

**V(A). Planned Program (Summary)**

**Program # 5**

**1. Name of the Planned Program**

Sustainable Communities

**V(B). Program Knowledge Area(s)**

1. Program Knowledge Areas and Percentage

| KA Code | Knowledge Area   | %1862 Extension | %1890 Extension | %1862 Research | %1890 Research |
|---------|--|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 601     | Economics of Agricultural Production and Farm Management | 25%             |                 | 0%             |                |
| 602     | Business Management, Finance, and Taxation               | 25%             |                 | 0%             |                |
| 605     | Natural Resource and Environmental Economics             | 25%             |                 | 0%             |                |
| 608     | Community Resource Planning and Development              | 25%             |                 | 0%             |                |
|         | <b>Total</b>   | 100%            |                 | 0%             |                |

**V(C). Planned Program (Inputs)**

1. Actual amount of professional FTE/SYs expended this Program

| Year: 2010 | Extension |      | Research |      |
|------------|-----------|------|----------|------|
|            | 1862      | 1890 | 1862     | 1890 |
| Plan       | 1.0       | 0.0  | 0.0      | 0.0  |
| Actual     | 1.5       | 0.0  | 0.0      | 0.0  |

2. Actual dollars expended in this Program (includes Carryover Funds from previous years)

| Extension           |                | Research       |                |
|---------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Smith-Lever 3b & 3c | 1890 Extension | Hatch          | Evans-Allen    |
| 60042               | 0              | 0              | 0              |
| 1862 Matching       | 1890 Matching  | 1862 Matching  | 1890 Matching  |
| 77163               | 0              | 0              | 0              |
| 1862 All Other      | 1890 All Other | 1862 All Other | 1890 All Other |
| 0                   | 0              | 0              | 0              |

**V(D). Planned Program (Activity)**

**1. Brief description of the Activity**

- Study and promote commercial farm viability
- Promote responsible stewardship of agricultural lands
- Work with municipalities and community members to manage natural and economic resources wisely
- Teach and promote sustainable development techniques and management to communities
- Promote, enhance and expand sustainable tourism in the state of Rhode Island

**2. Brief description of the target audience**

Farmers/ Farm Organizations

RI Department of Environmental Management (RI DEM), Division of Agriculture

RI Center for Agricultural Promotion & Education

Other Agricultural Service Providers

Tourism Councils and Tourism Businesses

Land Trusts

Policy Makers and Municipal Leaders

Grassroots and Community Organizations

**V(E). Planned Program (Outputs)**

**1. Standard output measures**

| 2010          | Direct Contacts Adults | Indirect Contacts Adults | Direct Contacts Youth | Indirect Contacts Youth |
|---------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Plan</b>   | 500                    | 10000                    | 0                     | 500                     |
| <b>Actual</b> | 1045                   | 19500                    | 250                   | 0                       |

**2. Number of Patent Applications Submitted (Standard Research Output)**

**Patent Applications Submitted**

Year: 2010

Plan: 0

Actual: 0

**Patents listed**

**3. Publications (Standard General Output Measure)**

**Number of Peer Reviewed Publications**

| 2010        | Extension | Research | Total |
|-------------|-----------|----------|-------|
| <b>Plan</b> | 0         | 0        |       |

|               |   |   |   |
|---------------|---|---|---|
| <b>Actual</b> | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|---------------|---|---|---|

**V(F). State Defined Outputs**

**Output Target**

**Output #1**

**Output Measure**

- Conduct Community based workshops

| <b>Year</b> | <b>Target</b> | <b>Actual</b> |
|-------------|---------------|---------------|
| 2010        | 5             | 6             |

**Output #2**

**Output Measure**

- Professional training

| <b>Year</b> | <b>Target</b> | <b>Actual</b> |
|-------------|---------------|---------------|
| 2010        | 10            | 12            |

**Output #3**

**Output Measure**

- Public presentations

| <b>Year</b> | <b>Target</b> | <b>Actual</b> |
|-------------|---------------|---------------|
| 2010        | 5             | 13            |

**Output #4**

**Output Measure**

- Website development and refinement

| <b>Year</b> | <b>Target</b> | <b>Actual</b> |
|-------------|---------------|---------------|
| 2010        | 1             | 1             |

**Output #5**

**Output Measure**

- Student Training

| <b>Year</b> | <b>Target</b> | <b>Actual</b> |
|-------------|---------------|---------------|
| 2010        | 2             | 3             |

