

**Testimony to the United States  
House of Representatives Committee on Agriculture  
Subcommittee on Rural Development, Research, Biotechnology,  
and Foreign Agriculture  
“To Review the various definitions of “rural” applied under programs  
operated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture”  
February 15, 2011  
Longworth House Office Building, Room 1300  
By Timothy Collins, Assistant Director  
Christopher D. Merrett, Director  
William Westerhold, Faculty Assistant  
Karen Poncin, Operations Manager  
Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs, Western Illinois University**

Mr. Chairman, Committee members. Thank you for allowing me to testify today.

More than twenty years ago, the Illinois Governor designated the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs as statewide clearinghouse for rural issues (Appendix A).<sup>1</sup> The U.S. Department of Agriculture is an important partner.

Today’s presentation will focus on:

1. Effects of the various rural development definitions (Appendix B) on funding and participation in Illinois;
2. The changing rural landscape; and
3. Recommendations for targeted rural development programs.

Metropolitan-rural definitions have been refined periodically since early in the twentieth century. More finely drawn distinctions – USDA’s urban influence, county typology, and rural-urban continuum codes – now help characterize America’s changing and diverse rural areas.

By the broadest definition, the Illinois landscape has become more urbanized, with 26 of our 102 counties designated metropolitan in 1980; 28 in 1990; and 36 today. In a 2005 report about changing Census definitions, we expressed concerns about potential impacts on the eight new metro counties and micropolitan counties generally.<sup>2</sup> Our concerns have not been borne out so far: the Bureau of Economic Analysis includes micropolitan counties in nonmetropolitan analyses.<sup>3</sup> Our USDA state office said there has been little change in program dollars for the

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<sup>1</sup> As a rural community and economic development agency, IIRA helps rural communities build a better life. It also conducts rural research and works with various agencies and organizations on rural outreach and policy.

<sup>2</sup> Westerhold, William. Collins, Timothy. “Census Definition Changes May Influence Rural Policy in Illinois.” Macomb: Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs at Western Illinois University. *Rural Research Report*, Spring, 2005. [http://www.iira.org/pubs/publications/IIRA\\_RRR\\_646.pdf](http://www.iira.org/pubs/publications/IIRA_RRR_646.pdf), 2005. Accessed February 2011.

<sup>3</sup> Bureau of Economic Analysis Regional Economic Accounts. Local Area Personal Income. <http://www.bea.gov/regional/reis/default.cfm?selTable=CA1-3&section=2>. Accessed February, 2011.

affected counties. Several have received USDA Business and Community Projects loans and grants since then.

It is important that we continue to target rural development programs to outlying metro counties. For example, rural Macoupin County, Illinois, was placed in the St. Louis metro area in 2003 because of commuting patterns influenced partly by Interstate 55. But land use – predominantly agriculture and forest and scattered small incorporated and unincorporated places (Map1) makes Macoupin a rural bedroom area. In fact, the county lost 2.5% of its population between 2000 and 2009. It has continued to receive USDA funding.<sup>4</sup>

USDA’s descriptive county codes help target rural development programs toward where they are needed, including metropolitan counties with rural characteristics. The codes also give IIRA standing to work in rural-urban interface counties. With this in mind, we offer recommendations:

- USDA codes are needed to help refine USDA programs for local governments, at the census tract level, and in wider regions. They can facilitate growth and change while preserving vital agricultural capacity.
- The multiplicity of federal rural definitions is overly complicated. IIRA, for example, must, through our Small Business Development Center, deal with Small Business Administration rules that do not adequately account for differences between the more densely populated Chicago area and our 12-county rural region. Rural definitions could be consolidated with USDA as the prime agency for defining rural.
- True to the original conceptualization of “micropolitan,”<sup>5</sup> it is important to remember that these smaller cities anchor their rural regions. Mainly, they offer a key to effective regional rural development.
- The coming reapportionment of congressional districts may further weaken rural political influence. Monitoring the definition of rural is an ongoing task to ensure that rural needs are met.

