

**FINAL PROJECT REPORT**  
**I-FARRM Rural Community Development SRI**  
**An Illinois Council on Food and Agriculture**  
**(C-FAR) Project**

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**Rural Community Development (RCD)/I-FARRM**  
**Strategic Research Initiative (SRI)**

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## I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The I-FARRM (Illinois Farming Alternatives and Rural Revitalization Methods) Rural Community Development (RCD) Strategic Research Initiative (SRI) had enormous positive impact on the Illinois farm and rural economy in its less than 5 years of funding from Fall of 1998 to June 30, 2003. The I-FARRM/RCD SRI focused on technical assistance and research to value-added and alternative agricultural operations in niche and processed grains (e.g., corn, soybeans and other), grape and wine, aquaculture (e.g. fish and prawns), organic crops and meats, other specialty crops, agritourism and rural community foundations.

The project's combined economic impact on sales, payroll, capital investment and leveraged project dollars equaled over \$154 million. This included 88 new/expanded value-added ag enterprises, 457 new jobs, \$18 million in new annual payroll, \$45 million in value-added sales increases, \$6 million in new capital investment, and \$7 million in leveraged project dollars.

The I-FARRM/RCD SRI project produced 156 new publications, including 64 business plans, 4 books, and 87 monographs or fact sheets and 63 journal articles or book chapters. Educational/outreach efforts reached nearly 500,000 through direct contact and research dissemination.

The I-FARRM project, unfortunately, no longer receives C-FAR funding; however, it has spawned a host of projects and programs that have generated their own funding bases. These continuing "I-FARRM incubated spinoffs" include:

- The Illinois Cooperative Center based at SIUC, providing technical and business assistance to agricultural enterprises throughout the state.
- The Southern Illinois Community Foundation, which has generated nearly \$1 million in gifts and grants as well as generating funding for permanent staffing.
- The Global Value-Added Project at the University of Illinois which continues its important work both in Illinois and globally.
- The Illinois Value-Added Rural Development Center based at Western Illinois University.
- The Agritourism Project and Union County Barnstorming Tour have become ongoing agritourism projects of southern Illinois tourism groups.
- Aquaculture and Grape/Wine Technical Assistance based at SIUC's Office of Economic and Regional Development.

In summary, the I-FARRM/RCD SRI had enormous positive impact and return on investment. It met virtually all its goals and objectives; created a model performance metrics accountability system; reached nearly 500,000 in its outreach effort; and leaves a host of functioning Illinois programs and projects with ongoing impact.

## II. PRIMARY GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The primary original I-FARRM/RCD SRI goals and objectives were achieved. The primary goals were to accelerate the growth of value-added alternative agricultural development and overall rural development in the state. Goals and objectives relating to the following were all achieved:

- Increase in adoption of value-added grains (particularly corn and soybeans)
- Growth in grape, wine, aquaculture (fish and shrimp), organic crops, and livestock and other alternative crops;
- Growth in the agritourism sector;
- The creation of rural community foundations and rural philanthropic activity;
- The publication of SRI findings in business plans, monographs, journal and other research articles, books and manuals;
- The successful implementation of a major outreach program promoting the SRI's goals, research findings, and technical assistance to Illinois farmers and the rural population generally;
- The leveraging of additional dollars and institutionalization of SRI projects through continual funding; and
- Having a “measurable” and “major” impact on the Illinois farm and rural economy.

In short, all primary goals and most primary objectives of the I-FARRM/RCD SRI were achieved. An itemized accounting of specific original goals and objectives follows:

The initial goals of the CFAR I-FARRM Strategic Research Initiative (SRI) were all related to the broad mission of rural community development. Here we document specific goals and objectives cited in the original I-FARRM/RCD SRI proposal. The goals of the original proposal and their status are outlined below:

1. Identifying new agricultural and family-farm enterprise and income opportunities. STATUS: Achieved- See performance metrics on enterprise and income impacts.
2. Assisting farm-based enterprise development in new and alternative ventures such as value-added grain, winery, aquaculture and other areas. STATUS: Achieved- See performance metrics.
3. Developing an information base on alternative and value-added agricultural opportunities and website(s) and publications to share this information. STATUS: Achieved- Six new website information bases created.
4. Strengthening family farms and rural communities through an increase in family-farm and rural community economic partnerships and opportunities. STATUS: Achieved- Numerous projects expanded targeted partnerships and opportunities.

