



Housing and Environment News

Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service

U.S Department of Agriculture

Newsletter
Volume 2008 Issue 1

USDA CSREES News



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USDA Energy REE Strategic 5 Year Plan*

Role: Lead Research, Education, and Extension programs for sustainable production of agriculture-based and natural resource-based renewable energy and efficient use and conservation of energy for the benefit of rural communities and the Nation.

Vision: Growing a clean, efficient, sustainable energy future for America.

- Agriculture-and natural-response-based energy that enhances stewardship of our environment.
- Sustainable, secure;, renewable energy sources.
- Vibrant and energy-efficient rural communities.

Goals:

- Sustainable agriculture and natural resource-based energy production
- Sustainable bio-economies for rural communities
- Efficient use of energy and energy conservation.
 - Energy education programs, including eXtension Communities of Practice to reach traditional and non-traditional audiences.
 - Energy intensity of agricultural production reduced by 10 percent.
 - Establish a national agriculture- and natural-resource-based energy awareness campaign.
 - Promote energy conservation awareness across the United States.

USDA Energy Research, Education and Extension Strategic Plan (cont'd)

Key Strategies:

- Lead the establishment of a national energy extension network in partnership with land-grant universities and Federal agencies.
 - Establish energy Communities of Practice in eXtension.
 - Develop and publicize decision support tools for home energy and on-farm energy conservation.
 - Establish an energy garden at the national Arboretum in collaboration with a national conservation group.
 - Develop a university-based program for energy conservation education.
 - Workforce development for the bio-economy.
- * REE Energy Workshop, Arlington, VA, Sept. 5-6, 2007 and released Jan. 23, 2008.

eXtension Launch

eXtension held the launch of 15 Communities of Practice on February 21, 2008 as part of the Ag Outlook Conference in Arlington, VA. USDA Under Secretary Gale Buchanan delivered remarks and Colien Hefferan, CSREES Administrator, hosted. The Extension Disaster Education Network Community of Practice site on Agrosecurity and Floods was among the 15 launched.



EDEN Program Review

The Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN) began in 1994. Dr. Ralph Otto, Associate Administrator for USDA/CSREES requested a review of the national program and that Joseph Wysocki, USDA, EDEN liaison since 1994, plan and organize the review. The Review was held in Washington, D.C., February 11-14 2008.

Over 30 different people, from throughout the country were invited or requested to speak to the review panel. They represented EDEN executive committee members, CSREES National Program Leaders and Administrators, and partner organization (FEMA, NACO, NASULGC.) The Review Team was chaired by Dr. Nayda Torres, University of Florida and included Dr. Clyde Chessney, Tennessee State University; Dr. Michael Lambur, Virginia Tech; Dr. Sebastian Heath, Department of Homeland Security; and John Snyder, CSREES.

Dr. Gale Buchanan, Under Secretary, USDA/REE, opened the review stating “the review was to make the best even better”. A written report is expected to be delivered shortly.

Healthy Homes Update

Proposals for Healthy Homes funds have been received from 30 states. This is the first time used e-grant.gov has been for proposals so Laura Booth and I are learning as we are doing it. Hopefully, you will receive notification regarding your state funds in the next few weeks.

Laura Booth has printed attractive Healthy Homes bookmarks with the Healthy Homes website, poison center phone number and basic to healthy homes information. Contact Laura for copies at BoothLB@auburn.edu



Help Yourself to a Healthy Home Protect Your Children's Health

- Don't smoke inside your home
- Test your home for radon
- Get rid of mold: keep your home dry
- Use carbon monoxide and smoke detectors
- Keep dust away: wash bedding in very hot water
- Get rid of bugs: keep your home clean
- Test children for lead
- Test your well water

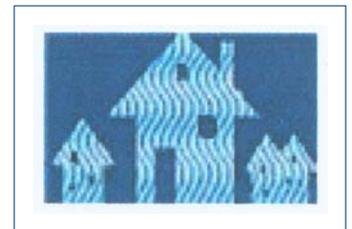
Remember the Poison Control Center number: 1-800-222-1222

In February, I attended a one-day inservice training on Healthy Homes for extension educators, at the University of Maryland. Lynn Little, Jean Austin and Elizabeth Maring, organized the program around three themes: Collaboration, Research and Applied Perspectives.

Dr. Bonnie Braun, University of Maryland Family Life Specialist and President, American Association of Family and Consumer Scientists, in her remarks, she stated that healthy homes and environments should be a major topic for extension educators in this decade as energy and obesity were in the 1980's and 90s respectively. Each attendee received a copy of the Housing, Education & Research Associate sponsored textbook "Introduction to Housing," Prentice Hall, 2006.

I am on the planning committee for the Healthy Homes Grantees/Partner Conference scheduled for September 15-18, 2008 in Baltimore, MD. HUD expects 2000 people to attend. "Building a Framework for Healthy Housing conference will focus on key themes that build the framework necessary to make homes safe, healthy and efficient for everyone including:

- Building Capacity to Deliver Healthy Housing;
- Mainstreaming Healthy Housing Principles;
- Creating Healthy Housing through Research;
- Developing Enforcement and Regulatory Strategies;
- Marketing Healthy Housing; and
- Educating the Public and Practitioner



If you have suggestions for speakers for these six themes please send the names to me.

Resources

Living Sustainably: "It's Your Choice," Oregon State University, (EC1614), Feb. 2008

Strategic Opportunities for Cooperative Extension, NASULGC, Oct. 2007 www.nasulgc.org.

Opportunities/Meetings

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| World Asthma Day | May 6, 2008 | www.epa.gov/ostrmo/awm.html |
| North Central Housing Specialist Meeting | June 9-10, 2008 St. Paul Minn. | MBruin@umn.edu 612-624-3780 |
| Healthy Homes Grantees/Partner Conference | September 15-18, 2008 Baltimore, MD | HUD.gov/offices/lead/2008 NHHC |
| Housing Education & Research Association Annual Meeting | October 7-10, 2008 Indianapolis, Indiana | H. Campbell 765-285-2255 HLCampbell@bsu.edu |
| Association of Home Equipment Education Annual Meeting | October 22-24, 2008 Knoxville, TN | J. Barber 252-636-4227 Judith.Barber@bshg.com |
| Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN) Annual Meeting | November 4-7 Burlington, VT | Sam.comstock@uvm.edu |

A Final Note

The next year bring many challenges and opportunities. Among the many housing and environmental health issues concerns that require our attention.

1. Escalating energy costs and the need to reintroduce energy use and conservation and alternatives.
2. Disturbingly high rate of home foreclosures and the need to educate present and future home owners about housing finance.
3. Environmentally healthy and healthy housing issues especially lead, radon, carbon monoxide, mold, safe homes and building disaster resistant housing.
4. The aging of our population and their special housing needs plus the aging of our housing and infrastructure.

At a time when housing is a critically important issue, the profession is not meeting the demand for advanced degrees. The number of Ph.D. Housing programs has declined from 10 to four currently (Georgia, Minnesota, Oregon and Virginia Tech). We need new and innovative programs to meet the housing challenges of the next decade.

**Dr. Joseph L. Wysocki, National Program Leader
for Housing and Indoor environments.**

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