

Around the South

January 2008, Vol. 4 No. 1

■ SRDC Items of Interest

- **New Issue of *Rural Realities* Looks at Self-Employment in Rural America**
Written by Stephan Goetz, this latest installment of the Rural Sociological Society's policy brief series offers a snapshot of how self-employment is playing out in different locales across the country, with a particular focus on rural areas. It documents the numbers of self-employed and their wages, and presents results that underscore the importance of regional and local distinctions that create or inhibit self-employment. The brief also provides key directions for policymakers in supporting and advancing local self-employment. Read the latest issue at:
<http://www.ruralsociology.org/pubs/RuralRealities/RuralRealities2-3.pdf>
- **SRDC's Strategic Plan Still Available**
Our recently released strategic plan, *Blueprint for the Rural South: Discovering New Ideas, Applying New Strategies*, is still available. If you would like copies of the SRDC's strategic plan, please contact Julianna Brown at 662-325-3207 or via email at julianna@srdc.msstate.edu. You can also access the report online at:
<http://srdc.msstate.edu/sp/blueprint07.pdf>.

■ Other Items of Interest

- **Foundations Create New Site to Spur Action on Poverty and Opportunity**
The Annie E. Casey Foundation and the Eos Foundation have created a new Web site to build momentum for national action related to addressing issues of poverty and opportunity. In addition to posing questions to presidential candidates, the site also includes community data, information on local, state and international initiatives, and links to research on poverty. See the site at: www.spotlightonpoverty.com
- **High-Tech Brings Rural Towns Back to Life**
High-tech businesses and industries are popping up in more and more rural towns, bringing jobs and boosting the economies of these areas. The success of these ventures challenges traditional economic development approaches that focus on public incentives and large industrial parks. The experiences of entrepreneurs residing in small

towns in Georgia and North Carolina, among others, are included. Read the article at:
<http://www.csmonitor.com/2007/1218/p03s01-ussc.html>.

- **Report Ranks Well-Being of Children in Low-Income Families By State**

The Annie E. Casey Foundation recently released a new working paper, *States Ranked on the Basis of Child Well-Being for Children in Low-Income Families*. The publication ranks all 50 states in terms of the condition of children living in low-income families. The report uses 29 state-level indicators from 2003 of two new data sources – the National Survey of Children’s Health and the American Community Survey. This new information is an important look at a target population that is often the focus of public policies to improve the lives of children. Read the working paper at:

<http://www.kidscount.org/initiatives/fes/lists/dec07/lowincomewellbeing.pdf>

- **Sustainable Ag Graduate Program Seeking Fellowship Applicants**

The Graduate Program in Sustainable Agriculture at Iowa State University has obtained a grant through USDA to provide two fellowships to students pursuing a doctorate in sustainable agriculture. The fellowships are available to students entering the grad program in the fall of 2008. Awardees will receive an annual \$24,000 stipend for three years, and an annual \$1,500 allowance for educational expenses. The priority deadline for applying is February 8, 2008. For more information on this opportunity, go to:

http://www.sust.ag.iastate.edu/gpsa/docs/NNF_announcement.pdf

■ Funding Opportunities

- **SRDC's Grant Connections: Rural Development Funding Opportunities**

Volume 10, Number 2, December 2007

<http://srdc.msstate.edu/funding/dec07.html>

The SRDC staff compiles Grant Connections primarily for the faculty of land-grant colleges and universities in the South to provide funding information in support of activities in agricultural economics, education, human sciences, rural sociology, youth development, and other related disciplines.

■ Conferences & Trainings

- ***Building Communities Educational Series, "Community and Economic Development"***

September 14, 2007 -- June 13, 2008

Web Trainings

http://www.uwex.edu/ces/cced/communities/Building_Community.cfm

- **Fourth national “Strengthening Families, Youth, and Communities: Putting Knowledge to Work”**
 February 11- 14, 2008
 Myrtle Beach, South Carolina
<http://www.clemson.edu/fyd/sfy.htm>
- **SARE 20th Anniversary National Conference**
 March 25-27, 2008
 Kansas City, Missouri
<http://sare.org/2008Conference/index.htm>
- **2008 Priester National Extension Health Conference**
 "Building Healthy Communities, One Person at a Time"
 April 8-10, 2008
 Raleigh, North Carolina
<http://continuingeducation.ncsu.edu/PNEHC/>
- **6th Biennial ANREP (Association of Natural Resource Extension Professionals)**
 "Leopolds legacy: Extension's Response to a Changing World"
 May 20-23, 2008
 Madison, Wisconsin
<http://www.anrep.org/>
- **Crime and Justice Summer Research Institute**
 "Broadening Perspectives and Participation"
 July 7-25, 2008
 Ohio State University
Applications must be postmarked by February 8, 2008
<http://cjrc.osu.edu/summerinstitute>
- **The Society for the Study of Social Problems 58th Annual Meeting**
 "Crossing Borders: Activist Scholarship, Globalization, and Social Justice"
 July 31-August 2, 2008
 Boston, Massachusetts
Proposal deadline is January 31, 2008
<http://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/m/23>
- **Galaxy III Conference**
 "Celebrating the Extension System: Strengths, Diversity and Unique Qualities"
 September 15-19, 2008
 Indianapolis, Indiana
Abstract deadline is January 15, 2008
 Abstract Submission Form: <http://ext.msstate.edu/survey/galaxy/>

■ Job Opportunities

- Assistant, Associate or Full Professor of Ag Economics, Community Economic Development
Department of Agricultural Economics
Oklahoma State University
View announcement:
<http://agecon.okstate.edu/jobs/Position%20Announcement%20ED%20re-ad.pdf>
- Associate Dean, Family and Consumer Sciences Extension
College of Human Environmental Sciences
Oklahoma State University
View announcement: <http://hr.dasnr.okstate.edu/documents/admin-fac-vacancy-flyers/Assoc%20Dean%20FCS.pdf>
- Assistant Specialist, Community and Economic Development
Southern University Ag Center
View announcement: http://srdc.msstate.edu/news/jobs/su_cd.pdf
- Associate Director, Health
Program Associate, Infrastructure
PolicyLink
View announcements: <http://www.policylink.org/JobOpportunities.html?msource=JOB1>
- Assistant, Associate or Full Professor, Human Ecology
University of Wisconsin-Madison
View announcement: http://www.ohr.wisc.edu/pvl/pv_057928.html
- Community, Natural Resource and Economic Development Educator
University of Wisconsin-Extension
View announcement: <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/hr/listing.cfm?PVL=C08048>
- Regional Extension Educator, Community Economics
University of Minnesota Extension
View announcement:
<http://www.extension.umn.edu/units/director/hr/REECOMeconMarshall.pdf>

■ Submit Announcements

Job announcements and other items of interest may be sent to [Julianna Brown](#) for possible inclusion in future issues.

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