

2005 Tennessee Community Development Report

Tennessee Natural Resource Leadership Institute

Planning to offer an initial course in 2006 continues. An advisory council that includes state and federal agencies and private sector representatives has been organized. We are seeking outside funding and agency financial support with the council's assistance. The Institute is modeled after the successful programs in North Carolina, Virginia, and other states.

Developing Rural Businesses (DRB)

DRB is a two-year effort of the Center for Profitable Agriculture; financial support is provided by USDA Rural Development. The program is designed to assist farm families who are considering value-added agricultural enterprises. It targets 19 counties in the Upper Cumberland region of the state that were historically dependent on tobacco production as a major component of their agricultural economy. For more information, go to <http://cpa.utk.edu/DRB>.

Natural Resource Policy Center

The Center is a partnership between the Departments of Agricultural Economics and Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries and is initially supported by Federal funding. It will focus on research and outreach to assist in developing and implementing effective natural resource management policies, such as forest management in the Upper Cumberland region and wetland management in West Tennessee. Also, the College of Engineering will give leadership to air quality research in the Great Smoky Mountain National Park.

University Economic Development Initiative

This effort is a response to the new University president's challenge for UT to become more engaged across the state. The purpose is to (1) highlight ongoing activities, (2) identify and pursue new opportunities, and (3) foster collaboration with other groups and agencies. Leadership is provided by a committee of Deans and other University leaders, co-chaired by our Extension dean and the Assistant Vice President of the Institute for Public Service. For more information, go to <http://economicdevelopment.tennessee.edu/default.asp>.

Economic Development Position Available



The Extension economic development position has been reannounced. Information is on the web at <http://economics.ag.utk.edu/>

Restructuring Continues

Charles Norman, Dean of Extension, also assumed the position of Vice Chancellor for University Outreach and Continuing Education in addition to his Extension duties on August 1. He will report both to the VP for Agriculture for his Extension duties and the Chancellor for his continuing education duties. Enhanced communication and cooperation is an initial goal.