5. Educating the public (including rural youth) on new alternative agricultural and rural community development opportunities through research publications, technical assistance manuals and research dissemination workshops, presentations and events. STATUS: Achieved- See outreach/education section of this report as well as performance metrics.
6. Strengthening relationships between family farms and rural communities. STATUS: Achieved- Overall project achieved this goal.

As the I-FARRM/RCD SRI was highly focused on rural community development and farm-based enterprise development, and was highly action-research and objectives outcome-based, it had considerable outcomes of social and economic significance to Illinois farmers and rural residents. These initial objectives were categorized in five broad areas, their status is reported below:

1. Research and knowledge databases and publications- Research publications generated including:
  - a. Manual of alternative agricultural enterprises and resources- STATUS: Completed.
  - b. Business plan templates for small wineries and fish farms- STATUS: Completed. Three business plan templates completed for vineyard, winery and fish farm.
  - c. Guide to the Economic Development TOOL BOX- STATUS: Completed by CD Tool Box project.
  - d. Report (manual) on the Illinois agricultural economy emphasizing emerging alternative agricultural trends and opportunities- STATUS: Completed by RDO project.
  - e. Publication describing a new strategic planning methodology to involve farmers in the development and management of emerging value-added food systems- STATUS: Completed.
2. Public Education of farmers, rural residents through research presentations outreach assistance and dissemination workshops and events. 'Social capital' among Illinois farmers and rural communities will be increased by information dissemination of project findings and experiences through outreach workshops, mini-conferences, public presentations and websites. This will directly impact rural community and economic development. STATUS: Completed- public education efforts documented in Outreach and Outcome/Impact sections of this report.

3. Farm-Based and agricultural enterprise business plans and loan applications. At least fourteen (14) family farm-based alternative agricultural enterprise business plans or feasibility studies will be produced in Year One. STATUS: Completed- A total of sixty-four (64) plans completed during project years.
4. Family farm-based enterprise startups and expansions and related employment and income generation. This should lead to tangible and practical outcomes in the form of at least (6) new expanded rural alternative agricultural enterprises with additional income and employment. STATUS: Completed- a total of eighty-eight (88) agri-enterprise business startups and expansions attributable to SRI assistance.
5. Rural community enhancement. The combined outcome of all these research development objectives and work activities will be visible in rural revitalization across the landscape of rural Illinois. New knowledge, more efficient and opportunistic farmers and rural residents and new enterprises and income will equal more socially and economically vibrant rural communities. STATUS: Completed with overall SRI impact.

### III. PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS

Principal investigators (PIs) for the I-FARRM/RCD SRI include PIs for the four distinct projects of the SRI. The SRI was organized into four distinct projects:

1. The VALUE project (Value Added Agricultural Products) at WIU;
2. The READI project (Rural Enterprise and Alternative Agricultural Development Initiative) based at SIU;
3. The Rural Development Opportunities (RDO) project based at SIU; and
4. The Community Development Tool Box (CD Tool Box) project based at UIUC.

Principal Investigators for the SRI projects and the SRI were as follows:

VALUE: Dr. Burt Swanson  
Dr. Andy Sofranko  
Dr. Mohamed M. Samy  
Dr. Norm Walzer  
Dr. Christopher Merrett

READI: Dr. Sue Kohler  
Dr. Chris Kohler  
Mr. Kyle Harfst  
Dr. Raymond Lenzi

RDO: Dr. Roger Beck  
Dr. Andrew Carver

CD Toolbox: Julie Fessenmaier

#### **IV. SUMMARY OF OUTCOMES AND IMPACTS**

In summary, the RCD/I-FARRM Strategic Research Initiative (SRI) has had a tremendous impact on Illinois agriculture and rural communities. Eighty-eight (88) value-added agricultural businesses were assisted by the SRI with startups and expansions. Nearly 500 (457) jobs were created or retained by the project with an annual payroll of \$18,280,000, sales increases of \$43,930,000, \$5,690,000 in new capital investment, and \$6,969,000 in leveraged project dollars for a combined annual economic impact of \$154 million.

