

December Community Development e-Newsletter

Extension Annual Conference Opportunity:

Extension program health is determined, to some extent, by our ability to document impact that is relevant to the populations that we serve. Two sessions at the annual conference are designed to help us measure the impacts of Extension programming on a community. Concrete examples will be given and ways of relating this information to the URS reporting will also be included. Taken together they will give a comprehensive overview of the methods of measuring and reporting impacts:

Session 302: Measuring the Impacts of a Community Program

Session 402: Planning Community Programs to Maximize Impact Reporting

Access e-Commerce Workshop:

The Access e-Commerce Workshop will be held on December 14 and 15, 2005 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. each evening at the Caldwell Learning Center. The Program targets small business owners and entrepreneurs who currently do not use the Internet for commerce. Topics include: e-commerce basics, finding business information and services online, exploring e-commerce web sites, planning your web site, promoting your web site and developing your Internet business plan. The program is presented jointly with the Appalachian Regional Commission and OSU Extension. The registration fee is \$25. There are some scholarships available. Please contact Shirley Cook at cook.22@osu.edu or 614-292-6232 if you know of anyone who might benefit from this program.

The Case for Local Food Systems:

Gain a greater understanding of the economic, social and environmental benefits of producing and distributing local foods in Ohio by attending "The Case for Local Food Systems" on Wednesday, Jan. 11, at the Agricultural Administration Auditorium on the Columbus campus. The one-day conference is designed for everyone interested in local foods, including researchers, Extension Educators, growers, consumers, chefs, farm advocates and community activists.

Registration is \$25; students may register for free. Lunch is included. Registration deadline is Jan. 3. For a schedule or for more details, see <http://sri.osu.edu/events.php> or contact Molly Bean Smith of the Social Responsibility Initiative at bean.21@osu.edu or 614-688-8798.

The Case for Local Food Systems is sponsored by the Social Responsibility Initiative of the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences and is co-hosted by the Department of Human and Community Resources Development, the OSU Local/Regional Food System Network, and Ohio State's Sustainable Agriculture Team.

Community Data -- Training Opportunity:

Interested in collecting local community data but not sure how to start? Want to provide a valuable service for which many local agencies and organizations are willing to pay? Using SurveyGold Pro (the survey software used by the Ohio Business Retention & Expansion Initiative) you can serve as your local community's resource for conducting online, written, and telephone surveys. Similar to Zoomerang and SurveyMonkey, SurveyGold Pro software makes developing questionnaires, gathering data (when used in an online format), reporting results in graph and text form, and generating written reports

incredibly easy. (For more information and to download a 30-day trial version, go to surveygold.com).

Interested in learning more? A software training workshop will be held in Columbus on January 10 for those interested finding out how this software can make primary data collection and reporting easy. For more information, contact [Greg Davis](mailto:Greg.Davis@osu.edu), 614-292-6356.

Agritourism: Marketing & Cooperation for Increased Profits

OSU Extension Educator, Eric Barrett (Washington County) will be leading a session on "Agritourism: Marketing & Cooperation for Increased Profits" which will be offered during the Ohio Direct Agricultural Marketing Conference. Eric is a member of the Direct Marketing Team and the Extension Tourism Team.

The conference will be relocating to Columbus this year and is a part of the 2006 Ohio Fruit and Vegetable Growers Congress. It will take place at the Greater Columbus Convention Center, Monday, January 16 - 18. The Agritourism session will be held on Monday, January 16, 9 AM - 4 PM. The conference includes other sessions and a trade show of interest to persons exploring agritourism. There is a special registration fee for Extension staff. Check the association web sites at www.ohiofruit.org or www.ohiovegetables.org for more information.

Dr. Ken Martin Presents Forest Heritage Program for Ohio's Hill Country Heritage Area

Rural Sociologist, Extension Professor and Assistant Director Community Development Ken Martin delivered the keynote program at Ohio's Hill Country Heritage Area's 7th Annual Meeting and Gathering in downtown Lancaster at the Ohio Glass Museum on December 2. His presentation, "Forest Heritage: Developing Outreach to Regional Communities Through a Heritage Tourism Initiative," was based upon his work (before coming to OSU) with a multi-state tourism initiative involving forest heritage resources. The project created a unified tourism theme for the central Appalachian Mountain region, from western Maryland to southeastern West Virginia. The goal of the project was to organize existing and potential forest-based historic sites, artisans, manufacturing firms, and working forests into a cohesive network of forest heritage tourism destinations that provide high-quality forestry-related retail products, programs, events and visitor services. Contact Ken at <mailto:martin.1540@osu.edu> regarding this forest heritage project.

There are many lessons to be learned and innovations applied to communities and areas of Ohio Appalachia which are also rich in natural resources and forest heritage, much of the latter not yet in readiness for sharing with tourists and visitors. Extension Specialist, Community Development, Deanna Tribe tribe.1@osu.edu is completing her second year as chair of Ohio's Hill Country Heritage Area, a 31-county region. She is co-leader of the Extension Tourism Team.

NACDEP Presentation:

The Existing Land Use Tools subcommittee of the OSU Extension Land Use Team will be making paper presentations at the NACDEP Conference in San Antonio this February. The subcommittee consisting of John Conglose, Greg Davis, Dave Civitollo and Nancy Kukay will be presenting findings on the research recently conducted on utilization by townships throughout Ohio of land use tools to address current development issues. Contact John Conglose: Conglose.1@osu.edu

Grassroots Leadership Institute:

The Knox, Morrow and Richland County Tri-County Newly Elected and Appointed Leadership Institute that was conducted this past year has resulted in the team of educators and specialists submitting and being selected to present a paper presentation at the NACDEP Conference in February. The group being led by John Conglose from the Center at Wooster and Cindi Torpa from the Center at Lima/Findlay and including LuAnn Duncan, Steve Ruhl and Maurus Brown, CD Educators in Knox, Morrow and Richland Counties will be presenting a paper on examining the usefulness of a course for Elected and Appointed Officials.

Notes for our Readers

Thank you for taking time to read the Community Development e-Newsletter. We will be surveying readers early in 2006 to learn how we can make this tool most useful to you.

We welcome short notices and related contributions from readers. They will be added to the next newsletter if appropriate to our format and objectives. John Conglose will be compiling notices for the January 2006 Community Development on-line newsletter. He can be reached at conglose.1@osu.edu

December Issue compiled by Joe Konen konen.2@osu.edu