



Letter No. 3653  
Friday, February 17, 2012  
Creative Media & Broadcast Center  
202-720-7079

## **BROADCASTERS LETTER**

#3653

Friday, February 17, 2012

**(February 17)**

### **THE U.S. FOREST SERVICE DISTRIBUTES SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS PAYMENTS**

This is the final allocation under the extended the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 that has contributed to schools and road improvement in rural communities. The four years of payments will total \$1.5 billion of support to rural schools and roads and \$87 million paid to counties for wildfire preparedness and to reimburse counties for emergency services provided on national forests.

Since 1908, 25 percent of Forest Service revenues from timber sales, mineral leases, recreation, grazing and other sources have been shared with states and counties in which national forest lands are located. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that more than \$307 million is being distributed to 41 states and Puerto Rico for public schools and roads and specific county programs.

"The annual revenue sharing payments are part of the Department of Agriculture's long-standing commitment to rural communities, schools and American youth," said Vilsack. "Our century-long support of America's public schools and roads is one of many ways in which the Forest Service, as a good neighbor and partner, contributes to rural communities becoming self-sustaining and prosperous."

In the 1980s, Forest Service revenues began to decline, largely as a result of changes in social values and diminished timber sales volume. The Act authorized enhanced and gradually declining payments to ease the transition to reduced federal revenues. Counties received more than \$2.5 billion over seven years until the Act expired in September 2007.

In addition to payments for schools and roads, the Secure Rural Schools Act supports Firewise Communities programs, reimburses counties for emergency services on national forests and funds development of community wildfire protection plans.

"These projects were reviewed and recommended by resource advisory committees made up of local residents working together to improve the environment and help provide jobs in rural communities," Vilsack said.

Since 2008, across the country, 118 resource advisory committees recommended 4,100 projects valued at more than \$172 million in more than 300 counties. More information on the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act is on the web at [www.fs.usda.gov/pts](http://www.fs.usda.gov/pts). 2011 Forest Service Payments to States list can be found [here](#).

Contact: USDA Office of Communications (202) 720-4623  
For More Story Info: [USDA Newsroom](#)

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## **USDA ANNOUNCES NEW FUNDING FOR ITS CONSERVATION PARTNERS**

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Chief Dave White announced a partnership with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) to improve water quality, wildlife habitat and soil productivity. The partnership brings together \$10 million of NRCS funding with an additional \$10 million or more in private funds through NFWF to increase technical assistance in priority areas.

"We are excited about this partnership," White said. "This effort is an innovative approach for stretching the public dollar further, engaging the private sector to tackle shared priorities, and employing local conservation professionals to help wildlife and sustain agriculture."

NFWF is managing the Conservation Partners effort as competitive grants to increase 'boots on the ground' in priority areas. Non-federal specialists such as biologists, ecologists, foresters and rangeland specialists will work with NRCS field offices to provide technical assistance to participating farmers, ranchers and other landowners and managers.

"Together, we will develop land management plans and projects that maximize benefits for fish and wildlife species," said NFWF executive director and CEO Jeff Trandahl. "Conservation professionals will assist landowners with wildlife-centered conservation planning and funding options."

The first of several funding opportunities for the Conservation Partners grants is underway and pre-proposals are due by March 13, 2012. Grant awards to selected proposals will range from \$50,000 to \$250,000. Priority for funding will be directed to proposals that target species and ecosystems of shared interest between NFWF and NRCS. Some of the funds for the effort are targeted to provide technical assistance on Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) land.

This first funding round prioritizes the Northeast Forests, Upper Mississippi River Basin, Gulf Coast and Prairie Pothole regions. A second round of funding is scheduled for this spring to focus on the Lesser Prairie Chicken, the Bay Delta and other priority habitat areas. The Conservation Partners effort is also helping to accelerate conservation initiatives in the Chesapeake Bay, the Great Lakes and Long Leaf Pine habitats.

Contact: USDA Office of Communications (202) 720-4623  
For More Story Info: [USDA Newsroom](#)

## **(February 16)**

## **THE U.S. AND CHINA SIGN PLAN OF STRATEGIC COOPERATION IN AGRICULTURE**

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack and China's Minister of Agriculture Han Changfu signed an historic Plan of Strategic Cooperation that will guide the two countries' agricultural relationship for the next 5 years. The plan was signed as part of the U.S. - China Agricultural Symposium held today at the World Food Prize Hall of Laureates. The symposium focused on bilateral cooperation in the areas of food

safety, food security and sustainable agriculture, as well as enhanced business relationships between the two countries.

