

NEWS RELEASE

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USDA Awards over \$399,000 for Arizona Agriculture to Develop Risk Management Education and Outreach Initiatives

Davis, Calif., Nov. 30, 2011 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Risk Management Agency (RMA), Davis Regional Office, today announced \$399,410 in cooperative agreement awards to help provide new ways for producers to manage agricultural risks. Targeted outreach and educational opportunities will help women, limited-resource, and other traditionally underserved farmers and ranchers. Four agreements were awarded in Arizona.

Developing Innovations in Navajo Education's agreement, "**Western Navajo Nation Risk Management Project**," received \$100,000 to promote, distribute, and adopt effective traditional Navajo agriculture practices throughout the southwest region of the Navajo Nation.

Diné be' iiná, Inc.'s agreement, "**Navajo Lifeway Outreach and Education Partnership**," received \$99,410 to deliver crop insurance education and risk management training to Diné sheep and wool producers, and artists working with Navajo-Churro wool. The project will assist ranchers and producers in Region 5 in managing production, marketing, legal, financial, and human risks of doing business in the Navajo Nation and allotted lands.

The Arizona Board of Regents at the University of Arizona received \$100,000 for "**Risk Management Education on AGR-Lite, Vegetative Index, and Worker Safety Solutions for Arizona and California Specialty Crop and Limited Resource Producers**" that will enhance the risk management skills, health and worker safety, and overall quality of life for limited-resource producers of specialty crops and underserved commodities.

Custom Ag Solutions' agreement, "**Training in Pasture, Rangeland, Forage, Specialty Crop, and Other Crop Insurance Programs for Producers and Ranchers**," received \$100,000 to deliver information about risk management and the availability and benefits of RMA's crop insurance programs.

Federal Crop Insurance and Risk Management Education and Outreach programs together provide a safety net to ensure that farmers and ranchers will survive the perils of nature and the marketplace and continue in business, thus ensuring the food supply. RMA administers these projects and the federal crop insurance program. For more information, please see the RMA Web site at: <http://www.rma.usda.gov/aboutrma/agreements/>

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