



Annual Report 2013



The Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development

The Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development

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Regional Association
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The Center supports Northeast U.S. Land Grant Universities in their rural development mission.

Overview: 2013

Over the course of the last year we implemented a number of recommendations made by our NERCRD Technical Advisory Committee and approved by the Board of Directors, who are listed on the inside of the front cover of this report. Foremost among these was a series of webinars related to regional food systems that were organized and hosted by Center Scholar Dr. Doolarie Singh-Knights. Rather than focusing on presentations by single individuals during each webinar, we decided to showcase the work of multiple colleagues from around the region at these events. This greatly facilitated the sharing of a broader set of on-going activities and gave those participating a richer experience. The success of the Center's Scholar program to date has exceeded our expectations.



The Center was invited to present updates and key research/outreach findings at major meetings in the region. It also made significant progress on its externally funded grants. The nearly 40 members of our signature Food Systems project, Enhancing Food Security in the Northeast (EFSNE), were at long last able to meet in Saratoga Springs, NY, in September, after *two* weather-induced cancellations. By all accounts, this project is advancing very well and it is providing remarkable learning opportunities for all concerned – across disciplines, institutions, states and place-based organizations. We are able to bring together individuals who otherwise would never have the benefit of working with one another.

Our NIFA-funded think tank, the National Agricultural and Rural Development Policy (NARDeP) Center is an exemplary and unprecedented national research collaboration among the RRDCs, and it has already generated a sizeable volume of policy research. With generous support from Farm Foundation, we produced two events at the National Press Club in Washington, DC, this year, raising the Centers' profiles. Led by the North Central Regional Center for Rural Development, we are about to embark on new collaborations with DHHS, in a combined national research-outreach project related to mental health and community development.

We are profoundly thankful to all the talented and dedicated partners who work with us on these projects, and who advise us, including the NERCRD's Technical Advisory Committee and Board of Directors. In addition, our work is guided by an EFSNE Board of Directors and two NARDeP Advisory Boards: one for Research and one for Policy. Without these and other key collaborators listed in this Annual Report, a small Center such as this one could not function effectively, or have the impact it has.

Stephan J. Goetz, Ph.D.
Director, NERCRD

University Park, PA
December 2013

2013 Annual Report

Major Center Activities

Two Successful Webinars Hosted by Center Scholar

Center Scholar Dr. Doolarie Singh-Knights of West Virginia University hosted two successful webinars on local and regional foods this year. More than 130 people attended the live webinars, and web visitors continue to access the archived recordings that are available online. The webinars served to improve research and extension integration across the region and to strengthen networks among land grant and related institutions in the Northeast.

The first webinar, titled “An Open Forum to Strengthen Collaborations between Research, Outreach, and Education for the Northeast Food System,” was held May 31, 2013. This webinar identified current efforts in research and extension that address key dimensions of regional food systems and value chain development.

The second webinar, titled “Linking Sustainability, Food, Health, and the Environment: Research, Outreach, and Education Implications for the Northeast,” was held on September 13, 2013. This webinar addressed how local and regional food systems impact public health, environmental sustainability, and community well-being. A summary of this webinar is available on the NERCRD website.

Each webinar was moderated by Kate Clancy of the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health and featured speakers representing 11 institutions in the Northeast, including six of our partner land grant institutions:

- Cornell University
- Penn State University
- Rutgers University
- University of Connecticut
- University of Maryland Eastern Shore
- University of Vermont

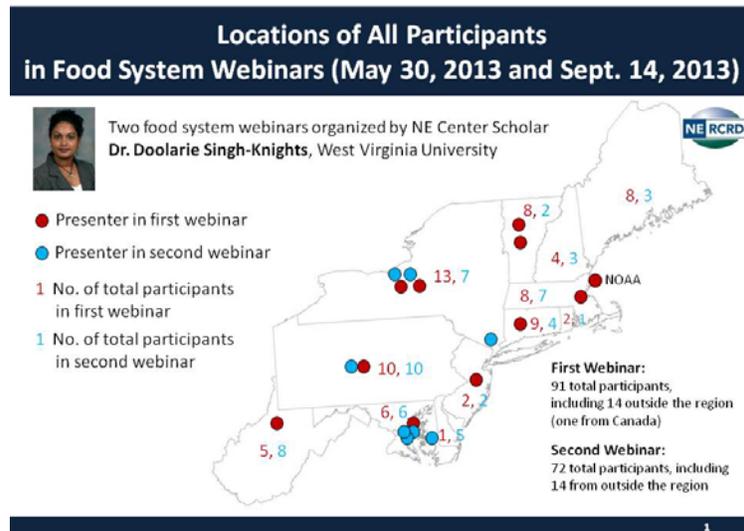
Some comments from webinar participants:

“Thanks for the chance to share and learn! You are a Dream Team!”

“Thanks to Ted, Dee and Kate for all you did to get us all connected and our slides visible! Very interesting presentations everyone. Stephan, thank you for supporting this in your program.”

“Great webinar Dee and Kate! What rich presentations you each gave. Thank You!”

Each webinar attracted participants from every single state in the Northeast.



Website and Newsletter Improvements

In support of our ongoing interest in improving efficiency and effectiveness in Center operations, we've recently migrated our web content to a content management system called Plone. This new framework provides a more accessible, standards-compliant foundation that will improve our web visitors' experiences. It also has allowed us to automate the process of compiling the quarterly newsletter, which will free up staff time for other Center efforts. We generated the September and December 2013 newsletters using this automated process, and welcome feedback.