"This symposium and plan are a product of a vision I share with my dear old friend Minister Han for the United States and China to work more collaboratively in the future to benefit our nations and agriculture around the world," Vilsack said. "This plan builds on the already strong relationship our nations enjoy around agricultural science, trade, and education. It looks to deepen our cooperation through technical exchange and to strengthen coordination in priority areas like animal and plant health and disease, food security, sustainable agriculture, genetic resources, agricultural markets and trade, and biotechnology and other emerging technologies," he added.

Xi Jinping, China's vice president said, "China attaches great importance to food security, and ensuring a sufficient food supply for 1.3 billion people."

In the 2011 fiscal year, China became the top market for U.S. agricultural goods, purchasing \$20 billion in U.S. agricultural exports. The value of U.S. farm exports to China supported more than 160,000 American jobs in 2011, on and off the farm across a variety of sectors.

Contact: USDA Office of Communications (202) 720-4623  
For More Story Info: [USDA Newsroom](#)

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## **USDA ANNOUNCES START2FARM.GOV TO SUPPORT AMERICA'S FUTURE FARMING GENERATIONS**

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack and USDA's National Agricultural Library, in partnership with the American Farm Bureau Federation, announced Start2farm.gov, a new online portal that helps provide assistance for beginning farmers and ranchers. The portal includes links to training, financing, technical assistance and other support services specifically for beginning farmers and ranchers as well as successful case studies about new and beginning farmers and ranchers.

"America's farmers and rural communities are vitally important to our nation's economy, producing the food, feed, fiber and fuel that continue to help us grow," said Vilsack. "USDA is working to provide opportunities for the next generation to get into agriculture in order to continue the record success of America's farmers and ranchers who are seeing record farm incomes and record exports. Start2Farm.gov will help us protect and sustain these successes, so that we continue to build an agriculture industry diverse and successful enough to attract the smartest, hardest-working young people in the nation."

The Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program BFRDP legislation requires the Secretary to establish an online clearinghouse that makes available to beginning farmers or ranchers supporting education curricula and training materials and programs. This clearinghouse, Start2Farm.gov, allows potential and beginning farmers to search for programs and resources that will help them find training, financing, technical assistance, and support networks. Additional features include a 'Thinking about farming?' tutorial and an event calendar. Start2farm.gov also showcases stories of how other BFRDP grantees have started, and stayed in, farming and ranching.

Most beginning farmers and ranchers experience shared challenges in getting started. The two most common and important challenges faced by beginning farmers are (1) having the market opportunity to buy or rent suitable land and (2) having capital to acquire land of a large enough scale to be profitable.

Start2farm.gov provides information about these and other USDA programs of particular assistance to beginning farmers. Start2farm.gov is developed in partnership with the American Farm Bureau Federation. As part of this partnership, the National Agricultural Library and the American Farm Bureau Federation are co-hosting the second annual Beginning Farmer and Rancher Conference to be held

February 18-19 in Grand Rapids, MI. The Beginning Farmer and Rancher Conference is yet another way beginning farmers can access the knowledge from Start2farm.gov about program from USDA and other organizations focused on help beginning farmers start and stay farming.

Contact: USDA Office of Communications (202) 720-4623

For More Story Info: [USDA Newsroom](#)

For Radio Story: [New Online Service for Beginning Farmers and Ranchers](#)

[ACTUALITY: Young Beginning Farmers Can Get Financial Startup Help](#)

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### **USDA OFFERS PROGRESS REPORT ON WHITE HOUSE RURAL COUNCIL**

At a congressional hearing this week the Agriculture Secretary gave examples of progress with the White House Council on Rural America in improving rural opportunities. At a congressional hearing Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack discussed efforts by the White House Council on Rural America and partnerships to provide more venture capital for rural investment. Vilsack gave examples how partnerships created through the White House Council on Rural America are fostering potential economic benefits to rural areas.

