

## **Meeting Summary**

### **Northeast Land Grant/ Land Use Strategic Planning Meeting Philadelphia, Pennsylvania -- October 11-12, 2006**

This report summarizes a meeting of the Northeast Extension Land Use Network (NEELUN) held October 11-12, 2006 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The meeting was convened by the Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development (NERCRD). Fifteen individuals representing seven northeastern states and the District of Columbia attended the meeting (List of Participants is attached). An important purpose of the meeting was to expand the network beyond the original NEELUN participants when the network was formed in 2003. The meeting was facilitated by Rod Howe, Cornell University. This summary was prepared by Charles Abdalla, Pennsylvania State University with the assistance of Pam Hileman, NERCRD.

The report is organized as follows: NEELUN's past, present and future, opportunities in federal level programs, discussion of the Land Use Policy Research and Education Center proposal, emerging issues and possible regional project foci, convergence of topics and next steps, and conclusions. The conclusions include a description of key meeting outcomes and next steps as well as a statement of the vision for NEELUN's role in land use decision-making developed at the meeting.

#### **NEELUN's Past, Present and Future - Peter Marshall, West Virginia University**

The Northeast Extension Land Use Network (NEELUN) was introduced at the May 2003 Workshop on Extension Land Use held in State College, Pennsylvania. NEELUN's purpose is to strengthen extension land use programming in the Northeast by providing a structure for systematic and ongoing collaboration and coordination among Land Grant Institutions in the region. In May 2004, a decision was made to proceed with NEELUN Concept Paper and in July 2004 the NEELUN Concept Paper was approved by the Northeast Extension and Research Directors.

There is a great need for collaboration on land use issues within the Northeast US. Land use policies are among the most important concerns affecting northeastern states. Failed land use policies and practices have had a number of consequences including: encouraging sprawling land development, threatening farmland and open space, raising public service costs and taxes, encourages people and wealth to leave central cities, and creating traffic congestion, and degrading the environment and our quality of life

Work in land use issues is challenging. There is a need to document the shortcomings and consequences of current land use policies and practices and to illustrate that there are viable and better alternatives and build public support for change. In addition, local government's capacity for planning, including its structure, processes and regulations, as well as strategies and tools, must be strengthened.

Land Grant Universities are uniquely qualified to help respond to these challenges. LGU researchers have demonstrated the capacity to conduct the type of policy-related, applied research investigating land use related issues and strategies. Land use extension programs, in turn, provide a vehicle for extending research findings to policy makers and the public. The challenge is to focus the work of both researchers and extension educators in search of the most promising opportunities to advance land use policies and practices.

Public policy education may be key to building public support for change and for seeking a consensus among diverse stakeholders. It may help in strengthening the capacity of local governments to implement new land use policies and practices will require information, training, and technical assistance.

In summary, an important opportunity exists for LGUs to help forge a new and more promising direction in land use policies and practices that could impact the lives of millions of people. To realize this opportunity, LGUs in the northeast and elsewhere need to make an expanded commitment and investment in land use programming.

More specifically, a regional approach to land use programming would have the following benefits:

- Achieve a critical mass of extension educators and researchers committed to advancing land use policies and practices
- Expand opportunities for networking and collaboration
- Facilitate the sharing of educational resource materials and technical assistance
- Provide a framework for regional initiatives
- Enhancing competitiveness to secure external support for new research and extension initiatives

The purpose of this particular meeting is to reach out beyond the current NEELUN group. The NERCRD has an entire area on their website devoted to land use. Some questions that could be addressed at this meeting include:

- Should we try to expand the web presence by building upon the Land Use Toolbox? There is already very good information in the Land Use Toolbox. There will soon be a NEELUN submission form to add information to this website. Proceedings from the earlier land use meetings could be on the website also. Sally said that we should take information from the research workshops and feed it into extension.
- A sub-group of NEELUN group could look at youth oriented land use education possibilities.
- Could we strengthen NEELUN by getting some researchers (Josh Duke - University of Delaware, Lori Lynch – University of Maryland) involved?

