**November-December 2012 Update**

### New Resources of Interest

Our thoughts are with those that are recovering from the impacts of Superstorm Sandy. In response, the International Economic Development Council has added new resources to [RestoreYourEconomy.org](http://www.RestoreYourEconomy.org) to help communities rebuild their local economies. These resources also provide information on disaster preparedness and should serve as a reminder that no community is immune from thinking about their future.

In September, the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City and Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta hosted The Future of Workforce Development conference in Kansas City, Missouri. Resources and presentations from this conference are available at the [Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City](http://www.federalreserve.gov) website.

### Call for Proposals and Opportunities to Publish

Faculty and staff in Extension are committed to enhancing the discipline of community development. In addition to us learning from other peers, it is important to contribute what we’ve learned so peers can benefit from our experiences. Here are some recent calls for proposals for presentations and opportunities for publications. [Read more about these opportunities.](#)
Networking Series

This web-based presentation series provides educational programming to support downtown and business district economic development. Six sessions are planned annually with high quality presentations by state and national experts. Read more about these webinars.

2012 Wisconsin Basic Economic Development Course Breaks Records

Wisconsin's Basic Economic Development Course broke state records this year with seventy-one participants. Thirty five percent (35%) of those participants were staff of the newly formed Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation and eighteen percent (18%) from City economic development corporations. Read more about the BEDC.

A Short Guide to Infographics & Data Visualization

Over the past few months CCED's Laura Brown has teamed up with some techie colleagues to explore resources related to "infographics," also known as data visualizations. Infographics are visual representations of information, data, or knowledge intended to present complex information quickly and clearly. Infographics help improve learner's ability to see patterns and trends. Several website provide access to existing infographics on a variety of topics. The New York Times published this series on Teaching with Inforgraphics in 2010 which includes many examples by topic. Read the entire article.

Agricultural Grants Workshops

Several workshops are offered each fall to help farmers and agricultural entrepreneurs develop strategies to access state and federal grants. Attendees learn how to successfully submit a Value Added Producer Grant (VAPG), a Specialty Crop Block Grant, and The Sustainable...
Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program application. These programs provide research and development, planning and working capital funds to farmers and farmer-based enterprises to develop and implement ventures.


### Partnering and Collaboration R Us

Have you ever been in a meeting when some participants were asked to solve a problem on their own and some small groups were formed to solve the same problem. In almost every case, when two or more people collaborated, the problem was solved faster and with a wider variety of creative options. Similarly we know that many times community development issues are more creatively and robustly addressed when local Extension educators work with economic development professionals. We are developing some materials that highlight the best outcomes of a partnership or collaboration between an Extension office and an economic development corporation. We’d love it if you would share your proudest story with us at greg.wise@uwex.edu.

### Access County Data on New Food Systems Portal

This October marked the launch of the Food Systems Profile Project driven by a growing interest in food systems as a community economic development tool in Wisconsin and the nearby states in the Upper Midwest. The goal of this project was to develop and publish an online food systems profile tool using existing secondary data sources to: 1) help county based educators and community leaders better understand the local/regional food system in a systematic way in the North Central Region, 2) understand how key indicators are changing over time, 3) and identify opportunities for growth or expansion in regional food systems through the use of food and agricultural industry cluster analysis. The web portal tool is now live and includes printable county profiles and maps for a twelve state region as well as discussion tools for using the profile and a resources page by topic. Read more about the New Food Systems Data Portal.
The 22nd Annual Pegasus Conference was held on November 12-14th in Indianapolis, Indiana. The conference brought together a global community, to actively learn about systems thinking. Systems thinking is a way of understanding reality that emphasizes the relationships among a system's parts, rather than the parts themselves. For more information and systems thinking educational resources, check out the following link: http://www.pegasuscom.com/.

**Wisconsin Business AnswerLine**

The Wisconsin Small Business Development Center Network provides local, regional, and statewide counseling and education to support Wisconsin small business creation and growth. One frontline service it provides to entrepreneurs is the Wisconsin Business AnswerLine.

**What is the Wisconsin Business AnswerLine?**
The Wisconsin Business AnswerLine is staffed by experienced people who can provide instant answers to small business owners and staff, in the state of Wisconsin. It includes an extensive document library as well as phone and web resources available at the counselors' fingertips. Click here for the entire article on the Wisconsin Business AnswerLine.