

Small Farm Program Highlights October 2008

Frank Boteler, Deputy Administrator, Economic and Community Systems
.....fboteler@csrees.usda.gov or 202-720-7947

Denis Ebodaghe, CSREES National Program Leader for Small Farms
.....debodaghe@csrees.usda.gov or 202-401-4385

CSREES SMALL FARM PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS is electronically published monthly. Special alert issues will be available as events warrant

The Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) works with land-grant university partners and other stakeholders to advance knowledge for agriculture, the environment, human health and well-being, and communities through national program leadership and federal assistance. Among the agency's goals is to support increased economic opportunities and quality of life in rural areas.

This is the seventy eighth issue of an electronic resource tool for state Small Farm program coordinators and others to share small farm relevant information with our stakeholders at the Land-Grant University System and other public and private sector organizations.

KEY DEPARTMENT NEWS

- WASHINGTON, October 1, 2008 - Agriculture Secretary Ed Schafer announced \$13.8 million awarded to support research, education and outreach for food safety. USDA awarded the grants in 19 states through the [National Integrated Food Safety Initiative](#)
- WASHINGTON, Oct. 8, 2008 - Agriculture Secretary Ed Schafer announced that USDA has awarded more than \$28 million through the [Specialty Crop Research Initiative](#) to solve critical specialty crop agriculture issues, address priorities and solve problems through multifunctional research and extension
- WASHINGTON, Oct. 22, 2008 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture will publish a proposed rule in the Federal Register on Oct. 24 that proposes to amend the [National Organic Program livestock standards](#) to clarify the role pasture plays in the production of organic ruminants.
- WASHINGTON, Oct. 27 - USDA is awarding \$8.78 million in [agricultural risk management partnership agreements](#), including ones for outreach and education opportunities to limited-resource and other traditionally under-served farmers and ranchers, throughout the United States

COMMUNICATION NETWORK

- [Farm Credit Administration](#) - the independent Federal agency responsible for examining and regulating the Farm Credit System. Note recent news releases on the financial health of Farmer Mac

(Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation)

- The House and Senate passed and the President signed into law the suspension of the 10-acre rule for one year to keep thousands of small farmers eligible for crop subsidies. The provision barred payments to people with less than 10 qualifying acres but lawmakers said USDA misinterpreted the language by not allowing farmers to combine tracts to meet the 10-acre threshold
- LEAD 21 develops leaders in land grant institutions and their strategic partners who link research, academics, and extension in order to lead more effectively in an increasingly complex environment. Application Deadline: November 15
- Beginning Farmer and Rancher competitive grants program. The 2008 Farm Bill made available \$18 million to new and established local and regional training, education, outreach, and technical assistance initiatives that address the needs of beginning farmers and ranchers. The program will be administered through CSREES. Stakeholder input is requested until November 14th 2008 for the FY 2009 funding cycle
- Oregon State's National Pesticide Information Center has launched a Spanish-language version of its website. The Center requests feedback. Last year, NPIC made services available over the phone in over 170 languages, and disseminated NPIC brochures and fliers in Spanish. Its next goal is to translate original NPIC publications (fact sheets, common pesticide questions) into Spanish
- Free webinars through eXtension
 - October 29 (rescheduled from an earlier date) The Nebraska EDGE Program: Highlights from 5 Years of Growing Entrepreneurs
 - November 12: Effective Networking Tips and Techniques for the Business Owner
 - December 10: Next Level eMarketing

Access these webinars is <http://connect.extension.iastate.edu/ecop/>

- Five farmers market-related publications available online from the University of California Small Farm Program - also available for sale in print:
 - Starting a New Farmers Market
 - Management Skills for Market Managers
 - Growing Your Farmers Market
 - Food Safety at Farmers Markets and Agritourism Venues
 - Guide to Managing Risks and Liability at California Certified Farmers Markets
- Farm Financial Management Publications from Iowa State through eXtension

- CSREES is seeking stakeholder input on the [Extension Integrated Pest Management Competitive Grants Program](#). Written comments must be received by November 15, 2008. Note: CSREES plans to release a Request for Applications in January 2009
- CSREES and ARS have released "[Opportunities and Challenges in Agricultural Water Reuse](#)," the final conference report from the 2006 Agricultural Water Reuse Conference
- [Concurrent Session and Poster presentations](#) are solicited for the 2009 Risk Management Education Conference, Reno, Nevada, March 30 – April 1, 2009. Note submission deadline: November 19th
- [SARE has a new look for a new era](#)
- [Wisconsin Local Food Marketing Guide: A Producer's Guide to Marketing Locally Grown Food](#) and other useful marketing information from the [Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection](#)
- USDA's [Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service](#) (APHIS) [requests comments](#) on limiting the use of the animal identification number with the 840 prefix to animals born in the United States and related matters. The [interim rule](#) became effective September 18, 2008. Comments must be received by November 17, 2008
- [APHIS](#) seeks [public comment](#) and scientific and technical empirical data and information concerning ongoing and future research on genetically engineered animals and related matters. Comments must be received by November 18, 2008
- [APHIS](#) is [requesting approval](#) of a new information collection to support the National Animal Health Monitoring System Goat 2009 Study. Comments must be received by November 28, 2008
- [GAO](#) report notes the need for improvements in the Food and Drug Administration's oversight of fresh produce
- [Farm Household Economics and Well being](#), USDA, ERS Briefing room reports the latest 2007 estimate and 2008 forecast of U.S. farm household income