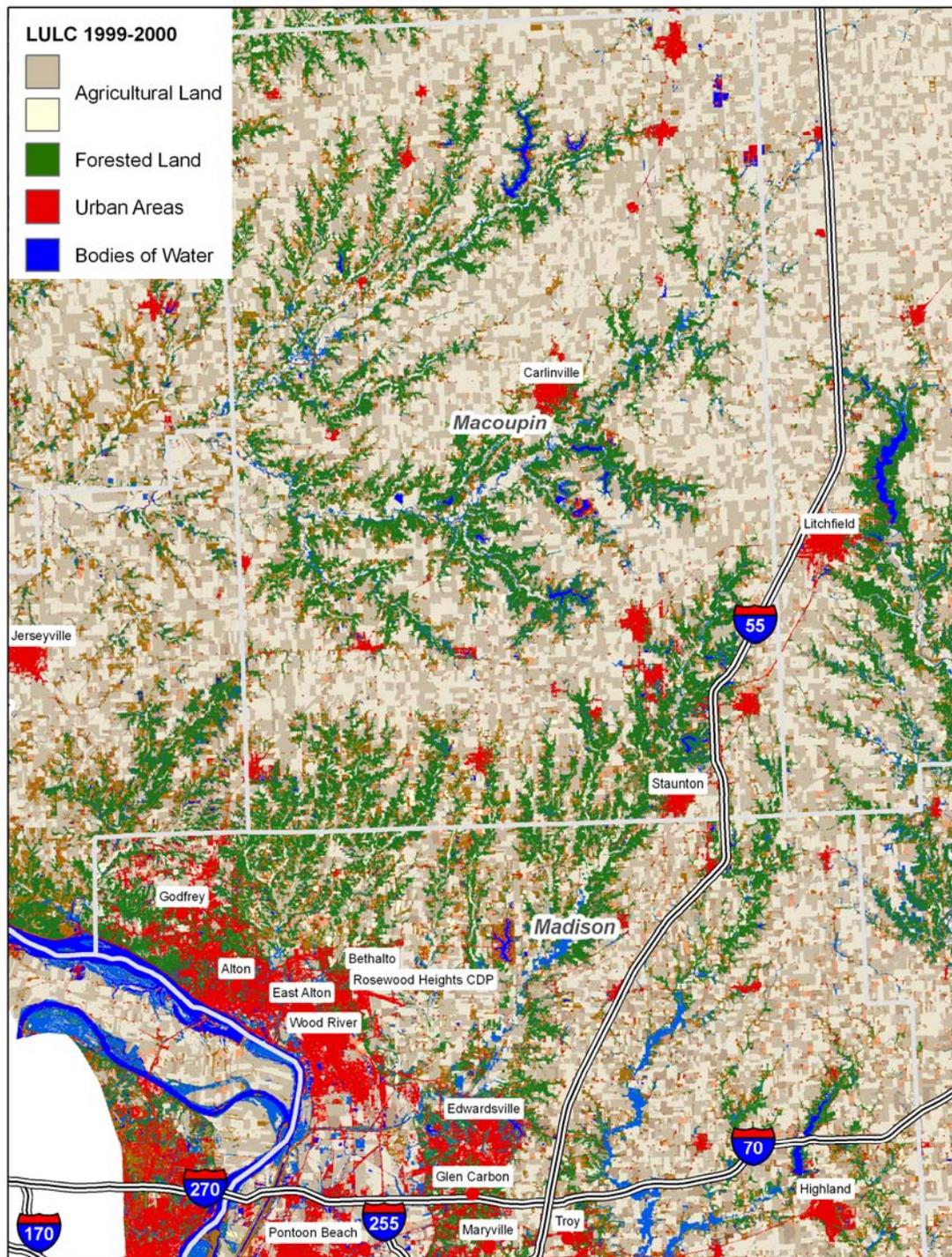
Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I look forward to your questions.

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<sup>4</sup> For example, a \$2.4 million Rural Development loan helped the Macoupin County Mental Health Association move into its new building in Carlinville. Meanwhile, Community Memorial Hospital in Staunton received \$237,800 from Rural Development to expand its telemedicine services. Both of these examples are from the Illinois USDA Annual Report, <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/il/forms/AR06.pdf>, accessed February 2011.

<sup>5</sup> Tweeten, L., and G. Brinkman. 1976. Micropolitan development: Theory and practice of greater-rural economic development. Ames: The Iowa State University Press.

**Map 1: Land Use Map of Macoupin County**



Illinois

Source: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Natural Resources Geospatial Data Clearinghouse. <http://www.isgs.illinois.edu/nsdihome/webdocs/landcover/landcover99-00.html>. Accessed February 2011.

## Appendix A: About the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs

The Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs (IIRA) was founded in 1989 as a companion agency to the Illinois Governor’s Rural Affairs Council and is focused on research, policy analysis, and technical assistance in rural areas of Illinois. IIRA assists rural communities and their leaders to expand their capacity to improve their quality of life. IIRA also acts as a bridge between local leaders and the state and federal agencies that provide rural programs. Following is a glimpse at some of the things IIRA does to build rural communities in our state.

IIRA receives about 25% of its annual budget through Western Illinois University, where it is located. The remaining funding is raised through grants. Because of this dependence on grants, IIRA is an entrepreneurial organization that constantly seeks new opportunities.

The staff of about 40 includes five Ph.D.s and 25 master’s level outreach specialists and about 20 students. IIRA has created grant-funded outreach and research programs in a number of areas, including economic and community development; housing and health; transportation; rural schools; and alternative energy using wind and biomass (Figure 1). IIRA’s research is not only theoretical; it is intended to be applied in the local communities.

