

CSREES SMALL FARM PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS
May 2003

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

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CSREES SMALL FARM PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS is
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available as events warrant.

This is the twenty-second 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.

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KEY DEPARTMENT NEWS

USDA Provides \$53 Million to Farmers and Ranchers in 17 States to help with Drought Recover.

On May 9, 2003, Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman announced that 17 states will receive \$53 million to help farmers and ranchers implement technologies and practices to conserve water and mitigate the long-term impacts of drought. For more information, see <http://www.usda.gov/news/releases/2003/05/0148.htm>.

USDA Extends Conservation Reserve Program Sign-Up to June 13.

On May 20, 2003, Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman announced that sign-up for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is extended from May 30, 2003 to June 13, 2003. For more information, see <http://www.usda.gov/news/releases/2003/05/0168.htm>.

COMMUNICATION NETWORK

New England Small Farm Institute Launches New Website.

The Growing New Farmers website (www.northeastnewfarmer.org) has launched its next great feature: Farming Questions, Links and Publications. FQLP is designed to be a friendly portal for new farmers to find the answers they seek. There are "frequently asked questions" - - questions often asked by people who are considering farming or who are in the beginning stages of farming. The responses offer guidance about how to think about the topic, along with links to the website's directory and other sample resources.

Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas (ATTRA) releases new publications. The ATTRA has released a new publication now available to farmers and others in the organic community. The Organic and Sustainable Practices Workbooks have been developed to assist producers in working through the many details necessary to farm sustainable while remaining in compliance with the National Standard. There are two workbooks in the series one for crops and one for livestock. Individual hard copies can be obtained by calling ATTRA at 1-800-346-9140. Copies are also available from ATTRA website

at <http://www.attra.ncat.org>. Contact: George Kuepper at 1-800-346-9140 or via e-mail at: georgek@ncat.org.

MEETINGS & OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

USDA Small Farm Working Group Met in May.
On May 15, 2003, the USDA Small Farm Working Group held its quarterly meeting in Washington, DC. The presenters were as follows: Valerie Berton of USDA-CSREES, Ron Helinski of the Wildlife Management Institute, Tobey Williamson of the American Farmland Trust, and Dr. Jayson Harper of Pennsylvania State University.

Valerie Berton of USDA-CSREES discussed "Meeting the Diverse Needs of Limited-Resource Producers" which is a 16-page bulletin intended to be a resource for agricultural educators, heads of community development and agricultural organizations, government agency staff and others who want to better connect with and improve the lives of farmers and ranchers who remain hard to reach. Published by USDA's Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program, the free bulletin features nine success stories from around the country as a jumping off point for adapting innovative programs to varied areas. It also provides "how-to" ideas for educators, socio-economic characteristics/barriers to working with varied audiences, proven teaching methods and successful connection strategies. Valerie Berton can be reached at 301-504-5230 or via e-mail at: vberton@wam.umd.edu.

Ron Helinski of the Wildlife Management Institute and Tobey Williamson of American Farmland Trust presented their recent work on promoting alternative enterprises as a means to keep families on their farms. They discussed recent trends in agriculture that have made it more likely for smaller farms to be sold for urban development and the resulting loss of landscape, economic, recreational, and wildlife habitat values. Turning quickly to solutions, Mr. Helinski and Mr. Williamson provided data on the types of farms that have been most likely to succeed over the last twenty years (those that earn more than \$500 per acre on a specialty enterprise), some examples of high-value per acre enterprises, and demographic information on the type of landowners who are most likely to be interested in information that would help them to begin a new enterprises. Tobey Williamson can be reached at 202-331-7300 ext. 3020 or via e-mail at: twilliamson@farmland.org.

Dr. Jayson Harper of Pennsylvania State University discussed the reasons why ag. alternatives could provide a profitable alternative to something they are already growing. Dr. Harper mentioned that farmers wish to diversify their crop or livestock mix to better deal with risks inherent in agriculture. Others are looking for enterprises that take into account family considerations and off-farm employment. Dr. Harper can be reached at 814-863-8638 or via e-mail at: jkh4@psu.edu.

Ohio Berry Growers Twilight Meeting June 9 at Piketon.

The Ohio State University South Centers at Piketon invites anyone interested in growing strawberries, blueberries, blackberries and/or red and black raspberries to attend a Berry Twilight Meeting at their Research and Extension Centers on Monday, June 9 from 5:00pm to 8:00pm. "This is an important educational event for anyone that grows or wants to grow a berry crop for farm profit", says Brad Bergefurd, Horticulture Extension Agent at the OSU South Centers in Piketon. "We have been conducting very extensive research and demonstration berry trials at this location for 11 years and have some fascinating results that we would like to share with growers that may help them become more profitable berry growers", says Bergefurd
Contact: Brad Bergefurd at 740-289-3727 or via e-mail at: bergefurd.1@osu.edu.

Cornell Small Farms Program Teams Up With Commercial Publisher to Reach Northeast Small Farms.

Cornell's Small Farms Program is launching an ambitious project this summer in cooperation with Country Folks, the largest circulation farm weekly in the Northeast region. Small Farm Quarterly is for farmers and farm families across the Northeast who value the quality of life that smaller farms provide. It's for full-time and part-time farmers, experienced and beginning farmers, and even for folks who are just thinking about getting into farming. Contact: Joanna Green at 607-255-9227 or via e-mail at: jg16@cornell.edu.

