



THE NORTHEAST REGIONAL CENTER FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT *Annual Report 2012*



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Report for 2012

Overview

In 2012 The Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development (NERCRD) was able to build on and further strengthen its collaborative networks. The Center was instrumental in developing and submitting three new competitive grant proposals.¹ These additional grants support new research and outreach in areas that complement existing Center goals and programs, and have the potential to increase its impacts significantly. Through these networks, The Center has achieved a level of cooperation and collaboration among different grant recipients that is unprecedented in USDA's funding history within the subject area. Each of these grants addresses the issue of better connecting farmers and consumers and in the process achieving rural and agricultural economic development objectives. Of particular note, we are grateful to be collaborating directly or indirectly with Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) members C. Brown, K. Liang and S. Tubene on three of these grants. For further details, please see the figures below.

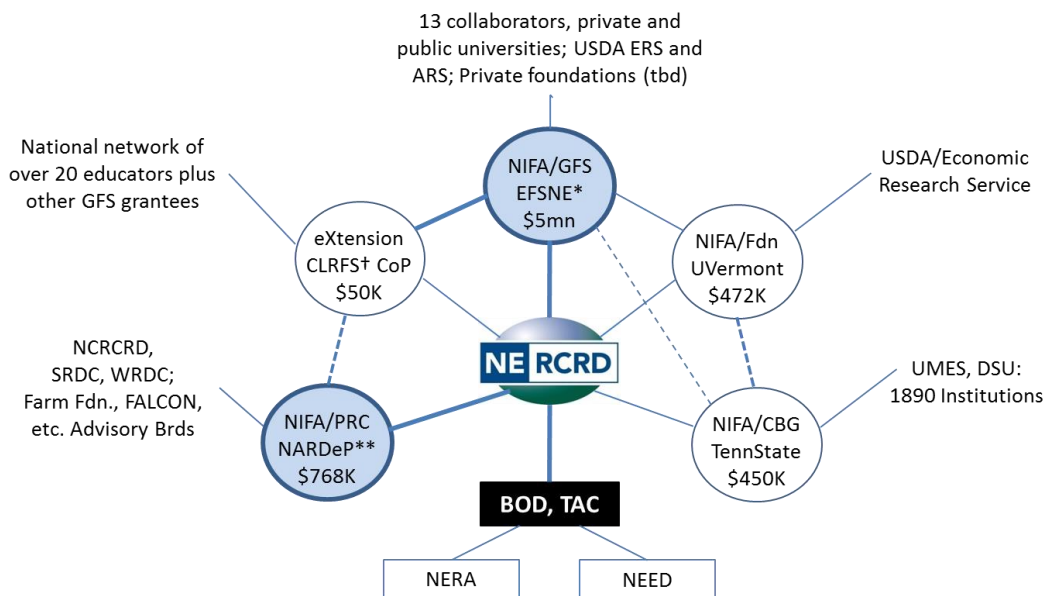
In addition to working closely with Extension educators and faculty in selected communities of the Northeast through these and other projects, we have been contacted by private foundations seeking to collaborate with The Center. These often place-based funders recognize that their resources are limited in the face of overwhelming needs, that they have to collaborate to succeed, and that they cannot afford to reinvent the wheel in each of the communities in which they work. Collaborating with The Center and its partners who are funded with federal grants could be a major advantage to these funders for effecting change. At the same time, our own projects benefit from the contacts as well as the community-level resources that these private foundations can provide, potentially creating a strong win-win situation for both sides.

¹eExtension CLRFs Community of Practice, NARDeP and the Tennessee State University-led Capacity Building Grant (accepted in 2011, launched in 2012).

Extension and Outreach

We continue to make strides with our Extension and outreach efforts across the region. For example, The Center was instrumental in expanding the Foundations of Practice in community and economic development from the regional to the national levels, and two former Center extension associates are leading a CED Community of Practice that was launched while they were still employed by The Center. We also played a key role in creating a Community, Local and Regional Food Systems national community of practice; the \$5mn AFRI GFS grant will serve to generate research results that will then be translated and shared through this COP. We were able to bring in other GFS grant recipients from the 2011 funding cycle into this initiative, which will further strengthen the underlying research base. Another center collaborator is helping us to shed light on the determinants of food access, with a selected paper presented at the AAEE/EAEE symposium held at Tufts University earlier this year.

