



# Network07

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FOR NORTHEAST RURAL DEVELOPMENT • DECEMBER 2007

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

### Population Change 2000-2005 and the Rural Northeast Economy

Rural areas and large cities in the Northeast had something important in common during the first half of this decade: both lost more residents than they gained. This finding is reported in a new Issues Brief from the Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development, prepared by Professor Anastasia Snyder and Tse-Chuan Yang. The publication uses newly-released data from the American Community Survey, which has replaced the US decennial national Census and promises to provide more timely information than was previously available. The accompanying map was adapted (through 2006) from this *Issues Brief*. It highlights counties that are growing at less than the US average growth rate or losing population, and those that are gaining population at a rate faster than the US average.

The loss of rural population, primarily to domestic out-migration, was especially pronounced in the States of New York, Pennsylvania and West Virginia. Further, each of the major cities along the northeastern seaboard lost population over this five-year period, including Boston, parts of New York City, Newark, Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington, D.C. While at least some of these out-migrants moved to the US South and West, which remain the fastest-growing regions of the country, many moved into suburban communities where their arrival often fed growing problems on the rural-urban interface.

Rural counties that are losing population in New York and Pennsylvania, on the one hand, and in West Virginia on the other, have very different poverty and

*continued on page 2*



## CONFERENCES

### Save the Date

**SARE's 20th Anniversary Conference:** The New American Farm: Advancing the Frontier of Sustainable Agriculture, March 25-27, 2008 in Kansas City, MO. Experts from around the country will discuss current practices such as: cutting energy costs with energy efficient renewables, tapping new markets, adding value and much more.



Travel scholarships will be available from The Northeast Regional Center (please contact us to apply).

<http://www.sare.org/2008conference/index.htm>

### PILD Conference

**Public Issues Leadership Development Conference,**

**“Connectivity: Community to the Capitol,”** April 28-30, 2008 at the Key Bridge Marriott in Arlington, VA. Sponsored by JCEP (Joint Council of Extension Professionals) the PILD conferences are conducted by and for Extension professionals. Open to Extension Educators, Directors/Administrators, Specialists, and State Volunteer Delegates (maximum of 12 per state).

Conference information is available at: <http://www.neafcs.org/events.asp?pageID=1352>

unemployment rates. These rates are higher in the WV than in the NY or PA counties. We believe that in the two latter states rural out-migration is an adjustment mechanism that keeps down the poverty and joblessness rates, while the same is not true in West Virginia. This does not mean, however, that those left behind in NY and PA do not also suffer from the consequences of the population loss, in the form of falling property values, reduced public services and rising tax rates, for example. Out-migration can impose real costs, in the form of *externalities*, on those left behind.

The new *Issues Brief* also reports age-specific population change in the region between 2000 and 2005. Somewhat ominously, only a relatively small cluster of counties, centered on the greater New York City – Washington corridor, experienced increases in the rates per 1,000 population aged 20 years and younger. A

vast majority of counties, and virtually all non-metro counties, had fewer youths per 1,000 in 2005 than in 2000. While the migration of youth in and of itself can be highly desirable from a societal point of view, net losses of youth across such large swaths of the country do cause economic developers concern because of what they portend about the future, when viewed in conjunction with the overall population decline.

In sharp contrast to the picture that emerges for migration of young people, the Latino population expanded across virtually the entire Northeast region. Only three northeast counties out of 300 experienced a decline in Latino population, while eight saw no change. While much of the growth was concentrated in or around the largest cities, selected non-metro counties also saw significant increases of more than 30 percent (of course, this is often from a very small initial base). It

is not difficult to see that population change in the region would have been even more subdued without these immigrants. To the extent that new immigrants settle in cities, they also stemmed the population losses there.

Even so, as the current national debates show, foreign immigration is hardly without controversy. New research by Professor Andrew Isserman on rural economic prosperity, as well as our own work on poverty (referenced in this newsletter), suggests that greater ethnic diversity of the population is

associated with less prosperity or higher poverty rates over time. One reason for this finding, we believe, is that greater diversity makes it more difficult for people to come to agreement about solutions to local problems that are of a public or collective nature. Our findings, however, are in sharp contrast to Professor Richard Florida's argument that greater openness of places to outsiders, and those who are different, is associated with more acceptance of news ideas, more innovation in general, and faster economic growth in particular.

The *Issues Brief* is available as Regional Rural Development paper no. 39 on our web site: <http://nercrd.psu.edu/Publications/rdppapers/rdp39.pdf>

