

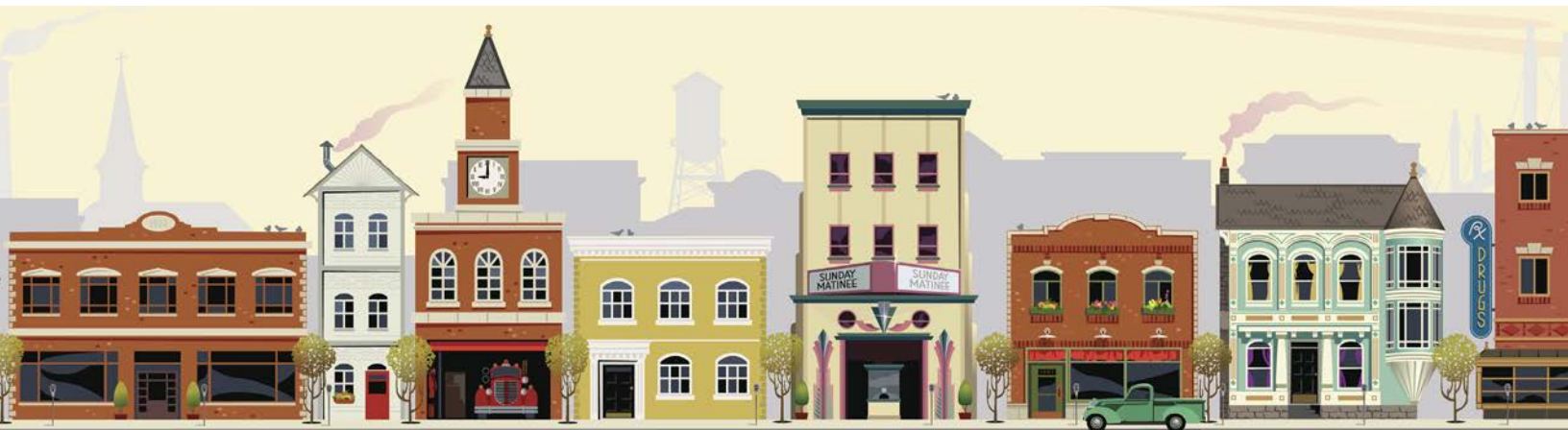


RURAL COMMUNITY HEALTH & RESILIENCE

The quality of rural life is affected by the migration of people into and out of rural communities, the evolution of agriculture and industry, local social organization, and public policy. A team of researchers from land-grant universities across the U.S. is examining the forces that shape rural communities and identifying emerging threats and opportunities.

As a collaborative interdisciplinary group, this project is tackling multifaceted issues in many states, including natural disasters, food deserts, local foods, climate change, diversity, jobs, housing, infrastructure, and disease. Researchers are also analyzing the impact of different development strategies on rural wealth creation, including natural resource-based strategies (such as energy production), amenity-based strategies (like tourism), and knowledge-based strategies (for example, attracting the creative class).

This research will guide more efficient investments, better use of public resources, and more effective policies and programs that will improve the sustainability and vitality of rural communities, which comprise 72% of the nation's land area and 46 million people.



RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS



Oregon researchers integrated high-resolution engineering models

with economic models to assess the direct and indirect impacts of tsunamis. Local businesses and residents now have more accurate predictions of damage and understand how to invest in disaster preparedness and recovery.

Missouri Extension taught the American Water Works Association



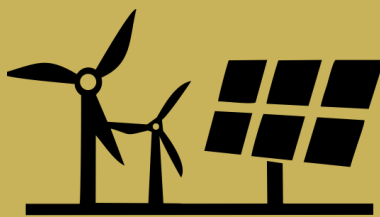
how to use a tool that helps water utility managers reduce the costs of water outages.



Ohio researchers examined the effects of opioid addiction on economic development potential.



Researchers in **Ohio, Tennessee, Idaho, and Oregon** are investigating the role of natural resource and energy policy on economic resilience in rural areas.



Researchers in **North Carolina** found counties that received USDA broadband loans had 11.2% to 17.3% greater farm revenues and 4.6% to 7.7% greater farm profits compared to non-recipient counties. Broadband adoption drives faster income growth, more businesses, and lower unemployment.



Research on property taxes in **Detroit** led to a city-wide reassessment that could reduce some property assessments by as much as 50%, saving owners \$30 million annually.



According to **Oregon** research, the Northwest Forest Plan, which shifted 11 million acres of forest from production into protection, promoted higher property values in nearby communities.



Oklahoma researchers found that USDA water and sewer investments in rural areas increased long-term median house value.



A **University of Maine** study played a critical role in starting up six retail businesses, adding 109 full- and part-time jobs to the local economy.



In **Ohio**, research suggests that shale gas activity has less impact on employment than the alternative energy industry.

University of Tennessee research showed that road infrastructure was crucial for improving job and income levels in Appalachian counties.



Research by **Oklahoma State University, Colorado State University**, and the USDA-ERS showed that producers participating in local food markets retain a larger share of the consumer's dollar and contribute more to their local economy due to higher use of local labor and inputs.

University of Idaho is helping small farmers access local markets with strategies for supply-chains, storage, processing, distribution, pricing, and collaboration with other producers.

Purdue University showed that residents in rural areas pay more than urban residents to reach healthy food providers, with denser road networks associated with cheaper access.

The 2008 recession led to increased need and SNAP participation in **Florida** and **Oregon**, but differences in policies and efforts to enroll and retain participants led to lower exit rates and longer spell durations in **Oregon**.



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