leaving*, rather than staying in agriculture.

Between
1984 and
2010

55,000

additional farmers would have stayed in farming if \$100 of commodity spending per farmer was shifted to Extension spending.

This research shows that public investments in farmers are better made through the research and educational programs of the Land Grant University system, rather than through direct subsidies to farmers, if the policy goal is to keep farmers on the farm.



Source: Goetz, S.J. and Davlasheridze, M. State Cooperative Extension Spending and Farmer Exits, Applied Economic Perspectives and Policy, published online April 19, 2016.

Top image: USDA; Middle image: Sven Owsianowski;
Bottom image: Penn State

<http://aese.psu.edu/nercrd/publications>

The Impact Indicators Tips Booklet

One major output of the Learning Circle's efforts was the development of "[The Impact Indicators Tips Booklet](#)," a 38-page document written by George Morse, Charles French, and Scott Chazdon that explores practical and credible methods for using the "but for" rule to document Extension Community Development Impacts.

Other Resources

Examples of Impact Statements:

- [North Central Region Extension Community Development Impacts](#)
- [Southern Region 2015 Impact Statement](#) (Word doc)
- [University of New Hampshire Impact Statement from Hillsborough County](#) (PDF)

[Estimation Methods for Impact Indicators shown in the booklet](#)



Community Capacity Building

Regional Economic
Development

Local and Regional Food
Systems

Entrepreneurship

Balanced Use of Natural
Resources

News

Training and Conferences

Impacts

Center Resources

Publications

Call for presentations and save the date: What Works in Rural Business Innovation and Economic Development

Posted: August 26, 2016

The Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development (NERCRD) is pleased to announce a new conference in its acclaimed What Works workshop series. The conference theme this year is Rural Business Innovation and Economic Development, and the event will be held in conjunction with Create West Virginia's Universal Design conference, at the Civic Center in Charleston, WV on May 15-17, 2017.

To this end we seek presentations that may include papers, posters or educational (Extension) programs addressing some aspect of

new or innovative product development in a broad sense. Topics may include new products, services (such as agri-tourism) or business processes, including those based in the arts, or creative ways of valorizing while preserving natural assets, including wilderness trails, whitewater rafting and the development of other nature-based recreational opportunities. **The submission deadline is December 13, 2016** and submission guidelines are forthcoming. Please email krd111@psu.edu to be notified of guidelines when they become available.

Share



Image: Pixabay



Open Discussion and Thank you!

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