MOVING FORWARD

North Central Regional Center for Rural Development

2015 Annual Report
Greetings!

It has now been six years since Michigan State University became the host institution for the NCRCRD. This year was significant in that after more than five very productive years, Dr. Scott Loveridge stepped down as Director. However, it is important to note that Scott is not retiring! He wanted me to let you know that he is still active in community/regional development. Indeed, Scott is a tremendous asset to me and the Center as I take on the role of NCRCRD Director—I am a regular visitor to Scott’s new office, which is just down the hall. We offer our heartfelt thanks to Scott for his leadership these past years.

In the coming months, I will be visiting each of the 12 states in our region to meet colleagues and become more familiar with diverse challenges, needs, and opportunities in our region. As I begin these visits, I am reminded of the power of the Land Grant system—the networks, energy, talent and the collaborative potential.

I look forward to building on the Center’s current strengths and activities in the coming years. The grant funded programs such as CAPE and AAPI, which are highlighted in this report illustrate some of the ways the NCRCRD has leveraged core funds and land grant system assets to help build capacity in our region and across the nation. The human and social capital we help to create are essential components of thriving community systems.

While it is important to highlight the tremendous opportunity and successes as outlined in this report, I think it is prudent to acknowledge the headwinds we face. Across the nation, high levels of debt and systematic underfunding of promises made are creating stress. Consider two examples in our region. The Central Pension Fund recently announced that it was reducing benefits to more than 400,000 current and future retirees by about 50%; most of these beneficiaries live in our region. The impacts of these cuts will ripple through our communities in the coming years. Policymakers in Illinois struggle to identify politically feasible approaches to making good on promises to pay retiree benefits. These are two leading examples, but it seems that more are coming. Facing these realities head on will help us achieve our goal of supporting and helping to create resilient communities across the region. The foundation we work together to strengthen will serve us well in the coming years.

Sincerely,

Mark Skidmore, Ph.D
Director, NCRCRD
Professor and Morris Chair in State and Local Government Finance and Policy
Department of Agricultural Food, and Resource Economics/Department of Economics
NCRCRD Staff
Mark Skidmore, Director
Rosa Soliz, Communications & Logistics Associate
John Mann, Assistant Professor, AFRE
Jason Parker, Post Doctoral Fellow
Pao Xiong, Training Program Developer II, Hmong Language Resource Center

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Neal Merchen, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Richard Todd, Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis
C.Y. Wang, South Dakota State University

North Central Land Grant Colleges and Universities:

Original 1862 Land-Grand Institutions
Iowa State University
Kansas State University
Michigan State University
North Dakota State University
The Ohio State University
Purdue University
South Dakota State University
University of Illinois
University of Minnesota
University of Missouri
University of Nebraska
University of Wisconsin

1890 Historically Black Institutions
Central State University
Lincoln University

Hispanic-Serving Institutions
The center is eager to serve federally designated Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HIS) wishing to pursue rural-development activities. The HIS status depends on an enrollment threshold of 25 percent or more Hispanic Students, so qualifying institutions may vary from year to year.

1994 Native American Tribally Controlled Institutions
Bay Mills Community College, Brimley, MI
Cankdeska Cikana Community College, Fort Totten, ND
College of Menominee Nation, Keshena, WI
Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College, Cloquet, MN
Fort Berthold Community College, New Town, ND
Haskell Indian Nations University, Lawrence, KS
Keweenaw Bay Ojibwa Community College, Barage, MI
Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College, Hayward, WI
Leech Lake Tribal College, Cass Lake, MN
Little Priest Tribal College, Winnebago, NE
Nebraska Indian Community College, Macy, NE
Oglala Lakota College, Kyle, SD
Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College, Mt. Pleasant, MI
Sinte Gleska University, Mission, SD
Sisseton Wahpeton Community College, Agency Village, SD
Sitting Bull College, Fort Yates, ND
Turtle Mountain Community College, Belcourt, ND
United Tribes Technical College, Bismarck, ND
White Earth Tribal and Community College, Mahnomen, MN
**Small Grant Awards**

The NCRCRD is pleased to announce winners of its annual small grants competition. Each proposal goes through an independent review process. Referee comments are reviewed by the NCRCRD board, which makes final recommendations for what is to be included in the Center’s annual proposal to the USDA.