The Ohio State University Farm Science Review Announcement.

The Farm Science Review is an outdoor agricultural equipment farm show sponsored by The Ohio State University near London, Ohio. This year's event will take place on September 16-18, 2003. For more information, see <http://www.fsr.osu.edu>.

National Agriculture Compliance Assistance Center.

The National Agriculture Compliance Assistance Center is the "first stop" for information about environmental requirements that affect the agricultural community. The Ag Center was created by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) with the support of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Through this web site and other channels, the Center offers comprehensive, easy-to-understand information about compliance commonsense, flexible approaches that are both environmentally protective and agriculturally sound. The Center also provides information on reducing pollution and making good use of the latest pollution prevention technologies. Contact: Ginah Mortensen at 913-551-7429 or via e-mail at: ginah@epamail.epa.gov.

Iowa State Offers Assistantships in Business, Sustainable Ag.

A new graduate assistantship program was recently announced at Iowa State University. The program will provide graduate assistantships for two students who are interested in a Masters of Business Administration (MBA) degree, with a minor in Sustainable Agriculture. The assistantships are being funded by grants from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and the SYSCO Coporation. Contact: Gretchen Zdorkowski at 515-294-6061 or via e-mail: gretzdor@iastate.edu., for applications for the assistantships. For more information on the MBA degree see, <http://www.iowastatempa.com>. Contact: Rich Pirog at 515-294-1854 or via e-mail at: rspirog@iastate.edu, about the Kellogg Value Chain Partnerships for Sustainable Agriculture project.

Dr. Marion Simon delivers a keynote address at the

National Risk Management Conference.

At the National Risk Management Conference held at Dallas, TX, Dr. Marion Simon was one of three keynote speakers. The topic of the keynote was Farming Risks Today: Focusing on Issues from a Southern Perspective. Dr. Simon said that when you think of agriculture, particularly agriculture in the South, the focus must be on diversity. Farming risks must consider the diversity of the farmers and the farming population, the diversity of farm size, and the diversity of farm enterprises. The diversity of markets from local direct markets to global markets, perishable products to stored grains and livestock, fresh market produce to processed commodities. And the question of farms in transition, particularly tobacco, peanut, dairy, and farms that have historically depended on government programs and price supports. For more information, please contact Dr. Marion Simon at the following address:

Marion F. Simon, Ph.D
State Specialist for Small Farm & Part-time Farmers
Kentucky State University Cooperative Extension Program
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Frankfort, KY 40601

GRANTS & OPPORTUNITIES

USDA approves the Final Rule for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).
The rule may be found at:
<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/farmbill/2002/products.html>. This site includes a summary of the Final Rule, the text of the Final Rule, and a news release that provides insight on the rule publication.

Maryland Cooperative Extension office offers courses in Frederick, MD. Maryland Cooperative Extension, will be offering the following courses in Frederick, MD this fall. "Beginning a Successful Small Farm Operation, Part 11" Wednesday evenings, 7-9pm, September 3 to October 15, 2003, and "Sheep and Goat Short Course" Wednesday evenings, 7-9pm, October 1 to November 5, 2003. Contact: Terry Poole at 301-631-3576 or via e-mail at: tepoole@umd.edu.

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 14, 2003 - Adams County Fairgrounds
Brighton, CO
Alternative Weed Control Workshop.
Contact: 303-637-8100.

July 6-9, 2003 - Tucson, AZ
National Ag Leadership Conference.
For more information, visit
<http://www.youngfarmer.com/public/nationalagleaderhipconf.html>.

July 25-31, 2003 - Spokane, WA
Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS) Annual Conference.
Contact: 515-289-2331.

August 5-7, 2003 - Redwood County, MN
Farm Fest.
For more information, visit
<http://www.farmshows.com/farmfest/index.htm>.
or call 1-800-827-8007.

August 5-7, 2003 - Seneca Falls, NY
Empire Farm Days.
For more information, visit
<http://www.empirefarmdays.com> or call
1-877-697-7837.

August 12, 2003 - CSA Learning Center
at Angelic Organics, Caledonia, IL
Community-Support Agriculture Tour.
Angelic Organics is the primary learning
laboratory for the CSA Learning Center's
agro-ecology education and training programs.
A tour of the farm will demonstrate the
interrelationships between soils, plants, animals
and people. Cost: \$10 per person. For more
information, visit
<http://www.csalearningcenter.org/visitthefarm.html>.

August 19, 2003 - Simpson, IL
Prawn Farming Tour.
The tour gives an overview of the freshwater prawn
industry, including a sampling of cooked prawns.
Cost: \$10 per person. For more information, visit
<http://www.aces.uiuc.edu/asap>.

August 26, 2003 - Corning, MO
Graves Farm Field Day.
Contact: 660-744-6231.

September 6, 2003 - Santa Rose, CA
Seventh Annual Kendall-Jackson Heirloom
Tomato Festival.
For more information, see <http://www.ky.com> or
call 1-800 769-3649.

FEEDBACK: CSREES Small Farm Program Highlights
is a dialogue resource tool primarily for State Small Farm
Program Coordinators and other 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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