2012 NERCRD Food System development research, practice and policy network



*Enhancing Food Security in the Northeast; shaded (heavy) circles indicate that The NERCRD leads the effort as PI/Director

**National Agricultural and Rural Development Policy Center (funded April 2012)

†Community, Local and Regional Food Systems community of practice

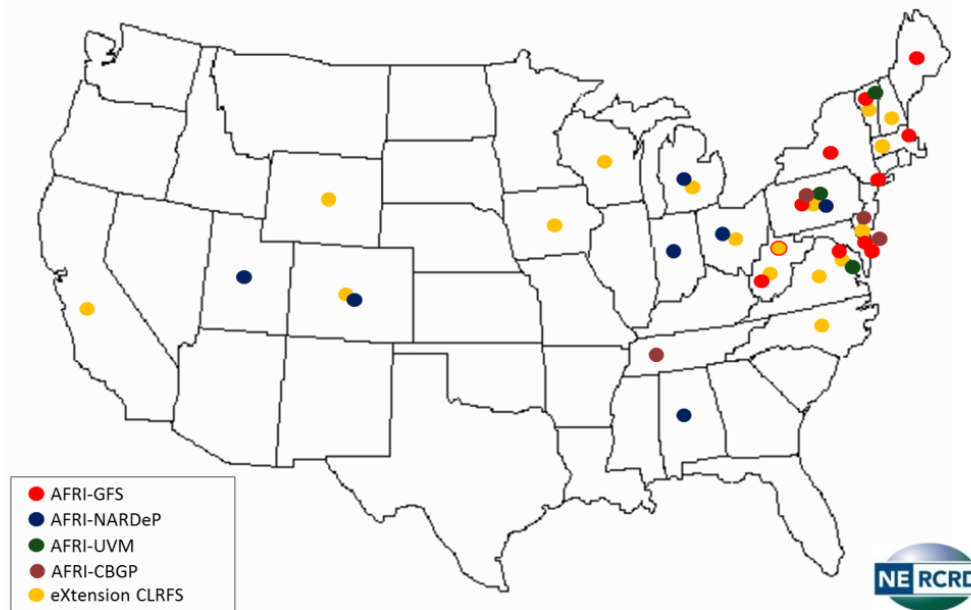
Falcon- ; GFS= global food security; PRC=policy research center; CBG=capacity building grant (1890 institutions)

One important impact we are able to claim is the greater recognition among Extension leaders, educators and practitioners in the Northeast of the role that networks and network analysis can play in strengthening regional food systems. Because networks are pervasive and network principles are almost universally applicable, network science can provide powerful insights in all

Annual Report 2012

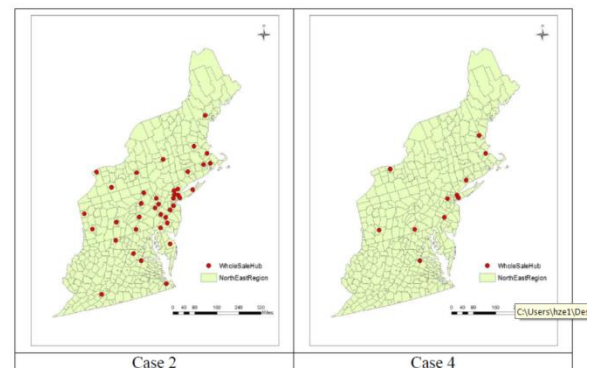
areas of Extension.² Among other invitations to make presentations on this topic, the Center's director was asked to discuss his experience with developing a network of collaborators from multiple disciplines for the purpose of competitive grant applications (e.g., in invasive species).

NERCRD Grants and Food Systems Network



4

In addition, Center staff made original contributions to the growing area of network science. This included estimating where food hubs should optimally be located in the Northeast region under alternative scenarios of population growth, changing traffic congestion, and shifting production patterns. This work was presented as a poster by a post-doc at the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association annual meeting. At that meeting the director also served as a discussant at the post-conference professional development conference on assessing the local economic impact of agriculture and local foods production. Another original contribution has been estimating latent or workplace-to-workplace migration from overlapping commuting and migration networks.