**Building Leadership to Address Latino Educational Underachievement in the Midwest**  
Pl: Martinez, R. (Michigan State University)  
Co-PI: Greder, K. (Iowa State University)

This interstate project will involve partners from Michigan, Iowa and North Carolina in building leadership in Lansing and Southeast Michigan to address the problem of educational underachievement among Latinos. The project will train 20 educational leaders in the components and delivery of Juntos para una Mejor Educación (Juntos), a program with success in promoting educational achievement among Latino participants in North Carolina, Oregon, Iowa and other states.

**Family Business Contributions to Sustainable and Entrepreneurial Rural Communities over Time**  
Pl: Linda Niehm, L. (Iowa State University)  
Co-Pls: Muske, G. and Fitzgerald, M. (North Dakota State University)

The specific purpose of this project is to enhance understanding of the entrepreneurial efforts of rural family businesses and the factors that contribute to the sustainability of their businesses and communities over time.

**Successful Disaster Recovery Using the Community Capitals Framework**  
Pl: Goreham, G. (North Dakota State University)  
Co-Pls: Klenow D. and Koch, B. (North Dakota State University), Redlin, M. (South Dakota State University), Bathke, D., Mueller, A., and Wall, N. (University of Nebraska), Mantonya, K. (Heartland Center), Kanti Paul, B. (Kansas State University), Naile, T. and Gill, D. (Oklahoma State University)

This project develops useable CCF methods/materials for community leaders and officials to inventory their communities’ assets that can be leveraged for disaster recovery.

**Cultivating Successful Wine and cider-Making Enterprises in the NC Region**  
Pl: Miller, M. (University of Wisconsin)  
Co-Pls: Cochran, D. (Iowa State University) and Steele, J. (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

The goal of this project is to identify a framework for educational support that meets the needs of growers and producers of wine and cider through a collaborative process involving the University of Wisconsin’s Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems and Dept. of Food Science and Iowa State University Department of Horticulture.
Identifying Economically Resilient Small City Downtowns
PI: Kennedy, Z. (University of Illinois)
Co-PIs: Haines, A. (University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point) and Schwartau, B. (University of Minnesota)

This project will help community economic development educators in the North Central Region provide local economic development and business leaders with information to support their improvement of the health, vitality and resiliency of their downtown districts.

Local Government Fiscal Stress and Innovative Response Strategies
PI: Das, B. (Iowa State University)
Co-PIs: Leatherman, J. (Kansas State University), Stallman, J. (University of Missouri), Maher, C. (University of Nebraska), Skidmore, M. and Scorsone, E. (Michigan State University) and Bressers, B. (Miller School of Journalism)

The goal of this study is to enhance county government fiscal management capacity within a context of general fiscal austerity. An integrated research/Extension initiative to gain a better understanding of state-local intergovernmental fiscal relations and innovative county government response strategies.

Exploring Programming Opportunities That Help Create Resilient Small City Downtowns
PI: Karl Martin (University of Wisconsin)
Co-PIs: Greg Wise and Bill Ryan (University of Wisconsin), Tim Borich (Iowa State University) and Ryan Pesch (University of Minnesota)

We will encourage multi-state collaboration to examine collaborative downtown revitalization programming opportunities. To address our community vitality challenge and specifically support the entrepreneurial communities priority areas.

Innovative Practices for Community Supported Ventures
PI: Ivan, D. (Michigan State University)
Co-PIs: Wise, G. (University of Wisconsin) and Walzer, N. (Northern Illinois University)

This project will identify best practices, isolate key factors associated with success, and then seek additional support to prepare materials that Extension personnel and other outreach organizations can work to help practitioners implement successful practices in their communities.

For full details on the small grants to go: http://ncrcrd.msu.edu/ncrcrd/grants
FY 14-15

Policy Projects:

Producing Energy, Protecting Food: The Impact of Shale Energy Development on Food Access in Rural Communities
Betz, M. (The Ohio State University); Co PI: Clark, J. (The Ohio State University)

Research will be done to study how sudden increases in population affects retail food access for original residents over the short and long term and how Ohio’s experience might differ from less population-dense shale plays, such as North Dakota and Pennsylvania. As a result of research, the goal is to build local capacity for community leaders to deal with the impact that shale development will have on food access.