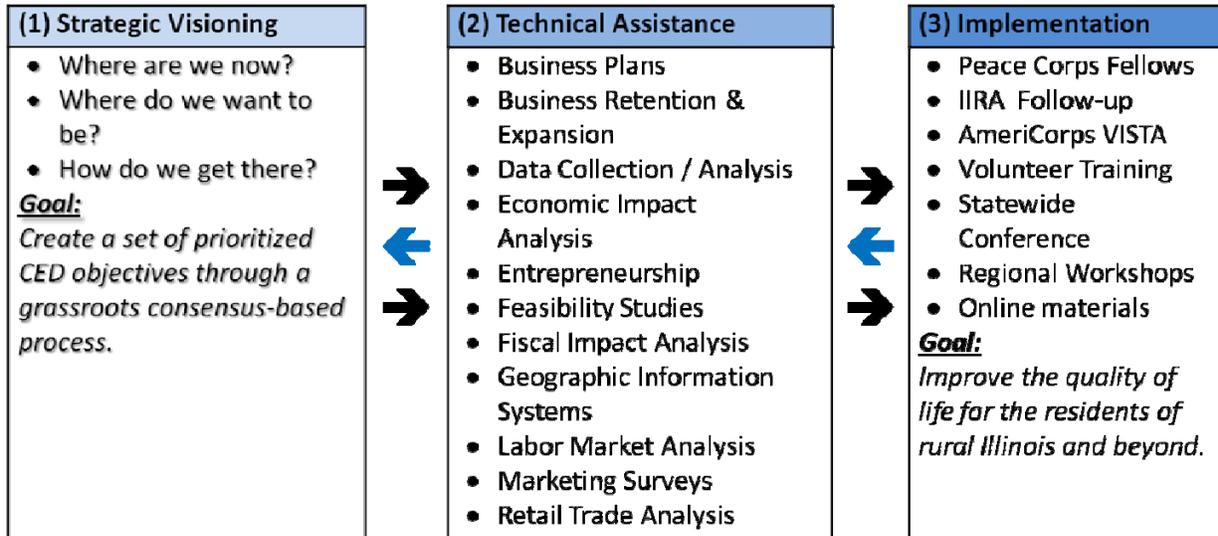
IIRA partners with public and private agencies on rural local development and enhancement efforts with the goal of developing sustainable communities. Efforts involve building local support to create a community vision and plan for achieving that vision. IIRA’s holistic model links research, outreach, and policy activities.

Figure 1



IIRA’s approach to rural development is predicated on the idea that community and economic development occur hand in hand. This recognizes the dynamic complexities of rural communities and the importance of strong community life as the basis for strong national economic and civic life. This is the rationale for IIRA’s approach that links strategic planning and visioning, technical assistance, and implementation in communities (Figure 2). These strategies are often mixed to provide a wide spectrum of assistance to rural communities throughout the state. As a result, IIRA has developed a national reputation for innovative programs and services.

**Figure 2**



## Appendix B: Multiple Definitions of Rural



Definition	Description	Percent of people and land area considered rural in the U.S. under definition (2000)
Rural definition #1	All areas outside Census places with 2,500 or more people	87.7 million people 31% of U.S. population 97% of U.S. land area
Rural definition #2	All areas outside Census places with 10,000 or more people	115.8 million people 41% of U.S. population 98% of U.S. land area
Rural definition #3	All areas outside Census places with 50,000 or more people	177 million people 63% of U.S. population 99% of U.S. land area

Source: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/data/ruraldefinitions/IL.pdf>

# Illinois

## Three rural definitions based on Census Places

Rural locations are those outside Census Places with a population...

...greater than or equal to 2,500  
 Outside Census Places >= 2,500 people

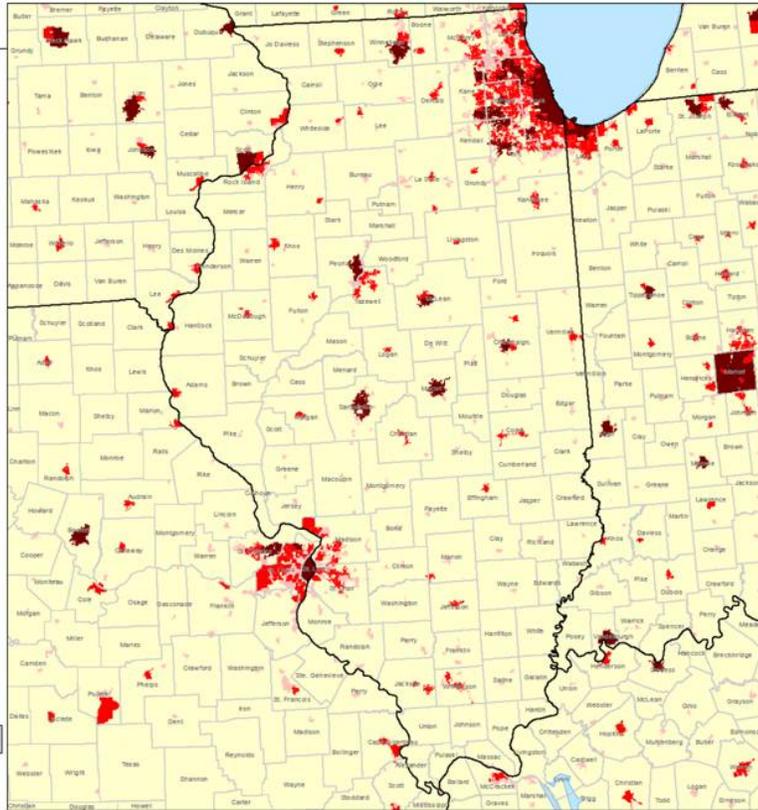
...greater than or equal to 10,000  
 Outside Census Places >= 2,500 people  
 Census Places: 2,500 - 9,999

...greater than or equal to 50,000  
 Outside Census Places >= 2,500 people  
 Census Places: 2,500 - 9,999  
 Census Places: 10,000 - 49,999

Urban locations under all three definitions:

Census Places: >= 50,000 people

For more information on definitions, see documentation



## IV. DEFINING RURAL 9 WAYS



Definition	Description	Percent of people and land area considered rural in the U.S. under definition (2000)
Rural definition #4	All areas outside urban areas. This places the upper limit of rural at 2,500, since urban areas must have at least 2,500 people.	59.1 million people 21% of U.S. population 97% of U.S. land area
Rural definition #5	All areas outside urban areas with 10,000 or more people.	70.6 million people 25% of U.S. population 98% of U.S. land area
Rural definition #6	All areas outside urban areas with 50,000 or more people.	89.5 million people 32% of U.S. population 98% of U.S. land area

Source: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/data/ruraldefinitions/IL.pdf>

# Illinois

## Three rural definitions based on Census Urban Areas

Rural locations are those outside Census Urban Areas with a population...