The newsletter allows us to share the work of our partners with our 1,028 subscribers. In 2013, we reported on over 40 activities of our partners. These reports are archived online, where they can be accessed by the thousands of people who visit our website each year.

PENN STATE College of Agricultural Sciences
Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development

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NE RCRD

eExtension

Spotlight
HOLD THE DATE REQUEST
The Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development's What Works Conference Series will be hosting a joint regional conference with the National Value Added Agriculture Conference on "Enhancing Food Security and Rural Viability through Innovative Food System Practices and Opportunities - Improving Connections Along the Supply Chain" May 13-15, 2014 in Baltimore, Maryland

Understanding Communities and Their Dynamics Back by Popular Demand
A reminder that two eExtension Communities of Practice and the four Regional Rural Development Centers have joined efforts to offer a professional development program for those working/interested in community development.

Center Staff Transitions
We are sad to see one of our staff members go, but we celebrate her promotion within the University. We are also pleased to welcome two new staff members to our team.

Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development News
HOLD THE DATE REQUEST
October 2, 2013
The Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development's What Works Conference Series will be hosting a joint regional conference with the National Value Added Agriculture Conference on "Enhancing Food Security and Rural Viability through Innovative Food System Practices and Opportunities - Improving Connections Along the Supply Chain" May 13-15, 2014 in Baltimore, Maryland

Another Successful Webinar Hosted by Center Scholar Singh-Knights
September 26, 2013
"Linking Sustainability, Food, Health and the Environment: Research, Outreach and Education"

Center Partners
Cornell University
Delaware State University
Penn State University
Rutgers University
The University of Maine
University of Connecticut
University of Delaware
University of Maryland
University of Maryland Eastern Shore
University of Massachusetts
University of New Hampshire
University of Rhode Island
University of the District of Columbia
University of Vermont
West Virginia State University
West Virginia University

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

Some headlines from our newsletters

- “Granite State Futures: People Envisioning the Future of their Communities”
- “The University of Delaware and Delaware State Cooperative Extension Create ‘Ask An Expert’ Website”
- “From the Congressional Research Service: The Role of Local Food Systems in the U.S. Farm Policy”

Number of times our partners were featured in our 2013 newsletters, by partner category:

- 31 – Immediate partners (Land-Grant Universities in the Northeast)
- 14 – Indirect Partners (Government, non-Land-Grant, NGOs)

We’ve recently streamlined the process of collecting stories about partners to share with our broader audience. Using a number of different keyword combinations (e.g., “Maryland Cooperative Extension”), we’ve set up several Google Alerts that deliver daily email lists of new web content that includes those keywords. We spend just a few minutes a day scanning these emails for valuable stories about our partners, and curating those stories on the online bookmarking site delicious.com. We expect that the use of these free online tools will help us better document the work of our partners.

FOP Back by Popular Demand

The Foundations of Practice national course was offered again, building on past Center investments; the course was led by Mary Peabody (University of Vermont) and Heidi Mousseilleseux Kunzman (Cornell University).



Sixty-six participants from all four regions of the country registered. They include individuals from government, NGOs, and Extension, as well as groups, like a University of Maine community development class. A number of the Extension educators who registered were new to the Extension system.

From the Promotional Materials:

Would you like to understand how communities work? Are you curious about why good ideas sometimes fall flat? Do you watch groups struggle to make decisions without adequate data?

If you answered “yes” to any of these questions we encourage you to join us for *Understanding Communities and Their Dynamics*, a unique online course presented jointly by eXtension

(Enhancing Rural Capacity and Entrepreneurs and Their Communities), USDA's Regional Rural Development Centers, Cornell University, the University of Vermont, and a team of nationally recognized Community Development professionals.

Understanding Communities and Their Dynamics, level one of the Foundations of Practice in Community Development program, provides an introduction to community development core competencies, focusing on the ability to understand community of place, the nature of public issues, the dynamics and interdependencies of the various segments of the community, and the basics of community development

work. Open to all individuals working in a community context this course is offered as an entry-level course in community development. No prior knowledge or experience is required; beginning and veteran community development professionals have found value in this course.

The seven-week series will begin October 3, 2013 and conclude November 14, 2013. Each week features a 90-minute webinar focusing on topics that include demographics, economic development, strategic planning and power structures. Supplemental resources and online discussion opportunities will be available on the course website.

Selected Invited Presentations

1. Presentation to Northeast 4-H Leadership Group

As part of their strategic planning session, the Northeast 4-H Leadership Group invited the director to make a presentation of demographic data. This request was a follow-up to the data presented at the first Northeast convening of extension program leaders in March 2012, in Washington, DC, organized by NEED Executive Director Linda Kay Benning.



The following data points were of particular interest to the group.