- What are other organizations doing in terms of research and extension/outreach and how can we partner with them? There is a need to inventory, link with and, if appropriate, build bridges to these organizations. Examples of organizations include county planners, environmental councils, etc. It would be interesting to inventory relationships that we have with other kinds of institutional agencies. Such an inventory could be started at the local level and build up to the regional level. The Center has compiled a list of Land Use Center's in northeast.
- What do LGUs bring to the table? In some cases, that is knowledge of agriculture and land management. Even after being preserved land need to be managed. In other cases, it is a balanced approach through public policy education. Also, we need to look at competition as well as partners. What is our identity and what should be our direction?

**Opportunities in Federal Level Programs - Sally Maggard, USDA – Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service (CSREES)**

At a general level, the prospect for funding for land use program funding is poor. Little or no information has been available on 2008 budget themes. However, the CREES administrator wants all money to be competitively awarded. The themes for multi-state/multi-institutional competitive programs have been:

- Security and food safety
- Community resilience
- Disaster recovery
- Bio-fuels
- Conversion of Bio-mass
- Identifying highest probability for disaster events

Additional themes that have been discussed include:

- How do you value eco-system services (better research on how you do the evaluation and how do you get these out thru extension)
- Water Quality
- Food Safety
- Organic Transition
- Research on workforce training
- Ag/Homeland Security
- Efforts to expand extension programs and efforts using new technology

USDA CSREES is spending considerable time on the question of how to capture and measure capture impacts, a new leadership council created in May 2006 will work on measurement issues.

USDA – CSREES is emphasizing multi-state and multi-institution work. This is increasingly affecting who receives federal funds. Sally suggested also linking with the

Western Rural Development Center when working on proposals as they are focusing in on public lands. She also spoke about the eXtension projects and wanted the group to consider a Community of Practice proposal. Sally suggested that NEELUN group converse on land use issues with the Rural Policy Research Institute (RUPRI). Also, she suggested that we try to get the land use issues onto as many agendas of research and extension directors as possible, and to point out the important research and extension opportunities that may be overlooked.

### **Land Use Policy Research and Education Center Proposal – Rod Howe, Discussion Leader**

A draft proposal for a Land Use Policy Research and Outreach Consortium (LUPROC) prepared by Stephan Goetz, Director, Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development was distributed and discussed by meeting participants. (A copy of the proposal is included in Appendix B.) The following questions, issues and concerns were raised:

#### Questions

- What is the need for funding?
- How would the funds be used? For example, the center could be a catalyst for new ideas and foster states to undertake-pilot programs.
- Need to expand audience base and to think about the informational needs of other professionals
- Is this for rural land only? – needs clarification. Land use at rural urban fringe and farmland preservation (find themes across state lines, find alternatives to sprawl)
- Where are conflicts resolved (local government)?
- Will this be a virtual vs. actual center? If it is a virtual organization and multi-state then need governing organization

#### Issues

- Is it a disadvantage to for the home for the center to be at Penn State University? Each could develop their own state specific center.
- People more open to solutions that are customized
- Keep it on the NE regional scale, but only offer services like (applied, multi-disciplinary policy research; translation of basic research #3 on the sheet)
- This proposed center could be done as a stand alone entity, such as the Land Use Center at Michigan State University (MSU) directed by Soji Adelaja. There are foundations that are willing to give money to such Centers. Also, the MSU center relies strongly on MSU faculty. It is not thought of as a virtual center.
- Should NEELUN keep connected with RUPRI on this?

Concerns (need for clarification, emphasis, refinements, etc.)