For Radio Story: [Progress Report on White House Rural Council](#)

[ACTUALITY: On Bringing More Venture Capital to Rural America](#)

[ACTUALITY: On Examples of Progress For Rural Council](#)

**(February 15)**

### **ROLE OF CROP INSURANCE IN FARM SAFETY NET**

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack says of American farmers, their message to him is that crop insurance must be the focal point of future risk management plans. Meantime, correlating energy and rural economies says the Secretary is significant and he believes renewable energy production has been important in the recent growth in rural economic fortunes.

For Radio Story: [Role of Crop Insurance in Farm Safety Net](#)

[Correlating Energy and Rural Economies](#)

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### **NEW U.S. - EU PARTNERSHIP ON ORGANIC TRADE REACHED**

For the first time organic foods certified in the United States can be sold in Europe and vice versa. The new agreement brings equivalency in some organic trade markets. The new U.S. - EU partnership on organic trade means there are fewer regulatory hurdles for certified organic growers wishing to export their products to European countries.

For Radio Story: [New U.S. - EU Partnership on Organic Trade](#)

[A New Agreement Brings Equivalency in Some Organic Trade Markets](#)

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## **THIS YEAR IS BRINGING YET ANOTHER CUT IN U.S. MEAT PRODUCTION**

The U.S. population is rising, but that's not true for American meat production. World outlook board chair Gerry Bange says the nation's hog industry is trying to cut production and raise prices, but this year that may not happen.

For Radio Story: [This Year Is Bringing Yet Another Cut In U.S. Meat Production  
Hog Producers See Prices Drop, Even With Efforts To Cut Output](#)

**(January 14)**

## **EUROPEAN UNION AND UNITED STATES AGREE TO NEW PARTNERSHIP ON ORGANIC TRADE**

The European Union and the United States announced that beginning June 1, 2012, organic products certified in Europe or in the United States may be sold as organic in either region. This partnership between the two largest organic-producers in the world will establish a strong foundation from which to promote organic agriculture, benefiting the growing organic industry and supporting jobs and businesses on a global scale. The organics sector in the United States and European Union is valued at more than \$50 billion combined, and rising every year.

"This partnership connects organic farmers and companies on both sides of the Atlantic with a wide range of new market opportunities," said U.S Deputy Agriculture Secretary Merrigan. "It is a win for the American economy and President Obama's jobs strategy. This partnership will open new markets for American farmers and ranchers, create more opportunities for small businesses, and result in good jobs for Americans who package, ship, and market organic products."

"This agreement comes with a double added value. On the one hand, organic farmers and food producers will benefit from easier access, with less bureaucracy and less costs, to both the U.S. and the EU markets, strengthening the competitiveness of this sector. In addition, it improves transparency on organic standards, and enhances consumers' confidence and recognition of our organic food and products," stated the EU Commissioner responsible for agriculture and rural development, Dacian Cioloș. "This partnership marks an important step, taking EU-U.S. agricultural trade relations to a new level of cooperation".

"This is a significant step in strengthening our bilateral trade relations," added Ambassador Isi Siddiqui. "I am confident that this arrangement will facilitate and boost agriculture trade between the European Union and the United States - and lead to more jobs in this important sector for both America and Europe."

Both parties are committed to ensuring that all traded organic products meet the terms of the partnership, retaining their organic integrity from farm to market. The European Commission's Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Organic Program—which oversees all U.S. organic products—will both take on key oversight roles.

The United States and the European Union will continue to have regular discussions and will review each other's programs periodically to verify that the terms of the partnership are being met. The EU and U.S. will also begin to work on a series of cooperation initiatives to promote organic production and tackle important topics such as animal welfare and other issues. Both programs will share technical information and best practices on an ongoing basis to further enhance the integrity of organic crops and livestock production systems.

Currently, this agreement only covers products exported from and certified in the United States or the European Union. For additional details on this agreement, go to <http://www.ams.usda.gov/NOPTradeEuropeanUnion> or [http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/organic/home\\_en](http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/organic/home_en).

Contact: USDA Office of Communications (202) 720-4623  
For More Story Info: [USDA Newsroom](#)  
For Radio Story: [New U.S. - EU Partnership on Organic Trade](#)  
[A New Agreement Brings Equivalency in Some Organic Trade Markets](#)

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### **CHINESE VICE PRESIDENT IN IOWA AS PART OF US TOUR**

Visiting farms and ag production farms, and attending a US-China Ag Symposium is part of the itinerary for the Chinese Vice President visiting Iowa.