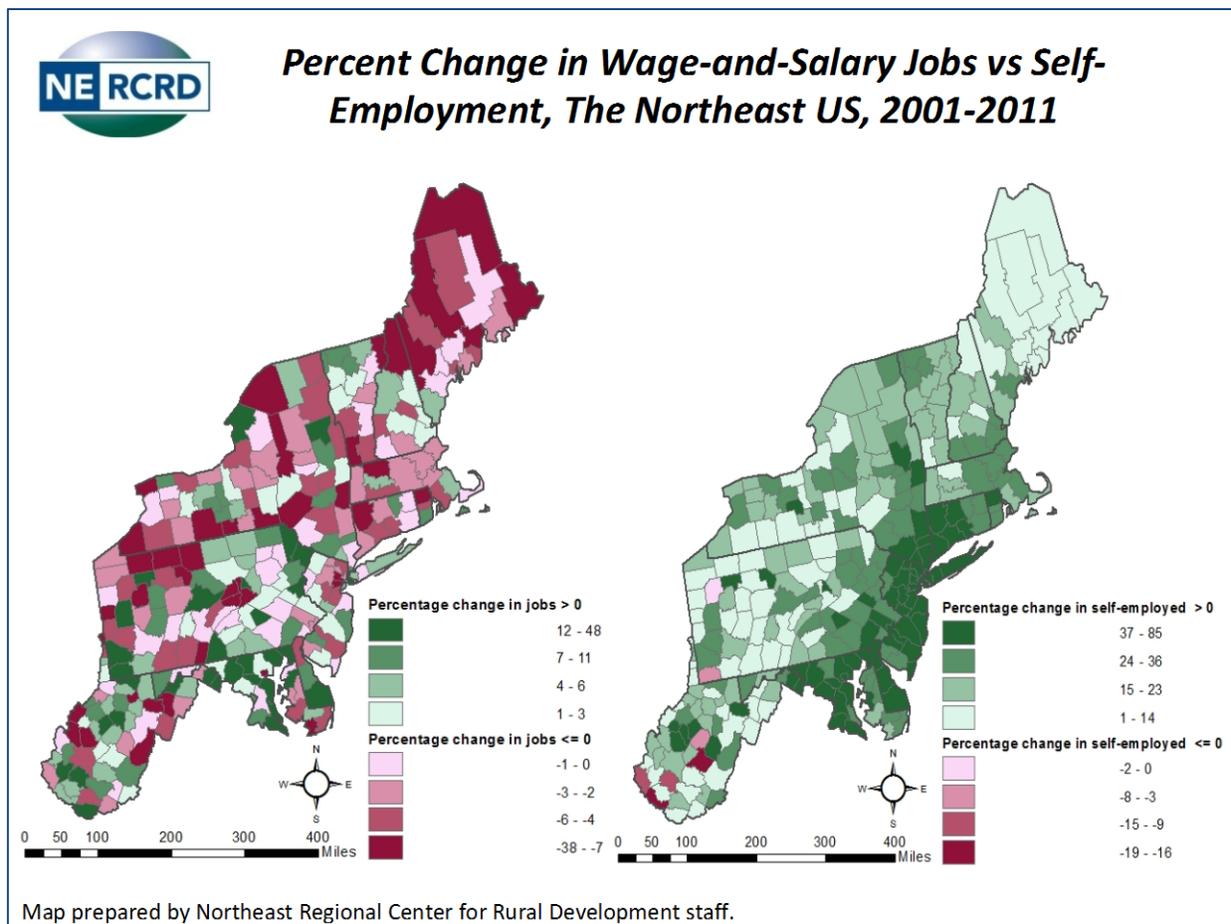
- What is the Northeast region's population today and how is it predicted to change over the next 5-10 years? What should 4-H program leaders be thinking about given these changes?
- What do the demographics show about changing diversity in the region, i.e., West Virginia is seeing an increase in the number of Latinos?
- What are the data on high school graduation rates? College graduation rates?
- What do the demographics show about the aging of the population? Growth trends?
- What does the Census data show about out migration of youth from the region?
- What are the areas of job growth in the region? Wealth in the region?
- Where are the "hot spots" of growth in the region? Why are they showing up?
- What does the data show about health disparities in the region?

- What about substance abuse trends? And how does that relate to socioeconomic data?
- And lastly, any other relevant issues related to the future of youth in the Northeast that will help with 4-H strategic planning efforts?

The Powerpoint presented is available at: <http://goo.gl/XsUa8c>

Documenting the Effect of the 2007-09 Great Recession:

As part of this presentation to the 4-H group we discovered remarkable differences in how wage-and-salary jobs and self-employment have changed over the course of the last decade in counties of the Northeast U.S. (see figure below). While the map on the left shows that most counties had not recovered to 2001 employment levels by 2011, the most recently available Bureau of Economic Analysis data reveal that self-employment growth has been robust across the region, and especially in the metropolitan corridor of NYC-Philadelphia-Baltimore-DC. This also suggests that had laid-off workers not turned to self-employment over this period, the overall jobs picture would have been even more dismal. These maps underscore the on-going jobless recovery of the 2000s, the great challenges facing the nation's workforce – especially young workers, and the growing importance of self-employment.



2. Building Capacity and Resilience in the Northeast Agricultural and Food System

The Director spoke about the economic resilience of Northeast agriculture at the 2013 Joint Summer Session of NERA and NEED Associations at Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y. on July 8. This invited presentation was a follow-up to a 2012 presentation on the scale and diversity of Northeast agriculture. The Powerpoint presented is available at: <http://goo.gl/vCMX4I>

3. Assembling Multi-Disciplinary Teams for NIFA Grant Applications

The Director presented at a Post-Conference Professional Development Workshop organized by Dr. Liang at the AAEA 2013 Annual Meeting in Washington, DC, on August 6. He shared lessons learned from the EFSNE project on assembling multi-disciplinary teams. The Powerpoint presented is available at: <http://goo.gl/W42EKs>

4. Atlanta Fed Presentation on Information Networks, Social Capital and Poverty Reduction

This invited presentation (also in preparation for a book chapter on Social Capital edited by J. Halstead, University of New Hampshire and S. Deller, University of Wisconsin) examined the interaction between commuting and migration networks and social capital in reducing poverty rates between 2001 and 2011. Dec. 2-3, 2103.