**V(G). State Defined Outcomes**

**V. State Defined Outcomes Table of Content**

| O. No. | OUTCOME NAME   |
|--------|--|
| 1      | Provide information and training to farmers and rural landowners on estate planning strategies and economic development opportunities.   |
| 2      | Improve viability of agriculture in the state of Rhode Island and southern New England through farmer education/information and consulting concerning sustainable agricultural practices, value-added products and agri-tourism. |
| 3      | Consult with grassroots and municipal bodies to identify planning processes and strategies that preserve viable farmland, promote sustainability and economic development  |
| 4      | Participate in local and regional collaborations to identify strategies that preserve active farmland and promote agricultural sustainability and economic development.  |

## **Outcome #1**

### **1. Outcome Measures**

Provide information and training to farmers and rural landowners on estate planning strategies and economic development opportunities.

### **2. Associated Institution Types**

- 1862 Extension
- 1862 Research

### **3a. Outcome Type:**

Change in Action Outcome Measure

### **3b. Quantitative Outcome**

| <b>Year</b> | <b>Quantitative Target</b> | <b>Actual</b> |
|-------------|----------------------------|---------------|
| 2010        | 1                          | 170           |

### **3c. Qualitative Outcome or Impact Statement**

#### **Issue (Who cares and Why)**

Rhode Island has some of the most valuable farmland in the country as well as some of the highest estate taxes. Farmers (or the children of farmers) who have not engaged in thoughtful estate planning often find themselves facing unmanageable taxation and the loss of their family farms. Unfortunately, these farms are often sold to the highest bidders: developers. By providing farmers with sensible, farm-centered estate planning services and information on alternative economic development opportunities, we will be able to help keep farmers farming.

#### **What has been done**

The state agricultural extension agent continues to refer appropriate farmers to SEMAP, an organization in Massachusetts that offers estate planning/land transfer services. She has sent half a dozen farmers to that organization to receive assistance in issues specifically related to land transfer. The RI state extension agent also participated in a Land Preservation Summit held in RI to discuss land transfer/estate planning. Estate planning was also an element addressed in the Exploring the Small Farm Dream course co-sponsored by URI Cooperative Extension. The state extension agent has also assisted and partnered with others to write grant proposals around economic development.

### **Results**

Solid results in this area can take 5-10 years to see, so we are still at the beginning. However, fifteen beginning farmers at the Exploring the Small Farm Dream heard that land transfer needs to be considered at the beginning of an agricultural venture as a form of "exit strategy." At least two other individuals were referred to estate planning specialists by the agricultural extension agent. Additional partnerships are being developed to improve estate planning and economic development in RI.

## **4. Associated Knowledge Areas**

| <b>KA Code</b> | <b>Knowledge Area</b>                                    |
|----------------|--|
| 601            | Economics of Agricultural Production and Farm Management |
| 602            | Business Management, Finance, and Taxation               |
| 605            | Natural Resource and Environmental Economics             |

## **Outcome #2**

### **1. Outcome Measures**

Improve viability of agriculture in the state of Rhode Island and southern New England through farmer education/information and consulting concerning sustainable agricultural practices, value-added products and agri-tourism.

### **2. Associated Institution Types**

- 1862 Extension
- 1862 Research

### **3a. Outcome Type:**

Change in Condition Outcome Measure

### **3b. Quantitative Outcome**

| <b>Year</b> | <b>Quantitative Target</b> | <b>Actual</b> |
|-------------|----------------------------|---------------|
| 2010        | 1                          | 20000         |

### **3c. Qualitative Outcome or Impact Statement**

#### **Issue (Who cares and Why)**

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Over the past couple years, Rhode Island farmers and agricultural service providers have become increasingly aware that agricultural viability is as dependent upon public support as it is upon their own skill and knowledge. Educating neighbors about what agriculture is--and is not--has become as important a job as educating farmers on production issues. This year, therefore, URI Sustainable Communities has taken advantage of opportunities to train farmers' neighbors while remaining committed to providing agricultural production and business services.

### **What has been done**

URI Cooperative Extension had some exciting opportunities for education. The state extension agent worked with the host of the Local "Rhode Show" television program to film a segment on RI agriculture and participated in Agriculture Day at the Roger William Park Zoo's Party for the Planet. She presented at state and regional agricultural meetings on topics from cover crops to meat production, coordinated the second Exploring the Small Farm Dream Course, and provided consultation services for farmers via telephone, email, and farm visits. The RI Ag Notes, the extension newsletter, is widely-read; and the Sustainable Agriculture website is increasingly becoming a first stop for farmers in the state.

