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SARE Project LS 97-084

Clinch Powell
Sustainable Development Initiative

SARE Sustainable Agriculture News

September, 1997

Newsletter

In an effort to keep all project leaders informed and our three teams well integrated, we are instituting a very simple, monthly update on our Regional Sustainable Agriculture project. At this point, we will keep this newsletter to one page. I am asking each of the three team leaders to keep me abreast of activities, accomplishments and upcoming events with which you are involved. For now we will focus exclusively upon those items with which the CPSDI Sustainable Agriculture project is directly involved.

Anthony Flaccavento

Team Leaders & Project Staffing

Our team leaders are as follows:

→Research and Technical Assistance - Archer Christian
895 Church St., NE, Christiansburg, VA 24073
(540) 381-5082 FAX 540-231-3075

Archer will be coordinating the efforts of our Extension & University partners, along with our lead farmers:

→Education - Sally Causey & Jennifer Arnold
Rural Resources
2870 Holley Creek Rd., Greenville, TN 37745
(423) 636-8171 FAX 423-636-0108

Sally and Jennifer are coordinating the work of the education team, including workshops, farm field days, conferences, internships, etc. Rural Resources has been awarded the contract for our SARE Education work. The contract was initiated in August.

→Marketing - Martha Mewbourne, interim team leader
Thorntree Farm, Rte. 2, Box 776A, Nickelsville, VA 24271
(540) 479-3057

Martha has graciously agreed to this coordination until the full time Marketing Specialist is hired.

→Marketing Specialist - We are reopening the search for a full time Farm Products Marketing Specialist, with hopes of completing our search by late September or early October. Anyone who knows of strong potential candidates, please contact Anthony (540) 623-1121 at once.

→Half time Marketer - Will be recruited after our full time specialist is established with the program.

Matching Funding

Since our meeting in April, CPSDI has secured two additional sources of funding (for all of its programs) which enable us to meet our SARE match requirements fully: a \$20,000 grant from the F. B. Heron Foundation and a three-year, \$375,000 grant from W. K. Kellogg.

Outreach

Two surveys were circulated with a small cadre of "sustainably oriented" farmers during the summer (results will be enclosed in October newsletter). A third survey is now being circulated with a broader group of farmers through, primarily, county Extension offices.

→Anthony and Sally Causey met with Extension agents in Hawkins, Sullivan and Greene counties on September 4th as part of an effort to strengthen and expand our collaboration with local agents and the farmers and entrepreneurs with whom they work. Anthony and Sally will be joined by Archer Christian for visits with agents in Lee, Scott and Washington counties on Sept. 11th. Meetings with the remaining agents in our service area will follow later this fall.

Trainings & Events

→A **draft horse workshop** was held on May 24th, in Hancock County, led by Kyle Greene, the coordinator of the Hancock County School Farm Project. It was attended by 10 people.

→Twenty people attended the **Growing for Commercial Markets** workshop held in Gate City on July 18th. Dennis Jolley, Senior Produce Buyer for Corganics, led this training on grading, packing, quality control and marketing.

→A two day workshop on **Organic Soil Fertility and Composting** was held in Greeneville on July 28th and 29th. The first session was led by Dr. Hugh Savoy of UT. 7 people attended. The second session was led by Jennifer Childress of Rural Resources. 9 people attended.

Clinch Powell Sustainable Development Initiative
Regional Sustainable Agriculture Project

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