Assessing Strategies for Water Supply in Bakken Region
Hearne, R. (North Dakota State University)

This research will assess alternative policies to address the water needs for the oil production and drilling operation in western North Dakota. The objective is to determine which policies, if permanently adopted, would bring the greatest long-term net benefits to western North Dakota.

Anticipatory Planning: Protections of Rural Culture and Physical Landscapes
Fischer, H. (North Dakota State University); Co PI: Fischer, D. (North Dakota State University)

The rural town development trends of natural resource extraction require preservation planning methods by which the physical, cultural, and historic content of the town is conserved through the boom, bust and recovery cycle. Using a cross-disciplinary research method combining macro-scale mapping of the Bakken region with expert and local interviews, NDSU researchers will explore resource-based town dynamics, analyze available preservation resources, and recommend preservation-planning solutions for the social, historical, physical, and economic environment in rural cultural landscapes.

Energy Boom and Bust Labor Market Impacts and Strategies
Ripplinger, D. (North Dakota State University)

Strategies to manage labor market impacts of fracking booms and busts will be developed and communicated. Strategies will be informed by a literature review of boom and bust cycles and their impacts on labor markets as well as labor-related community development strategies, and an analysis of changes in employment and wages in the Bakken region of North Dakota and Montana using a triple difference approach.
Impacts of Small Grants

“The NCRCRD small grant has allowed me to...”

“...pursue a line of research that I would not have prioritized otherwise.”
Michael Betz, The Ohio State University

“...conduct research in a rural area that was unlikely to be funded by our university.”
Heather Fischer, North Dakota State University

“...serve rural Tribal communities as a resource; assess community capacity and capabilities; help rural Tribal communities adapt and be resilient to roadblocks, and expand tribal and scholarly professional networks.”
Jubin Cheruvell, Michigan State University

“...to develop a more comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the research literature on community leadership and how community leadership training is conceptualized, organized, delivered and implemented by Extension in Iowa and Wisconsin. This knowledge has allowed us to develop, pilot and evaluate a curriculum that will help communities move beyond old models of leadership toward collaborative strategies that enable them to address the more complex needs of today’s communities.”
Deborah Tootle, Iowa State University

“...travel to the Bakken with Felix Fernando and further develop our understanding of the region.”
Robert Hearne, North Dakota State University

NCRCRD Policy Briefs


Eaton, W., 2015. Improving Public Engagement Around Emergent, Complex, or Contested Science and Technology Issues


Land Grant University Innovation Diffusion Enhancement (NCII00)


Under the leadership Dr. John Mann, the NCII00 project team accomplished several noteworthy goals in 2015. First, the inventor-investor matching program (AKA Innovations in Agriculture and Rural Development Webinar Series) featured innovations from nine faculty and six universities including Kansas State University, University of Illinois, Michigan State University, University of Minnesota, Purdue Universities and the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The marketing strategy to connect faculty-entrepreneurs to intermediate and/or end technology users was improved and resulted in making a funding connection between UW-Madison, Virginia Tech Seafood AREC, and The National Fisheries Institute. In the words of faculty-entrepreneur Mark Cook (UW-Madison), “thanks for making this important link, your program works!” In the coming year, at least ten faculty-entrepreneurs will be featured in the inventor-investor matching program. Members of the project team also developed and submitted the USDA/NIFA proposal “Launching Innovations from the University Starting Gate” this past spring; the team recently learned that the proposal was fully funded ($500,000)! This marks the first externally funded collaboration success under Mann’s leadership. Several new funding opportunities have also been identified. For example, the team intends to prepare a proposal for the NSF Research Coordination Network to improve the team’s abilities to connect with and guide faculty-entrepreneurs in the NC region and across the US. Mann also presented NCII00 sponsored research to the USDA SBIR program leaders in Washington DC, and he was a reviewer for two innovation-related panels, including the USDA SBIR and Farm Bureau Innovation Challenge programs. All of these experiences propelled the project team to begin developing new training/coaching tools that will be incorporated into the inventor-investor matching program. The team is positioned for years of productive work in the technology diffusion arena.
Serving the underserved and underrepresented AAPI community, the Asian American Pacific Islander Limited English Proficiency Resource Center (AAPILEPRC) works nationally to provide limited English proficient AAPIs access to resources through education and technical assistance to improve and build successful farms and rural enterprises. Established in 2015, the Center piloted the Hmong Language Media Resource (Hmong-LMR) for the Hmong language by collecting, translating, and recording into audio files resources, and putting it online for easy access.

