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New Perspectives on the Next Generation of Farm Households

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Plan for today

- Introduction ~ 10 min
- Shoshanah Inwood, Community Development & Applied Economics, U of Vermont ~ 20 min
- Michelle Howell, Hickory Lane Farm ~ 20 min
- Open discussion ~ 35 min

Rural Urban Interface

Within community distance
of a large urban area

Communities containing a
mix of long-term and
newer residents

Low density development

Mix of urban and rural land
uses



Dynamics of Farming at the RUI

- STRESSES:
 - Land Markets
 - Urban pressure bids up price of land
 - Social Conflicts
 - Neighbors & Nuisance Complaints
 - Agribusiness Infrastructure
 - Dropping below a 'critical mass' of farms
 - Inputs, Services, Processing, Wholesale Markets

Yet the RUI significantly contributes to US agriculture

- Represent less than 20% of all counties
- Account for 41% of U.S. agricultural sales
 - 95% of U.S. fruit and nut sales
 - 95% of U.S. nursery greenhouse sales
 - 84% of U.S. vegetable sales

2007 U.S. Census of Agriculture Data



Dynamics of Farming at the RUI

- OPPORTUNITIES
 - New marketing outlets
 - Farmers markets, roadside stands, U-pick
 - Nursery/Greenhouse operations
 - Urban customer preferences (organic, local, etc.)
 - Leveraging land values
 - Collateral for loans & investment
 - Selling small parcels to raise cash
 - Security that underlying assets retain value

Ag at the Rural-Urban Interface

- Offers opportunity (such as growing interest in local and regional foods) and challenges (such as land use competition)
 - Is very important to US agriculture
 - Leading one to think that to protect farms we should focus only on access to and creation of new markets and
- Facing these conditions, the success of agriculture at the RUI depends on the creation of new farm enterprises, *growth of existing farms, and passing farms down through generations.* (We have relied on the succession of the family farm.)
 - Which require additional considerations

Our recommendation is based on work at these study sites

Portland, OR

Grand Rapids, MI

Lewiston, ME

Columbus, OH

Frederick County, MD
DC Metro

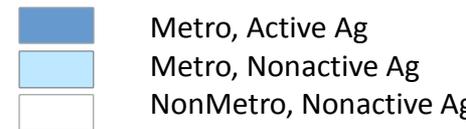
Salt Lake City,
UT

Honolulu, HI

Atlanta, GA

Louisville, KY

Miami-
Ft. Lauderdale, FL



The growth and persistence of the **farm household** depends on



- Economic action can be based on family needs
- Differences between multi-generational and first generation farm households

Must revisit how we address the farm household to maintain the landscape

- A focus not just on getting new farmers started, but on the growth and replication of these farms
- The complexity of the Farm Business + Family = Farm Household
- First generation farmers have different motivations and socialization
 - This calls for examination of general trends in the workforce and perhaps a focus on workforce development
 - With limited resources, who do we invest in making more first generation farms become multi-generation farms

Our current work.

Small and Medium Scale Farm Growth,
Reproduction and Persistence at the Rural-
Urban Interface: Balancing Family, Goals,
Opportunities and Risks

- Find out more:

<http://senr.osu.edu/research/ag-and-food-systems>



Exurban farmers' perceptions of land use policy effectiveness: Implications for the next generation of policy development

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