Optimal Hub Simulations under different scenarios:
The case of Meat (Source: Etemadnia et al. 2012).

² Bartholomay, T., S. Chazdon, M.S. Marczak and K.C. Walker, Mapping Extension's Networks: Using Social Network Analysis to Explore Extension's Outreach, *Journal of Extension*, Dec. 2011, Volume 49, Number 6.

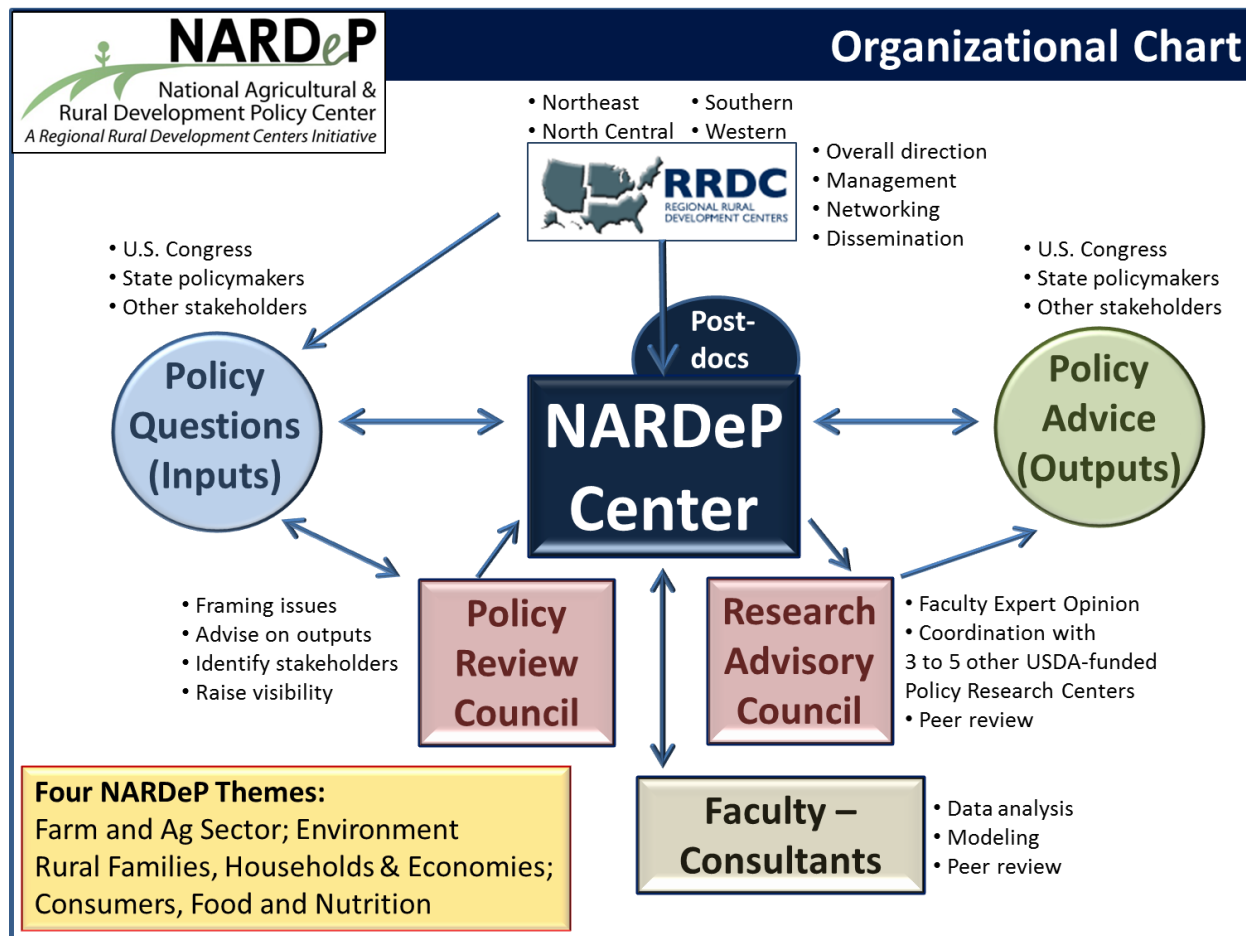
NERCRD Selected to Lead New National Rural Policy Research Center

The nation's four Regional Rural Development Centers (RRDCs) were recently chosen by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture/United States Department of Agriculture to establish the National Agricultural and Rural Development Policy Center (or NARDeP). NARDeP is funded through NIFA's competitive grants program at a level of \$768,000 over 24 months, and it will provide policy makers with timely and unbiased information on a variety of topics, including rural families, households, and economies; farm and agricultural sectors; consumers, food, and nutrition; and environment. The Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development at Pennsylvania State University serves as lead project coordinator. For more detail, please see <http://www.reeis.usda.gov/web/crisprojectpages/228629.html>.