5. Meeting on Ag 2.0, December, Syracuse, NY; presentation on networks

This presentation covered basics of networks and how they can be used by farmers for enhanced sharing of experiences with growing different crops in the Northeast US and in southern Canada resulting from shifts in plant hardiness zones. Invited by the Agricultural Experiment Station Director, Cornell University, and the Dean of the Ontario Agricultural College, University of Guelph, Canada. Dec. 9-10, 2013.

OTHER MEETINGS (SELECTED)

- Convened NE program leaders at the NACDEP conference, to share existing programs and discuss emerging regional priorities, Pittsburgh, PA (9/18)
- OECD/USDA Rural Development and NACO, Promoting Growth in All Regions Meeting, Washington, DC (1/14)
- Senate Democratic Rural Caucus Listening Session for Rural Areas, Washington, DC (4/25)
- Other meetings with Washington DC-based stakeholders (multiple)

Planning Underway for the 2014 “What Works” Conference

TAC member Dr. Kathleen Liang is leading the effort to organize the 2014 “What Works” regional conference, which is being held jointly with the National Value-Added Agriculture Conference on May 13-15, 2014 in Baltimore, MD. "Enhancing Food Security and Rural Viability through Innovative Food System Practices and Opportunities" is the conference theme. <http://goo.gl/Cfa4vd>

Progress on Center-Led Grants

1. Team Meeting in Saratoga Springs Provided Opportunity for Reflecting, Looking Forward

The Global Food Security/EFSNE team held its second team-wide meeting in Saratoga Springs on September 6-7, 2013. The meeting provided the 37 attendees an opportunity to learn about the activities and achievements of each of the six previously established subgroups, and to discuss as a team the next steps in the remaining half of the project timeline.



(For a list of the EFSNE team members pictured here, visit: <http://goo.gl/k7Qus7>.)

The meeting kicked off with brief reports from each of the subgroups highlighting progress thus far towards project objectives. Some of these accomplishments include:

- completion of the first round of community focus group discussions (168 people participated in 17 focus groups);
- completion of the first round of individual shopper surveys (902 shopper surveys completed at nine sites);
- development of supply chain case studies for each of the market basket items;
- construction of supply chain simulation and optimization models for several market basket items;
- baseline analysis of regional agricultural land use and self-reliance;
- establishment of Community, Local and Regional Food Systems eXtension Community of Practice (with over 250 members already registered before it goes public); *this COP has become self-supporting*;
- development of Community Involvement Plan and project narrative;

- creation of new Tufts University course in food systems and integration of food systems learning materials into existing courses at three universities; and
- engagement of a number of graduate students across all areas of the project.

The project team also was introduced to the newly formed Scenarios and Modeling subgroup (known informally as “Scemo”) and was familiarized with the framing questions that will guide the group’s work.

This face-to-face meeting provided subgroups the opportunity to develop their year-three work plans and to share those plans with the team at large. It also allowed for the trans-disciplinary conversations and collaborations that are crucial to the success of a systems-level project like EFSNE. Plans for the next team-wide meeting are under way.

EFSNE Advisory Board:

Robert King

Professor, University of Minnesota

David Marvel

Marvel Farms and Delaware Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association

Toni Liquori

School Food FOCUS, New York City

Joyce Smith

Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future and Operation ReachOut Southwest

EFNSE Website: <http://agsci.psu.edu/research/food-security>

New Grant: From the E.M. Kauffman Foundation of Kansas City (\$10,000) to conduct a network analysis of how entrepreneurs use Twitter to acquire business information.



2. Update from the National Agricultural and Rural Development (NARDeP) Center

Led by Stephan J. Goetz, the RRDC directors collaborated in competing for a USDA/NIFA grant to establish NARDeP, a flexible national network of scientists and analysts ready to quickly meet the needs of local, state and federal policy makers. The four RRDCs have demonstrated capacity to work effectively as a team to develop and deliver national programs by drawing on Land-Grant college and university resources. In just over a year, the NARDeP Center has



tapped the expertise of Land-Grant researchers to develop and deliver 21 policy-relevant analyses for national leaders in the public and private sectors, many of which are available as publications on the newly launched NARDeP website: www.nardep.info

NARDeP also has hosted two events at the National Press Club in Washington, DC, with support from Farm Foundation. One event was related to natural gas development, the other to broadband.

