

RCDG Grant Reporting

Grantee Ohio Cooperative Development Center (OSU Research Foundation)

Report for Period Ending March 31, 2005

Check one: **Semiannual Report** Final Report

SUMMARY OF GRANT ACTIVITIES

Technical Assistance Projects Initiated:

- Healthcare Cooperative Potential Study
- Special Touch Home Healthcare LLC
- Buckeye Meat Goat Producers Association

Technical Assistance Projects Completed or Terminated:

- Chesterhill Produce Auction: decided on a sole proprietorship business structure
- Bristol Village/ Senior Housing: Economic and Social Impact study completed

Technical Assistance Reports Issued:

Surveys Conducted:

- Aquaculture Producer Survey: surveyed all perch producers in Ohio relating to future production, current production, and marketing outlets utilized.

Cooperatives Incorporated:

Training Seminars or Activities Conducted:

- Green Valley Cooperative: Conducted a two-hour training for the Board of Green Valley Co-op, a farm supply cooperative, that addressed the roles of the manager versus the Board, Sarbanes-Oxley and its implications for cooperatives and available alliance structures that would protect the assets of the cooperative. Personnel from USDA and OSU AED Economics assisted in the training session.
- Ohio River Valley Farm Marketing Conference: Organized a 3 state marketing conference that brought together over 140 producers from 7 states to educate them on various marketing tools and outlets. These producers are looking at adding value to their products through some value-added process.
- Regional Outlook Conference: Co-organized and sponsored a regional outlook event with OSU AED Economics and Ohio University – Chillicothe. Over 60 development professionals attended the conference that addressed the trends, impacts and issues related to a variety of economic development topics.
- USDA VAPG Training: Center personnel teamed up with USDA Rural Development to coordinate a train-the-trainer workshop for professionals interested in assisting businesses in pursuing the VAPG program.

Other Significant Activities:

- Met with Robert Moore and Paul Wright, attorneys, to discuss legal advice and publications needed for the Co-op Center work with groups. Paul and Robert will take the lead on writing a one page fact sheet comparing the various business structures in Ohio that groups might choose. In June, they will work with the Secretary of State to develop a form that can be used to incorporate cooperatives in Ohio because the process now is complicated and confusing.
- Regional Conference calls: Coordinate and lead a monthly conference call for cooperative development professionals in Indiana, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Illinois, Kentucky, and New England states to share experiences, discuss current issues and disseminate information about cooperative development activities throughout the region.
- Cooperation Works!/ Woodworks: Attended the Annual meeting for Cooperation Works, Woodworks and National Cooperative Business Association (NCBA) in Washington DC. Center personnel participated in planning activities for the associations for the coming year and met with state congressional staff to gain support for the work OCDC is doing within Ohio.

- Met with Fred Winter, manager of Athens landmark, concerning some training to be conducted this fall for employees and Board members.
- OCDC staff met with Wendell Montgomery, Land O Lakes regional rep, along with 3 managers from NW Ohio farm supply cooperatives to examine a program for increasing the feed sales of Land O Lakes livestock feeds. Several professors from the Department of AED Economics were involved including the grain and livestock marketing specialists.
- Met with Rod Kelsay, new director of the Mid America Cooperative Council, to discuss the working relationship between the Council and the Center. The Council is mainly focused on general education trainings for cooperative managers, employees and Boards.
- Additionally, Center staff assisted in teaching the cooperatives class at Ohio State winter quarter. The class was composed of 25 students, who all wrote papers on cooperative issues. Summaries of these papers are composed and accessible on the OCDC website for education purposes.

Activities Benefiting Minorities This Reporting Period:

PROJECT/ACTIVITY Ohio Premium Pine Cooperative

This Reporting Period:

Established objectives for this quarter: **Met Not Met (one not met)**

Continue membership recruitment and organize sales for the coming year.

Complete the USDA VAPG grant for value-added pine opportunities.

Other significant work accomplished for the project this reporting period:

Assisted the co-op in establishing a tracking system for the value-added grant monies and match so that the reimbursement process is streamlined for the Treasurer.

Work accomplished by center staff 100 %

Work accomplished through contracted service:

Contractor Name _____ %

Reason(s) why established objectives (if any) not met:

The Value-added grant is moving along, but timing has been a struggle because the contractor is using students from a technical college to perform the landowner inventories. They are only available during the summer and a late start on the allocation of money did not allow that to get completed before the students were back in school. The contractor has taken it upon himself to try and finish that part up, but has been consumed with the other parts of the study.

Any problems, delays, or adverse conditions that will affect attainment of overall project objectives during established time period:

Next Reporting Period:

Established objectives for next reporting period:

Obtain 2 additional members for the cooperative.

