

RC&D

RESOURCE

CONSERVATION

& DEVELOPMENT

Partnerships Serving America's Communities



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service



JOB CREATION & RETENTION

MAY 2010

RC&D projects enhance the economic viability of their communities. The approximately 4,500 RC&D natural resource and community development projects completed annually help create, expand, and financially assist 6,000–7,000 businesses and create and retain 11,000–12,000 jobs every year.

Growing the Local Economy

Appalachian RC&D
Tennessee



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This RC&D conducts outreach and education projects that support the regional economy by encouraging consumers to purchase goods and products that are grown, crafted, and manufactured in eastern

Tennessee. The goal is to keep money in the community, helping retain and create jobs, contributing to the local tax base, and conserving natural resources. As an example of this effort, livestock producers in the Stony Creek Community of Carter County established a meat processing plant, creating three new jobs. The RC&D provided business counseling, planning, and capital acquisition services that resulted in a business plan and a \$10,000 Tennessee Department of Agriculture grant.

Agri-tourism Opportunities

Flint Hills RC&D
Kansas



Photo courtesy Flint Hills Tourism Coalition.

The RC&D formed the Flint Hills Tourism Coalition, an alliance of tourism marketing agencies from the 22 Flint Hills counties and the Kansas Division of Tourism. Since its inception, the Flint Hills Tourism Coalition has conducted formal training programs for farmers,

ranchers, and other rural landowners and business operators on how to develop or expand an agri-tourism or nature-based business. The coalition developed a marketing campaign that included brochures, workshops, newsletters, and a Web site. It also helped plan and place four Flint Hills monuments on Interstate 70 and the Kansas Turnpike, with additional related signage throughout the Kansas Flint Hills. This effort has resulted in the hiring of 1 full-time agri-tourism coordinator and 8 part-time employees, as well as the creation of 11 new businesses.

Other RC&D project snapshots from across the nation...

All photos courtesy of USDA unless otherwise noted.

New Marketing Avenues

Hudson-Mohawk RC&D New York



When processing barriers were threatening the entire New York livestock industry and businesses were collapsing, this RC&D helped form Northeast Livestock Processing Service Company LLC (NELPSC). NELPSC is a company run by farmers to help other livestock farmers resolve processing issues and to assist them with marketing. As a result, the RC&D has helped 94 livestock businesses survive, retaining 110 jobs. It has also helped 70 businesses expand and 2 new businesses come into existence, creating 14 new jobs.

The RC&Ds work to increase conservation and natural resource

efforts and strive to enhance the environment as well as the standard of living in local areas. The Oklahoma RC&Ds are a valuable resource to the state and a great partner in helping grow jobs and support our agricultural producers statewide.

Terry Peach
Oklahoma Secretary of Agriculture



Expanding Business Opportunities

Buckeye Hills RC&D Ohio

The Shriner Strawberry Farm was looking to expand their business, but lacked the funds needed to purchase necessary equipment. This RC&D helped the owners obtain financing to purchase the equipment through USDA's Revolving Fund Program. As a result, the business has grown and now employs 75 additional part-time workers during harvest season each year.

Community Infrastructure Assistance

Central Montana RC&D Montana

In 2007 the Bull Mountain Coal Mine near Roundup, Montana, was sold and most of its 150 workers were laid off. Signal Peak Energy, LLC, purchased the mine and began building a coal preparation plant with silos and other equipment. With its vast network of partnerships, this RC&D served as a liaison with local government, helping with public information and identifying funding sources to assist with community improvements to enhance economic development opportunities. By 2009, the business had expanded, the workforce had reached 190 people, and coal was being shipped out on a completed railroad spur.

Look for other fact sheets highlighting RC&D projects in the areas of:

- Self-Sustaining Communities
- Conserving Natural Resources
- Sustainable Agriculture Production
- Child Nutrition
- Renewable Energy

You can make a difference!

Get involved with an RC&D in your area.

To volunteer for projects with your local RC&D council, submit ideas of your own, or find an RC&D council near you, visit <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/rcd> or www.rcdnet.org, or contact your local USDA Service Center.