

NEWS RELEASE

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USDA Awards almost \$1 million for California 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 \$945,021 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. Fourteen agreements were awarded in California.

Community Partners' agreement, "**Women Veterans in Agriculture: An Underrepresented Minority,**" received \$100,000 to help veterans reduce risk and become productive farmers. This project will help military veterans use available resources to start businesses, buy land, or overcome disabilities.

Agriculture and Land-Based Training Association's agreement, "**Beginning and Socially Disadvantaged Farmers Learning and Acting on Regulatory Risks in California,**" received \$41,769 to prepare socially disadvantaged and beginning farmers to manage regulatory and legal risks.

The Center for Land Based Learning's agreement, "**Succession Planning Education to Senior and Beginning Farmers and Specialty Crop Producers,**" received \$53,228 to provide farmers in the northern Central Valley with succession and financial planning tools, guidance, and support.

Farm Conference's agreement, "**Risk Management Outreach and Education for New and Limited-Resource Farmers and Ranchers in California,**" received \$64,000 to assist limited-resource and underserved California farmers and ranchers in improving their farming, ranching, and business practices.

The National Center for Appropriate Technology's agreement, "**Integrating Pastured Poultry into Specialty Crop and Small Acreage Farms for New, Beginning, Hispanic, African-American, and Limited-Resource Producers,**" received \$99,658 to educate producers in California about the opportunities and risks associated with integrating pastured poultry production into a diversified small farm.

National Hmong American Farmers' agreement, "**Hands Held: Building Bridges to Empower Farmer-Directed Development,**" received \$100,000 to provide farmers with one-on-one

technical assistance, as well as develop culturally appropriate tools for Community Based Organizations.

The Prune Bargaining Association's agreement, "**Promote Financial Tools and Planning among Specialty Crop Producers and Risk Management Education to Students,**" received \$67,509 to provide risk management education, information, and consultation to dried prune and other specialty crop growers in California.

The Prune Bargaining Association's agreement, "**Reducing Risk for Specialty Crop Producers through Marketing Strategies and Food Safety Education,**" received \$98,934 to assure the best decision making to increase the competitive viability of producers.

The San Joaquin Valley Winegrowers Association's agreement, "**Risk Management Education for Specialty Crop Grape Producers in the San Joaquin Valley,**" received \$21,135 to bring pertinent risk management education to San Joaquin Valley grape growers focusing on production, marketing, and financial risks.

The Regents of the University of California's agreement, "**Reducing Risk for Livestock and Specialty Crop Farmers through Training in Good Farming Practices, Marketing Strategies, and Financial Tools,**" received \$75,953 to help improve the economic viability of small-acreage, new, and beginning farmers in Northern California's foothills through broad-based, risk management training.

The Regents of the University of California's agreement, "**Risk Education and Outreach to California Dairy Operators and Consultants,**" received \$50,335 to provide a grassroots education program to assist California dairy producers and their consultants in addressing important economic and environmental risk factors in their area.

The National Christmas Tree Association's agreement, "**Farm Management Strategies for Producers and Ranchers of Christmas Trees,**" received \$72,500 to help Christmas tree growers understand and manage risks.

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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