

Rural America

USDA/ERS • Volume 17, Issue 4 • Winter 2002

Douglas E. Bowers, Executive Editor
Carolyn Rogers, Associate Editor
Dale Simms, Managing Editor
Victor B. Phillips, Jr., Layout and Design

Rural America (ISSN 0271-2171) is published four times per year by USDA's Economic Research Service.

Rural America welcomes letters to the editor. Address editorial correspondence and inquiries to the Executive Editor, *Rural America*, ERS-FRED, Room 2171, 1800 M Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036-5831; or call 202-694-5398.

Contents of this magazine may be reprinted without permission, but the editors would appreciate acknowledgment of such use and an advance copy of the material to be reprinted. Opinions expressed within do not necessarily represent the policies of USDA. Use of commercial and trade names does not imply approval or constitute endorsement by USDA.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call 202-720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity provider and employer.

Contents

Feature Articles

- 2** Understanding Rural Population Loss
David A. McGranahan and Calvin L. Beale
- 12** Nonmetro Recreation Counties: Their Identification and Rapid Growth
Kenneth M. Johnson and Calvin L. Beale
- 20** Federal Funding in the Delta
Richard J. Reeder and Samuel D. Calhoun
- 31** Federal Funding in Appalachia and Its Three Subregions
Faqr S. Bagi, Richard J. Reeder, and Samuel D. Calhoun
- 38** Can Rural Employment Benefit From Changing Labor Skills in U.S. Processed Food Trade?
Gerald Schluter and Chinkook Lee
- 44** Economic Impact of Water/Sewer Facilities on Rural and Urban Communities
Faqr S. Bagi
- 50** Resource Conservation and Development Program Reaches a Milestone
Dwight M. Gadsby
- 55** Who Owns the Land? Agricultural Land Ownership by Race/Ethnicity
Jess Gilbert, Spencer D. Wood, and Gwen Sharp
- 63** How Does Growing U.S.-China Trade Affect Rural America?
Fred Gale

Rural Updates

- 70** *Migration:*
Nonmetro Migration Continues
Downward Trend
John Cromartie
- 74** *Rural Poverty:*
Rural Poverty at Record Low in 2000
Dean Jolliffe
- 78** *Jobs and Earnings:*
Rural Earnings Up in 2000, But Much Less Than Urban Earnings
Linda M. Ghelfi



On the cover:
Photo courtesy
EyeWire Photography and
Digital Stock.