One year after establishing the Hmong-LMR, the Center is extending its services to provide more AAPIs with limited English proficiency access to translated resources. The Center’s implementation of the Summer Internship Program beginning this summer will expand its resource collection and translation to the Filipino and Burmese language, working with USDA agencies in identifying priority resources.

As the Center’s work progresses, a key objective is to serve as a centralized location where limited English proficient AAPIs, organizations, and institutions are informed and thus able to utilize the different resources available to farmers, ranchers, and entrepreneurs living in rural America.

For more information, please visit http://www. hmongusda.info/home.html.
You might say Scott Loveridge has “history” with the NCRCRD. As a newly hired faculty member at the University of Minnesota, his first job was to learn about Land Grant approaches to community economic development. He avidly consumed many NCRCRD publications in his first weeks on the job. A few months later, his first grant proposal as a faculty member was funded by NCRCRD under Pete Korshing’s leadership. When Scott moved into an administrative role at West Virginia University, the NCRCRD helped get him connected with other administrators via the North Central CRD Program Leaders monthly conference calls under Cornelia Flora, who warmly welcomed him even though he was not working in the region. Soon after he transitioned to Michigan State University, he took a seat on the NCRCRD Board of Directors, culminating in service as Chair of the Board. Shortly after his service on the board ended, an opportunity to compete to host the Center arose, and Scott led the successful bid. He ultimately agreed to spend a few years helping the Center become established in its new home.

In his six years as director, Scott initiated a number of changes that have helped solidify the NCRCRD and its sister Centers, (Southern Rural Development Center, Western Rural Development Center, and Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development) as leaders in rural development nationally.

Confronted with the challenge of connecting with stakeholders over such a wide geography, Scott implemented one of the first webinar series in the US. The series, focusing on land grant strategies for working on rural development issues, was rapidly imitated by other groups around the country on various topics.

Scott also adapted the technology for use in connecting faculty to potential investors in agricultural technology, and for conducting focus groups with experts and key informants. These innovations helped several faculty obtain competitive grants. The webinars also became a natural venue for teams of North Central Land Grant professionals to report out on the work they executed under the popular NCRCRD small grants program, so that others might gain from their experiences.

Scott also helped the four Centers harness the power of the Land Grant network to deliver national programs. Under his vision, the four centers met in Washington DC on a regular basis to plan, program, and coordinate partnerships. The result was increased national program implementation under collaborative four-center programs, including:

- **Stronger Economies Together**, a USDA Rural Development partnership to help groups of counties use data to plan coordinated economic development activities.
- **The National Agricultural and Rural Development Policy Center**, a USDA-NIFA competitive grant that launched a vehicle for faculty across the nation to communicate their findings to policy makers.
- **Community Assessment and Education to Promote Behavioral Health Planning and Evaluation (CAPE)**, a joint project with USDA-NIFA and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Agency developing methods to help communities address issues through local initiatives.
- **The Asian-American and Pacific Islander Resource Center**, a multi-agency providing accessibility for rural people who lack English language capabilities. An annual summary of North Central Extension Community Development Impacts that is widely recognized as a standard-bearer for communicating the value of the Land Grant system.

Scott also became an informal spokesperson for the RRDCs on matters related to the 1994 institutions based in tribal areas. The North Central region hosts more 1994s than any other region, and he became active in networking with them through site visits and engagement in their annual meeting.

Moving forward, Scott is a tremendous resource for the NCRCRD on current and future projects, and we plan to continue working with him for many years to come! We offer a big thanks to Scott for his service these past years to the North-Central region and wish him well in his new endeavors.
Dr. David Paul Olson, age 73, died on February 12, 2016, after a nine month battle with cancer.

David was born in Sioux Falls, SD on February 7, 1943. He grew up in Groton, SD. David was an excellent student and earned seven degrees in a variety of areas. His four graduate degrees were an M. Divinity from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, an MSW (in Community Development) from Washington University, St. Louis, an M. Ed. from Kansas State University, and his PhD in Sociology from South Dakota State University.