For Radio Story: [Chinese VP in Iowa as Part of U.S. Tour](#)  
[Historic US-China Visit Forty Years Later](#)

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### **AG SECRETARY TOM VILSACK TALKS ON EFFORTS TO CONTINUE TO GROW THE BIOFUELS INDUSTRY**

The Agriculture Secretary provides some ideas to help the rural energy market continue to grow going forward. Vilsack provides three ideas how the biofuel industry can continue to generate growth in the coming years.

For Radio Story: [Vilsack On Continuing To Grow Biofuel Industry](#)  
[ACTUALITY: On Vilsack on Biofuel Production Ideas](#)

## **(January 13)**

### **AGRICULTURE SECRETARY TOM VILSACK STATEMENT ON THE PROPOSED FY 2013 BUDGET**

"The President and I believe that this is a make or break moment for the middle class. What's at stake is the basic American promise that if you work hard, you can do well enough to raise a family, own a home, and put a little away for retirement. To keep that promise alive, we need an economy that makes, creates and innovates – an economy that's built to last.

"Over the past three years, USDA has worked with the Obama Administration to respond to the economic crises of 2008, put Americans back to work, and to rebuild economic security for the middle class.

"USDA has supported farmers, ranchers and growers so that last year they enjoyed record farm income. We have focused on creating jobs and building a foundation for future economic growth, especially in rural America, where unemployment is falling than in other parts of the country.

"The President's 2013 USDA budget helps us to continue this progress, supporting robust farm income and good jobs in rural communities.

"To help sustain record farm income, we will invest in research and development to improve agricultural productivity. The budget makes a 23% increase in funding for our premier competitive grants program to support the most worthy projects and continues support for in-house research and the land grant universities. We'll continue our efforts to combat destructive pests and disease that threaten crops and livestock.

"To encourage thriving markets for our farm products abroad, we will continue funding that helped make last year a record for agricultural exports, driving farm income and supporting 1.1 million American jobs. We'll reduce trade barriers and aggressively promote 'grown in America' products. At home, we're working to encourage the development of a bio-based economy, where what we grow and raise is used to make fuel, chemicals and consumer goods to complement our traditional production of food, feed, and fiber. Our work to promote local and regional food systems provides another opportunity for income growth for farmers of all sizes.

"The 2013 budget will increase the record number of acres of working land in conservation programs, rewarding farmers, ranchers and growers for cleaning our air and water, preserving soil and wildlife habitat.

"Finally, farmers need to know that one bad crop won't put them out of business, so this budget maintains a strong safety net with disaster assistance, income support, and farm loans. We preserve efforts to modernize systems that will allow farmers and ranchers to access many of our programs online at their convenience. The budget's full funding for the expected requirements for the Department's three major nutrition assistance programs will also help support the bottom line for America's producers.

Contact: USDA Office of Communications (202) 720-4623

For More Story Info: [USDA Newsroom](#)

For Radio Story: [USDA Announces Proposed FY2013 Budget 2013 Budget Focuses On Cutting the Deficit Employment and Skilled Workers Key Parts Of 2013 Budget](#)

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### **MORE DETAILS ON 2011'S RECORD AGRICULTURAL EXPORT YEAR**

What contributed to such a great agricultural export year in 2011?

For Radio Story: [More Details On 2011's Record Ag. Export Year](#)

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### **THE FIRST FARM INCOME FORECAST NUMBERS FOR 2012 ARE OUT**

After a record income year in 2011, what can farmers expect this year? USDA has just put out a new forecast.

For Radio Story: [First Farm Income Forecast Numbers for 2012 Are Out](#)

## **(January 10)**

### **USDA Offers Mobile Access and More Efficient Online Tools for Farmers and Ranchers**

The USDA has a new package of technology enhancements from the Farm Service Agency (FSA) that include Web access for handheld and smartphone users, as well as a more efficient and timely option for receiving news and critical program information. The technology improvements will allow users of FSA information to gain access to easy-to-read data, including key features such as loan deficiency payment (LDP) rates, posted county prices (PCP), FSA news releases and AskFSA, the agency's online self-help knowledge base.