Publications

Major Projects (Special initiatives on high-priority topics)
 Rural Broadband Availability and Adoption: Evidence, Policy Challenges, and Options - Gallardo, Strover, and Whitacre (MAR 2013)
 Natural Gas Issues and Policy Options - Ferrell and Sanders (MAR 2013)

Policy Briefs
 The Impact of the USDA Broadband Loan Program on U.S. Agriculture - APPENDIX - Kandlov and Renkow (AUG 2013)
 How Rural Areas Can Adapt to Declining Rural Latino Immigration - Carpenter (AUG 2013)
 Natural Disaster Preparedness and Recovery - Skidmore (AUG 2013)
 Lessons Learned From the Greater Sage - Grouse - Messmer (JUL 2013)
 Trends in U.S. Agricultural Conservation Programs - Reimer (JUL 2013)
 Immigration and Farm Labor in the U.S. - Martin and Jackson-Smith (APR 2013)
 Policy Options for Broadband in Rural Regions - Whitacre, Gallardo, and Strover (MAR 2013)
 Natural Gas Extraction Brief (PDF) - Ferrell and Sanders (MAR 2013)
 Addressing Rural Economic Disadvantage - Abrecht (JAN 2013)

Data Briefs
 Diabetes and SNAP: An Opportunity for Change? - Lovernidge and Reimer (JUN 2013)
 Changes in Energy Production, Employment, and Business Between 2001-2010 - Abrecht, Goetz, and Lovernidge (MAY 2013)
 Where the Jobs Went After 2007 - Goetz, Lovernidge, and Abrecht (MAR 2013)

Webinars
 Rural Broadband Availability and Adoption: Evidence, Policy Changes, and Options (MAR 2013)
 Natural Gas Extraction: Issues and Policy Options (FEB 2013)
 If Congress Passes It, Will Farmers Sign Up? (DEC 2012)

Working Papers
 Predicting the Economic Resilience of U.S. Counties from Industry Input-Output Accounts - Han and Goetz (APR 2013)
 Current Federal Rural Policy Issues: Internet and Social Media Analysis - Reimer (JUL 2013)
 Who Influences National Rural Policy? Identification and Description of Rural Interest Groups - Reimer (JUL 2013)
 U.S. Agricultural Conservation Programs: Trends and Effects on Farmer Participation - Reimer (MAY 2013)

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<http://www.nardep.info>

NARDeP Policy Review Council

Sheldon Jones, Farm Foundation
Carolyn Brooks, 1890's Executive Director
Dina Chacon-Reitzel, Commodity Groups
Benita Litson, Navajo Nation
Sabrina Matteson, American Farm Bureau

NARDeP Research Advisory Council

Richard Krannich, Utah State University
Maria Marshall, Purdue University
Mark Partridge, Ohio State University
Dawn Thilmany, Colorado State University

NEW DHHS Grant led by NCRCRD (\$2.7 mn.)



The four Regional Rural Development Centers have demonstrated capacity to work effectively as a team to develop and deliver national programs by drawing on Land-Grant college and university resources. ***This project creates an exciting new linkage between DHHS's Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA). SAMSHA's mission is to reduce the impact of substance abuse and mental illness on America's communities. SAMSHA offers a wide array of data products and science-based approaches to improving community health outcomes. As such it is an excellent complement to the national Land-Grant network.***

Objectives

- Conduct a benchmark survey of communities to determine how they currently assess and address behavioral health issues across the lifespan.
- Based upon the survey results, compile an inventory of measures used by communities to assess and report on behavioral health.
- Develop a toolkit of resources that may be used by communities for assessing the current (past year) behavioral health status of communities
- Conduct training events, including webinars for extension professionals and targeted stakeholders and provide them with the resources, materials, and support necessary to conduct outreach and educate community leaders about the toolkit.
- Disseminate the toolkit to local agencies, businesses, and organizations, such as libraries, healthcare facilities, and community service partners to disseminate the toolkit.
- Identify or develop appropriate evaluation tools to assess project impacts as it is implemented in communities.



In meeting the objectives, the project will also work through the eXtension system to disseminate results, either through an existing Community of Practice such as the Creating Healthy Communities group (preferred) or, if this proves impractical, a new CoP.

Methods The project will immediately form two working groups: a leadership team and a technical committee. The leadership team will be composed of the four directors of the regional rural development centers. The leadership team will coordinate with USDA and SAMSHA contacts, develop strategies for overcoming challenges that may arise during project implementation, review the survey design, assist in recruitment and selection of case study communities, work to keep the Land-Grants in their respective regions informed as the project unfolds, and assist in training design.

The members of the leadership team are as follows: Dr. Scott Loveridge, Director, North Central Regional Center for Rural Development; Dr. Don Albrecht, Director, Western Rural Development Center; Dr. Stephan Goetz, Director, Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development; Rachel Welborn, Program Manager, Southern Rural Development Center.

External Grant Funding Summary



The Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development External Grant Funding (2013-14)



Name	Amount (\$)	Lifespan (years)	NE LGU Share (%)
AFRI EFSNE Global Food Security	5,000,000	5	72
AFRI NARDeP <i>Policy Research</i>	768,000	2	>50
AFRI Foundational (UVM, ERS)	472,669	3	95
AFRI Capacity (UMES, UDE, TSU)	450,000	3	49
eXtension COP (PSU, others)	50,000	1	50
DHHS Mental Health (SAMSHA)	2,700,000	1	<i>tbd</i>
TOTAL (annual., to NE LGUs)	1,050,000+		

All grants except the last address food systems development issues. The NCRCD is lead PI on the pending DHHS grant.

2

*The eXtension COP has now been absorbed by another project and has become self-supporting (i.e., it is sustainable). **The DHHS grant has been approved. TOTAL to region is preliminary estimate.

Staff Announcements

The Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development is pleased to welcome two new staff members to the Center:

Amber Evock (formerly Houser), who joined us in August, provides staff support to Katey Burke on a part-time basis.

Kristen Devlin joined the Center in September as a Communications Specialist. Kristen was previously a multimedia and publications specialist in Penn State's Eberly College of Science. She is primarily funded on the EFSNE Global Food Security grant, as well as the NARDeP Center and other grants.



