FOR IMMEDIATE NEWS RELEASE  DO NOT RUN AS PAID AD
Friday, June 19, 2009

RE: Summer webinars focus on Marcellus shale natural gas issues

Tuesday, June 16, 2009

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. -- Beginning June 25, Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences and Penn State Cooperative Extension will offer monthly online seminars addressing impacts related to the development of natural gas from the Marcellus shale in Pennsylvania.

The summer series of "webinars" is designed to help communities and local leaders prepare for the potential impacts of gas exploration and development, including understanding workforce needs and water-policy issues surrounding gas-well drilling. Extension educators, representatives of federal and state agencies, conservation district personnel, municipal officials, planning agencies, economic development groups, environmental groups and citizens have participated in previous Penn State Extension webinars on Marcellus shale issues.

The one-hour webinars will be held at 1 p.m. on the following dates:

-- June 25: "Planning for Community Impacts." Presenter: Neal Fogle, Penn State Extension economic and community development educator based in Montour County.


-- August 27: "Marcellus Industry Direct Workforce Needs." Presenters: Jim Ladlee, Clinton County director for Penn State Extension, and Jeff Lorson and Tracy Brundage, Pennsylvania College of Technology.

-- September 17: "Community Response Options to Marcellus Shale and Energy Development." Presenters: Kathy Brasier, Penn State assistant professor of rural sociology, and Walt Whitmer, Penn State economic and community development extension associate.

Information about how to register for the webinars is available at http://naturalgas.extension.psu.edu/Events.htm. Online participants will have the opportunity to ask the speaker questions during the webinar.

The summer webinars are the latest in a series of online workshops initiated in fall 2008 by the College of Agricultural Sciences and Penn State Extension to address issues related to Marcellus shale gas exploration and extraction. Previous webinars -- which covered topics such as water use and quality, gas leasing considerations for landowners and implications for local communities -- can be viewed at http://naturalgas.extension.psu.edu/webinars.htm.

For more information, contact Joann Kowalski, extension educator in Susquehanna County, at (570) 278-1158 or by e-mail at jmk20@psu.edu.

The Pennsylvania State University © 2002-2009 Penn State: Making Life Better

More on the complete Marcellus Shale Gas webinar series follows --
RE: Penn State offers Web series on gas exploration issues

To address the opportunities and challenges of exploring for natural gas in the Marcellus shale in much of Pennsylvania, Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences and Penn State Cooperative Extension has offered a seven-part series of online seminars that started in December and ran through May 2009.

The "webinars" covered a variety of topics such as local governments’ roles in gas exploration, leasing concerns in the current economic climate, and the effects of deep-well drilling methods on water supplies.

The series was targeted at extension educators, representatives of federal and state agencies such as the Department of Environmental Protection, conservation district personnel, municipal officials, planning agencies, economic development groups, environmental groups, people who might influence public policy or individual decisions regarding exploration for gas, and interested citizens.

These previously held webinars can be viewed online in a recorded version and can be found at http://naturalgas.extension.psu.edu/webinars.htm. They are –

- **Governments' Roles in Natural Gas Development**
  Ross Pifer, director of the Agricultural Law Resource and Reference Center at Penn State's Dickinson School of Law, 5-21-09

- **The Marcellus Shale: Reason for the Pattern of Well Locations Through April 2009**
  Terry Engelder, Penn State professor of geosciences, 4-16-09

- **Above the Marcellus Shale - Minimizing Impacts to Forests and Wildlife**
  Margaret Brittingham, Professor of Wildlife Resources and Extension Wildlife Specialist, 3-18-09

- **Water Use and Water Quality Issues**
  Bryan Swistock, Penn State Water Resources Specialist, 2-19-09

- **Considerations When Negotiating a Lease: Impact of the Current Economical Environment**
  Tom Murphy, Extension Educator, Agricultural Sciences/Energy Development 1-22-09

- **What Marcellus Shale Exploration Means for Pennsylvania, Local Communities, and Citizens**
  Dr. Timothy Kelsey, Professor of Agricultural Economics 12-18-08

- **Lessons about Social & Economic Impacts of Natural Gas Development from Wyoming**
  Jeffrey Jacquet, Natural Gas Socioeconomic Impact Analyst, 11-19-08

Individuals can register to view upcoming webinars online at http://naturalgas.extension.psu.edu/Events.htm. Shortly before the webinar date, registrants will receive an e-mail from Penn State Cooperative Extension with additional information about how to connect online.

###