Have 3 sales planned for the coming fall

Planned actions to meet unmet objectives from this reporting period:

The co-op has already received an extension of their VAPG from USDA in order to allow the completion of the grant by August 2005

PROJECT/ACTIVITY Bristol Village/ Senior Housing

This Reporting Period:

Established objectives for this quarter: **Met Not Met**

Deliver completed study to Bristol Village

Other significant work accomplished for the project this reporting period:

Presented results of study to the Pike County Chamber of Commerce and Area Agency on Aging personnel

Work accomplished by center staff 100 %

Work accomplished through contracted service:

Contractor Name _____ %

Reason(s) why established objectives (if any) not met:

Any problems, delays, or adverse conditions that will affect attainment of overall project objectives during established time period:

Next Reporting Period:

Established objectives for next reporting period:

None

Planned actions to meet unmet objectives from this reporting period:

PROJECT/ACTIVITY Farm Supply Cooperative Case Study

This Reporting Period:

Established objectives for this quarter: **Met Not Met**

Complete case study for Mid America Cooperative Council for use in director training programs.

Other significant work accomplished for the project this reporting period:

Presented overview of study to the Mid America Council Board of Directors

Work accomplished by center staff 100 %

Work accomplished through contracted service:

Contractor Name _____ %

Reason(s) why established objectives (if any) not met:

Any problems, delays, or adverse conditions that will affect attainment of overall project objectives during established time period:

Still waiting for comments on case study from the Mid America Board so that minor adjustments can be made and case will be ready for use in training programs.

Next Reporting Period:

Established objectives for next reporting period:

None

Planned actions to meet unmet objectives from this reporting period:

PROJECT/ACTIVITY Special Touch Home Healthcare, LLC

This Reporting Period:

Established objectives for this quarter: **Met Not Met**

Other significant work accomplished for the project this reporting period:

Work accomplished by center staff 100 %

Work accomplished through contracted service:

Contractor Name _____ %

Reason(s) why established objectives (if any) not met:

Any problems, delays, or adverse conditions that will affect attainment of overall project objectives during established time period:

Next Reporting Period:

Established objectives for next reporting period:

*Conduct a market analysis to determine potential customer base for the business
Be legal incorporated and have an accounting system in place.*

Planned actions to meet unmet objectives from this reporting period:

PROJECT/ACTIVITY Ohio Pro Beef Alliance

This Reporting Period:

Established objectives for this quarter: **Met Not Met**

Board has reviewed training topics and program has been set but the trainings did not start in January 2005.

Other significant work accomplished for the project this reporting period:

Assisted the cooperative in updating Articles and By-Laws to change the place of business of the cooperative.

Work accomplished by center staff 100 %

Work accomplished through contracted service:

Contractor Name _____ %

Reason(s) why established objectives (if any) not met:

Board was unresponsive to getting the training initiated. They feel that the Board members now (reelected Board in February 2005) are well trained in Board operations.

Any problems, delays, or adverse conditions that will affect attainment of overall project objectives during established time period:

Next Reporting Period:

Established objectives for next reporting period:

Get training initiated and in process with the Board.

Planned actions to meet unmet objectives from this reporting period:

Board needs to realize that the training is designed to help train the existing Board members that might be holding an office next year. They need to have a more futuristic outlook on Board training and its necessity for those members that have no Board experience.

PROJECT/ACTIVITY Buckeye Meat Goat Producers Association

This Reporting Period:

Established objectives for this quarter: **Met Not Met**

Other significant work accomplished for the project this reporting period:

Assisting the Association in separating from the Task Force, mostly Extension professionals, to move the Association forward.

Work accomplished by center staff 100 %

Work accomplished through contracted service:

Contractor Name _____ %

Reason(s) why established objectives (if any) not met:

Any problems, delays, or adverse conditions that will affect attainment of overall project objectives during established time period:

Next Reporting Period:

Established objectives for next reporting period:

Hold a strategic planning session with the membership of the association to determine the appropriate structure and next steps for the future.

