

Network07

A Quarterly Newsletter for Northeast Rural Development

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From the Director

Land Use Conference Brings Together US and European Scientists

Over one-hundred thirty scientists, educators and policymakers from numerous countries met recently in Washington, DC for a Conference on “The Science and Education of Land Use: A Transatlantic, Multidisciplinary and Comparative Approach.” The conference was organized by The Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development and The Agricultural Economics Research Institute (LEI), Wageningen University and Research Center, The Netherlands on behalf of the National Association of Land

Grant Universities and Colleges (NASULGC) and the Association for European Life Sciences Universities (ICA), as well as the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (USDA-CSREES).

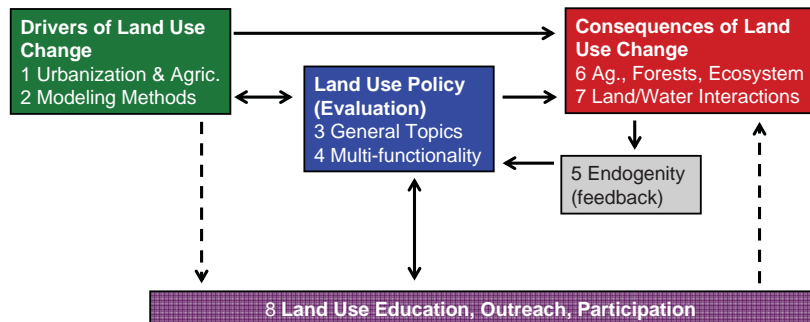
Dr. Franklin E. Boteler, Deputy Administrator, Economic and Community Systems, USDA-CSREES, opened the conference and moderated the first general session. He introduced Dr. Gale Buchanan,

continued on page 2



Conference on the Science and Education of Land Use:
A transatlantic, multidisciplinary and comparative approach

PROGRAM OVERVIEW (schematic)



Publications

RDP 37

Regional Listening Sessions on Rural Entrepreneurship: Lessons from the Northeast,

Stephan J. Goetz and Walter Whitmer, July 2007.

<http://www.nercrd.psu.edu/Publications/rdppapers/rdp37.pdf>

RDP 38

Targeting Regional Economic Development: An Outline of a National Extension Educational Program,

Stephan Goetz, Steven Deller and Tom Harris, July 2007.

<http://www.nercrd.psu.edu/Publications/rdppapers/rdp38.pdf>

A national network of university researchers and extension specialists is working together to develop a collection of educational materials on targeted regional economic development (TRED). Building on the notion of Michael Porter’s cluster development, a collection of tools and educational processes is outlined.

National Rural Assembly Final Report, June 2007.

The First National Rural Assembly was convened to help address the challenges and opportunities facing rural America and bring effective action to this critical area of national interest. www.RuralAssembly.org

USDA Under Secretary for Research, Education and Economics, who also welcomed the participants with opening remarks. The conference was held at a time of growing concern about climate change as well as renewed interest in the concept of sustainability. Participants especially appreciated not only the international nature of the conference but also the presence of members from multiple disciplines who do not normally interact with one another.

Significant scientific advances have occurred in recent years in Europe and in North America in addressing land use issues and – especially in Europe – in the area of agri-environmental policies or multi-functionality. Land-related issues tend to be more pressing in Europe than in the US as a whole because of greater population densities and spatial pressures on that continent. Because scientific advances in this field often occur within individual academic disciplines, there is an important loss of synergies and efforts may be duplicated.

The recent development and funding by the European Union of the large-scale, multi-disciplinary SENSOR (www.sensor-ip.org) and SEAMLESS (www.seamless-ip.org) integrated modeling projects provide an opportune moment for cross-fertilization across the Atlantic. While important institutional and legal differences exist between the two continents, the sharing of recent scientific and modeling advances benefited scientists on both sides of the Atlantic. In fact, the unexpected but fundamental commonality of the kind of work that scientists do, despite these institutional differences, was a key point stressed during the closing session.

The conference explored the causes and consequences of current land

use trends and dynamics related to society, economy and environment. Within the US, the urgency of the underlying problem arises from the need to construct an additional 30 percent of the existing housing stock in order to accommodate the new residents expected to arrive over the next 25 years, both through natural growth and through immigration. As a result, new relations between rural and urban regions are emerging both in the US and in Europe. Where this housing growth will occur has major consequences, and the choice facing society is that of letting market forces drive this growth on an ad hoc basis or to employ science to the benefit of society in balancing multiple competing land use objectives. These objectives range from the need to provide affordable housing, on the one hand, to preserving valuable natural environments and ecosystems, on the other, before irreversible choices are implemented.

The conference identified the major specific drivers of land use change and addressed the questions of what will happen if we keep doing what we are doing now, and what alternative measures could strengthen the sustainable use of natural resources in rural and suburban areas. We plan to publish at least two book volumes containing conference papers that will explore the trade-offs among broad benefits and costs of alternative land uses and examine future land use patterns. In addition, a series of policy briefs, sponsored by Farm Foundation, the USDA and Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, The Netherlands, and others, is planned.

The three main features of the two books planned will be to:

- Identify options for policy to overcome the challenges ahead

related to future land use-related issues and agri-environmental policies;

- Synthesize existing knowledge and identify gaps in current knowledge and future research needs.
- Make explicit comparisons of land use policy and agri-environmental interactions and approaches to their resolution in Europe and the US.

The conference included a study tour of housing development and land use in nearby Montgomery County, Maryland, organized by Dr. Lori Lynch of the University of Maryland and hosted by John Frece of the National Smart Growth Research and Education Center and John Zawitoski, Director of Planning and Promotions, Montgomery County Department of Economic Development. Further information on the conference, including the web-published proceedings, is available at: <http://www.nercrd.psu.edu/TALUC/>. We are deeply grateful to our conference co-sponsors (see adjacent box) as well as the organizing committee members and all others whose hard work made this event a success.

Stephan J. Goetz

Participants especially appreciated not only the international nature of the conference but also the presence of members from multiple disciplines who do not normally interact with one another.

We greatly appreciate the support of the following

TALUC Sponsors

Agricultural Economics Research Institute (LEI),
Wageningen University and Research Centre, The Netherlands
Association for European Life Sciences Universities (ICA)
Farm Foundation
Land Policy Institute
Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, The Netherlands
National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant
Colleges (NASULGC)
National Center for Smart Growth Research and Education
Richard B. Russell Foundation/University of Georgia – Athens
Southern Rural Development Center
Swank Program in Rural-Urban Policy
The North Central Regional Center for Rural Development
The Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development
United States Department of Agriculture, Cooperative State
Research, Education, and Extension Service (USDA-CSREES)
Western Rural Development Center

Conferences

NASULGC

NASULGC's Annual Meeting, "A Proud Legacy of 120 Years: Shaping the Future," will be held at the Hilton New York, on November 11-13, 2007.

<http://nasulgc.org/NetCommunity/Page.aspx?pid=201&srcid=183>

SARE 20th Anniversary

Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education's 20th Anniversary Conference: The New American Farm – Advancing the Frontier of Sustainable Agriculture will be held March 25-27, 2008 in Kansas City, MO.

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



Breeze Training

Core Competencies Training

A Breeze session for Core Competencies Training in the Northeast, Foundation of Community Practice: Enhancing Our Skills to Successfully Meet Community Needs, has been scheduled for Friday, November 9, 10:00 AM – 12:00 noon.

Please contact The Northeast Center (nercrd@psu.edu) for additional information.

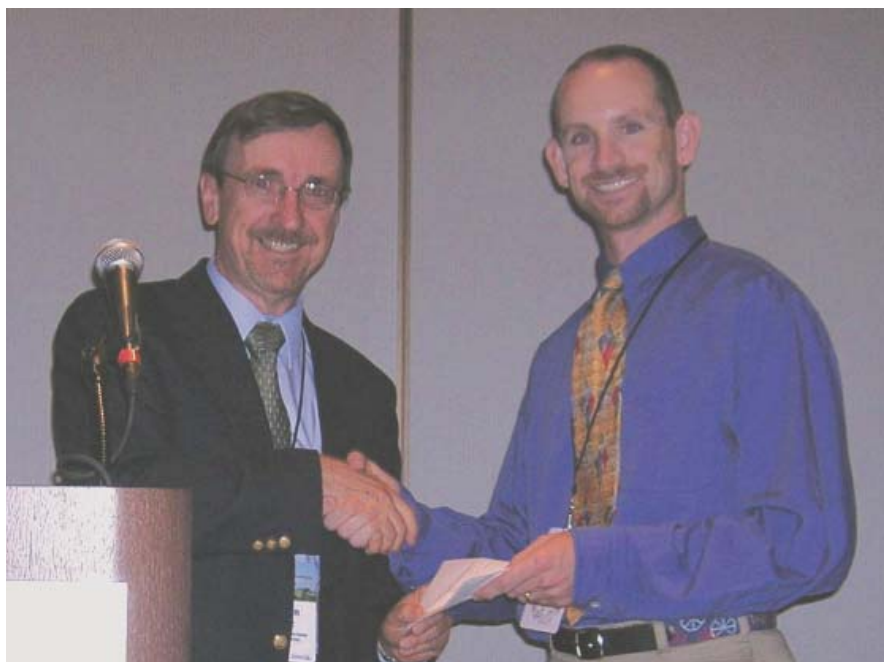
Notice

June Network

Due to mailing problems, some of you may not have received a June newsletter. If you did not receive it, and would like a hard copy, please send an email to Pam Hileman (pkh4@psu.edu). An electronic copy is available at:

<http://nercrd.psu.edu/Newsletter/June07/network.pdf>

TALUC Best Student Paper Award



Dr. Stephan J. Goetz, Director of the Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development, congratulates Robert Freeman, Ph.D. candidate at the University of Maine, who was awarded the best student paper prize at the recent Transatlantic Land Use Conference held in Washington, DC. Mr. Freeman's paper was entitled "A multi-disciplinary approach to modeling the impacts of land use change on vernal pool-breeding amphibians" (the paper is available on the Center's website under the TALUC conference proceedings). His advisors include Professor Kathleen Bell in the School of Economics at the University of Maine.

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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.

Funding Opportunities

SARE Funding Opportunities

Northeast SARE and the Northeast Regional Center are partnering to offer Sustainable Community Grants to organizations such as community nonprofits, Cooperative Extension, local governments, educational institutions, planning boards, farming cooperatives, and incorporated citizens' groups. Grant applications are due in November 2007.

Partnership Grants and Research and Education Grants are due in early November and Farmer Grants are due in December.

Additional information is available at: <http://www.uvm.edu/~nesare/grants.html>

Youth Entrepreneurship

Guest Speaker

The next conference call for the Youth Entrepreneurship working group will be Tuesday, November 20, 2007 at 1:30 PM. Dr. Patricia Fairchild, curriculum specialist for Nebraska 4-H's entrepreneurship curriculum, will discuss the curriculum on the call. Please contact The Northeast Center (nercrd@psu.edu) if you are interested in becoming a member of the Youth Entrepreneurship working group and for information on joining the conference call.

Electronic Copy Available

If you would prefer to receive this newsletter electronically, please send your e-mail address to pkh4@psu.edu

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