One-hundred fifty-six (156) publications came of the SRI project, including 64 business plans, feasibility and marketing studies, 87 monographs or fact sheets, and four books or manuals. Outreach was extensive with 405,000 research pieces disseminated, 10,990 direct client contacts, and 583 conferences and workshops with 26,902 people in attendance. In short, the I-FARRM/RCD SRI project had tremendous research, educational, and economic impact, literally transforming the face of much of rural Illinois and state agriculture.

The overall accomplishments and highlights are summarized in our Illinois Farming Alternatives and Rural Revitalization Methods (I-FARRM) Performance Metrics system, which itemizes and documents accomplishments by category. Some of the cumulative RCD/I-FARRM performance metrics of note from this table include:

##### **Research:**

- 64 Business Plans, Feasibility Studies, Marketing Plans and related studies completed and published
- 87 monographs or Fact Sheets completed
- 5 Books and 4 Manuals published

##### **Outreach:**

- 10,990 Direct Client Contacts
- 405,000 Research Pieces Disseminated
- 583 Conferences, Workshops, Meetings and Presentations with 26,902 attendees

##### **Economic Impact:**

- 88 agri-enterprise startups and expansions
- 457 jobs created/retained with \$18,280,000 in annual payroll
- \$43,930,000 in sales increases
- \$5,690,000 in new capital investment
- \$6,969,000 in leveraged project dollars
- \$154 million in combined economic impact utilizing a very modest 1.0 multiplier.

<b>RCD/I-FARRM SRI Performance Metrics Table: Research Metrics</b>	<b>Final I-FARRM Project Totals</b>
<b>A. Research/Technical Assistance Publications</b>	
1. Business Plans	42
2. Feasibility Studies	12
3. Marketing Projects	10
4. Case Studies	26
5. Surveys/Trials/Other Completed	269
<b>B. Research Publications</b>	
1. Monographs/Fact Sheets	87
2. Journal Articles	63
3. Theses/Dissertations	12
4. Books	5
5. Manuals	4

<b>Educational/Outreach Progress</b>	<b>Final I-FARRM Project Totals</b>
<b>A. Client Contacts</b>	
1. Face-to-Face/Phone	10,990
2. Requests for Info	10,468
3. Research Pieces Disseminated	405,000
<b>B. Clients Enrolled</b>	304
<b>C. Public Education Outputs</b>	
1. Conferences/Workshops	127
2. Attendees	15,912
3. Media Outputs	5,226
4. Presentations	456
5. Poster Sessions	18
<b>D. Technical Assistance</b>	
1. Meetings Attended	206
2. Attendees	10,287

<b>Economic Impact</b>	<b>Final I-FARRM Project Totals</b>
A. Enterprise Startups/Expansions	88
B. Jobs Created/Retained	457
C. Estimated Annual Payroll	\$18,280,000
D. Sales Increase	\$43,930,000
E. Capital Investment	\$11,711,000
F. Loans Packaged	\$3,574,000
G. Leveraged Project Dollars	\$6,969,000

Some of the names of Alternative Ag Industries/Farms provided Startup/Expansion assistance by I-FARRM include:

### **Prawn/Shrimp Farms**

Name	Location
1. Bob's Shrimp & Trout Farm (Bob & Jean Ellen Boyd)	Cobden, Illinois
2. Bloodworth's Shrimp Farm (Larry & Katherine Bloodworth)	Marion, Illinois
3. Boehler's Shrimp (Charles Boehler)	Percy, Illinois
4. Brown's Prawns (Bill Brown)	Harrisburg, Illinois
5. Merrill Collins & Bill Blythe	Vandalia, Illinois
6. Ware's the Shrimp? (Amy and Mitch McLane)	Ware, Illinois
7. The Hunt Club (Doug Downing)	Percy, Illinois
8. Riverside Aqua Farm (Cary & Ginger Hilliard)	Royalton, Illinois
9. Ken's Shrimp (Ken Dillow)	Anna, Illinois
10. Tanglefoot Ranch (Grover Webb)	Simpson, Illinois
11. Windings Farm (John, Danny, & Jerald Windings)	Villa Ridge, Illinois
12. Koch's Shrimp Farm (Ronnie Koch)	Metropolis, Illinois
13. C & G Shrimp (Chester Webb)	Tamms, Illinois

### **Fish Farms**

Name	Location
1. Logan Hollow Fish Farm (Pete Reiff)	Murphysboro, Illinois
2. Hobb's Fish Farm (Doug & Drinda Hobbs)	Golconda, Illinois
3. Medlin's Fish Farm (Butch Medlin)	New Haven, Illinois
4. Clearwater Fish Farm (Jerry & Steve Aken)	Elkville, Illinois
5. Illinois Fish Farmers Coop	Pinckneyville, Illinois
6. Les's Fish Farm (Lesley St. Cin)	Elkville, Illinois
7. AquaRanch Industries, LLC (Myles Harston)	Gridley, Illinois
8. Vahling's Fish & Wine (Dennis Vahling)	Stewardson, Illinois
9. Fish in the Barn (Allen & Dwayne Waeltz)	Marissa, Illinois
10. T.L. Anderson Sunfish Farm (Tim Anderson)	DeSoto, Illinois
11. Lobsters Alive (Dennis Baureis)	Johnsburg, Illinois
12. Vernon Raben	Flatrock, Illinois
13. George Wade	Robinson, Illinois
14. Rick Ridgley	Golconda, Illinois

### **Wineries**

Name	Location
1. Owl Creek	Cobden, Illinois
2. Black Diamond	Nashville, Illinois
3. Alto Vineyard	Alto Pass, Illinois
4. White Owl	Flat Rock, Illinois

5. Winghill	Cobden, Illinois
6. Spring Pond	Benton, Illinois

**Cooperatives/Other**

Name	Location
1. AgGuild	Bloomington, Illinois
2. Shawnee Winery Cooperative	Vienna, Illinois
3. Housing Cooperative	Cairo, Illinois
4. Midwest Organic Farmers Cooperative	Casey, Illinois
5. Shawnee Freshwater Prawn Growers Association	Anna, Illinois
6. Southern Illinois Rural Water Providers	Harrisburg, Illinois
7. Western Illinois Grape Producers Cooperative	Pittsfield, Illinois
8. Illinois Fish Farmers Cooperative	Pinckneyville, Illinois
9. Omni Ventures	Edwardsville, Illinois
10. Southernmost Illinois Agriculture Alliance	Vienna, Illinois
11. Southernmost Illinois Agri-tourism Group	Vienna, Illinois
12. Proposed Ethanol Marketing Agency in Common	Midwest
13. Pumpkin Growers Association	Mt. Vernon, Illinois

## V. SRI PRODUCTS

I-FARRM/RCD SRI product creation was substantial as indicated previously by our performance metrics. Primary products produced included:

- Sixty-four (64) business plans and feasibility studies;
- Eighty-seven (87) monographs and fact sheets;
- Sixty-three (63) journal articles and/or book chapters
- Four (4) books and four (4) manuals

Some of the more specific accomplishments in the area of Research include:

- The SRI I-FARRM READI project completed publication of the Fish Farming Business Plan Workbook, which was printed and distributed with support from C-FAR and the North Central Aquaculture Center (NCRAC).
- READI produced eighteen (18) written feasibility studies, business plans or marketing or case studies for grape/wine, aquaculture and value-added grain enterprises. The I-FARRM project as a whole produced sixty-four (64) of these studies.
- Six (6) value-added alternative Fact Sheets were produced by the READI project on topics ranging from aquaculture methods to value-added opportunities for the small farmer. Three fact sheets are on various aspects of the corn-based Ethanol industry.
- The VALUE project produced twenty-two (22) refereed journal publications or book chapters.
- The RDO project collaborated with the READI project to utilize GIS methods and research to locate potential aquaculture sites relative to soil types, topography, drainage systems and soil types.
- The RDO project completed a publication quantifying the economic contribution of the agricultural sector to the overall Illinois economy. This publication demonstrates and reinforces the continuing importance of the ag sector generally and the family farm in particular.
- The RDO project completed twelve (12) agritourism business plans or feasibility studies.
- The RDO project completed research on software for its GIS Enterprise Siting Model programs.
- The SRI I-FARRM VALUE project completed two edited books: Issues Facing the Rural Midwest and an updated Cooperative Approach to Local Economic Development.
- VALUE completed an '02 Specialty Grain Elevator Survey
- Six additional Fact Sheets publications were completed by the VALUE project on topics related to value-added opportunities and opportunity gaps.

A substantial, though not totally complete, listing of the products follows:

## **Research/Technical Projects**

- Alto Vineyards Website
- Anti-Fowling Methods for Cage Aquaculture
- Aquaculture Cooperative/Association Literature Review
- Aquaculture Production Traits of Channel Catfish, Blue Catfish, and their Hybrid in Earthen Ponds
- Bahre Fishery and Produce Business Plan
- BJF Grape Wine Jelly
- Black Bass Hatchery Feasibility in southern Illinois
- Black Diamond Vineyard Business Plan
- Breezy Hill Farm Business Plan
- C & J Fish Farm Business Plan
- Crim Family Fish Farm Business Plan
- Cutler Fish Farms Business Plan
- Drue Fish Farm Business Plan
- English Pop County Prawn Business Plan
- Evaluation of Dry Extrusion-Cooked Fish Offal and Soybean Meal as an Animal Feed Ingredient
- Feasibility of a Winery Cooperative in Southernmost Illinois Development Empowerment Zone
- Fish Farmers Business Plan Workbook (draft)
- Fresh Water Shrimp Demonstration Project
- Freshwater Prawn Hatchery Feasibility in southern Illinois
- Heartland Specialty Grains Business Plan
- Hobbs Catfish Farm Marketing Project
- Hoffman Processing Center Feasibility Study for the Midwestern Organic Producers Cooperative
- Hybrid Striped Bass Demonstration Project
- Illinois Aquaculture Cooperative Feasibility Study
- Illinois Minority Fish Farmers Consortium Feasibility Study
- KDOB Fishery Business Plan
- Lau-Nae Winery Business Plan
- Lusk's Fish Farm Business Plan
- Lyons Fisheries, Version 2.0 Business Plan
- Midwest Organic Farmers Cooperative Business Plan
- Midwestern Organic Producers Cooperative Feasibility Study
- Owl Creek Business Plan
- Owl Creek Vineyard and winery Business Plan
- Owl Creek Website
- Prawn Production in Southern Illinois Ponds
- Preliminary Study for the Omni Ventures Group of Southwestern Illinois
- Rend Lake Winery Business Plan
- Shawnee Hills Website
- SIDEZ Winery Cooperative

- Study of Ethanol Plants Survey
- Survey concerning “Consumer Supported Agriculture” (CSA) at DuQuoin State Fair
- Tilapia in an Indoor Recirculating System
- Vertical Raceway Systems as a Production System for the Culture of Hybrid Striped Bass
- Vineyard Business Plan Workbook
- Vineyard Supply Pre-Feasibility Study
- Vocational Instruction Project (VIP) for Vocational Agriculture Instructors
- Weichert Seed Company Business Plan
- Winery Business Plan Template/Outline