Stephan J. Goetz

## CONFERENCES

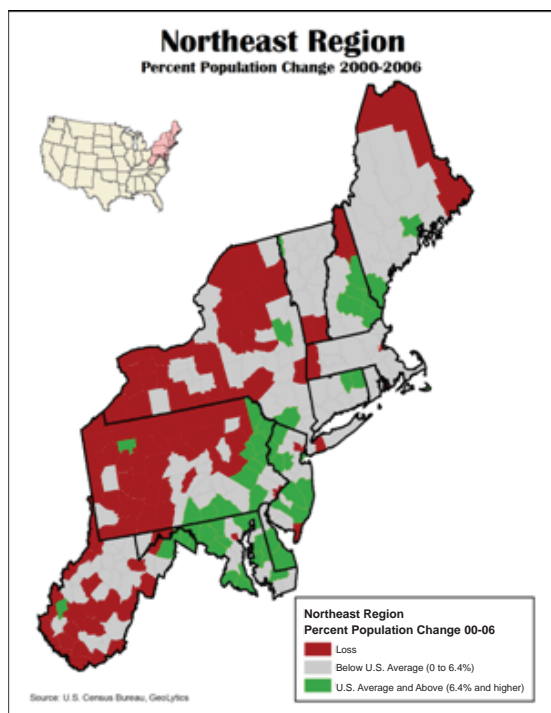
# CDI EAST

**Community Development Institute East** is scheduled for April 27-May 2, 2008 in Morgantown, West Virginia.

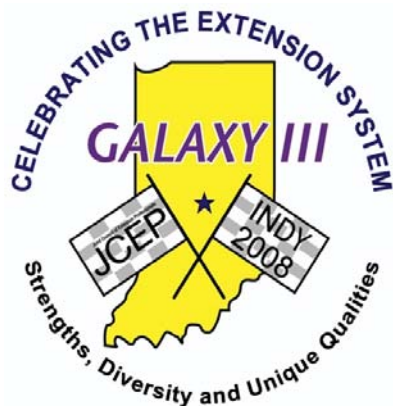
The five-day event will feature thought provoking topics relevant to the daily work of leaders and groups in both the public and private sector.

The comprehensive program curriculum is designed to meet the increasing challenges facing community developers in today's fast paced society and is applicable for community leaders from towns and cities of all sizes. CDI East approaches community development as both a process and a program.

More details are available at: <http://www.ext.wvu.edu/cdi-east/>



This map is courtesy of the Southern Rural Development Center.



## GALAXY III

### Celebrating the Extension System: Strengths, Diversity, and Unique Qualities

The 2008 Galaxy III Conference will be held September 15-19, 2008 in Indianapolis, IN.

Join us by submitting a proposal for one of the four types of presentations as well as sharing your knowledge and experience with us.

<https://sharepoint.agriculture.purdue.edu/ces/galaxy/default.aspx>

## SENSOR

**The Sensor Conference** will be held April 6-9, 2008 at Humboldt University, Berlin. The conference will bring together the scientific expertise on impact assessment, land use, and landscape research, environmental economics, agriculture, forestry, rural sociology, urbanization and science policy interface.



Innovative results on impact assessment related to land use and policy making will be shared within an interdisciplinary forum to promote sustainable development.

Conference information can be found at: <http://www.sensor-conference2008.eu/>

## LAND USE

### Fifty Years of Farmland Protection Legislation in the Northeast: Persistent Issues and Emergent Research Opportunities, Nelson Bills

Over the past fifty years, several different types of publicly sponsored programs have been devised by state and local governments for the express purpose of encouraging owners to maintain land in an agricultural use. Although these units of government can, and do, wield considerable police power or regulatory influence, most attention has been given to voluntary, incentive-based approaches.

The purpose of this paper is to discuss those incentive-based policy initiatives, summarize some of the relevant applied research, and suggest further opportunities to assist policymakers with these persistent land use issues.

*Agricultural and Resource Economics Review*, 36, 2 (October 2007): 165-173

## BIOFUELS

### Carving Out Policy Space for Sustainability in Biofuel Production, Liz Marshall

Biofuels such as ethanol and biodiesel are increasingly promoted as green alternatives to petroleum-derived transport fuels. Scaling up feedstock production to displace a significant portion of current petroleum demand will put pressure on land and water resources both domestically and internationally, however, and could potentially be accompanied by unacceptable changes in landscape-level land use patterns and provisioning of ecosystem

services. Ensuring that feedstock production is sustainable and that biofuels provide the social and environmental benefits that are often attributed to them will require a carefully designed portfolio of agricultural, forestry, energy, and trade policies related to biofuels and feedstock production. Despite the difficulties associated with development and application of such policies, they should be in place before further policy incentive is provided for expansion of biofuel industries.

*Agricultural and Resource Economics Review*, 36, 2 (October 2007): 183-196

## EDITED PUBLICATIONS

## TALUC BOOKS

As a result of the Transatlantic Land Use Conference, two book proposals have been accepted.

The main features of the books are to identify options for policy to overcome the challenges ahead related to future agri-environmental policies; synthesize existing knowledge and identify gaps in current knowledge and future research needs. Explicit comparisons of agri-environmental interactions and approaches to their resolution in Europe and in the US.



“New Perspective on Agri-environmental Policies; A Multidisciplinary and Transatlantic Approach,” has been accepted by Routledge and “The Dynamics of Land Use and Ecosystem Interactions,” will be published by Springer.

The expected delivery date for both publications is the summer of 2008.



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The Northeast Center is one of four regional rural development centers in the nation that focus specifically on rural challenges and opportunities. The Northeast Center provides support to the experiment stations and extension services of sixteen land-grant institutions in twelve northeastern states and the District of Columbia. The Center receives core funds from USDA-CSREES and the Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors.

#### BREEZE TRAINING

## CORE COMPETENCIES

Approximately 20 people participated in the Breeze Core Competencies Training on November 9, 2007 that was sponsored by The Northeast Center. Dr. Janet Ayres, Professor and Extension Specialist Leadership Development, at Purdue University, introduced the program and led the discussion.

The session provided an introduction to the program. The next step will be to survey participant priorities for follow-up sessions.

Introduction to the series is available at: <http://www.nercrd.psu.edu/FoundationsofPractice/CoreCompetenciesTraining.html>

#### NEW STUDY

## POVERTY RESEARCH

### **Social, political factors affect area poverty**

Many state and federal initiatives to combat poverty focus on education, job training and affordable housing for residents. But a recent study reveals the influence of social and political factors on the amount of poverty in a county.

More information on this research conducted by Stephan Goetz, director of the Northeast Regional Center and Anil Rupasingha, New Mexico State University is available at: <http://www.nercrd.psu.edu/Poverty/Research/index.html>

## Electronic Copy Available

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