

NE 162 - 2001 PROGRESS REPORT

ACCESSION NO: 0159942
PROJECT NO: DEL00340
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TITLE: RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: ALTERNATIVES IN THE
NEW COMPETITIVE ENVIRONMENT
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UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE

Progress Report:

Objective 1: Describe the changing economic structure.....

Research focused on factors that influenced individual support for local economic development. Logistic regression was used to analyze the survey data of 1,200 rural resident's opinions on economic development in their community. A second study is underway that is investigating employment growth in 146 nonmetropolitan counties in the Mid-Atlantic region. The study is examining the role of local economic development strategies in employment growth between 1990 and 2000 while controlling for traditional location theory variables. Secondary data is being combined with survey data of local economic development offices in the counties. The thesis will be finished in the summer of 2002.

Impact:

Local economic development involves initiated projects and programs as well as local community support. This research provides insights into the effectiveness of these programs and ways in which community support can be enhanced. Ultimately, these issues are important in the future well-being and growth in rural communities.

Publications:

George Guiragossian. 2001. Public Support for Local Economic Development in the Rural South. MS Thesis, University of Delaware.