

Massachusetts Center for Agriculture

University of Massachusetts Amherst

Rural Low-Income Families: Tracking Their Well-Being & Function in an Era of Welfare Reform

Issue

The smooth functioning of the family is important to the well-being and viability of rural communities. This project will add to the understanding of rural low-income families over time using the primary longitudinal data set collected by the NC-223 multi-disciplinary research team.

Impact

The Federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) provides cash-strapped and credit-constrained rural working families the opportunity to increase their purchasing power. Two-thirds of 237 eligible rural working mothers who claimed the EITC used the tax credit to pay bills and loans, improve access to transportation, purchase various consumer durables and non-durables, establish sav-

ings and build assets, engage in leisure activities, and make human capital investments. Labor Supply among Rural Low-income Mothers: The factors that influence two decisions that low-income rural mothers make regarding their employment include labor force entry and number of hours supplied to employment. Employed rural mothers appeared to be older, better educated, and less likely to suffer from depression.

Primary impact area(s)

- Research
- Education
- Extension

Topics

- Rural poverty
- Welfare
- Food Security

Funding sources

- Hatch

Contacts

Sheila Mammen
Resource Economics
413-545-2470