Kristen Devlin (left) and Amber Evock

Center-Related Publications

Berning, J. (formerly at UConn), A. Bonanno, and H. Etemadnia (2013) "Farmers' markets location determinants: An empirical analysis in New England," 2013 *Agricultural & Applied Economics Association's AAEA & CAES Joint Annual Meeting*, Washington, DC, August 4-6.

Brown, J.P., S.J. Goetz, M.C. Ahearn and C. Liang (2013) "Linkages Between Community-Focused Agriculture, Farm Sales, and Regional Growth," *Economic Development Quarterly*, in press.

DeFauw, S., A. Hoshide, P. English, A. Plant, S.J. Goetz, J. Halloran and B. Larkin (2013), "Maine Potato Farms: Remotely-Sensed Cropping System Dynamics and Applied Econometrics," poster pres. at the American Society of Agronomy meeting.

Etemadnia, H., A. Hassan, S.J. Goetz and K. Abdelghany (2013) "[Wholesale Hub Locations in Food Supply Chain Systems](#)," *Transportation Research Record*, TRB 13-2886, in press.

Etemadnia, H., Goetz, S.J., Canning, P., and Tavallali, M.S. "Optimal Wholesale Facilities Location within the Fruit and Vegetables Supply Chain: A LP-MIP Heuristic Approach," Transportation Research Board, 93rd Annual Meeting, January 12-16, 2014, Washington D.C.

Goetz, S.J., A. Bonanno, T. Griffin, H. Etemadnia and G. Jeffries (2013) "Mapping the Domestic US Food System: The Meat and Fruit & Vegetables Supply Chain," EFNSE Working Paper, University Park, PA, 41pp.

Goetz, S.J., S. Loveridge, and D. Albrecht (2013) [Where the Jobs Went After 2007](#), NARDeP Policy Issues Brief, 2pp.

Goetz, S.J., M. Partridge, D. Fleming and M. Li (2013) "The Location Determinants of the INC5000s," invited paper at the Kauffman Symposium/Uddevalla Conference on Entrepreneurship, Kansas City, MO, June 13, 37pp.

Goetz, S.J. and A. Rupasingha (2013) "The Determinants of Self-Employment Growth: Insights From County-Level Data, 2000-2009," *Econ. Dev. Quart.*, in press.

Han, Y. and S.J. Goetz (2013) "[Predicting the Economic Resilience of U.S. Counties from Industry Input-Output Accounts](#)," pres. at the SRSA meeting, Washington, DC, April. NARDeP Center Working Paper.

"This (paper) could fundamentally change how we think about resilience and disaster recovery."
Comment by audience member at the SRSA meeting.

Han, Y., S.J. Goetz, T. Kim and J.J. Lee (2013) "Estimating Employment-Related Migration from Overlapping Migration and Commuting Networks," *Growth and Change*, 44(3): 474-493.

Marasteanu, I.J, C. Liang, S.J. Goetz, M. Ahearn, and J. Brown (2013). "The Identification and Formation of Clusters of Northeastern United States Farms Participating in Multifunctional Activities." Poster prepared for the CWAE section at the AAEA's 2013 AAEA & CAES Joint Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, August 4-6.

Partridge, M.D., S.J. Goetz and M. Kilkenny (2013) "Why We Need Federal Statistical Data for States and Counties," *Choices*, September; available: <http://goo.gl/FLHKrQ>

"Thank you very much for your very informative Choices article on the critical role of federal statistical data at the regional and local levels."

Steve Pierson, Ph.D.,
Director of Science Policy
American Statistical Association

Reimer, A., Y. Han, S.J. Goetz, S. Loveridge and D. Albrecht (2013), "Issue Networks in U.S. Rural Policy Discourse," October, NARDeP Center Working Paper.

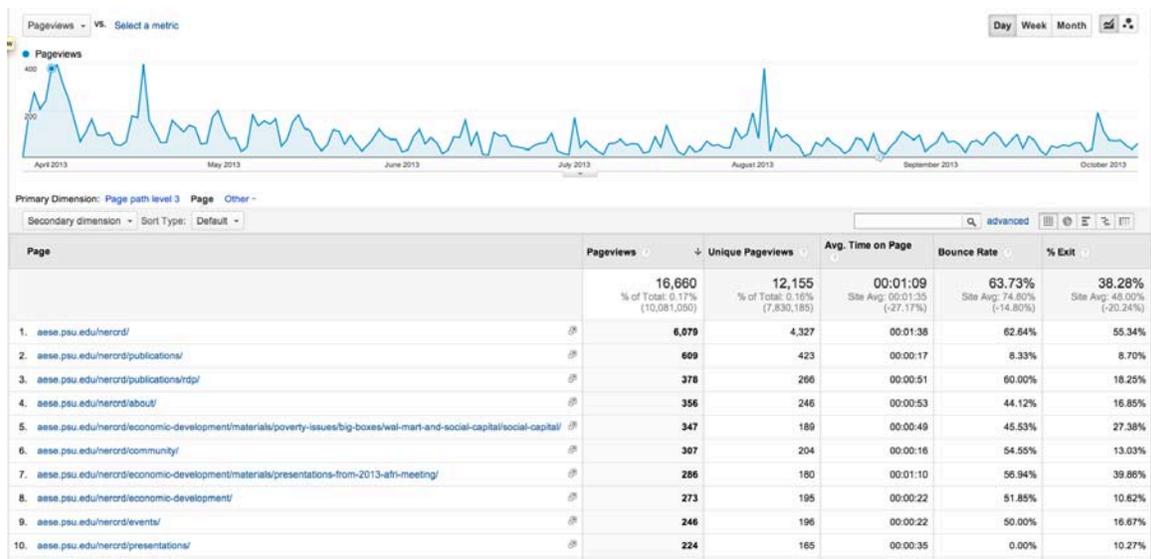
Rupasingha, A. and S.J. Goetz (2013), "Self-Employment and Local Economic Performance: Evidence from US Counties," *Papers in Regional Science* 92(1).

