

\$6 million to help with Farm Bill

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack recently announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is awarding \$6 million to universities and cooperative state extension services to develop online decision tools and other materials and train experts to educate producers about several key farm bill programs. The new Web tools will help farmers and ranchers determine what participation in programs established by the 2014 Farm Bill will mean for their businesses.

The University of Illinois (lead for the National Coalition for Producer Education [NCPPE]), along with the Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute (FAPRI) at the University of Missouri and the Agricultural and Food Policy Center (AFPC) at Texas A&M (co-leads for the National Association of Agricultural and Food Policy [NAAF]), will receive a total of \$3 million to develop the new online tools and train state-based extension agents who can in turn help educate farmers.

“Helping farmers and ranchers understand new Farm Bill programs and what the programs mean for their families is one of USDA’s top priorities,” said Vilsack. “With the resources we’re providing, university experts will help ensure farmers and ranchers are highly educated as they make critical decisions about new programs that impact their livelihoods. The new tools that will be developed will empower farmers and ranchers to select the plan that best fits their unique needs.”

The new resources will help farmers and ranchers make an educated choice between the new Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) program and the Price Loss Coverage (PLC) program.

Using the new online tools, producers will be able to use data unique to their specific farming operations combined with factors like the geographical diversity of crops, soils, weather and climates across the country to test a variety of financial scenarios before officially signing up for the new program options later this year. Once a producer enrolls in the Agriculture Risk Coverage or Price Loss Coverage program, he or she must remain in the program through the 2018 crop year.

New tools will be provided for other programs as well. Sign-up for the newly established Margin Protection Program for Dairy (MPP) begins late this summer and enrollment for “buy-up” provisions under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) will begin early next year. An online Margin Protection Program for Dairy tool will be available when sign up begins and the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program buy-up provision resource will become available to producers in the fall for the 2015 crop year.

The University of Illinois, as well as, Agricultural Policy Research Institute and Food Policy Center will develop Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage web tools. The University of Illinois will also develop the online resources for the Margin Protection and Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance programs.

The Department of Agriculture will also award \$3 million to state cooperative extension services—a nationwide network of experts based at land-grant universities—for outreach and education on the new Farm Bill programs. Funds will be used to conduct public education out-

reach meetings where producers can speak with local extension agents and Farm Service Agency (FSA) staff. Outreach meetings will begin late this summer to help farmers and ranchers understand the new programs and their options.

While universities work to create new online tools, producers now have access to a preliminary website that gives them a chance to begin familiarizing themselves with the new programs and the type of information they will need to consider when deciding which program options work better for them. At this site, farmers and ranchers can view Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage projected payments, Agriculture Risk Coverage guarantees, and Price Loss Coverage payment rate projections. These tables are available on the Farm Service Agency website.

The announcement was made possible through the 2014 Farm Bill, which builds on historic economic gains in rural America over the past five years, while achieving meaningful reform and billions of dollars in savings for taxpayers. Since enactment, The Department of Agriculture has made significant progress to implement each provision of this critical legislation, including providing disaster relief to farmers and ranchers; strengthening risk management tools; expanding access to rural credit; funding critical research; establishing innovative public-private conservation partnerships; developing new markets for rural-made products; and investing in infrastructure, housing and community facilities to help improve quality of life in rural America. For more information, visit www.usda.gov/farmbill.

Membership meeting



Ag Valley Co-op held its annual membership meeting on Tuesday at the American Legion to discuss financials and any new business for the upcoming year. Norton 4-Hers served the meal at the luncheon. Ag Valley gives the 4-H kids a stipend for poultry barn improvements at the County Fair.

—Telegram photo by Mike Stephens

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Aerobics

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“We pay the city and they provide the lifeguards,” said Volgamore. “We have a wonderful relationship with the city, the pool managers and the lifeguards.”

On June 1, 2009 the hospital’s water aerobics program was recognized by the Kansas Hospital

Association for its benefits and service to the community. The Hospital Association awarded the program \$1,000, which according to Volgamore, was used to purchase water weights for all the participants.

“The benefits speak for themselves, get out and move, but the benefits are also in the number of people who return each

year.”

Volgamore said interest in the classes is strong and they are expecting 70 people for the classes.

“We’ve had many calls from people asking when the classes start. We have fun, it’s not strict at all,” said Volgamore.

Anyone wanting to sign up for the classes can register the

first night they are held, and the cost is \$25.

“I’ve had some people who in their first year were a little timid in the water, but they come back year after year and now they’re more confident. I enjoy working with all the people in the classes.”

Commissioners

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door that needs to be replaced.

Beckman also reported that they are still spraying for bind-

weed. He said he was told by area farmers that since they did such a great job spraying last year the county road sides really didn’t need spraying again right

now. He is wanting to get some mapping done to identify just where they need sprayed and where they don’t.

Garden

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“Everything but carrots are up,” said Maulding.

Potato and tomato plants are being grown in the garden for the Stockton Correctional Facility as well.

“Aramark bought the seeds and the inmates get the benefits of something they wouldn’t normally get, I don’t mind that,” Maulding said.

The garden has another basic benefit that is very important to the Facility, and that’s keeping

the inmates busy and productive. Terry Petrie, public information officer, said the prison has had a garden off and on for the last 20 years and, “it’s another way to keep inmates from being idle. They’re outside getting exercise.”

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Gary Erlenbusch, Commander
Curt Archibald, Adjutant

Eagles Lodge FOE 3288
Second and Fourth Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.
Larry Hawks, President
Secretary, Ron Miller

Veterans of Foreign Wars
Reg. 7:00 p.m.
First Mon. of each Month
Curt Archibald, Commander
Joe Ballinger, Quartermaster

I.O.O.F. No. 157
Meet at Eagles Club
First and Third Thursday
Each Month at 7:30 p.m.
Geneva Tier, Noble Grand
Randy Knoll, Secretary

The American Legion Riders Post 63
Meet at 5:00 p.m. at the American Legion Building on the Second Sunday of Every Month
website: www.alr63.org

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Dr. Jose Dimen
Monthly

Oncology/Hematology
Dr. Anne O’Dea
Monthly

Orthopedic - Dr. Alex DeCarvalho
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Dr. Brandon Cunningham
Dr. Zurab Tsereteli
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