- Seems redundant in some functions
- The section on examples of services provided need to be developed
- Watch language on first part (basic family values)
- Focus on #2 on LUPREC sheet (conduct original, timely and policy-relevant research on questions that have not been addressed or rigorously)
- Focus on #3 on LUPREC sheet (to deliver this science-based information to community-level, local decision-makers in the form of policy alternatives)
- Some questions about paragraph #4 on page one (Internet utilization) (society in general mistrust)
- The center needs to be a repository of the best information available so that people go here for information,
- Utilize Geographic Information System (GIS) data (take information to towns and tell them how to use it to make better land use decisions)

The group suggest that deliverables be examined more closely. For example, what will the Center deliver to specific audiences if funds are obtained. A related question is: what geographical area would be served by the center? One approach would be to keep it at the northeast region scale, but perhaps only offer services like in #3 as mentioned above. States could develop their own state specific centers and interact through a network.

There is a need to find themes that cut across state lines. Land use at the rural urban fringe continues to be an issue that is common across the region. And farmland preservation and protection has been a theme throughout the region. Also, Pennsylvania and Maryland have had successful Purchase of Development Right programs. The concepts of smart growth and land preservation would be our selling point in order to get the most “bang for the buck” regionally.

Academic planners do not do genuine quantitative policy analysis. We have a real advantage there because so many people want the answers to basic questions. Policy cause and policy effects have not been really tested. The Land Use Center needs to be a repository of the best factual and objective information. There is some merit to having a land grant university disseminate the information. Maybe the information could be peer reviewed.

Overall, the group found very little to disagree with in the proposal. An important unresolved issue that was identified was how the proposed center would be controlled. The group felt the proposed center needed multi-state governance.

After some discussion the group’s concluded that Stephan Goetz should continue to develop and refine this proposal. The following people volunteered to work with him and then bring proposal back to the group: Nelson Bills, Cornell University; Mike Dougherty, West Virginia University; Neal Fogle, Penn State Cooperative Extension - Montour County; Paul Gottlieb, Rutgers University; and Peter Marshall, West Virginia University.

## **E. Emerging Land Use Issues and Regional Project Foci**

The group spent time discussing emerging issues and potential projects that could be addressed to demonstrate the potential regional collaboration. The following topics were identified and briefly discussed by the whole group. More specific issues identified within each broader topical area are listed below as well.

- **Youth curriculum**
- **Agriculture as a business** (viable agriculture as a land preservation tool) Connection is not always made that profitable agriculture is land preservation. Professional planners often do not understand agriculture. There are clear linkages between agriculture and land retention.
  - Expand the thinking of what a farm is (wind farm, sun farms, bio-fuels)
  - Audience (professional planners)
  - Forest lands
  - Energy production, fiber fuel
- **Housing Patterns**
  - Alternative housing models
  - Energy efficient
  - Downtown redevelopment
  - Range of choice
  - Affordable housing
  - Residential Preferences
  - Transportation issues
  - Public services
  - Land costs
  - Impact of regulations to individuals and community as a whole
- **Impacts of Land Use Decisions**
  - On property values
  - Landscapes
  - Alternative policies
  - What is behind current land-use regulations; what is the rationale; more planned communities that have accepted some restrictions
  - Taxation issues/burdens (innovation/creative solutions)
  - Absentee landowners (ownership vs. control); how are policies approaching this?
  - Second home phenomenon
  - The price of land affects the price of housing. PA is right behind FL in the number of seniors residing in the state. Are people thinking through the transportation issues? Seniors need to have viable transportation.
  - People are more apt to follow through on regulations when they know why they are there. A lot of decision makers do not know the impacts of

regulations. A lot of farmers see development as their retirement. The property tax burden is a big piece of what is going on.