David was employed in a variety of positions over his career. He served as a Community Developer in University City, MO; Development Officer for the Lutheran Music Program; Director of Community Development for the Kansas City Neighborhood Alliance; and Community Development Program Director for SDSU Extension since 2011.

Dave’s quiet and insightful problem-solving approach to community issues will be sorely missed.

David will be remembered for his generosity and caregiving to others, love of gardening, and skill with making candles, wine, and beer.

Dusan Paredes has been a visiting scholar at MSU, NCRCRD from 2013 to 2016. Dr. Paredes is with the Universidad Catolica del Norte, Chile.

Dusan’s research focused on several topics related with rural development in the United States. His first research analyzes the impact of natural gas production on the county labor markets in United States. In particular, this work shows the imperceptible impact of this economic activity on income and employment growth in Pennsylvania. These results were published in Energy Economics and received significant attention due to the several efforts made for authors in capturing the causal effect of this technology.

A second research line is related with the estimation of urban rural cost of living differentials across counties in U.S. This paper carries out a phone survey to register the Big Mac price along the 50 states using a rural stratified survey. The results indicate that rural areas barely show negative cost of living differentials in comparison with urban zones.

Finally, he also worked as co-author in the research oriented to identify innovation clusters in rural areas for the U.S. This document work applies several spatial econometrics techniques to identify those rural counties able to generate innovation without an urban neighborhood around them. In summary, his participation as research scholar has generated around five scientific documents during this period.

“Working here at MSU, NCRCRD has been a great experience, the center is a great resource, and I was provided a quiet peaceful office station where I could focus on my research.”
After a very productive year working at the Center on the CAPE project, Courtney Cuthbertson has started a new position in the Health and Nutrition Institute at Michigan State University Extension.

As an Evaluation Specialist, Courtney is working primarily with the Nutrition and Physical Activity work group to lead evaluations for SNAP-Education and Extended Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) for the state of Michigan. Fortunately, she will continue part-time on the CAPE technical committee. Courtney has been a tremendous asset to the Center and the region and we wish her well in her new role at MSU Extension!

**CAPE**

Community Assessment and Education to Promote Behavioral Health Planning and Evaluation

**Phase II**

The NCRCRD is spearheading the national project Community Assessment and Education to Promote Behavioral Health Planning and Evaluation. The US is undergoing rapid changes in the behavioral health. Veterans are returning with PTSD, suburbanites are drifting from abuse of prescription pain killers to heroin, an array of new unregulated drugs is being sold to vulnerable people, and state-level policies regarding elicit substances are evolving.

The NCRCRD and the other three Regional Rural Development Centers are partnering with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and the USDA’s National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA) to design and test new ways to provide early warning of emerging community-level behavioral health issues across the nation.

The project has five primary components: 1) several communities across the nation have recruited and engaged knowledgeable individuals to complete a biweekly and frequently updated survey of community behavioral health; 2) several other communities are developing and testing innovative early warning systems to detect changes in mental health; 3) the research team is also developing forecasting models using secondary data and social media data sources to predict changes in behavioral health at the subnational level in real time; and 4) the team is developing and will deliver a national mental health literacy curriculum to extension professionals and community partners.
Webinars

For webinar archives or upcoming webinars go to: http://ncrcrd.msu.edu/ncrcrd/webinars

Choosing to Share Your Farm: Farmer and Community Approaches to Agritourism
I. McKinnon (University of Wisconsin Stout)

Are We Entrepreneurs?
C. Reimers-Hild (Rural Futures Institute, University of Nebraska), C. Hancock (Nebraska Extension) and G. Muske (North Dakota State University)

Missouri-Illinois Step Up to Leadership Program Impact Evaluation
J. Reed Adams, K. Keller & W. Majee (University of Missouri), A. Silvis (University of Illinois) & G. Donahue (Missouri Association for Community Action)

The Impact of Shale Energy Development on Food Access in Rural Communities
M. Betz & J. Clark (The Ohio State University)

Biofuel Feedstock Supply Coordination in the North: Options and Obstacles
S. Joshi, B. Ross & S. Loveridge (Michigan State University)

