Reports & Resources

Rural Unemployment Rises
The Daily Yonder | READ STORY
The rural unemployment rate increased in early summer but remains lower than the national average.

Rural Unemployment in June 2011
Most counties in rural America (those in green) have unemployment rates below the national average of 9.3%.

- Low unemployment (below 6%) (448 counties)
- Below average (6% to 9.3%) (758 counties)
- Above average (9.3% to 12%) (468 counties)
- High rates (above 12%) (353 counties)

President's Corner
Lots of exciting news to report: First, MSU Extension and the Local Government Center are excited to announce the fall issue of the Montana Policy Review titled Community Resiliency and the Built Environment: Innovations and Policy Issues in Montana focusing on how the built environment influences quality of life and economic prosperity across Montana. Second, the Community Development Society has announced the submission deadline of October 31, 2011 for abstracts to the 2012 CDS Conference in Cincinnati. Last, NACDEP needs volunteers to serve on committees for the upcoming 2012 conference in Park City, Utah; more info here.

-Paul Lachapelle
MACDEP President
Children’s Welfare By State
Annie E. Casey Foundation | READ STORY
A new report measures children’s levels of well-being in each state.

Foul Tweets By Region
On Wisconsin Magazine | READ STORY
A recent analysis of the prevalence of foul language in Twitter posts shows differences by region.

Renewable Energy Usage and Cost
Daily Good | READ STORY
This infographic examines the usage and cost of renewable energy in the United States.

Upcoming Events

Extension Entrepreneurs and Their Communities Webinar Series
September 8, October 13, November 10; all events begin at 12pm MST.
Sponsor: Iowa State University Extension and Outreach
To attend, go to the above link 10 minutes before webinar and select “Enter As Guest” option, then enter full name and click “Enter Room.”

Building Financial Assets for Rural Communities Leadership Summit
September 13, Great Falls
Sponsor: IDA Resources
Part of the Mobilizing Rural Communities Conference

What Works! 2011 Conference
September 18-20, Philadelphia, PA
Sponsor: The Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development

Local Economies Series Conference Calls
September 22 & October 27
Sponsor: Community Matters

Grants, Awards & Jobs
Community Challenge Planning Grant
Deadline: September 9, 2011
Health Care Cuts and Rural Communities

Health care spending cuts may disproportionately affect rural communities, where primary care physicians provide more services than in rural areas.

Are Facebook Users More Trusting?

This infographic, based on new research from Pew Research Center, shows that social network site users are more likely to make connections with others.

National/International News

- **Farmland Trust Saves Organic Agriculture**
  - Seattle Times; Aug 27
- **UN Chief Vows to Support Colorado Lab's Renewable Energy Work**
  - Denver Post; Aug 24
- **Arctic Sea Drilling Proposal Prompts Environmental Concerns**
  - Washington Post; Aug 22
- **Utility Companies Consider Options for Meeting Renewable Energy Mandates**
  - Denver Post; Aug 21
- **Species Move North to Escape Warming Climate**
  - Seattle Times; Aug 18
A new report finds that communities with small, locally-owned businesses experience stronger economic growth than those with larger businesses owned by outside interests.

**Test Assumptions**

- Local businesses are typically smaller and more agile, allowing them to respond quickly to market changes.
- They often have a deeper understanding of the local community's needs and can tailor their products or services accordingly.
- Local businesses often have stronger ties to the community, leading to increased customer loyalty and repeat business.

**Key Findings**

- Communities with a higher percentage of small, locally-owned businesses tend to have lower unemployment rates and higher rates of startup formation.
- Local businesses can stimulate economic activity by circulating more money within the community rather than being siphoned out by larger businesses.
- Communities with a strong base of small, locally-owned businesses are often more resilient to economic downturns, as they tend to be more adaptable and innovative in the face of economic challenges.

**Implications**

- Policymakers and community leaders should consider supporting local businesses through incentives such as reduced taxes, streamlined regulations, and access to capital.
- Consumers can support local businesses by choosing to shop locally, ordering from small restaurants, and patronizing local stores.
- Local businesses can also benefit from partnerships with larger companies, which can provide access to resources and markets.

**Conclusion**

Supporting local businesses is essential for building strong, vibrant communities. By fostering a healthy ecosystem of small, locally-owned businesses, we can create a more resilient, prosperous, and equitable society for all.
Montana Ranked Lowest in Children's Welfare in Region
Ravalli Republic; Aug 18

Reservoirs Full Across State
Great Falls Tribune; Aug 17

State's Wind Industry Lacks Transmission Capability
Missoula Independent; Aug 11