Like all websites, the FSA site is accessible through any device that connects to the Internet. The mobile site organizes the information on the website in a way that makes for easy reading on a small, hand-held screen. It does not require screen adjustments or constant scrolling and panning across the information.

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said this underscores USDA's Blueprint for Stronger Service which he introduced in January. "This takes a realistic view of the needs of American agriculture in a challenging budget climate, and lays out USDA's plans to modernize and accelerate service delivery while improving the customer experience through use of innovative technologies and business solutions." Three of the 27 initial recommendations implemented by USDA focus on information technology, while other process improvements already put into place by FSA have strengthened the agency's electronic customer service and online presence.

"As an increasing number of farmers and ranchers move to mobile devices and other high-tech tools, we need to keep pace by investing in the best possible customer service while making the best use of taxpayer resources," Acting Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services Michael Scuse said. "The mobile website is an added convenience for farmers and ranchers and an effective, efficient way for USDA to deliver news, program information and reliable guidance on a variety of agricultural issues. And investments in technology help USDA continue to make other, more significant investments in rural America, preserving the success of U.S. agriculture in the long term."

In addition to the mobile website, FSA is now offering farmers and ranchers a more efficient and timely option for receiving critical program information. Such things as eligibility requirements, deadlines and related information can be accessed through an electronic news service hosted by GovDelivery.

Signing up for free online communications through GovDelivery, farmers and ranchers can receive news, via e-mail, directly to their home or farm office or to their mobile devices—allowing them to receive immediate notification of farm program news that is pertinent to their agricultural operation. Through GovDelivery, producers can establish subscriber preferences by choosing to receive federal farm program and farm loan information by topic, by state and/or by county. Producers can also select as many subscriber options as they want, which allows producers in multiple counties or across state lines to receive updates from each county in which they operate or have an interest.

To access FSA's mobile website visit [www.fsa.usda.gov/mobile](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mobile). To sign up for FSA's GovDelivery electronic news service, visit [www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe).

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For More Story Info: [USDA Newsroom](#)

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### **IMPROVING AFGHAN AGRICULTURE INFRASTRUCTURE ON GROUND LEVEL**

Teams of US National Guard and Reserve Units have spent time in Afghanistan improving the multiple levels of ag infrastructure in that nation. Captain Peter Shinn of the Iowa Air National Guard explains the mission his, and similar, units conducted to improve Afghanistan's agricultural infrastructure ... both from physical and educational standpoints.

For Radio Story: [Improving Afghan Ag Infrastructure on Ground Level](#)  
[ACTUALITY: On Improving Afghan Ag Infrastructure](#)

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## U.S. COTTON PRICES HOLDING STEADY AS FOREIGN COMPETITION HEATS UP

The U.S. is facing a lot more competition on the world cotton market these days, but so far U.S. prices are stable. Gerry Bange, USDA Outlook Board Chairman, saying the U.S. and world cotton market is being supported by recent big purchases from the world market by China.

For Radio Story: [U.S. Cotton Prices Holding Steady As Foreign Competition Heats Up](#)  
[ACTUALITY: Cotton Market Being Supported By Big Chinese Purchases](#)

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For more agriculture news visit [USDA.gov](http://USDA.gov) and click Newsroom on the toolbar



Secretary's Column (**OC**)  
APHIS (Blueprint)(**APHIS**)  
Start2Farm.gov helps beginning farmers and ranchers get started (**KYF2**)  
Feeding More Kids By Working Together in the Midwest (**FNS**)  
USDA Keeps Military Flying Safely in Nebraska (**APHIS**)  
White House Champions of Change blog (**WV**)  
AMS (**150<sup>th</sup> blog**)  
Forest Service Job Corps graduates get trip of a lifetime in Kuwait (**FS**)  
STEM with Dr. Bartuska (**REE**)  
FSA Teams With CT AGvocate Program to Connect Residents With Local Farmers (**FSA**)  
RD Infrastructure Innovation (**WV PCS Alliance project**)  
RD Infrastructure Innovation (**Venture Communications project in SD**)  
Food Safety at Home Podcasts, ASL Videocast Series: Dining Out English & Spanish podcast (**FSIS**)  
People's Garden 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary  
US Forest Service publishes dual language booklet for native Alaskans for first time (**FS**)  
USDA announces Let's Move Video Challenge (**CFBNP**)  
A Blueprint for Savings at the Agricultural Research Service (**ARS**)  
USDA Value Added Producer Grants: Turning Great ideas into Sustainable Business (**RD**)

## FROM OUR RADIO SERVICE

*(Feature Line-Up Subject To Change Prior to Update On February 14)*

**AGRICULTURE USA CD # 08.12** – A stable budget is how the Agriculture Secretary described USDA's proposal for the upcoming fiscal year. Rod Bain looks at aspects of this budget in this edition of "Agriculture USA".

