

CSREES SMALL FARM PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

January 2004

Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension
Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture

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

This is the twenty-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.

HIGHLIGHTS INDEX

January 30, 2004

KEY DEPARTMENT NEWS

USDA Announces Release of \$1.5 Billion for Voluntary Conservation Programs in FY 2004

Agriculture Under Secretary for Natural Resources and
Environment Mark Rey announced the release of nearly
\$1.5 billion in funding for conservation programs on working
Lands this fiscal year. With financial and technical assistance
From NRCS, farmers, ranchers and other landowners will
Continue to address resource concerns on agricultural working
Lands, promote environmental quality, address challenges in
Water quality and quantity, protect prime farmland and grazing
Land, and protect valuable wetland ecosystems and wildlife
Habitat on private lands. Information on conservation programs
Is available at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/farmbill/2002/products.html>.
Landowners who want specific information regarding program
participation should contact their local USDA Service Center
Or NRCS office, located at <http://offices.usda.gov> or in the telephone

Book under Federal Government, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

MEETINGS & OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

21st Annual Small Farmers Conference, Marketing And Trade Show

On February 13 & 14, 2-4, the Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund will celebrate its 21st Farmers Marketing & Trade Show Conference. The Conference will be held at the James H. Gray Civic Center, 100 West Oglethorpe Boulevard in Albany, Georgia. For More information and/or registration please contact the Office at 229-432-5799

1st Annual National Hispanic Farmers and Ranchers Conference

On February 22-25, 2005, St. Anthony Hotel, San Antonio, TX, the 1st Annual National Hispanic Farmers and Ranchers Conference “Risk Management through Environmental Stewardship.” For more information call 856-488-0534 or visit <http://www.tm-bc.org>.

Michigan Family Farms Conference

Integrated Food & Farming Systems (MIFFS) and The Farm Research Cooperative (FRC) in partnership with USDA’s Risk Management and Natural Resource Conservation Service Agencies are excited about the first annual Michigan Family Farms Conference, on March 26 & 27, 2004, at the Clarion Hotel and Conference Center, in Lansing, Michigan, Michigan. For more information contact Tom Guthrie Jr., 517-432-0712 Or Dr. Leroy Ray, Jr., 269-521-4975

4th National Small Farm Conference

The dates and location for the 4th National Small Farm Conference has been set for October 17-20, 2005 in Greensboro, NC. The conference will be held at the Sheraton Greensboro Hotel at Four Seasons, Greensboro, North Carolina. North Carolina A&T State University and North Carolina State University will host this fourth national conference. “Creating Opportunities for Small Farmers and Ranchers” is the theme. The conference will promote opportunities for working with small farmers and ranchers. Contacts: Daniel Lyons, Sr., Phone: 336-334-7734, e-mail: daniell@ncat.edu; Roger Crickenberger, Phone: 919-515-3252; e-mail: rcricken@ricks.ces.ncsu.edu; or Denis Ebodaghe, Phone: 202-401-4385; e-mail: debodaghe@csrees.usda.gov. The 4th National Small Farm Conference Web site is under development.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) Inviting Applications for the Rural Cooperative Home-Based Health Care Demonstration Program

This Notice announces the availability of \$1 million Of grant funds through the Rural Community Development (RCDI) Home-Based Health Care Demonstration Program Through the Rural Housing Service (RHS). These grant funds are split into two forms: Pre-development grants and revolving loan grants. The deadline for receipt of an application is 4 p.m. e.s.t. on February 13, 2004. For further information contact: Stephen Wetherbee, 202-720-1503, email: Stephen.wetherbee@usda.gov. You may also obtain information from the RCDI website at <http://www.rurdevl.usda.gov/rhs/rcdi/index.htm>.

Extension Risk Management Education Grants Program

The Washington State University Extension Western Center for Risk Management Education (Western Center) announces an opportunity for applicants to receive funds to support projects that will train agricultural producers and their families to use improved risk management practices. Preproposals are due by 5pm pacific standard time on February 18, 2004. The request for applications (RFA) and information about the online application process are available on the Western Center's web site: <http://WestRME.wsu.edu>. Materials may Also be requested by calling (509) 477-2168 or by email to WestRme@wsu.edu.

COMMUNICATION NETWORK

Building a Sustainable Business: A Guide to Developing a Business Plan for Farms and Rural Businesses brings the business planning process alive to help today's alternative and sustainable agriculture entrepreneurs transform farm-grown inspiration into profitable enterprises. To order Building a Sustainable Business, send \$14.00 plus \$3.95 s/h to Sustainable Agriculture Publications, 210 Hills Building, University of Vermont, Burlington, VT 05405-0082. Preview it online at: <http://www.sare.org/publications>

Using Information Technology to Promote Alternative Enterprises

We are in the process of establishing a new team at USDA

that will identify options for Small farms in the use of information technology for generating additional income through non-traditional approaches. We need your help in identifying new ideas, success stories, and contacts. Please respond via email to debodaghe@csrees.usda.gov by February 4, 2004. Your responses will be incorporated into a database that will be previewed in February 2004.