This new initiative will allow us to play a stronger role in the national rural policy debate.

Organizational Chart for the NARDeP Center



Economic Power of Self-Employment Felt in Rural Counties

A new Center study finds that people in rural counties who work for themselves may add a boost to local economies, improving income and job growth county-wide: The share of self-employed workers in non-metro counties significantly predicts personal income and job growth, as well as reductions in family poverty levels. Co-authored with Dr. Anil Rupasingha, research economist and policy advisor at the Federal Reserve Bank in Atlanta, the study appears in *Papers in Regional Science*. For more detail please see:

<http://live.psu.edu/story/59856>



Working with Penn State Cooperative Extension as well as other Extension services in the region, we are developing educational curricula for development in rural communities to increase awareness of the opportunities that are created by self-employment.

We have initiated discussions with faculty colleagues to provide support to the Pennsylvania Firm Innovation Network (PA FIN). Although based in Pennsylvania, this network has members from across the United States.

NACDEP Meeting Held

The resoundingly successful Annual NACDEP Conference was held in Park City, Utah, from May 20-23, 2012. Congratulations to Kelly Nix of West Virginia University, who is the new Northeast representative to NACDEP. By all accounts the meeting generated many new ideas and exchanges among the participants, and numerous informative presentations were made in parallel sessions organized by natural, human, financial, social and cultural, built and political capital. A dozen educators from around the Northeast attended the regional break-out session. For a detailed listing of presentations and videos, see: <http://www.nacdep.net/event1.php>

Stronger Economies Together initiative wins NACDEP award

The RRDC's Stronger Economies Together (SET) program, funded by USDA Rural Development, received regional and national recognition at the 2012 National Association of Community Development Extension Professionals (NACDEP) conference recently held in Park City, Utah. For more information please see: http://srdc.msstate.edu/news/2012_5_set.html

External Grants Received in the Region, with the Center's support

Name (lead) *=competitive	Amount (\$)	Years	NE LGU Share (%)
NIFA Global Food Security (NERCRD)*	5,000,000	5	72
<i>NIFA Policy Research Ctr</i> (NERCRD)*	768,000	2	>50
USDA ERS Coop Agreement (NERCRD)	97,833	1.5	100
NIFA Foundational (UVM)*	472,669	3	95
NIFA Capacity Bld (TSU, UMES, UDE)*	450,000	3	49
ARC grant (WVU, Downstream, PA)*	248,150	1.5	100
eXtension COP (UVM, Cornell)*	60,000	1	100
TOTAL (annualized, to the region)	750,000+		

NERCRD Helps to Launch New eXtension Community of Practice

The Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development collaborated in a successful \$50,000 application to launch a new Community, Local and Regional Food Systems Community of Practice. This new COP is aligned with The Center's on-going Enhancing Food Security in the Northeast grant, and it brings together other 2011 NIFA Global Food Security grant recipients from across the nation. The effort is led by Kathy Ruhf of NESAWG, Deno De Ciantis of the Penn State Center at Pittsburgh, Brian Raison at Ohio State and Sharon Lezberg at the University of Wisconsin.

The goal of this newest eXtension CoP is to provide resource materials, training opportunities and peer interaction for Extension Educators, community-based practitioners and individuals involved in work related to building sustainable and equitable food systems. We look forward to collaborating with others to build a strong, effective and useful extension community, and to creating tools, materials and processes that enhance the work we all do daily to build robust food systems. "Join" this group by going to: <https://www.extension.org/people/> ... Click on the blue "Communities" tab. Then, on the right hand column list, click on "Community, Local and Regional Food Systems."

