

## **Rural and Community Prosperity**

### **Congressional Briefing**

Friday, July 20, 2001

8:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Rayburn House Office Building, Room 2168

Washington, D.C.

Continental Breakfast

Rural America faces many challenges. Some areas are experiencing significant growth, as suburban sprawl invades the countryside. Others continue to decline as young people leave and the remaining elderly population places large pressures on health and social services. Rural communities try to develop economic capacity in many different ways. Farming continues to dominate rural policy-making, yet rural America continues to diversify. How to develop and sustain rural prosperity will be addressed by social scientists whose research and policy analysis has focused on non-metropolitan America. This issue area takes on increased importance as debate begins on the next Farm bill.

#### **Speakers:**

Dr. Cornelia Flora, Iowa State University, "Community Social Capacity"

Dr. Diane McLaughlin, Pennsylvania State University, "Rural Families: Prospects for Prosperity"

Dr. Mike D. Woods, Oklahoma State University, "Economic Development Options and Opportunities for Rural Communities"

**Discussant:** Dr. Charles W. (Chuck) Fluharty, Rural Policy Research Institute

**Moderator:** Dr. Janet Bokemeier, Michigan State University

#### **Sponsors:**

Consortium of Social Science Associations

Rural Sociological Society

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**Excerpt from the CSREES Administrator's Update, dated July 20:**

#### **-- PARTNERS SPEAK AT CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING**

Social scientists from land-grant institutions briefed Congress today (July 20) on research and extension work pertaining to rural economies, families, and

communities. Scheduled presenters included CORNELIA FLORA (Iowa State University), DIANE McLAUGHLIN (Penn State University) and MICHAEL WOODS (Oklahoma State University), with commentary by JANET BOKEMEIER (Michigan State University) and CHUCK FLUHARTY (University of Missouri).

The Congressional Breakfast Briefing was sponsored by Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA), with the cooperation of the Rural Sociological Society and the American Agricultural Economics Association. CSREES and the ESCOP Social Science Committee collaborated with COSSA to facilitate the event.