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Through CSREES:

- [Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers](#) This Competitive Grants Program provides funds to organizations to conduct outreach and technical assistance to encourage and assist socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers to own and operate farms and ranches and to participate in agricultural programs Closing date: December 12, 2008 More Information: [D.](#)

Toombs, (202) 401 - 2138

- o The Regional IPM Competitive Grants Program. This program supports the continuum of research and extension efforts needed to increase the implementation of IPM methods. The program is administered by the land-grant university system's four regional IPM Centers in partnership with CSREES. Closing date: November 17, 2008

Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education

Western SARE:

- Farmer/Rancher Research & Education, application deadline: 5 p.m., MST, Dec. 5, 2008
- Professional + Producer Grants: application deadline: 5 p.m., MST, Dec. 5, 2008
- Professional Development Program; application deadline: 4 p.m. MST, **Nov. 3, 2008**

Northeast SARE:

- Partnership Grant: postmark deadline of December 9, 2008
- Farmer Grants: postmark deadline of December 16, 2008
- Sustainable Community Grants: postmarked by December 2, 2008

North Central SARE:

- Farmer Rancher Grants: Proposals are due December 1, 2008

Southern SARE:

- Producer Grants: application deadline: November 17, 2008
- On-Farm Research Grants: application deadline November 17, 2008
- Matching Planning Grants: application deadline December 1, 2008

- o Organic Farming Research Foundation grants program. Next proposal due date: November 17, 2008
- o 2009 National Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Cost Share Grant Program. Grant application may be available late November 2008 on <http://www.grants.gov/>. More Information: Nancy Stremple

- The [Northeast Sun Grant Initiative Competitive Grants Program](#) announces the availability of funds to support research, education and outreach projects in the strategic areas of Biologically-Based Fuels (BioFuels), Biologically-Based Power (BioPower), and Biologically-Based Products (BioProducts). Letters of intent are required by October 31, 2008. Full proposals are due by 5 pm Eastern, February 2, 2009

UPCOMING EVENTS

- [16th National Small Farm Trade Show and Conference™](#), Columbia, Missouri, **November 6-8, 2008**
- [Navigating in a Climate of Change,](#) Annual General Meeting, NASULGC, Chicago, Illinois, November 9-11
- [Growing U.S. Organic Agriculture; accessing the 2008 Farm Bill,](#) Indianapolis, Indiana, November 12
- [11th Annual Farmer Cooperatives Conference,](#) University of Wisconsin Center for Cooperatives, St. Paul, Minnesota, November 18 – 19
- [Free Broadband Educational Workshop,](#) Phoenix, Arizona, November 20, 2008
- [Creating a Culture of Entrepreneurs,](#) 13th Annual Booker T. Washington Economic Development Summit, Tuskegee, Alabama, November 19 - 21
- 6th Annual Risk Management and Community Outreach Conference, Huntsville, Alabama, November 20-21, 2008. The conference will be preceded by a farm field day in the afternoon of November 19, 2008. For more information or to register: 1-(866) 858-4970, or contact [Duncan Chembezi](#), Small Farms Research Center, Alabama A&M
- [Family Farmed Expo,](#) Chicago, Illinois, November 21 – 23
- [2008 ACRES conference,](#) St. Louis, Missouri, December 1 - 6
- [66th Professional Ag Workers Conference,](#) Tuskegee University, Tuskegee, Alabama, December 7-9, 2008
- [Practical Tools and Solutions for Sustaining Family Farms,](#) 18th annual conference, Chattanooga, Tennessee, January 21 – 24, 2009
- Tenth Annual [Northern Michigan Small Farm Conference,](#) Grayling Michigan, January 31, 2009
- [Networking Association for Farm Direct Marketing and Agritourism](#) convention, Savannah, Georgia, February 1 – 7, 2009

- o [Upper Midwest Organic Farming Conference](#), LaCross, Wisconsin, February 26 – 29, 2009
- o [California Small Farm Conference](#), Sacramento, California, March 1-3, 2009
- o [National Risk Management Conference](#), Reno, Nevada, March 30 to April 1, 2009
- o The 2009 National Extension and Research Administrative Officers' Conference, Baltimore, Maryland, April 26-30, 2009. Formerly called the CSREES Administrative Officers' Conference, it provides state participants an opportunity to share information with their peers in budget, finance, grants management, and human resources management
- o May 31-June 3 - [North American Agroforestry Conference](#), Columbia, Missouri
- o [National Extension Tourism Conference](#), Park City, Utah, June 14-17, 2009
- o The [Fifth National Small Farm Conference](#), Springfield, Illinois, September 15 18, 2009.

FEEDBACK:

CSREES Small Farm Program Highlights is a dialogue resource tool for state Small Farm program coordinators and other partners who work with small farmers and ranchers. If you have questions, information to share, comments, or wish to subscribe, send an e-mail to pmcaleer@csrees.usda.gov

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Mention or display of a trademark, proprietary product, or firm in text or figures does not constitute an endorsement by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and does not imply approval to the exclusion of other suitable products or firms.