Anticipatory Preservation Planning: Protections of Rural Cultural and Physical Landscapes
H. Fischer & D. Fischer (North Dakota State University)

An Assessment Tool for Improving Public Engagement Around Complex, Emergent and Contested Science and Technology Issues
W. Eaton (Michigan State University)

Strategies for Developing Successful CRED Extension Programs: Perspectives of a Program Leader
T. Borich (Iowa State University)

The Opportunities and Challenges of Sustaining Community Food Systems
T. Rice (Kansas State University) and M. Walk (Michigan State University)

Persistent & Emerging Issues in Rural Education: Insights from Recent Economics of Education Research
E. Mykerezi (University of Minnesota)

Developing Local and Regional Food Systems in Nebraska
C. Francis (University of Nebraska), J. Bailey & K. Starkweather (Center for Rural Affairs)

Piketty’s Capital & Inequality of Income and Wealth
J. Coggins (University of Minnesota)

Two Years Out: A Review of the Native American Institute’s Project on the Potential and Impact of the Hearth Act
G. Henry, T. Mrozowski & A. Haviland (Michigan State University)

Evaluating Impacts of Natural Resource Development
M. Redlin and J. Jacquet (South Dakota State University)

Arts and Community: Funding Opportunities and Resources from the National Endowment for the Arts
J. Schupbach, National Endowment for the Arts

Funding and Sustaining Local Food Systems in Eight Midwest Communities
L. Naeve & C. Hartsook (Iowa State University)
Innovations in Agriculture and Rural Development

Supporting Rural Business Success Through New Media Marketing Research
Laura Baker and Hikaru Peterson (Kansas State University) and Cheryl Boyer (Oklahoma State University)

Subsurface Water Retention Technology (SWRT) for Crop Improvement on Coarse Textured Soils
Alvin Smucker, Michigan State University

Integrated Bioprocessing Research Laboratory: From Benchtop to Proof of Concept
Hans Blaschek & Vijay Singh, University of Illinois

Soil functional maps for crop management and planning
Phillip Owens, Purdue University

C3d: Moving Laboratory Research on Pathogen Detection into Commercial Practice
Michael Ladisch and Eduardo Ximenes, Purdue University

The Diverse Roles of Universities in Regional Innovation Ecosystems: Case Studies from University of California Campus
Martin Kenney, University of California

Prairie AquaTech: Improving animal health, nutrition, and production efficiency
Bill Gibbons and Mike Brown, South Dakota State University

Pan Genome Systems: Developing a novel and effective vaccine for Johne’s Disease
Adel Talaat, University of Wisconsin-Madison & Jon Sandbrook, President of Pan Genome Systems

Community Assessment and Educational Behavioral Health Planning and Evaluation Webinars
For CAPE archived or upcoming webinars go to: http://www.healthbench.info/webinars.html

The Policy Adoption Model: A Framework for Mobilizing Communities to Advance Local Tobacco Control Policies
Monty Messex, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health/Tobacco Control and Prevention program

Forecasting Behavioral Health Outcomes Using Google Trends
Jasin Parker, Michigan State University

Community Health Needs Assessments in Rural Communities Using Principles of Community Based Participatory Research
Catherine Woodyard, Tallahatchie Wellness Center

Behavior Change Interventions to Improve the Health of Racial and Ethnic Minority Populations: A Tool Kit of Adaptation Approaches
Emma Davidson (University of Edinburgh) and Jing Jing Liu (University of Toronto)

Return on Investment: A Fuller Assessment of the Benefits and Cost Savings of the U.S. Publicly Funded Family Planning Program
Adam Sonfield, Guttmacher Institute, Washington, DC

Community Behavioral Health: There’s an App for that!
Courtney Cuthbertson and Jessica Tess (Michigan State University)
The North Central Regional Center for Rural Development (NCRCRD) is one of four regional centers in the United States that work to improve the quality of life in rural communities. With funding from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture and the land-grant universities in our 12-state region, the NCRCRD helps Extension professionals, researchers and other partners address issues that affect rural areas across the region. The center provides leadership in rural development by linking research with education and community outreach to facilitate, integrate, link and coordinate research and action for rural America.

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Mission of the North Central Regional Center for Rural Development: Strengthening the ability of the land grant university system to execute its rural development mission.