- Show evidence to USDA that we have sensitized and educated the planning commission members in the business of agriculture; bridge that culture gap.
- **Indicators of social and economic health related to land use over time.**
  - State and community level
  - Housed at NERCRD
  - Indicators may need to be interpreted
- **Land use in relation to emergency preparedness**
  - Resiliency (learning from the past)
  - Homeland security
  - Energy dependence
  - Food security
  - Need more success stories
  - Investments made
- **Land use – water resources**
  - Reservoir
  - Groundwater
  - Flooding
  - Computer simulation models
  - Wildlife habitats
- **Options/management for open lands (new public/private partnerships)**
  - Easements
  - Open lands as a part of cluster development
  - Private wells/septic systems

Of the above areas, four were prioritized by the group as the highest need for the region. These areas were 1) Planning for agriculture and land use implications; (forests were also included in this area); 2) Housing; 3) Impact of land use decisions on variety of levels, including indicators of impact; and 4) Land use and water linkages. (Note: 1 through 4 does not indicate relative priority). Subgroups met by interest area and addressed questions related to short - and medium-term objectives and action steps for each topic area. A brief summary of the action steps that were identified in these meetings is below.

#### High Priority Areas for Regional Work and Action Steps

1) Planning for agriculture and its land use implications; forests;

#### Action Steps

- Develop research/resource inventory and needs assessment
  - Literature review, collection instruments, etc.
  - Short-term activity

Funds needed to support research  
Extension, university faculty should lead to finding other contacts

- Create policy learning (implications vs. intentions) network/workshop/conference  
Example: New Jersey-based/focused workshop with tours and proceedings  
Medium-term activity  
Funds needed to sponsor conference  
States, local governments, NPOs – major partner activity

- Develop full research agenda
  - A complete list, including questions regarding value, property tax, value of programs
  - Medium-term activity
  - Funds needed to support research
  - Extension, university faculty, other researchers
- Bridging the gap between agricultural and planning communities
  - Needs assessment and policy advice
  - Medium-term activity
  - Funds needed for communication
  - Partner with other organizations, such as the American Farmland Trust, American Planning Association, and other non-governmental organizations as well as state and local governments.
- Create teams for collaboration and grants
  - Teamwork and grant applications development
  - Medium-term activity
  - Funds needed to support efforts to seek more funds
  - Major partnering activities
- Research into the value of “agriculture” (farming, forestry, fisheries)
  - Develop research questions and explore them
  - Longer-term activity
  - Funds needed to support research
  - Extension, university faculty, other researchers – major partner activity

#### Short Term Actions

- Initiate networking and dialogue with potential partners/funders
  - Conversations (informal) and reports (formal)
  - (First-month activity)
- Inventory projects/programs/research that exists on the subject
  - Include Extension, university, wider research community (other universities, Non-Profit Organizations, etc.)
  - Performance – based approaches (i.e. “Begin with end in mind”)
  - Use of Team building exercise
  - (Third month activity)
- Broaden the group – Determine who needs to be added
  - Who is interested or has expertise to offer but is not currently part of NEELUN? This question pertains to states (locations), academic departments, organizations, agencies, etc.
  - Other groups maybe added over long-term (through the long-term)
  - (Fifth-month activity)
- Begin preliminary planning for conference/workshop
  - Broad audience – different needs – synergy
  - State focus – in-and-around location choose
  - Have three/four “big questions” driving speakers/presentations
  - Maintain control over planning (with inclusive committee)
  - Would help with research agenda, grant support, educational programming

First step is to seek sponsorship (possibly Farm Foundation)  
(Seventh-month activity)

## 2) Impact of land use decisions on variety of levels – indicators of impact;

### Action Steps (Areas for Study)

- Identify and obtained zoning data
- Case studies showing successes  
State level also (e.g., NJ DOT)
- Infrastructure and spending location (information)
- Cost and benefits of sprawl
- What is sprawl? It needs to be defined.  
Is (sprawl) the problem?
- Local government decision-making process  
(e.g., variances)
- Developing new programs needs to be based on what decision-making training is effective?  
Within the Northeast region, do we know what training is on-going and “what works”
- Deliverable: Decision-maker checklist: This would be of interest to potential funders.
- Impact of different allocations of property rights with respect to land on policy outcomes.
- Better understanding the political context and public policy process around land use decisions
- Farmland preservation considerations  
Open space  
Effect on housing costs  
Effect on environment  
PDR, TDR – Synthesis  
Farm assessment → preservation  
Enabling legislation
- Identifying and collecting of good and useful educations materials
- Inventorying research on land use issues in the Northeast
- **FDNS** now integrated in development

