

OSU Extension Community Development E-Newsletter, Volume 3, May 2005

Advancing Community Tourism (ACT) . . . Cultivating a Trend; May 20 Conference

A conference connecting agriculture, heritage and nature with tourism for economic vitality and building community will be held on Friday, May 20, 9:30 AM – 3 PM at Sweetapple Farm near Vincent, Ohio in Washington County. This is the third conference coordinated by the Extension Tourism Team that emphasizes agritourism. Ohio's Hill Country Heritage Area is a co-sponsor. A \$10 registration covers lunch, refreshments and program materials. Contact Deanna Tribe at 740.289.2071 or tribe.1@osu.edu for more information or see www.southcenters.osu.edu for the program agenda. Registration is requested by May 13. This conference takes place on a farm with an active agritourism and agritainment enterprise, hosted by Eric Barrett, ANR Extension Educator, Washington County. Besides Extension staff, this conference would be of interest to farmers and landowners considering agriculture diversification, tourism professionals, artists and crafters, entrepreneurs, gift shops and tourism-related businesses, organizations like Farm Bureau, NFO, SWCD, Agricultural Societies, etc. In addition to agritourism, the program will include sessions on hospitality training, connecting tourism and agriculture, and creative marketing.

AEP Funding for Local Economic Development Programs; May 31 Deadline

Over half of the counties in Ohio find all or part of themselves in American Electric Power's service territory. Go to http://aeped.com/aep_ed/states/ohio.htm to find out if your county is in AEP service territory. Why should you care? AEP is providing grants of up to \$5000 for each county to support local economic development projects including such things as Business Retention & Expansion and Retail Market Analyses. Projects should leverage additional dollars and be collaborative in nature. The deadline for submitting a grant application is **May 31, 2005**. To learn more about [Ohio's BR&E](#) or [Retail Market Analysis](#) programs, contact [Greg Davis](#) at 614-292-6356. To learn more about the grant dollars through AEP, contact your community's economic development official or call your regional AEP Economic Development Manager: Central and Southern Ohio region is Marty Walsh, 614-883-7805; Northern and Eastern Ohio is Chuck Corbitt, 614-883-6881.

Opportunities for Regional Sustainability; June 24 Forum

Plan to attend the second in a series of three forums on Opportunities for Regional Sustainability, with northeast Ohio as a model. The forum will take place on June 24, 9-11:45 AM at the Fisher Auditorium at the OARDC in Wooster. There will be significant time allocated to planning and strategy networking around themes identified by participants: e.g., local-regional foods, agriculture at the rural urban interface, water quality and watersheds, entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial communities, urban landscapes and the green industry, small business financial stability, etc. Our speaker will be Ed Morrison from REI, Case Western Reserve University's Center for Regional Economic Issues. Registration information and an agenda can be obtained from Joe Konen at konen.2@osu.edu.

Extension Statewide Urban Program Conversation on October 7

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the statewide Extension Urban Program Conversation on October 7th 2005 at the Radisson Inn, Worthington. The day is for Educators, Specialists, Administrators, and other Extension personnel across all program areas. The agenda will focus on "Partnerships for Urban Extension Programming" and will highlight strong programs across Ohio. Bonnie McGee from Texas A&M and the National Urban Task Force will be our keynote

speaker. A special luncheon dramatic program and special awards will round out the day. For more information, contact a member of the planning committee: ***Karen Williams, Joe Konen, Deb Carney, Cynthia Toler, Jack Kerrigan, or Bev Kelbaugh.***

Community Development Web Resources

The Rural Entrepreneurship News is a monthly electronic newsletter of the Center for Rural Entrepreneurship, a RUPRI national research and policy center with founding support from the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation. The Appalachian Regional Commission is a contributing partner to this newsletter. Rural Entrepreneurship News summarizes developments in the field of rural entrepreneurship. To obtain information on how to subscribe/unsubscribe and to review present and past issues, click on the following link:

http://www.ruraleship.org/index_html?page=content/ruralenews.htm .