**CONSUMER TIME CD # 08.12** – Slow Farm Equipment Vs. Fast Cars, Pizza Goes Well With MyPlate, Experts Say Breast Feeding Has Many Advantages, Facts And Myths Of Business Start Up, Mulching Do's And Don't's.

**AG UPDATE CD # 08.12** – USDA Rolls Out Its FY2013 Budget Proposal, New Conservation Agreement For Minnesota, US Meat Production Taking Another Move, Rural Road Wars – What Farmers Can Do To Avoid Accidents, US Organic Ruminant Producers Gain More Access Into Canada.

**UPCOMING ON THE USDA RADIO NEWSLINE** – February 21 – Crop Weather Report (WAOB). February 23 and 24 – USDA Agricultural Outlook Forum (OCE – WOAB). February 24 – Cattle On Feed Report (NASS).

**These are USDA reports we know about in advance. The USDA Radio Newsline carries many stories every day that are not listed in this lineup.**

**USDA Radio Newsline, 202-720-6776, 5:00pm ET**

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For questions about USDA Radio's Features, fax name, station, and address to 202-690-2165.

[USDA Radio and TV Programming](#)

## FROM OUR TELEVISION SERVICE

### ACTUALITIES – Secretary Tom Vilsack Presents 2013 Budget Roll Out

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack comments on the Proposed FY 2013 Budget and what it means for the Department

**New TV actualities are available on the USDA FTP site**

**Filenames:**

USDA 2013 Budget Seq1

USDA 2013 Budget Seq2

USDA 2013 Budget Seq3

**Download instructions:**

The host: <ftp://ocbmtcmedia.download.akamai.com>

User name: usdanews

Password: Newscontent1

The new file is in QuickTime Movie (H.264), MPEG 4, MPEG2 and HDV

Please email [bob.ellison@usda.gov](mailto:bob.ellison@usda.gov) if you have problems or suggestions

Also, use this free ftp client if you have problems

<http://filezilla-project.org/download.php?type+client>

## OFF MIKE



**2012 HAS ALREADY BEEN BUSY AT KWMT RADIO – Von Ketelsen** (KWMT Radio - Fort Dodge, IA <http://www.kwmt.com>) at least it's been that way for him so far. "I broadcasted from at the Iowa Power Farming Show in Des Moines, IA Jan 30 - Feb 3," said **Ketelsen**. There was record attendance all days of the show. As for what's coming up. "I'll also be broadcasting from the Iowa Beef Expo this week, in Des Moines. The first week of March, I'll be broadcasting from the Hawkeye Farm Show, in Cedar Falls, IA." **Ketelsen** is still performing quite a bit with his guitar. "I'll be playing at a "Relay for Life" benefit for the American Cancer Society this Thursday night, in Clarion, IA."



**KWAT COMPLETES THE 67TH ANNUAL WATERTOWN WINTER FARM SHOW –** Fantastic weather, that's how **Jody Heemstra** (KWAT - Watertown, South Dakota [www.GoWatertown.net](http://www.GoWatertown.net)) described it. "We normally have a blizzard one day and at least one other day where it's 10 below temp with wind-chill down to 20-something below. Turnout was fantastic all five days. We had over 2,000 people register at our booth for a Holland grill and \$100 in beef bucks. We drew the winner Monday." Otherwise said **Heemstra** there's mounting concern over lack of moisture, but producers seem to be willing to wait for rains in April rather than snow now. Conditions for calving are excellent and that's starting to get into full swing around here now.

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***Broadcasters if you have any humanitarian or community service events you'd like to share please forward to [susan.carter@oc.usda.gov](mailto:susan.carter@oc.usda.gov). We love to hear about what you're doing and share it with others in the farm broadcaster family.***

From all of us to all of you ... thank you for what you do



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