In October, 28 members of the new CLRFs CoP's National Leadership Team met in Pittsburgh. Click here for an article from the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette:

<http://www.post-gazette.com/stories/business/news/online-project-in-works-for-local-produce-research-657839/>

NERCRD and Related Publications

Choices edited theme issue on *Public Sector Options for Creating Jobs*:

<http://www.choicesmagazine.org/choices-magazine/theme-articles/public-sector-options-for-creating-jobs/theme-issue-overview-public-sector-options-for-creating-jobs>

This theme issue was prepared on behalf of The Council on Food, Agriculture and Economics (C-FARE) Blue Ribbon Panel on Economic Opportunities in Rural Communities (Goetz is panel vice-Chair)

Center-Related Publications and Presentations

Bonanno, A., L. Chenarides, and S.J. Goetz (2012) "Food Deserts as Equilibrium Outcomes: An Empirical Analysis." Selected paper at the AAEA-EAEA Symposium: Food Environment: The Effects of Context on Food Choice. Tufts University, Boston, MA, May 30–31.

http://ageconsearch.umn.edu/bitstream/123196/2/Bonanno_Chenarides_Goetz_LimitedFoodAccessAsAnEquilibriumOutcome.pdf

Brown, J.P., Goetz, S.J., and Fleming, D.A. (2012) "Multifunctional Agriculture and Farm Viability in the United States." Selected paper presented at AAEA annual meeting. Seattle, WA.

Available at: http://ageconsearch.umn.edu/bitstream/126929/2/bgf_AAEA.pdf.

Brown, J.P., S.J. Goetz, M. Ahearn and K. Liang (2012) "Linkages Between Community Focused Agriculture, Farm Sales and Regional Growth," presented at the 59th Annual North American Meetings of the Regional Science Association International, Ottawa, Canada, Nov. 7-10, 2012.

Deng, J.; Anderson, J.; Collins, A.; Harris, T.; Jackson, R.; LaFone, F.; Lamont, S.; Strager, J.; Strager, M.; Veselka, W.; Zegre, N.; Boettner, F.; Hansen, E.; Hereford, A.; Zegre, S.; Martin, R.; Askins, N.; Abdalla, C. and Goetz, S. J. (2012) *An Assessment of Natural Assets in the Appalachian Region: Water*, Report prepared for Appalachian Regional Commission, Washington, DC. Contract #CO-16503-09, 157pp.

Etemadnia, H. and S.J. Goetz (2012) "[Optimal Transportation Network Hub Locations in Food Systems](#)," Poster presented at the Annual AAEA Meeting, Seattle, WA, August 12-14.

Etemadnia, H., A. Hassan, S.J. Goetz and K. Abdelghany (2012) "Wholesale Hub Locations in Food Supply Chain Systems," Paper #13-2886, for presentation at the 92th Annual Meeting of the Transportation Research Board, Washington D.C. 15pp.

Gabe, T., K. Stolarick and J.R. Abel (2012) in Goetz (2012b), "Rural Areas Lag Behind in Key Workforce Skills," *Choices*, 2nd Quarter, 27(2). Available on-line:

<http://www.choicesmagazine.org/choices-magazine/theme-articles/public-sector-options-for-creating-jobs/rural-areas-lag-behind-in-key-workforce-skills>

Annual Report 2012

Goetz, S. (2012a) "Invasive Plant Species Forum: Effective Team Building," invited pres., The Northeast Research Association, USDA Beltsville ARS Campus, MD, March 22.

Goetz, S.J. (2012b) Editor, "Public Sector Options for Job Creation," Theme Issue, *Choices*, 2nd Quarter, 27(2). Available on-line: <http://www.choicesmagazine.org/choices-magazine/theme-articles/public-sector-options-for-creating-jobs/theme-issue-overview-public-sector-options-for-creating-jobs>

Goetz, S.J. (2012c) "Food Systems Projects and Activities in the Northeast" invited presentation (by NEED) at the Northeast/North Central Joint Summer Meeting, Burlington, VT, July 9.

Goetz, S.J. (2012d) "Envisioning the Future of Connecticut Cooperative Extension," invited presentation, Storrs, CT, July 16.

Goetz, S.J. (2012e) "Promoting Self-Employment and Entrepreneurship as Workforce Development Strategies," Invited presentation at the Federal Reserve Bank Conference, The Future of Workforce Development: Where Research Meets Practice, Kansas City, MO, September 19-20.