Information on Administration's Proposed Community/Economic Development Initiative

The Economic Development Administration hosted an interactive telecast on the administration's proposed strategy called the "Strengthening America's Communities Initiative." The proposal consolidates 18 community development programs and reduces the budget by more than \$2 billion. The telecast is now available for on-demand viewing from the EDA website.

View it at <http://www.eda.gov/NewsEvents/WebCastsVideos.xml>.

OSU Extension Center at Lima Chooses Initiatives

The OSUC at Lima has chosen to focus on two initiatives – Smart Growth/Sustainable Growth and the Knowledge Economy – and has established teams to work on the development of projects that will further Extension's involvement in these two key areas. For further information contact (for Smart/Sustainable Growth) Joe Lucente at lucente.6@osu.edu or Fred Snyder at snyder.8@osu.edu and, for Knowledge Economy, Myra Moss, moss.63@osu.edu or Jerry Thomas at thomas.69@osu.edu

OSU Extension Community Development and the OSU Center for Entrepreneurship Enter into a Collaborative Relationship

The Lima Center CD Program and the State CD Office are collaborating with the OSU Center for Entrepreneurship at the Fisher College of Business to create a statewide web-based network for Ohio's entrepreneurs. Grant funding for this effort is being sought from the EDA University Center Program, OSU Cares, and local sources. This innovative web platform will create a virtual business network for Ohio's entrepreneurs, particularly those in more isolated rural areas, providing them with access to services, financing resources, qualified labor, consultants and other entrepreneurs. Research has shown that participation in effective networks is a critical factor in facilitating entrepreneurial success. For further information contact Bill Grunkemeyer at grunkemeyer.1@osu.edu or Myra Moss at moss.63@osu.edu

Extension Community Development Teams

Recent Extension re-organizational and Community Development Strategic Planning efforts have emphasized the need for innovative, interdisciplinary programming initiatives with the potential to make significant impact upon the lives of Ohioans. The team approach has been suggested as one way to facilitate such programming efforts.

[Economic and Workforce Innovation Team](#). Greg Davis is serving as coordinating chair of the Discovering Economic & Workforce Innovation educational area and is tasked with initiating the development of innovative teams. He had the privilege of identifying the particular interests of CD program professionals. Interests of all those responding to his requests were ranked in table form on the [State CD webpage](#). The table is a great place to discover who else shares your particular interests and provides a starting point for the development of programming teams. Take a minute to take a look. Then, make it a point to contact others who share your interest. Let's get it started!

[Extension Tourism Team](#). The state Extension Tourism Team is getting re-established and active with the South Tourism Team evolving into this larger entity. Anyone (from any program area) with interest in tourism development is more than welcome to become a part of the team. The niche they have carved out includes: community tourism development; tourism as a sustainable economic development strategy; attraction development; hospitality training; producing the tourism product; community readiness for tourism; and linkages with tourism promotion organizations. A current focus is agritourism, a growing sector within the greater tourism industry which has a lot of potential for community tourism development. Current projects include the Advancing Community Tourism series of conferences; The Spectrum e-newsletter; series of Tourism Trails Fact Sheets; Hospitality training program; Presentations on various tourism sectors including Agritourism, Nature Tourism, Heritage and Culture Tourism, etc.; and Vision to Action Planning with Tourism Organizations. Contact Deanna Tribe at OSU South Centers for more information, 740.289.2071; tribe.1@osu.edu.

Planning for Growth and Development: How Should Ohio and Its Communities Respond?

Consider having a forum on Growth and Land Use. The goal of the community forums using the **Planning for Growth and Development Guide** is to help citizens discover the initiatives that they think should be pursued to ensure that Ohio's future development is done well. The forums give citizens the opportunity to reflect on their own community and ask about plans and policy that affect their future. A discussion guide presents a framework for citizen discussion based on three broad approaches that have been proposed to make Ohio's growth and development more sustainable. Each has benefits and drawbacks that citizens can discuss together. During the forum, the facilitator will help the group look at each approach, one at a time, and discuss the strengths and any drawbacks or tradeoffs involved in the approach. At the end of the forum, participants will consider any individual or joint action they might want to undertake to promote specific initiatives they determine to be important for Ohio's future. Contact Joe Konen at konen.2@osu.edu to plan for a forum in your community.