Other Services Provided by the Director to the Region (and beyond)

- Served as RRDC liaison to monthly National Association of Community Development Extension Professionals (NACDEP) Board of Directors conference call
- Wrote external letters of promotion or evaluation for seven educators or faculty, including at Cornell University and the University of Maryland
- Provided scientific peer review of 18 refereed journal manuscripts, including for the journal *Comprehensive Reviews in Food Science*
- Provided pre-submission reviews of two USDA-NIFA grants, and an external peer review of one agricultural experiment station Hatch proposal, for NE land-grant universities
- Served as Chair of the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association's (AAEA) Outreach Committee
- Served on the Council on Food, Agriculture and Resource Economics' (CFARE) Blue Ribbon panel; also served as vice-Chair of the Panel on Rural Development
- Served on the Rural Policy Research Institute's (RUPRI) National Spatial Analytics panel

Web Site Statistics

Since our transition to Plone on March 27, 2013, more than 12,000 visitors from around the world have visited our website. Our publications web page, where users can find rural development papers, annual reports, and an archive of our older projects, is currently our most sought-after content. Our county-level social capital maps (Rupasingha and Goetz, 2008) also account for a large volume of our web traffic thus far. Most of our traffic comes from Google, but many visitors have found our website from links on the websites of other organizations (e.g., New York State Center for Rural Schools and The North Central Regional Center for Rural Development).



Time line of past Center investments (examples)

What Works I, II and III; we are now collaborating with National Value Added Group in organizing the third conference in the series

Local Foods Conference → led to the EFSNE Grant, ongoing

Foundations of Practice course in Community Development started as a regional effort, supported by the NERCRD, and is now national

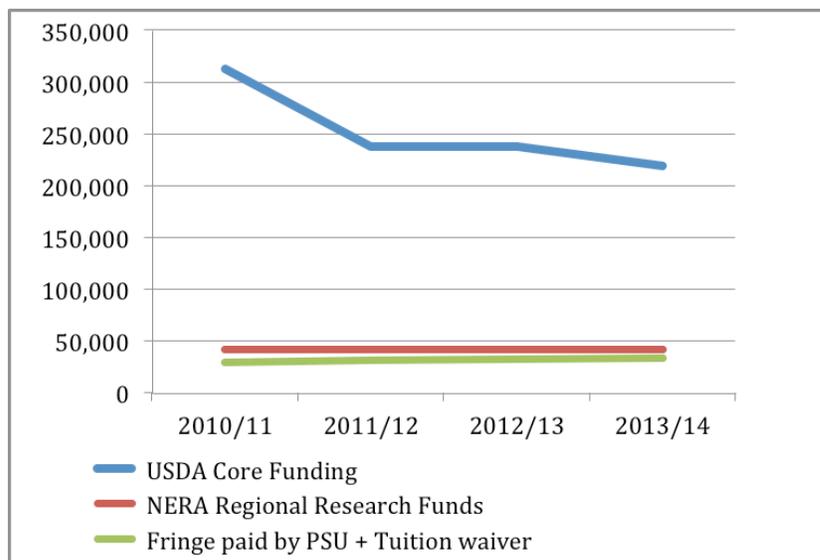
eXtension COP on CLRFS has become self-sustaining

TRED (Targeting Regional Economic Development) 2009 Book continues to be used widely within Extension (e.g., by Daniel Eades in Extension programming in West Virginia and by the Extension service in Minnesota as stated by M. Darger, 2013 President of NACDEP, in an e-mail communication).