**Comment [a1]:** Need a definition for the FDNS acronym.

### Next steps

- Develop collaborations
- One academic planner within the region should work on impacts of sprawl
- Internal inventories
- Funds for dissemination

## 3) Housing

Action Steps:

## Short Term

- Frame the issue-a concept (or white) paper

## Mid-term

- Survey the literature
  - Alternative models
  - Housing types
  - Elder/senior housing
  - Downtown cores
  - Ageing in place
- Taxation the property tax, tax sharing options in particular
  - o Massachusetts
  - o Twin Cities (Minnesota)
  - o Metro New York City

## Use value assessment for farmland

- Status of state programs (all have Use Value Assessment programs)
- Benefits/costs

Long Term

- Education piece (conferences, workshops, etc.)

## 4) Land use-water.

Action Plan

- Presentations to meetings of WQ folks
- (USDA and state level meetings)
- Process work help communities work thru
- Inventory research watershed organizations – LU decisions
- Look at cross boundary problems (upper Susquehanna in eastern New York-Pennsylvania border, part of Chesapeake Bay Watershed, and/or the Connecticut River Valley)

**Convergence of Topics and Workgroups and Development of Next Steps**

The group decided to prioritize its efforts. As a result the Land Use-Water Group was disbanded. A decision was made to combine the Ag Planning-Impacts of Land Use Decisions workgroups. This left two groups on the following topics: Agricultural Planning/Land Use and Housing. Brief outline reports from each of these groups are below.

Land Use/Ag Planning Group:

Mike Dougherty, Paul Gottlieb, David Kay, Charles Abdalla are members of this group.

- Go and report back, start dialogues to open up networking (start with extension, land grants, outside people)
- Decide how to disseminate findings (is a workshop or conference a good way)
- How much will fall upon NE center and external for this to become a reality

Housing Group:

Nelson Bills, Tim Evans, Rod Howe, Peter Marshall, Bill McMaster, Susan Westa, and Peter Wulphurst are members of the group.

- Prepare framing document to outline issues discussed
- They promised to begin thinking about a midterm deliverable that would focus in on a survey of literature. The firm commitments on literature from group members is:
  - Provision of a pub on the cost of sprawl (Tim Evans)
  - Assessment of info. on new/novel state-level strategies for dealing with the local property tax (Susan Westa)
  - Demographics and emergent housing needs (Nelson Bills)
  - Affordable housing issues (Nelson Bills, Peter Marshall, Bill McMaster)
  - Housing indicators (Rod Howe)

The following “next steps” were identified as needed to move forward the decisions made by the workgroups.

- Individual workgroups plan to have a conference call by December 2006. Ask the NERCRD for help organizing conference calls with the two groups and help with setting up a listserv for the groups. Start planning toward 2008 “What Works” in land use conference.
- A decision was made to have a conference call of the whole group by January 2007 with Stephan Goetz to revise and build on the Land Use Policy Research and Education Center (LUPREC) concept proposal.
- In early 2007, to use meeting input to revising and build upon the on LUPROC concept proposal.
- Input from this meeting needs to be used as input into NERCRD Plan of Work for 2007?
- Have a workshop/conference to transfer research, generate research ideas and transfer examples. Will take funding and planning. This workshop could be part of the 2008 “What Works” in land use” conference.

## **Conclusions**

This concluding section is divided into two parts. First, the vision for land use in the Northeast and NEELUN’s role developed by meeting participants is described. Second, the meeting’s overall key outcomes and next steps are discussed.

**A Vision for Land Use Decision-making and NEELUN.** Meeting participants identified a vision for improved land use decision-making in the Northeast. In the future,

the group desired that the Northeast would: be a hotbed of innovation; offer new land use management models; be a laboratory for evaluating land use tools; and be a place to achieve landmark life quality and sustainable communities. Land grant universities would be an active contributor of inputs to these land use decision-making.