### **Research Publications**

- A Production Method for Freshwater Prawns in Illinois Ponds
- Aeration and Water Quality: Airlift Devices Fact Sheet
- Alternative Agriculture New Crops Fact Sheet
- An Introduction to Aquaponics: The Symbiotic Culture of Fish and Plants Fact Sheet
- An Introduction to the Aquaculture Industry in Illinois Customized Research Report
- Aquaculture in the United States: An Introduction to the Industry Fact Sheet
- Aquaculture in the World: An Introduction to the Industry Fact Sheet
- Aquaculture Needs and Constraints
- Aquatic Production Systems Customized Research Report
- Basic Fish Biology Customized Research Report
- Bean Budgeting Template
- Bee Keeping Business Plan
- Biological Mosquito Control with Topminnows Fact Sheet
- Can Fee Hunting Increase Your Bottom Line? Fact Sheet
- Corn Budgeting Template
- Distiller’s Dried Grains with Solubles
- Evaluation of Artificial and Natural Materials for Use as Substrate in Prawn Culture Ponds
- Feeds and Feeding Customized Research Report
- Fish Handling Customized Research Report
- Fish Health Customized Research Report
- Fish of Illinois: Coho Salmon Fact Sheet
- Fish-Farm Business Plan Workbook
- Freshwater Prawns Ponds and External Dams
- Healthy Eating with Fish
- History of Ethanol Production
- Ideas for Small Acreage Fact Sheet
- Marketing Aquaculture Products Customized Research Report
- Marketing of Illinois Aquaculture Products Fact Sheet

- Moina: A First-Feed Alternative Fact Sheet
- Organizational Structures Available to Agriculture Businesses Fact Sheet
- Production of Ethanol
- READI and the Formation of the Illinois Fish Farmers Co-op
- Re-emergence of Grapes/Wine in Illinois Customized Research Report
- Ruralwise Newsletter
- Small Farms and USDA Programs Fact Sheet
- Southern Illinois Festival Markets for Freshwater Prawns
- Water Quality Requirements for Aquaculture Customized Research Report
- Wetlands and Illinois Aquaculture Fact Sheet
- What is Kenaf? Fact Sheet

### **Edited Books**

- Merrett, Christopher D. and Norman Walzer, eds. 2003. A Cooperative Approach to Local Economic Development. Westport, CT: Quorum Books. With new preface, Translated by Hiroshi Isoda, Kyushu University. Tokyo, Japan: I-e-no Hikari Publishing.
- Merrett, Christopher D. and Norman Walzer, eds. 2001. A Cooperative Approach to Local Economic Development. Westport, CT: Quorum Books (Greenwood Publishing).
- Merrett, Christopher D. and Norman Walzer, eds. 2003. Cooperatives and Local Development: Theory and Applications for the 21st Century. Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe.
- Walzer, Norman, ed. 2003. The American Midwest: Managing Change in a Rural Transition. Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe.

### **Peer-reviewed Articles**

- Merrett, Christopher D. 2003. Promoting cooperative economic development. North Carolina Geographer. 10 (Special Issue): 76-82.
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- Walzer, Norman and Christopher D. Merrett. 2002. Incorporating agriculture into local economic development practices. Journal of the Community Development Society. In Press.

### **Book Chapters**

- Bonnett, Tom. 2003. Looking Forward by Looking Back: State Approaches to Rural Development. In The American Midwest: Managing Change in a Rural Transition, edited by Norman Walzer. Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe.