Goetz, S.J. (2012f) "The Scale and Diversity of Northeast Regional Food Distribution." Invited presentation at the Agricultural Experiment Station Directors Annual Meeting, Portsmouth, N.H., September 25.

Goetz, S.J., D.A. Fleming and A. Rupasingha (2012), "The Economic Impacts of Self-Employment," *Journal of Agricultural and Applied Economics*, 44(3): 315-321. (Also presented at the SAEA Annual Meeting, Birmingham, AL, February 6, 2012.)

Liang, K. and S.J. Goetz (2012) *Proceedings of the Entrepreneurship and Community Development in the Northeast Conference*, September 18-20, 2011, Philadelphia, PA: The Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development, RDP No. 52; 81pp.
<http://nercrd.psu.edu/Publications/rdppapers/rdp52.pdf>

Liang, C., J. Brown, M. Ahearn, Mary and S.J. Goetz (2012), "Multifunctional farms: Emerging trends and implications on farm and community prosperity." Paper prepared for presentation at the International Atlantic Economic Society Annual Meeting, Montreal, Canada, October 4-7.

Rupasingha, A. and S.J. Goetz (2012), "Self-Employment and Local Economic Performance: Evidence from US Counties," *Papers in Regional Science*.
Available on-line: DOI 10.1111/j.1435-5957.2011.00396.x

Annual Report 2012

Other Meetings and Presentations

Washington, DC Combined RRDC quarterly meeting, January 17-18, 2012

SAEA Annual Meeting invited paper presentation on the “Economic Impacts of Self-Employment,” Birmingham, AL, February 5-6, 2012

Northeast Extension Program Leaders inaugural meeting, Washington, DC, February 15-17, 2012

Presentation on NERCRD activities to NERA Directors’ Spring Meeting, Admiral Fells Inn, Baltimore, MD, March 20, 2012

Presentation on “Establishing Multi-Disciplinary Research Teams,” at the Northeast Invasive Species Meeting, ARC Beltsville Campus, Beltsville, MD, March 14-15, 2012

Center for Rural Pennsylvania Board of Directors quarterly meeting, Harrisburg, PA, March 26, 2012

External Review of OSU AEDE Department, April 1-4, 2012

Washington, DC Combined RRDC quarterly meeting, April 24-25, 2012

Nebraska Rural Futures Conference, Lincoln, NE, May 8-10, 2012

Sustainable Food Systems meeting, Washington, DC, May 15-17, 2012

National Association of Community Development Extension Professionals (NACDEP) Annual Meeting, Park City, UT, May 20-23

Farm Foundation Meeting, Burlington, VT, June 12-13, 2012

Presentation on “Food Systems Projects and Activities” breakout session at the 2012 North Central and Northeast Joint Summer Session, Hilton Burlington, July 8-10, 2012 (Sesquicentennial of the Land Grant Act – 150th Anniversary of the Passage of the Morrill Land-Grant Act of July 2, 1862)

Presentation on Food Systems Opportunities for Cooperative Extension, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT, July 16, 2012

Presentation on Wal-Mart and Socioeconomic conditions, Pennsylvania Commission on Human Resources, Harrisburg, PA, July 19, 2012

Annual Report 2012

Tegegne/AFRI grant project meeting, Linthicum (BWI), MD, July 27-28, 2012

Bucknell University/Southern Regional Science Association, Meeting on Regional Science Aspects of Marcellus Shale Development, Lewisburg, PA, July 31, 2012

Washington, DC Combined RRDC quarterly meeting, August 8-9, 2012

Co-Presenter on Multifunctional Agriculture and US Farm Viability at the American Agricultural and Applied Economics annual meeting, Seattle, WA, August 13-15, 2012; also co-presented a poster and served as discussant at the post-conference workshop on Evaluating the Impact of Local Agriculture. Also met on Liang/AFRI project,



NERCRD Website Ranks Near Top on “Rural Development” Google Search

During 2012 The Center’s website consistently appeared on the first page (among the top ten) of a Google search on the term “Rural Development.” On 12.15.2012 it ranked third, below only USDA RD and the Wikipedia RD entry.

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