### **Results**

URI Cooperative Extension received positive feedback from many who saw the airing of the Rhode Show. Due to the nature of television, it is difficult to quantify the total effect of the program, but the agricultural community feels that public awareness of agriculture's benefits to the state is critical. Evaluations distributed at each educational event verify that attendees are gaining new information and are considering how that information can benefit themselves and their farms. Attendance at URI-sponsored trainings continues to increase, suggesting that the information presented is valuable and timely. We expect to see greater adoption of recommended practices as time goes by.

#### 4. Associated Knowledge Areas

| KA Code | Knowledge Area   |
|---------|--|
| 601     | Economics of Agricultural Production and Farm Management |
| 602     | Business Management, Finance, and Taxation               |
| 605     | Natural Resource and Environmental Economics             |
| 608     | Community Resource Planning and Development              |

#### Outcome #3

##### 1. Outcome Measures

Consult with grassroots and municipal bodies to identify planning processes and strategies that preserve viable farmland, promote sustainability and economic development

##### 2. Associated Institution Types

- 1862 Extension
- 1862 Research

##### 3a. Outcome Type:

Change in Condition Outcome Measure

##### 3b. Quantitative Outcome

| Year | Quantitative Target | Actual |
|------|---------------------|--------|
| 2010 | 1                   | 375    |

##### 3c. Qualitative Outcome or Impact Statement

###### **Issue (Who cares and Why)**

Rhode Island's agricultural land is one of the state's most important natural resource and community assets. It is also the most expensive agricultural land in the country, leaving it incredibly vulnerable to development. If we are to have healthy communities--physically, emotionally, economically--we need to educate our municipal leaders on the necessity for maintaining natural resources and community assets such as our farms. The Rhode Island Agricultural Partnership (consisting of over 2 dozen participating organizations including the state agricultural extension agent), the state Division of Agriculture, the agricultural extension agent, and more have united to help create solutions.

### **What has been done**

The Rhode Island Agricultural Partnership hired American Farmland Trust to develop a 5-year strategic plan for RI agriculture to be included in the State Guide Plan. Three farmer listening sessions were held to determine the greatest needs of farmers; land access/preservation was a high priority. The state extension agent worked with the State Conservation Committee to host a Tax Assessor Training for all the town assessors to encourage use of the Farm, Forest, Open Space values when taxing agricultural, forestry, and open space properties. URI helped host a presentation by Mike Hamm, a leader in the impact of agriculture and local foods on local communities.

### **Results**

American Farmland Trust is completing the final draft of the 5-year Strategic Plan for RI Agriculture with an expected roll-out date of May 2011. The plan has widespread approval from the state planner and the new director of the Department of Environmental Management; adoption is expected. A survey following the tax assessor training showed very positive results. Of the five municipalities that were not previously using those recommended values, two will recommend change in protocol to use the recommended values. Of the remaining three, two are currently using values that are lower than the recommended values. These activities are helping keep our land resources valued, open, and productive.

## **4. Associated Knowledge Areas**

| <b>KA Code</b> | <b>Knowledge Area</b>                                    |
|----------------|--|
| 601            | Economics of Agricultural Production and Farm Management |
| 602            | Business Management, Finance, and Taxation               |
| 605            | Natural Resource and Environmental Economics             |
| 608            | Community Resource Planning and Development              |

## **Outcome #4**

### **1. Outcome Measures**

Participate in local and regional collaborations to identify strategies that preserve active farmland and promote agricultural sustainability and economic development.

Not Reporting on this Outcome Measure

### **V(H). Planned Program (External Factors)**

#### **External factors which affected outcomes**

- Natural Disasters (drought, weather extremes, etc.)
- Economy
- Appropriations changes
- Public Policy changes
- Government Regulations
- Competing Public priorities
- Populations changes (immigration, new cultural groupings, etc.)

#### **Brief Explanation**

{No Data Entered}

### **V(I). Planned Program (Evaluation Studies and Data Collection)**

#### **1. Evaluation Studies Planned**

- Retrospective (post program)
- Before-After (before and after program)
- During (during program)
- Time series (multiple points before and after program)
- Case Study
- Comparisons between program participants (individuals, group, organizations) and non-participants
- Comparisons between different groups of individuals or program participants experiencing different levels of program intensity.
- Comparison between locales where the program operates and sites without program intervention

#### **Evaluation Results**

{No Data Entered}

#### **Key Items of Evaluation**

{No Data Entered}