

2003 Tennessee Community Development Report

The loss of Alan Barefield to the SRDC has significantly reduced CRD programming and state specialist support. Much of our programming is focused on natural resources/environmental improvement.

Kentucky-Tennessee Institute for Sustainable Development

Plans are well underway for the second Institute patterned after the successful 2002 Institute in Jabez, KY. It will be held April 13-15 and October 19-21, 2004 at Paris Landing State Park, TN

Tennessee's Envirothon Challenge

The Envirothon has been described as an environmental olympics. Teams of three to five high school students learn about five natural resource areas and compete in solving real world problems. In addition to learning about an array of environmental issues, participants learn about effectively working in teams. Extension faculty prepare study material and conduct challenges at both the regional and the state levels. More than 600 high school students and their teacher-coaches participate annually, learning about and applying knowledge of natural resource issues while developing leadership capabilities.

Forestry Field Days

A team of Agricultural Extension Service agents in middle Tennessee conducted Forestry Field Days to increase the use of best management practices (BMPs) in forest management and timber harvest. The program emphasizes BMPs that generate economic benefits while reducing soil erosion that degrades water quality. The Field Days have been attended by 175 forest owners and managers. Based on participant surveys, projected savings totaled \$443,000 or about \$42.55 per acre. Increased incomes and improved water quality both create community benefits.

Introduction to Stream Restoration and Storm Water BMP Workshops

The Tennessee Agricultural Extension Service collaborated in planning and conducting an Introduction to Stream Restoration workshop and Storm Water BMP Academy with Extension educators, federal agencies and state organizations from North Carolina, Georgia and Alabama as well as Tennessee. The workshops were held in Huntsville, Alabama. The stream workshop had 48 participants and the storm water academy had 28 participants. The audience was diverse and included individuals ranging from private businesses to non-profit groups to local, state and federal agencies. Evaluations from both workshops were all highly positive, citing the information provided as practical, useful and necessary for improved natural resource management. Two multi-state stream restoration workshops are planned for Tennessee, building on the partnerships and experiences of these programs.

State Rural Development Committee

The Committee continues to give leadership to rural development and provides a forum for communication and collaboration among member agencies. Hickman County received the annual committee award in 2003 for their successful efforts to create a new fairgrounds and community pavilion. Lewis County was selected as a pilot area for targeted assistance. Efforts to date include a youth entrepreneurship workshop, an adult leadership development program, and development of a strategic plan. The committee is committed to a five year effort in Lewis County.