- Cropp, Robert. 2001. Starting a new generation cooperative. In *A Cooperative Approach to Local Economic Development*, edited by Christopher D. Merrett and Norman Walzer, pp. 25-40. Westport, CT: Quorum Books.
- Dabson, Brian. 2003. Strengthening Local Rural Economies Through Entrepreneurship. In *The American Midwest: Managing Change in a Rural Transition*, edited by Norman Walzer. Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe.
- Egerstrom, Lee. 2003. Obstacles to Cooperation. In *Cooperatives and Development: Theory and Applications for the 21st Century*, edited by Christopher D. Merrett and Norman Walzer. Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe. 31
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- Faber, Doeke and Lee Egerstrom. 2001. New generation cooperatives in the New Millennium. In *A Cooperative Approach to Local Economic Development*, edited by Christopher D. Merrett and Norman Walzer, pp. 167-186. Westport, CT: Quorum Books.
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- Fulton, Joan and Kevin Andreson. 2001. Value-added enterprises in the rural economy. In *A Cooperative Approach to Local Economic Development*, edited by Christopher D. Merrett and Norman Walzer, pp. 129-146. Westport, CT: Quorum Books.
- Fulton, Joan. 2003. Understanding Cooperative Behavior: A Prisoner's Dilemma Approach. In *Cooperatives and Development: Theory and Applications for the 21st Century*, edited by Christopher D. Merrett and Norman Walzer. Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe.
- Fulton, Murray. 2001. Traditional Versus New Generation Cooperatives. In *A Cooperative Approach to Local Economic Development*, edited by Christopher D. Merrett and Norman Walzer, pp. 11-24. Westport, CT: Quorum Books.
- Goldsmith, Peter. 2003. Creating Value in a Knowledge-Based Agriculture: A Theory of New Generation Cooperatives. In *Cooperatives and Development: Theory and Applications for the 21st Century*, edited by Christopher D. Merrett and Norman Walzer. Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe.
- Gruidl, John and Ronald Hustedde. 2003. Key Practices in Creating a Learning Community. In *The American Midwest: Managing Change in a Rural Transition*, edited by Norman Walzer. Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe.
- Hanson, Mark. 2003. The Development of Cooperative Law. In *Cooperatives and Development: Theory and Applications for the 21st Century*, edited by Christopher D. Merrett and Norman Walzer. Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe.
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  - Johnson, Thomas and James Scott. 2003. Population Trends and Impact on Viability. In *The American Midwest: Managing Change in a Rural Transition*, edited by Norman Walzer. Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe.
  - Lasley, Paul and Margaret Hanson. 2003. The Changing Population of the Midwest: A Reflection on Opportunities. In *The American Midwest: Managing Change in a Rural Transition*, edited by Norman Walzer. Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe.
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## VI. INITIAL GOALS AND OBJECTIVES NOT ACCOMPLISHED

As indicated, all original goals and objectives were achieved. However, as the project evolved, new goals and objectives along the way which were not totally achieved include:

<b>Goal or Objective</b>	<b>Reason Not Achieved</b>
1. Permanent funding for I-FARRM/RCD SRI	CFAR Resources cut; other money not available.
2. Network of 3-4 new Rural Community Foundations established	One new rural foundation was established and rural networks were established; partial success due to resource limitations.
3. Major new grain/livestock plants	While we certainly assisted with several ethanol plants, a corn processing and value-added processing centers, the level of "processing plant" impact was short of the ideal level.

## VII. OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Outreach activities were one of the main strengths of the I-FARRM/RCD SRI project. The SRI leader, PRI's and project staff were endlessly engaged in outreach and educational projects and activities through direct client contacts, public education conferences, workshops, presentations and poster sessions, and technical assistance.

Client contacts included face-to-face and phone assistance as well as research pieces distributed. Face-to-face and phone client contacts were 10,990. Research pieces disseminated equaled 405,000.