...greater than or equal to 2,500

Outside Census Urban Areas  $\geq$  2,500

...greater than or equal to 10,000

Outside Census Urban Areas  $\geq$  2,500

Census Urban Areas: 2,500 - 9,999

...greater than or equal to 50,000

Outside Census Urban Areas  $\geq$  2,500

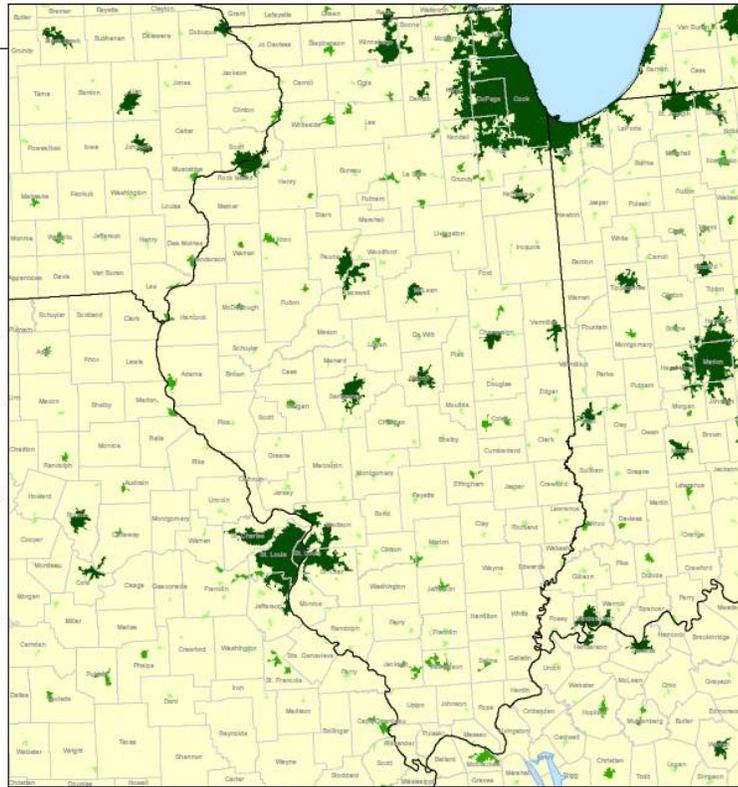
Census Urban Areas: 2,500 - 9,999

Census Urban Areas: 10,000 - 49,999

Urban locations under all three definitions:

Census Urban Areas:  $\geq$  50,000

For more information on definitions, see documentation





## IV. DEFINING RURAL 9 WAYS

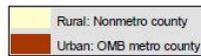


Definition	Description	Percent of people and land area considered rural in the U.S. under definition (2000)
Rural definition #7	All counties outside metropolitan areas in 2003 (based on 2000 census data)	48.8 million people 17% of U.S. population 75% of U.S. land area
Rural definition #8	Census tracts with 2000 RUCA codes 4 through 10	57.6 million people 20% of U.S. population 81% of U.S. land area
Rural definition #9	Locations outside places of 50,000 or more people and their associated urbanized areas.	101.9 million people 36% of U.S. population 98% of U.S. land area

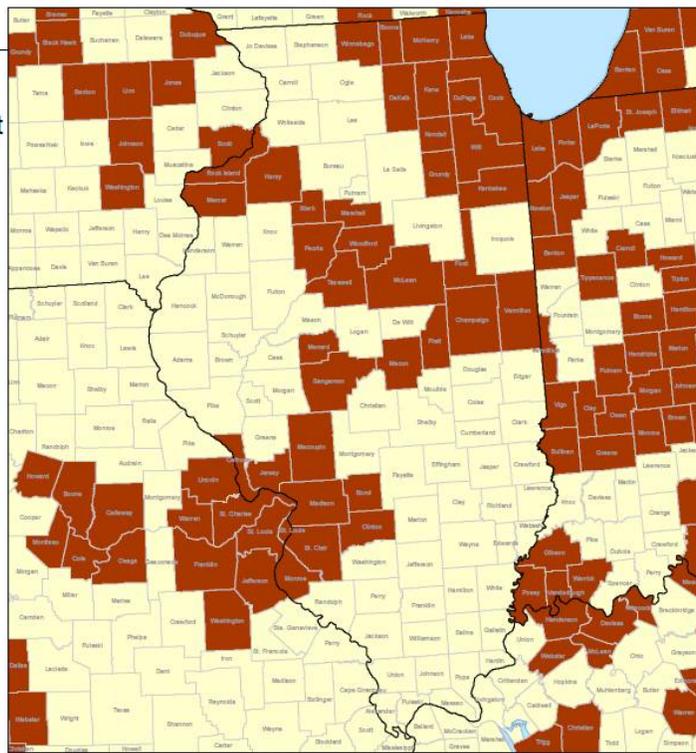
Source: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/data/ruraldefinitions/IL.pdf>