Meeting participants identified the following specific attributes that they wanted NEELUN to be known for:

- Quality applied research on key timely land use issues
- Fostering partnerships and collaboration
- Providing useful information to those working in /interested in the region
- Providing direction for education programs focusing on “hot topics”
- Focal point for informing educational initiatives on land use
- Providing the knowledge on how to use land use tools
- Research-based extension educational programs on land use issues & topics
- Unbiased deliverable research which is timely and relevant and practically applied to land use decisions
- Be a source of research backed knowledge on these topics
- Be a place for collaboration & knowledge sharing between states
- Be a resource for Extension educators to learn about land use topics order to deliver high quality educational programs
- Be recognized as a provider of information and programming that enhances decision making
- Be a force for multi-disciplinary land use research & extension education knowledge creation & transfer
- Be a forward looking organization that identifies future needs related to land use in a broad context
- Be a nexus for exchange of information across the region and across disciplines on land use issues.
- Nexus for integrating (Research/Education,& Extension) thinking and forward planning related to land use policy.

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- Be a nexus for exchange of information across the region and across disciplines on land use issues
- A nexus for integrating research, extension and education thinking and forward planning related to land use policy.

In addition, the group identified a vision for land use and the land grant university system. This vision can be stated as: “The Northeast, with inputs from land grant university extension system will:

- Be a hotbed of innovation
- Offer new land use management models
- Be a laboratory for evaluating land use tools
- Be a place to achieve landmark life quality and sustainable communities

### **Meeting Outcomes and Next Steps**

Most meeting outcomes and next steps involved additional networking within the region and/or further inventorying of expertise and resources. The major meeting outcomes could be classified into the following categories: 1) Regional Needs Identified or Reinforced; 2) Marketing and Recruitment; 3) Preserving NEELUN Identity and Decisions about Products; and Tools and 4) Organizational Next Steps. Each of these outcomes are described below.

#### **1. Regional Needs Identified or Reinforced**

- Current extension programs need to be shared across state lines.
- Research-extension connection needs attention. Is NEELUN serving the extension educators well enough? Extension staff do not typically have enough material to take out into the field. NEELUN can build upon the tradition of extension carrying forth the research out to those who are not on campus. There was some concern that research will drive extension programs. How can perceived needs of extension be brought to bear in planning and executing research?

#### **2. Marketing and Recruitment.**

- Continue and increase efforts to market Northeast land use efforts via a newsletter, Northeast Community, Research and Economic Development complete listserv (NE-CREDALL), and electronic communication with State Extension and Research Directors in the region.

- Identify the comrades – both extension and research in our states.
- Adding names to a NEELUN listserv.

### **3.Preserving NEELUN’s Identity and Making Decisions about Products and tools**

- The group concluding that there was no need to change the name of NEELUN. Changing its name would be a waste of time and effort. Instead we should build on NEELUN. If the name were considered for change, we would suggest adding the word research to reflect interest of some members.
- Electronic tools. The group considered the question of what should be done with the Land Use Toolbox. The activity is close to having a NEELUN submission form. Some needs would be met when the submission tool is finished. There is a need to think beyond websites. A more interactive (e.g., listserv) tool may be needed to better facilitate communication and sharing.

### **4.Organizational Next Steps**

- Individual workgroups plan to have a conference call by December 2006. Ask the NERCRD for help organizing conference calls with the two groups working on the emerging issues (Agricultural Planning/Land Use and Housing) and help with setting up a listserv for the groups. Start planning toward 2008 “What Works” in land use conference.
- A decision was made to have a conference call of the whole group by January 2007 with Stephan Goetz to revise and build on the Land Use Policy Research and Education Center (LUPROC) concept proposal.
- In early 2007, to use meeting input to revising and build upon the on LUPROC concept proposal.
- Input from this meeting needs to be used as input into NERCRD Plan of Work for 2007.
- Hold a workshop or conference to transfer research, generate research ideas and transfer examples. The workshop will take funding and planning. This workshop could be part of the 2008 “What works in land use” conference.

