

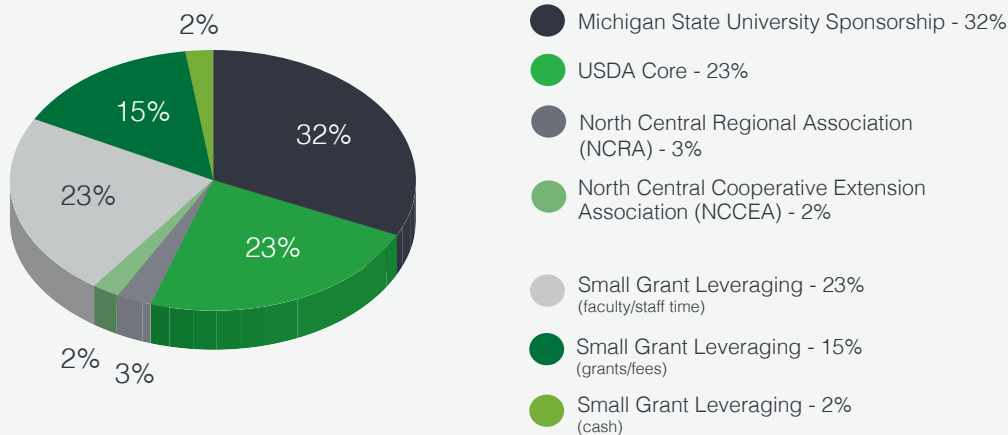
# North Central Regional Center for Rural Development

**Annual  
Report**

**2012**

## Fiscal Year 2012 NCRCRD Leveraging

(includes funds leveraged via small grants)



### Market Maker Enhancement Project

*R. Hansen (Iowa State University)*

The study underscored the need for a technology solution to better connect ag and food workers where there is a demand. The related Iowa based pilot project resulted in a prototype “jobs portal” on the MarketMaker platform that virtually connects MM users, Workforce Development facilitators and workers to one another.

### Profile-Food Systems Indicators

*L. Brown, S. Deller, & A. Haines (University of Wisconsin)*

Develop and publish an online food systems profile tool using existing secondary data sources to help county based educators & community leaders better understand the local/regional food system, understand how key indicators are changing over time and identify opportunities for growth or expansion in regional food systems through the use of food and agricultural industry cluster analysis.

**FY 12-13**

## Small Grant Awards

### Shifting Intermediaries: Tracing the Land Grant Role in Water Management in Nebraska

**PI:** *Gasteyer, S. (Michigan State University)*  
**Co-PIs:** *Knutson, C., Schutz, A., & Wall, N. (University of Nebraska-Lincoln)*

### Assist Farmers in Rural MI & WI in Making Informed Decisions About On-farm Scale Anaerobic Digesters

**PI:** *Gould, C. (Michigan State University)*  
**Co-PIs:** *Haugen, V. and Larson, B. (University of Wisconsin-Madison), Kirk, D. (Michigan State University), Rivin, J. (University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point)*

### Rural Social Media Champions: Development of Models of Diffusion & Best Business Practices

**PI:** *Niehm, L. (Iowa State University)*  
**Co-PIs:** *Frazier, B. (Western Michigan University), Stoel, L. (The Ohio State University)*

### Utility Scale Renewable Energy Development - Project Siting & Conflict Resolution

**PI:** *Romich, E. (The Ohio State University)*  
**Co-PIs:** *Beyea, W. (Michigan State University) and Hall, P. (The Ohio State University)*

### Are we Ready? Community Leadership in the Disaster Cycle

**PI:** *Silvis, A. (University of Illinois Extension)*  
**Co-PI:** *Cain, S. (Purdue University)*  
*Collaborator: Maltzberger, B. (University of Missouri Extension)*

**Special**

**2012  
NCRCRD**

**Projects**

## New Bioenergy Grant Unites Michigan State University, NCRCRD, Bay Mills Community College and The Ohio State University

Scaling up the advanced biofuel sector poses major economic and logistical challenges for regional planners and biofuel entrepreneurs in terms of feedstock supply assurance, supply chain development, and assessment of socioeconomic impacts. A new USDA/AFRI grant involving the Center and partners at Michigan State University, Bay Mills Community College and Ohio State University (Wooster Campus) is conducting research and developing tools to address the following these issues.

## Four Regional Rural Development Centers Partner to Produce National Agricultural and Rural Development Policy Center

The four regional rural development centers (RRDC) are working closely together as a team. As shown by a new competitive grant jointly submitted by the four centers. The USDA/AFRI funded National Agricultural and Rural Development Policy Center relies on the RRDC national land grant network to pull together rapid policy briefs, white papers, and webinars on topics of interest to federal policy makers. The RRDCs enjoy a key partnership with the Farm Foundation, NFP which has agreed to feature some of the outputs in its highly visible National Press Club Forums.



### NCRCRD Staff

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## Publications

NCRCRD simulated 10 publications from partners in the 12 States.

### John Mann Joins Center

John Mann (PhD, Oklahoma State University) joined the Center in fall of 2012 as a post-doctoral fellow. Dr. Mann is providing leadership for the Center's work in better understanding systems to improve the speed at which emerging land grant biotechnologies can be disseminated into rural areas. He is also leading a team of Extension professionals who are exploring ways to document impacts of community leadership development programs.



## Webinars

The Center hosted 20 webinars; the webinars are archived for free public use at: [ncrcrd.msu.edu/ncrcrd/chronological\\_archive](http://ncrcrd.msu.edu/ncrcrd/chronological_archive)