# Illinois

Rural definition based on Office of Management and Budget (OMB) metro counties



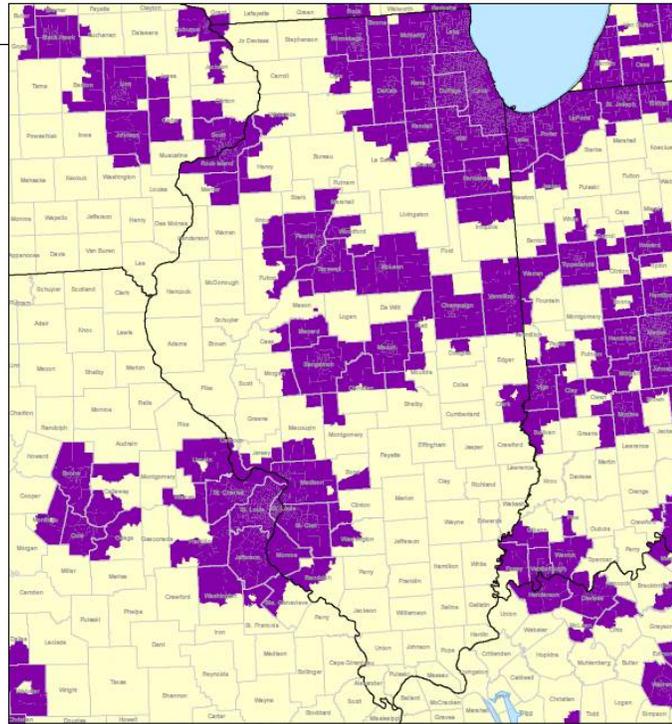
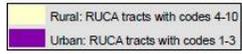
- 102 Total counties
- 36 metro counties
- 66 nonmetro (or non-core based) counties



For more information on definitions, see documentation

## Illinois

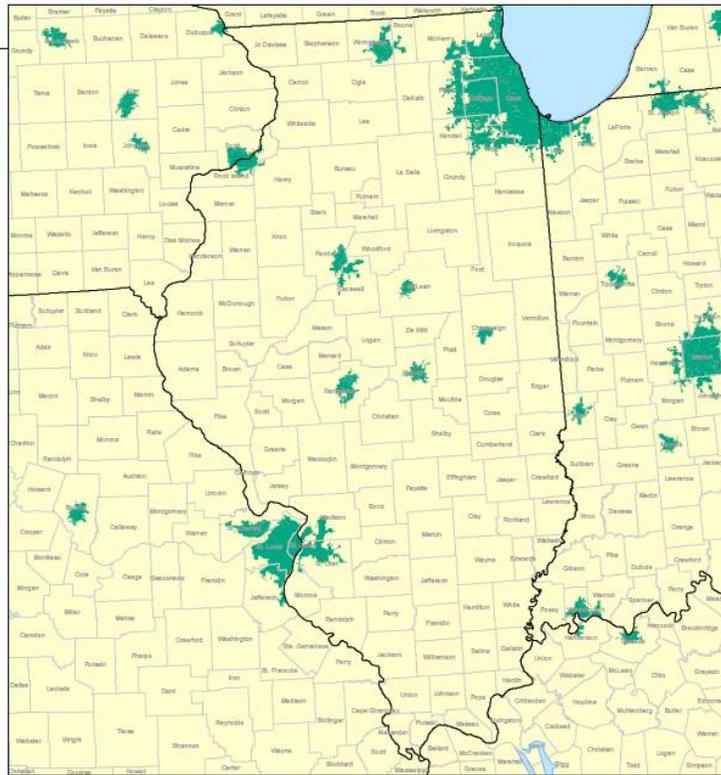
Rural definition based  
on Economic  
Research Service  
Rural-Urban  
Commuting  
Areas (RUCA)



For more information on definitions,  
see documentation

# Illinois

The USDA Business and Industry ineligible locations are Census Places greater than 50,000 people and their adjacent and contiguous Urbanized Areas



For more information on definitions, see documentation

## COLLINS VITA

### Curriculum Vita Timothy Collins

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#### PERSONAL INFORMATION

Home Address:  
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Office Address:  
Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs  
Western Illinois University  
1 University Circle, Stipes 520  
Macomb, IL 61455  
Phone: 309.298.3412  
E-mail: t-collins@wiu.edu

#### EDUCATION

- Ph.D., Sociology, University of Kentucky. Emphasis, Rural Sociology. May, 1995. Dissertation title: *Tapestry of Conflicts: A Political Economy of Kentucky's Economic-development and Education Policies.*
- M.S., Agricultural Economics, West Virginia University. December, 1986. Thesis title: *Profile of Skiers in Tucker County, WV.*
- B.A., Journalism, News-Editorial Sequence, The Ohio State University. March, 1975.

#### EMPLOYMENT

##### March, 2005, to present

Assistant Director, Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs, Western Illinois University. Assist the Director and Implementation Team in providing leadership for IIRA: coordinating special projects, conducting research and surveys, community consulting, representing IIRA at meetings, supervising staff and graduate students, undergraduate teaching, writing and report preparation, and participation in scholarly and professional activities.