Conservation Partners Protect Farmland to Honor John Ogonowski

Federal and State agricultural officials and the Dracut Land Trust announced plans to protect 33 acres of farmland in Dracut as a living memorial to former American Airlines pilot John Ogonowski. Ogonowski died September 11, 2001, when terrorists commandeered His plan and crashed it into the World Trade Center's North Tower. Ogonowski preserved a tradition of Opportunity for immigrant farmers. He supported these farmers who used his land to successfully grow, market and sell crops native to their home country. He made land available to about a dozen Cambodian immigrant families because he wanted to offer an opportunity to farmers from overseas who loved agriculture as much as he did.

North Central Small Farms Resource Guide

<http://ssfin.missouri.edu/ncsf/resource/index.html>

Closing date: <http://www.reeusda.gov/nri/programs/deadlines2004.htm>

URL: http://www.reeusda.gov/1700/funding/04/rfa_nri_04.htm

CSREES contact: Contacts vary with each program. See the Request for Applications, Part II, Section E. or contact the NRI (202-401-5022 or nricgp@csrees.usda.gov).

*Higher Education Challenge Grants Program (HEC)

Closing date: Applications must be received by close of business on February 4, 2004 (5:00 p.m., Eastern Time).

URL: <http://www.reeusda.gov/1700/funding/rfahec.htm>

CSREES contact: GREGORY SMITH
(202-720-1973 or gsmith@csrees.usda.gov)

*Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Program

Closing date: Phase II: February 5, 2004

URL: <http://www.reeusdsa.gov/sbir>

CSREES Contact: CHARLES CLELAND
(202-401-4002 or ccleland@csrees.usda.gov) or
WILLIAM GOLDNER (202-401-4002 or wgoldner@csrees.usda.gov)

*Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994
(Tribal Colleges Extension) Program Closing date:

Applications must be received by close of business on February 6, 2004 (5:00 p.m. , Eastern time).

URL: http://www.reeusda.gov/1700/funding/04/rfa_1994_04.htm

CSREES contact: JOAN F. GILL (202-720-6487 or jgill@csrees.usda.gov)

*Biotechnology Risk Assessment Grants (BRAG) Program

Closing date: Applications must be received by close of business February 10, 2004 (5:00 p.m. Eastern Time).

URL: http://www.reeusda.gov/1700/funding/04/rfa_brag_04.htm

CSREES Contact: DEB HAMERNIK (202-401-4202 or dhamernik@csrees.usda.gov).

*Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers Competitive Grants Program

Closing date: Applications must be received by close of business on February 12, 2004.

URL: http://www.reeusda.gov/1700/funding/04/rfa_outreach_04.htm

CSREES contact: ELIZABETH TUCKERMANTY (202-205-0241 or etuckermanty@csrees.usda.gov)

* Hispanic-Serving Institutions

Closing date: The deadline for submission of applications is February 13, 2004.

URL: http://www.reeusda.gov/1700/funding/rfahispanic_04.htm

CSREES contact: IRMA A. LAWRENCE (202-720-1793 or ilawrence@csrees.usda.gov)

*2004 Decision Support, Education, and Workforce Development Through Geospatial Extension Specialists Program

Closing date: Applications must be received by close of business (COB) on March 1, 2004 (5:00 p.m. Eastern Time).

URL: http://www.reeusda.gov/1700/funding/04/rfa_ges_04.htm

CSREES contact: GREG CROSBY (202-401-6050 or gcrosby@csrees.usda.gov)

* Alaska Native-Serving and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions

Education Grants Program Closing date: The deadline for submission of applications is March 18, 2004 .

URL: http://www.reeusda.gov/1700/funding/rfaalaska_04.htm

CSREES contact: SALEIA AFELE-FAAMULI (202-720-1254 or sfaamuli@csrees.usda.gov)

* Assistive Technology Program for Farmers with Disabilities - National AgrAbility Project Closing date: March 25, 2004 (5:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time).

URL: http://www.reeusda.gov/1700funding/rfa_assist_tec_04.htm

CSREES Contact: IVAN GRAFF (202-401-6825 or igraff@csrees.usda.gov)

FEEDBACK: CSREES Small Farm Program Highlights is a dialogue resource tool primarily for State Small Farm Program Coordinators and others partners who work with the small farmers and ranchers. If you have questions, information to share, comments, or interest in subscribing or unsubscribing, send to asimon@csrees.usda.gov.

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