## **Appendix A**

### **List of October 11 – 12, 2006 NEELUN Meeting Participants**

#### **Workshop Organizer/Facilitator**

Rod Howe  
Assistant Director, Community & Economic Vitality and  
Executive Director, CaRDI  
Cornell University

#### **Participants**

Charles Abdalla  
Associate Professor of Agricultural & Environmental Economics  
The Pennsylvania State University

Bruce Barbour  
Environmental Program Leader  
Rutgers University

Nelson Bills  
Professor of Applied Economics & Management  
Cornell University

Michael Dougherty  
Extension Specialist  
West Virginia University

Tim Evans  
Director of Research  
New Jersey Future

Neal Fogle  
Extension Educator  
The Pennsylvania State University

Paul Gottlieb  
Associate Professor and  
Extension Specialist  
Rutgers University

Pam Hileman  
Staff Assistant  
The Northeast Regional Center

The Pennsylvania State University

David Kay  
Extension Associate  
Cornell University

Sally Maggard  
National Program Leader  
Economic and Community Systems  
USDA CSREES

H. P. Marshall  
Extension Specialist  
West Virginia University

William McMaster  
Extension Assistant Professor  
University of Vermont

Ernest Morreira  
Educator, College of Environment & Life Sciences  
University of Rhode Island


Susan Westa  
Co-Director, The Green Valley Institute

Peter Wulfhorst  
Community Development  
Extension Educator  
The Pennsylvania State University

## Appendix B

### Draft Proposal for a Land Use Policy Research and Outreach Consortium (LUPROC) prepared by Stephan Goetz, Director, Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development

Comment [a2]: Pam, please insert a date for this draft. Also, please check if I have the acronym correct. Is Outreach in the title?



The Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development

# Land Use Research and Outreach Consortium

<http://www.cas.berkeley.edu/LUROC.htm>

**NE State Agricultural Experiment Stations\***


**NE State Cooperative Extension Systems\***

Seamless Integration

**Academic programs\***  
Future Research and Education

Northeast Land Use Decision-making Committee

Northeast Extension Land Use Network  
**NEELUN**



External grant funding to leverage regional, state and local public resources, from: NSF, NIH, USDA/NRI and NRCS, HUD, DOT, EPA, private foundations.

\*Connecticut, Delaware, DC, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, West Virginia, The Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development partners with state governments, including Email: [agoc@asu.edu](mailto:agoc@asu.edu) to John ©2004 The Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development

The Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development has created LUROC to establish a focal point for related research and education that are addressing the increasingly complex emerging land use issues in the Northeast region.

The population of the Northeast US is forecast to grow by 56 million people over the next 50 years. To accommodate this growth, 2.3 million additional housing units will have to be built.

It is becoming clear that we continue to build and place homes haphazardly on the urban fringe, as we have in the past. In the economic, environmental, social and health-related problems that we are now experiencing will become increasingly severe.

Blunt as it may come, land and other factors threaten the population's health, working landscapes are destroyed and public concern about the future role of agriculture in the region is increasing.

**Research thrusts and issues:**

- Loss of working landscapes/farms
- The role of communities in sustaining local agricultural land
- Environmental stresses and carrying capacity of the land
- Unintended consequences of urban sprawl (e.g. DBOs)
- Rising congestion, real estate costs
- Fiscal stress, need for more responsible public lands
- Retrospective on NE land use
- Survey of recent homebuyers
- Housing affordability

**Educational thrusts and resources:**

- Understanding and identifying agricultural and food clusters
- Need for improved consumer education about consequences of their housing choices
- Land Use Toolbox
- The Future of Agriculture in Your Community
- Mapping resources (GIS)
- 10 Things Members of Every community need to know
- NE Center Land Use briefing room

**Appendix C**

**Michael Dougherty’s Economy and Urban Sprawl Chart**