- Participated on team that wrote successful proposal to secure Carnegie Foundation Community Engagement status for Western Illinois University.
- Authored reports, presentations, and scholarly work; created web-based rural policy paper series; implemented monthly statewide column featuring IIRA research and outreach; wrote monthly essays for Daily Yonder rural website.
- Initiated research on sustainable community land use and implementation of biomass facilities.
- Created website commemorating centennial of Theodore Roosevelt's Country Life Commission.
- Co-principle investigator, "Building Rural Libraries and Communities" LSTA grant through Illinois State Library.
- Took leadership role in helping to implement campus-wide environmental summit and interdisciplinary Sustainability Brownbaggers. Represented IIRA on campus Sustainability Committee; chaired administration subcommittee.
- Represented IIRA: Illinois Department of Natural Resources Advisory Board (Governor) Broadband Deployment Council, co-chaired policy subcommittee (Lieutenant Governor); Community Development Society Board and editor, *CDS Vanguard* monthly newsletter.
- Adjunct professor, Department of African-American Studies; taught course on rural roots of African-American migration in United States; taught courses for Honors College on land use and global social justice.

**February, 2001 to February 2005**

Extension Educator, Community and Economic Development, Penn State University Cooperative Extension in Adams County. Responsible for curriculum development and educational programs related to land use planning, farmland preservation, local government, and agricultural economic development. Headed Capital Region Economic and Community Development Team. Built networks and community capacity to deal with change; taught interested stakeholders, including government officials; prepared materials for media; provided information to citizens; and evaluated programs.

- Co-founder, Northeast Extension Land Use Network.
- Conceptualized and supervised team development of Land Use Toolbox website.
- Facilitated participatory research on land use and agricultural economic development.
- Co-founder, Leadership Adams Hanover.
- Created oral history program focusing on historic farmsteads in Adams County, PA, for students in historic methods course at Gettysburg College.

**August, 2000 to January, 2001**

Self-employed consultant. Selected clients:

- *SERVE*, Greensboro, NC. Professional services in planning and development, including concept paper on community indicators, proposal review, and advice on building rural school-community capacity.
- *AEL, Inc.*, Charleston, WV. Writing and editing services.

**July, 1998 to July, 2000**

Director, ERIC Clearinghouse on Rural Education and Small Schools, AEL, Inc. Supervised national education database; oversaw publications, special projects, World Wide Web site, user services; maintained records, wrote reports, presented papers, and authored publications. Also assisted with research and development in federal regional educational laboratory. Selected projects:

- Research on curriculum of place.
- Research on high-poverty, low-performing schools.
- Developed guidebook for community engagement for academic achievement, leading incubator process with five members, including consultant.
- Helped develop NSF-sponsored Transitions from Childhood to Workplace national working conference on persistent poverty communities, October, 1999.
- Developed materials on schools as focus for community development.

**January, 1995 to July, 1998**

Director of Research, University of Kentucky Appalachian Center. Supervised and maintained research program and database; publication writing and editing; mapping (GIS); program evaluation, policy analysis, solicited grants and research contracts; supervised graduate students and part-time employees; provided information to media and public; oversaw development of World Wide Web pages. Selected projects:

- *Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence* - Assessed efforts to involve parents in data analysis to improve student achievement.
- *University of Tennessee-Knoxville Community Partnership Center* - Supervised two community research teams in Empowerment Zone/Enterprise Community. Did initial baseline studies, wrote introductory sections for revision of learning team training materials, wrote analysis of newspaper clippings covering EZs and ECs.
- *Kentucky River Area Development District* - Principal author of socioeconomic profile of eight-county region to assist with comprehensive planning process.

**COURSES TAUGHT -**

*Western Illinois University Undergraduate Classes*

“Local Land Use.” (GH 299, 2 semesters). WIU Honors College. 2009-2011.

“Rural Roots of Urban African Americans,” (AAS 455, 1 semester) African American Studies, Fall Semester, 2008.

“Land and Community on the Rural-Urban Fringe” (GH302W, 1 semester) Centennial Honors College, Fall Semester, 2007

“Globalization, Social Justice, and Rural Communities” (GH302W, 1 semester) Centennial Honors College, Winter Semester, 2006

### January, 1988 to December, 1996

#### *University of Kentucky Undergraduate Classes*

“Introductory Sociology” (4 semesters)

“Social Change” (1 semester)

“The Sociology of American Indians” (1 semester)

“Political Sociology” (1 semester)

### CURRENT RESEARCH

- *Reform and Reaction: A Political Economy of Kentucky Education Policy* – book manuscript
- *Enduring Values: Land, Community, and Sustainability* – book manuscript
- Sustainable land use curriculum
- Biomass energy and community land use

### RESEARCH INTERESTS

Land use and community quality of life; rural education.

### MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

- Book review. *Ecosystem Planning in Florida: Solving Regional Problems through Local Decision-making* by Samuel David Brody. In: *Community Development: Journal of the Community Development Society*.
- Book Review. *Cultural Landscapes: Balancing Nature and Heritage in Preservation Practice*, edited by Richard Longstreth. In: *Community Development: Journal of the Community Development Society*.
- *Community Education Journal*.
- Entry for *Green Ethics and Philosophy*. “Conservation, Aesthetic vs. Utilitarian.” Sage Publications.
- Entry for *Green Ethics and Philosophy*. “Conservation in America (John Muir and Gifford Pinchot).” Sage Publications.
- Entry for *Green Ethics and Philosophy*. “Ecological Crisis, The Historical Roots of Our.” Sage Publications.
- Entry for *Green Ethics and Philosophy*. “Human Values and Sustainability.” Sage Publications.

### SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

#### **TEXTBOOKS, MANUALS, AND MONOGRAPHS**

*Tapestry of Conflicts: Kentucky’s Economic Development Policy*. In Press.

*Milestones in Rural Education, 1950-2000: A 2001 SERVE Special Report*. Greensboro, NC: SERVE, 2001. With E. Robert Stephens; Joyce Stern; and John R. Sanders, 2001.

“Community Asset Mapping.” Charleston, WV: AEL Inc. Rural Specialty Toolkit, 2000.

“Community Engagement: An Inventory.” Charleston, WV: AEL Inc. Rural Specialty Toolkit, 2000.

*Kentucky Highways: Some History and Prospects for Planning*. Lexington: University of Kentucky Appalachian Center. With Sarah Dewees and Ronald D. Eller, 1997.

*Community- and Economic-development Organizations Serving Eastern Kentucky*. Lexington: University of Kentucky Appalachian Center. With Sarah Dewees; Theresa Rajack; and Amy Phillips-Garry, 1997.

Skees, Jerry R.; Collins, Timothy; Benson, Fred J. *GRP Training Manual* for soybean risk-management pilot test. University of Kentucky Dept. of Agricultural Economics under contract with Federal Crop Insurance Corp., 1992.

Collins, Timothy; Alexander, Catheryn; Skees, Jerry R; Swanson, Louis E. 1991. "The Farmer Speaks: Kentucky Agricultural Change in the Last Half of the 1980s." Lexington: Kentucky Agricultural Survey. Special Extension Publication.

### **SCHOLARLY**

Entry for *Encyclopedia of Green Politics*. "The Conservation Movement." Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, <http://www.sagepub.com/refbooksProdDesc.nav?prodId=Book233506&#tabview=features>, 2010.

Entry for *Encyclopedia of Green Politics*. "The Industrial Revolution." Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, <http://www.sagepub.com/refbooksProdDesc.nav?prodId=Book233506&#tabview=features>, 2010.

"Place-based Education, Rural Schools, and Sustainable Communities." *The Online Journal of the Global Community Education Network. Green Community Education*. March, 2010. p. 7-10.  
[http://api.ning.com/files/NMtrSqBsACPeCk2z04so97r7hmH8LaDpiuxfl9pQ\\*D6kth1ErlXogKv7BEIF5\\*InW-QHwb1IxLflcd7B\\*uyni0hxmWTHYGpt/Greenedition.pdf](http://api.ning.com/files/NMtrSqBsACPeCk2z04so97r7hmH8LaDpiuxfl9pQ*D6kth1ErlXogKv7BEIF5*InW-QHwb1IxLflcd7B*uyni0hxmWTHYGpt/Greenedition.pdf).

Book Review. *Born in the Country: A History of Rural America*, by David B. Danbom. In: *Community Development: Journal of the Community Development Society* 40(3):293-294, 2009.

*Theodore Roosevelt's Country Life Commission: A Foundation for Sustainable Community Development*. <http://www.iira.org/clc/>. With Stephen R. Hicks, 2009.

"Rural Sustainability: Plenty of Room for Optimism." In: *Community Education Journal*, v. 15, no. 3, p. 3-4, 2009.

Book Review. *Sprawling Places*, by David Kolb. In: *Community Development: Journal of the Community Development Society* 39(4):118-119, 2009.

Book Review. *This Land: The Battle over Sprawl and the Future of America*, by Anthony Flint. In: *Community Development: Journal of the Community Development Society*, 39(3):165-166, 2009.

Book Review. "'Tough Love' for Tough Times in the Midwest." <http://www.dailyonder.com/tough-love-tough-times-midwest>, 2008.

Entry for *Encyclopedia of Global Warming and Climate Change*. "Conservation." Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, 2008. p. 279-282.

Entry for *Encyclopedia of Global Warming and Climate Change*. "Industrialization." Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, 2008. p. 539-542.

"The Place of Rural Community Development in Urban Society." In: *The Community Development Reader*, Eds.: DeFilippis, J; Saegert, London: Routledge, 2007 With Christopher D. Merrett.

### **REPORTS/PAPERS**

"Impacts of the Foreclosure Crisis on Rural Illinois." Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs Policy Brief. [http://www.iira.org/pubs/publications/Policy\\_Brief\\_Impacts\\_of\\_the\\_Mortgage\\_Crisis\\_on\\_Rural\\_Illinois.pdf](http://www.iira.org/pubs/publications/Policy_Brief_Impacts_of_the_Mortgage_Crisis_on_Rural_Illinois.pdf). With Leslie Campos, 2010.

"Building Rural Libraries and Communities: White Paper Summary of a Statewide Meeting, January 30, 2008, East Peoria, IL." <http://www.alliancelibrarysystem.com/Rural/documents/whitepaper.pdf>, 2008. With Felix Chu.

"In Pursuit of Best Practices: A Research Agenda for Rural Education in Illinois." Macomb: Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs at Western Illinois University. *Rural Research Report*, [http://www.iira.org/pubs/publications/IIRA\\_RRR\\_645.pdf](http://www.iira.org/pubs/publications/IIRA_RRR_645.pdf), 2005.

"Census Definition Changes May Influence Rural Policy in Illinois." Macomb: Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs at Western Illinois University. *Rural Research Report*, Spring, 2005. [http://www.iira.org/pubs/publications/IIRA\\_RRR\\_646.pdf](http://www.iira.org/pubs/publications/IIRA_RRR_646.pdf), 2005. With William Westerhold.