Public education outputs included conferences and workshops, media outputs, presentations and poster sessions. Conferences and workshops of the SRI equaled 127 over the 4.5+ years of the project with 15,912 attendees. Media outputs (newspaper articles, press releases, television and radio interviews, and stories equaled 5,226, demonstrating the outreach and educational commitment of the I-FARRM/RCD SRI. In addition to the SRI sponsored conferences and workshops, an additional 456 presentations took place to such groups as Farm Bureaus, rural county boards, commodity groups, and other multiple farm organizations, Rotary and other civic organizations, FFA, 4-H, and other rural youth groups, and other rural and farm organizations. Outreach also included technical assistance educational visits reaching 10,287 farm and rural residents. Examples of outreach activities completed include:

- The VALUE project organized three new producer groups around value-added opportunities for niche/specialty grains: 1) the ILLI-MEX Alliance in Christian County, 2) the Livestock Economic Development Group in Gallatin/Saline Counties and 3) the Illinois Valley Alliance in Bureau County.
- With ongoing research and outreach assistance from the SRI I-FARRM READI project the Illinois Fish Farmers Cooperative is up and running. It now has 20 employees and processed its one-millionth pound of fish at the end of fiscal '02.
- READI and the Illinois Cooperative Center (a spinoff venture project of the SRI's READI project) assisted twenty (20) as enterprise cooperative ventures in FY 02 and FY03 with business planning and implementation.
- Eighty-eight (88) new agri-enterprises were started or expanded with technical assistance outreach from the SRI.
- Six (6) new Prawn/Shrimp Agritourism-related Festivals were successfully held in southern Illinois attracting thousands and providing a successful/premium sales venue for most of the new shrimp farms.
- The SRI's RDO project assisted with agritourism startup enterprises resulting in new jobs and income for farmer clients.
- The RDO initiated and assisted the Southern Illinois Community Foundation, organized and held several public fundraising events (with hundreds of attendees) and raised funds that served as bridge financing to retain the Franklin County Hospital.

- The VALUE project hosted two large regional conferences on value-added and niche market opportunities relative to specialty crops
- The VALUE project provided technical assistance to five (5) ag producer groups on planning and development of value-added enterprises and networks.

## VIII. SRI COMPONENTS CONTINUING WITH NON-CFAR FUNDING

Several SRI incubated initiatives will continue with non-CFAR. While most of these were mentioned in the Executive Summary, they are itemized here with source of funding.

<b>Component/Project</b>	<b>Non-CFAR Funding</b>
<u>Rural Illinois Cooperative Development Center- Technical Assistance to value-added farm cooperatives</u>	SIU and USDA
<u>Southern Illinois Community Foundation- Rural philanthropic development corporation</u>	Grand Victoria Foundation, private donors and SIU.
<u>Global Value-Added Project- Research and technical assistance in value-added crops and markets</u>	UIUC and other external sources
<u>Illinois Value-Added Rural Development Center- Technical assistance, research and education focused on value-added food processing and economic development</u>	WIU and state and federal sources
<u>Agritourism Project and Union County Barnstorming Tour- agritourism economic development activities</u>	Southermost Illinois Tourism Bureau, Illinois Bureau of Tourism, U of I Extension, Union County Chamber of Commerce, and private businesses.
<u>Aquaculture and Grape/Wine Technical Assistance- Technical assistance to farmers in aquaculture (fish and prawns), and grape/wine businesses.</u>	SIU, USDA, and other state, federal and local sources.

## **IX. SRI COMPONENTS CONTINUING WITH CFAR FUNDING**

None of the components have received CFAR funding for continuation at this time. Severe cuts in CFAR funding make this unlikely in the near term.

## X. LEVERAGED FUNDING ACHIEVED

The I-FARRM/RCD SRI project was particularly effective at generating leveraged funds for its projects, some of which will also fund continuing CFAR SRI generated efforts. A total of nearly seven million dollars (\$6,969,000) in leveraged dollars were generated during the life of the SRI. While not all reported leveraged dollars were itemized by source and amount, the following is our best effort breakdown of source and amount:

<b>SRI Leverage Source</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Southern Illinois University Carbondale	\$1,759,000
University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana	\$1,400,000
Western Illinois University	\$360,000
USDA Rural Development	\$1,280,000
Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs	\$240,000
Grand Victoria Foundation	\$520,000
Other USDA	\$450,000
Other Federal	\$260,000
Other State	\$220,000
Illinois Commodity Groups	\$150,000
Private Donors	\$50,000
Other	\$280,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$6,969,000</b>