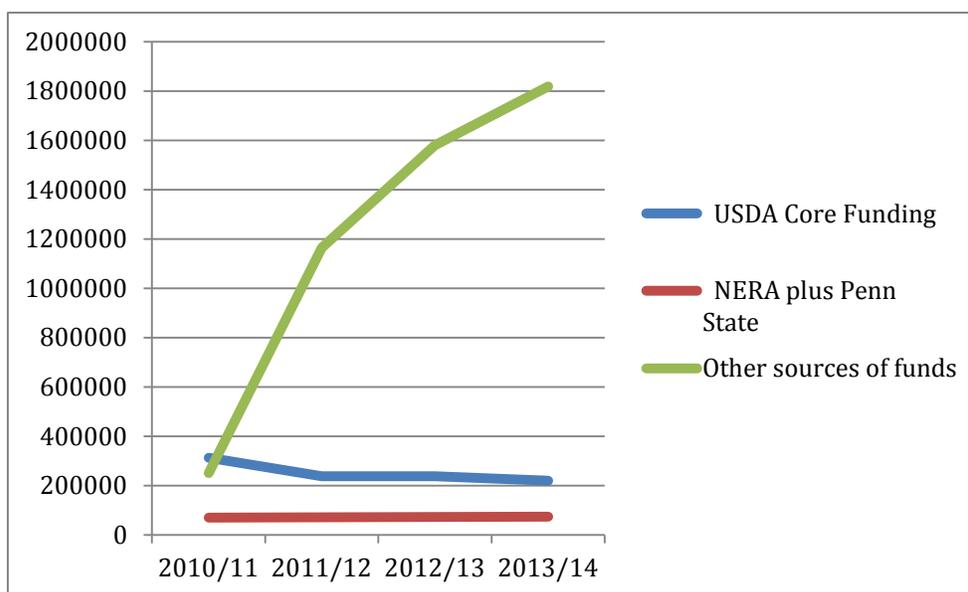
Perspectives on NERCRD Funding

1. Evolution of Center Internal (Core) Funding, recent

NIFA funding of the RRDCs continued to decline with the federal budget sequester (-7.8%) in 2013/14, while NERA maintained its support at previous levels and Penn State's contribution increased. Not shown is that Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences is paying a larger share of the Director's salary, up from about 25% in the past.

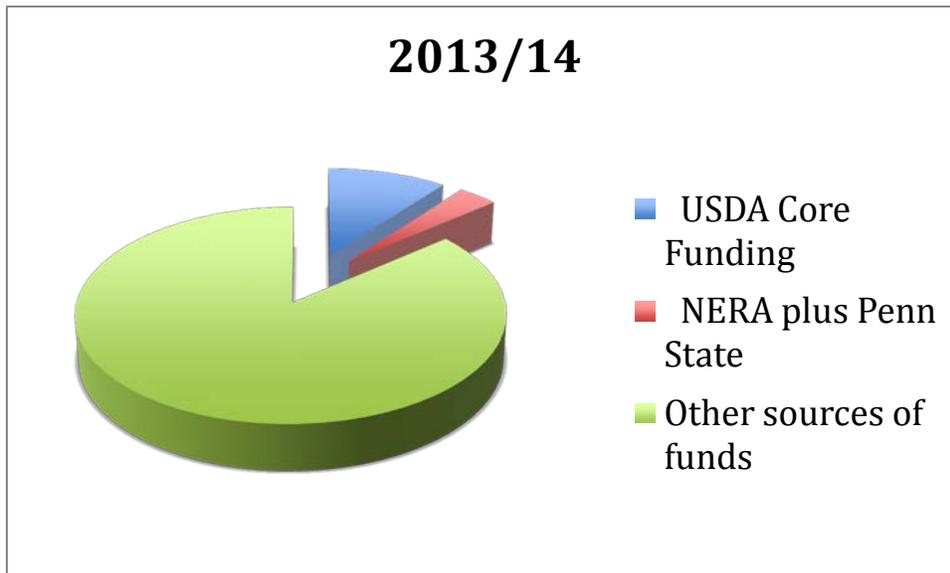
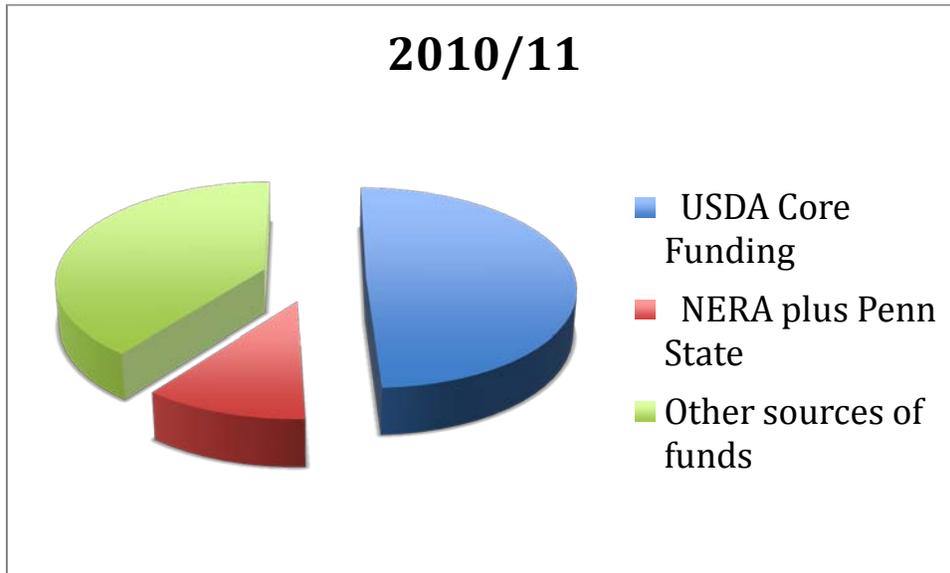


2. Evolution of External vs. Internal (Core plus NERA plus PSU) Funding



Data includes DHHS (estimated) and Kauffman funding in 2013/14.

3. Sources of NERCRD Funding Over Time, Shares



4. Tabular Data

Funding Source	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
USDA Core Funding	312,256	237,524	237,444	218,996
NERA Regional Research Funds	40,788	40,788	40,788	40,788
Fringe paid by PSU + Tuition waiver	29,357	30,641	31,660	32,610
Other sources of funds	250,400	1,164,472	1,579,983	1,818,058

Data includes DHHS (estimated) and Kauffman funding in 2013/14.

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The Center supports Northeast U.S. Land Grant Universities in their rural development mission.

<http://nercrd.psu.edu>