**ESSAYS/ANALYSES**

“Will Rural Summit Be End or Beginning?” <http://www.dailyonder.com/what-was-said-rural-summit/2010/06/07/2784>, 2010.

“A Plan for Rural’s Future Takes Shape.” <http://www.dailyonder.com/rural-partners/2010/05/21/2759>, 2010.

“Speak Your Piece: Seven Rural Capitals.” <http://www.dailyonder.com/speak-your-piece-seven-rural-capitals/2010/03/31/2669>, 2010.

“Local Power: Let’s Be Smarter This Time.” <http://www.dailyonder.com/local-power-lets-be-smarter-time/2010/01/05/2522>, 2010.

“Country Life Movement – Miles to Go.” <http://www.dailyonder.com/country-life-movement-miles-go/2009/06/24/2189>, 2009.

**SELECTED PRESENTATIONS****INVITED**

“Creating a Rural Design Organization” Panel Discussion. New Approaches of Inquiry and Practice: First International Symposium on Rural Design. St. Paul, University of Minnesota, January 16, 2010.

“Testimony to the United States House of Representatives Committee on Agriculture Subcommittee on Rural Development, Biotechnology, Specialty Crops, and Foreign Agriculture Regarding U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Business Programs and Conditions for Rural Entrepreneurship and Business Development.” Public Hearing, Washington, DC, October 21, 2009. (IRA co-authors). <http://www.docstoc.com/docs/20115134/HEARING-TO-EXAMINE-THE-US-DEPARTMENT-OF-AGRICULTURES-RURAL-BUSINESS-PROGRAMS-AND-TO-REVIEW-CURRENT-CONDITIONS-FOR-RUR>; <http://agriculture.house.gov/testimony/111/h102109/Collins.pdf>

“A Model for Strengthening Civil Society in Uzbekistan: The Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs.” Formation of Civil Society in Uzbekistan: Conditions, Achievements and Prospects, September 22-23, 2009, Bukhara, Republic of Uzbekistan.

“Illinois Broadband Deployment Council Subcommittee Reports (Policy).” Testimony before the Illinois House of Representatives Computer Technology Committee, Chicago, IL, July 24, 2008.

**CONFERENCES/PAPERS/POSTERS**

“An Examination of Illinois Biofuels Plant Development Using the Community Capitals Framework.” Community Development Society, Memphis, TN. July 29, 2009. With Rustam Sapaev and Stephen R. Hicks.

“Building Rural Libraries and Communities.” With Phyllis Self and Brian Clark. IFLA Annual Meeting, Milan, Italy, 2009. (Poster).

“Sustainable Land Use Indicators: A Values-based Approach to Implementing a Comprehensive Land Use Curriculum.” First meeting of the Association of Environmental Studies and Sciences, Madison, WI, October 9, 2009.

“Theodore Roosevelt’s Country Life Commission and Community Sustainability, 1909-2009.” Community Development Society, Memphis, TN. July 29, 2009. With Stephen R. Hicks.

**SERVICE**

- Illinois Department of Natural Resources Advisory Board, August, 2010 –
- Prairie Land Conservancy Board Member, July, 2009 –
- Community Development Society Board Member June, 2008- ; Editor, *CDS Vanguard*, 2010 -
- Advisory Committee, University of Illinois, NSF Math and Science Partnership project, the “Institute for Chemistry Literacy and Computational Science for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century,” 2006-2007.
- Board member, chair of education committee, *Land Conservancy of Adams County, PA*, 2002-2005.
- Member, *USDA Fund for Rural America* proposal review team, 2001.

- Board Member, *West Virginia Rural Development Council*, 1999-2000.

**PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS/MEMBERSHIPS**

Community Development Society

Association for Environmental Studies and Science

Committee on Agriculture  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Required Witness Disclosure Form

House Rules\* require nongovernmental witnesses to disclose the amount and source of Federal grants received since October 1, 2008.

Name: Timothy Collins

Organization you represent (if any): Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs, Western Illinois University

1. Please list any federal grants or contracts (including subgrants and subcontracts) you have received since October 1, 2008, as well as the source and the amount of each grant or contract. House Rules do NOT require disclosure of federal payments to individuals, such as Social Security or Medicare benefits, farm program payments, or assistance to agricultural producers:

Source: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Source: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

2. If you are appearing on behalf of an organization, please list any federal grants or contracts (including subgrants and subcontracts) the organization has received since October 1, 2008, as well as the source and the amount of each grant or contract:

Source: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Source: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check here if this form is NOT applicable to you: \_\_\_\_\_ X \_\_\_\_\_

Signature:



\* Rule XI, clause 2(g)(4) of the U.S. House of Representatives provides: *Each committee shall, to the greatest extent practicable, require witnesses who appear before it to submit in advance written statements of proposed testimony and to limit their initial presentations to the committee to brief summaries thereof. In the case of a witness appearing in a nongovernmental capacity, a written statement of proposed testimony shall include a curriculum vitae and a disclosure of the amount and source (by agency and program) of each Federal grant (or subgrant thereof) or contract (or subcontract thereof) received during the current fiscal year or either of the two previous fiscal years by the witness or by any entity represented by the witness.*

**PLEASE ATTACH DISCLOSURE FORM TO EACH COPY OF TESTIMONY.**