

Wallace Foundation for Rural Research and Development President's Report

Dan Morgan, board president

The year 2003 brought both new challenges and opportunities for the Wallace Foundation. With the announcement of Iowa State University's closing of the Lauren Christian Swine Research and Demonstration Farm came a need to develop some alternative uses for the farm and facilities. For years, ISU and the Wallace Foundation have used hoop buildings for innovative swine housing. These hoop buildings have proven to be economical and durable structures for summer shade and cold weather protection. We are excited about this potential innovation for cattle finishing. The advantages of this system may help southwest Iowa cattle producers be competitive while protecting the environment.

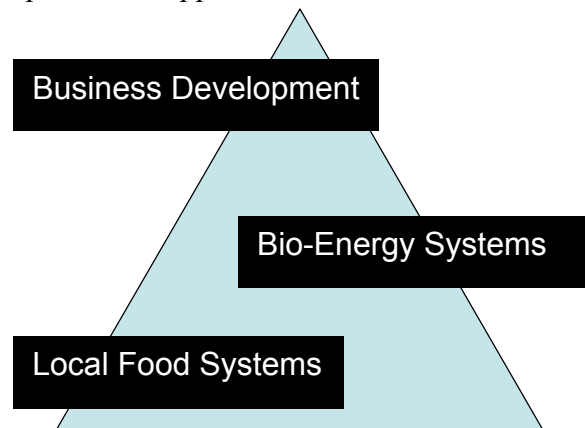
The expansion of horticultural projects on the Armstrong Research and Demonstration Farm allows for future additional projects. This expansion is a result of moving a greenhouse from the Western Research Farm at Castana.

The Armstrong Farm maintains production research with traditional crops as well as new crops such as wine grape cultivars and muskmelons. The Neely-Kinyon farm continues to be the largest certified organic research farm in the nation. It is an innovative working farm that researches and demonstrates alternative agricultural approaches that are environmentally sound and have a positive impact on the community.

With the closing of all three of the Small Business Development Centers and the inability to retain youth, the Wallace Foundation continues to search for entrepreneurial opportunities that will provide employment in

agricultural and urban areas. These conditions have been instrumental in directing the focus of and project development for the Wallace Foundation.

The Wallace Foundation will be expanding the areas of research and demonstration in conjunction with the ISU Agricultural Experiment Station, Iowa State University Extension, and others. This diagram is a working document that outlines the areas that collectively can provide sustainable entrepreneurial opportunities.



The thrust of these projects is to increase the sustainability of those living and working in rural southwest Iowa. Growth is necessary, and much effort is given to it. But without a degree of sustainability, growth becomes extremely difficult. Sustainability for rural Southwest Iowa is critical given the demographic history and projections of the area. These projects have become the new mission for the Wallace Foundation for Rural Research and Development. For more information contact Keith Booth, Resource Development, kbooth@iastate.edu, 712-769-2650 or <http://www.wallacefdn.org>.