Planned actions to meet unmet objectives from this reporting period:

PROJECT/ACTIVITY _____ Healthcare Cooperative Potential Study _____

This Reporting Period:

Established objectives for this quarter: **Met Not Met**

Other significant work accomplished for the project this reporting period:

Selected a Consultant to write study on the potential for healthcare cooperatives in rural Southern Ohio

Work accomplished by center staff 10 %

Work accomplished through contracted service:

Contractor Name Carma West _____ 90 %

Reason(s) why established objectives (if any) not met:

Any problems, delays, or adverse conditions that will affect attainment of overall project objectives during established time period:

Next Reporting Period:

Established objectives for next reporting period:

Have completed study to present to Area Agency on Aging

Study will be utilized with the 2 Home Healthcare groups that have asked for assistance from OCDC

Planned actions to meet unmet objectives from this reporting period:

PROJECT/ACTIVITY _____ American Berry Cooperative _____

This Reporting Period:

Established objectives for this quarter: **Met Not Met**

Get berry product consumer analysis and trail runs completed

Other significant work accomplished for the project this reporting period:

Work accomplished by center staff 90 %

Work accomplished through contracted service:

Contractor Name OSU Food Science Department _____ 10 %

Reason(s) why established objectives (if any) not met:

Any problems, delays, or adverse conditions that will affect attainment of overall project objectives during established time period:

Next Reporting Period:

Established objectives for next reporting period:

Utilize berry packs and complete a taste panel to determine the marketability of the product to children and elderly people.

Planned actions to meet unmet objectives from this reporting period:

PROJECT/ACTIVITY Northeast Ohio Foodshed Network

This Reporting Period:

Established objectives for this quarter: **Met Not Met**

Contact farmers, institutions and restaurants to determine the willingness to use locally produced foods.

Other significant work accomplished for the project this reporting period:

Work accomplished by center staff 50 %

Work accomplished through contracted service:

Contractor Name _____ %

Reason(s) why established objectives (if any) not met:

Any problems, delays, or adverse conditions that will affect attainment of overall project objectives during established time period:

Next Reporting Period:

Established objectives for next reporting period:

Continue to develop the relationships.

Move towards a more organized structure to deliver locally produced foods to willing buyers.

Planned actions to meet unmet objectives from this reporting period:

PROJECT/ACTIVITY Farm Fresh Growers Marketing Association

This Reporting Period:

Established objectives for this quarter: **Met Not Met**

Other significant work accomplished for the project this reporting period:

Trained technical assistance advisor in the VAPG training session held with USDA Rural Development

Work accomplished by center staff 90 %

Work accomplished through contracted service:

Contractor Name _____ %

Reason(s) why established objectives (if any) not met:

Any problems, delays, or adverse conditions that will affect attainment of overall project objectives during established time period:

Next Reporting Period:

Established objectives for next reporting period:

Purchase and implement an accounting software system for tracking member payments and inventories for the cooperative.

Expand secondary marketing opportunities for the cooperative through the hiring of a marketing person _____

Planned actions to meet unmet objectives from this reporting period:

PROJECT/ACTIVITY MOON Food Cooperative

This Reporting Period:

Established objectives for this quarter: Met Not Met

Other significant work accomplished for the project this reporting period:

Work accomplished by center staff 80 %

Work accomplished through contracted service:

Contractor Name _____ %

Reason(s) why established objectives (if any) not met:

Any problems, delays, or adverse conditions that will affect attainment of overall project objectives during established time period:

Next Reporting Period:

Established objectives for next reporting period:

Continue to increase membership

Gain a loan from the National Cooperative Bank for acquiring a storefront

Hire additional feasibility work and site selection help from lawyers and architects

Planned actions to meet unmet objectives from this reporting period:

PROJECT/ACTIVITY Bexley Natural Market

This Reporting Period:

Established objectives for this quarter: **Met Not Met (one not met)**

Design a website for online ordering from the cooperative

Implementation of website and being able to take orders online because of limited retail space in the store.

Other significant work accomplished for the project this reporting period:

Work accomplished by center staff 30 %

Work accomplished through contracted service:

Contractor Name _____ %

Reason(s) why established objectives (if any) not met:

Some technical issues have prevented the cooperative from being bale to take orders online, the website has all the items listed but are still working out the payment issues.

Any problems, delays, or adverse conditions that will affect attainment of overall project objectives during established time period:

Next Reporting Period:

Established objectives for next reporting period:

Making the site operational and increasing sales through online orders.

Planned actions to meet unmet objectives from this reporting period:

PROJECT/ACTIVITY OCDC Seed Monies Program

This Reporting Period:

Established objectives for this quarter: **Met Not Met**

Award grants to up to 5 groups/ cooperatives that will provide financial assistance.
Other significant work accomplished for the project this reporting period:
Assisted groups in preparing good applications for the OCDC Grant Advisory Committee to review.

Work accomplished by center staff 100 %

Work accomplished through contracted service:

Contractor Name _____ %

Reason(s) why established objectives (if any) not met:

Any problems, delays, or adverse conditions that will affect attainment of overall project objectives during established time period:

Next Reporting Period:

Established objectives for next reporting period:

Continue to provide good applications for the Committee to review and fund up to 5 groups biannually.

Planned actions to meet unmet objectives from this reporting period:
