

CSREES SMALL FARM PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS
October 2003

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-six 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 Awards \$24.7 Million in Partnership Agreements to Develop Risk Management Tools and Education.
On October 8, 2003, Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman announced awards of \$24.7 million in risk management tools for producers and outreach and education opportunities to limited-resource and other traditionally underserved farmers and ranchers. For more information, visit <http://www.usda.gov>.

Veneman Dedicates Migrant/Seasonal Farmworker Housing Facility in Florida.
On October 15, 2003, Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman traveled to Dover, Florida to help dedicate the San Jose Mission there, an 80-unit farm worker housing complex. For more information, visit <http://www.usda.gov>.

Veneman Awards \$4.6 Million in Grants to Community Food Projects.
On October 16, 2003, Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman announced that 28 grants totaling more than \$4.6 million have been awarded as part of USDA'S Community Food Projects Competitive Grants Program, including a \$118, 000 grant to Practical Farmers of Iowa to help increase food security in low-income neighborhoods in Des Moines. For more information, visit <http://www.usda.gov>.

USDA Announces First Partial 2003-Crop Counter-Cyclical Payment.
On October 17, 2003, Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman announced the availability of partial counter-cyclical program payments for 2003-crop wheat, corn, sorghum, upland cotton, rice and peanuts. For more information, visit <http://www.usda.gov>.

Veneman Announces Agreement to Encourage Alternative Energy Sources, Greenhouse Gas Reductions.
On October 22, 2003, Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman signed a Memorandum of Understanding between the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) to identify and advance cost-effective, voluntary opportunities for rural electric cooperatives to partner with farmers and ranchers to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. For more information,

visit <http://www.usda.gov>.

COMMUNICATION NETWORK

Crop Records and Planning Software.
The software allows you to create a Crop Plan and Field Records. The Canadian farmers and ag consultants have been using this software for the past 6 years. Cost: \$225.00. For more information, visit <http://www.prairieagri.com/btmline.html> or call 1-800-374-8078.

Enterprising Rural Families: Making it Work.
This is a online course for the Rural Family in Business. Contact: John Hewlett at 307-766-2166.

MEETINGS & OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

New Mexico State University (NMSU) Scientists Try To Cultivate Ancient Herbs as Organic Crops.
For generations, Native American tribes of the southwest have used three medicinal herbs - yerba mansa, cota and osha - to treat a number of ailments. Often considered sacred plants, these healing herbs grow wild. Researchers at NMSU want to know if these elder plants can be cultivated as organically grown crops in northern New Mexico. For more information, contact D'Lyn Ford via e-mail: dlford@nmsu.edu. or 505-646-6528.

Risk Management Education for Greenhouse Owners.
Dr. Robin Brumfield, Farm Management Specialist at Rutgers held three hands-on workshops targeted at greenhouse owners. The workshops were titled "Is your greenhouse business growing GREEN (\$\$) or RED (INK)?" The workshops asked business owners, "Do you really know for sure or do you wait for your accountant to tell you?" Dr. Brumfield showed producers how to manage financial risks by helping them better manage their greenhouse costs. For more information, contact Dr. Robin Brumfield via e-mail: brumfield@aesop.rutgers.edu.

UPCOMING

November 5-6, 2003 - Columbia, MO
North Central Region Small Farm Workshop.
The North Central Region Small Farm Task Force

will discuss innovative projects, how to build successful partnerships, statewide small farm planning and outcomes, regional and national resources for small farm programming.

Contact: Deborah Cavanaugh-Grant via e-mail: cvnghgrn@uiuc.edu or 217-968-5512.

November 10, 2003 - Bowling Green KY
A Pasture Utilization Workshop.

Contact: Tehran Jewell via e-mail: bdriving@uky.edu or 270-842-3633.

November 20, 2003 - Frankfort, KY
Kentucky State University "Third Thursday Thing" Sustainable Agriculture Workshop.

Contact: Marion Simon via e-mail: msimon@gwmail.kysu.edu or 502-597-6437.

November 20-22, 2003 - Falls Church, VA
National Black Farmers Association's Conference.

For more information, call 866-881-4639.

December 4-5, 2003 - Wilmington, DE
5th Annual Future of Our Food & Farms Summit.

Contact: Meredith Stone at 215-568-0830 ext. 10.

December 7-9, 2003 - Tuskegee, AL
61st Annual Professional Agricultural Workers Conference (PAWC).

Contact: Robert Zabawa via e-mail: zabawar@tuskegee.edu or 334-727-8114,
or Ntam Baharanyi via email: baharanyi@tuskegee.edu or 334-724-4840.

January 30-31, 2003 - Eau Claire, WI
Midwest Value Added Agriculture Conference.

Contact: Heather Amundson at 715-834-9672.

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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