



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Broadcasters Letter

Office of Communications

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Letter No. 3685.2012
Friday, September 28, 2012
Creative Media & Broadcast Center
202-720-7079

BROADCASTERS LETTER

#3685.2012

Friday, September 28, 2012

(September 28)

USDA'S LATEST REPORTS HAVE SOME SURPRISES

Here are the highlights from Friday's USDA grain stocks and small grains production reports. Corn supplies appear to be even smaller than most analysts had expected. It appears the 2011 crop of soybeans was bigger than first thought and stocks this month also larger than expected. It appears the 2011 crop of soybeans was bigger than first thought and stocks this month also larger than expected. USDA Chief Economist Joe Glauber looked at the new estimates for U.S. wheat production and stocks.

Radio Story: [USDA Reports Have Some Surprises](#)
[Corn Stocks Number Surprises Many People](#)
[Higher Soybean Stock Levels Than Expected](#)
[ACTUALITY: A Look At New Wheat Production And Stocks Numbers](#)

AMERICANS GRADUALLY CONSUMING MORE VEGETABLES THAN 40 YEARS AGO

We may be eating more vegetables than in the 1970's, but we are not even close to what many nutrition experts say we should eat

Radio Story: [Americans Gradually Consuming More Vegetables](#)

HOG PRODUCERS ARE KEEPING PRODUCTION UNDER CONTROL

Hog producers are trying to keep production under control as hog prices have declined and feed prices have risen. Shayle Shagam, USDA livestock analyst, gave some of the highlights of Friday's USDA Quarterly Hogs and Pigs report.

Radio Story: [Hog Producers Keeping Production Under Control](#)
[ACTUALITY: Highlights From The USDA Hogs And Pigs Report](#)

(September 27)

DROUGHT STILL EXPANDING DESPITE IT OFFICIALLY BEING FALL

It may be officially fall, but the number of acres suffering drought is not falling off at all. Brad Rippey, USDA meteorologist, said that, even with this week's rains, he doubts the overall drought numbers will change much in next week's drought monitor report.

Radio Story: [Drought Still Expanding](#)
[ACTUALITY: Rains This Week May Not Reduce Drought Very Much](#)

PROTECTING HAY FROM IMPORTED FIRE ANTS IS CRUCIAL

Hay producers in areas under imported fire ant quarantine can take measures to assure their product can be transported interstate.

Radio Story: [Protecting Hay From Imported Fire Ants](#)

(September 26)

SUPPORT TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH AND SAFETY FOR RURAL AMERICANS

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced support for projects to create jobs and improve the quality of life in rural communities in 25 states and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

"The Obama administration is committed to helping eligible rural communities obtain reliable emergency equipment and provided vital services," said Vilsack. These projects will help rural communities, protect the safety of residents and create a framework for job creation and economic growth."

The more than \$5 million in funding announced today will support 127 projects through USDA Rural Development's Community Facilities Program. For example, the City of Dermott, Arkansas, will receive \$450,000 in loan and grant funds to construct a new fire department building. Lake County, Michigan, was selected to receive \$56,300 in funds to replace three high mileage sheriff's department vehicles. The village of Raymondville, Missouri, will receive almost \$15,000 to install a storm warning system. Wisconsin's Lake Holcombe School District will

receive \$40,000 to remodel a science classroom and bring it into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

A complete list of Community Facilities projects today can be found at [Community Facilities Projects](#). Funding for each project is contingent upon the recipient meeting the terms of the loan, grant or loan/grant agreement.

Contact: Candice Celestin (202) 690-2385

Story Info: [USDA Newsroom](#)

**USDA AND THE BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
WORK TO BOOST ACCESS TO FARM PROGRAMS IN INDIAN COUNTRY**

Officials from the Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) have signed two memorandums of understanding (MOU) designed to foster improved access to USDA and BIA programs by tribes and tribal members. The memorandums apply to programs administered by the Farm Service Agency, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Rural Development at USDA, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs at the Department of the Interior (DOI). The MOUs will further improve the important government-to-government relationships and also the services offered between USDA, BIA and the tribal governments and the communities they serve.

"This agreement between USDA and the Bureau of Indian Affairs will help us increase efficiency, reduce redundancy and improve communications and services between our agencies and the tribes," said USDA Under Secretary for Rural Development Dallas Tonsager. "These improvements will help to spur economic development, strengthen the communities and improve the lives of the people of Indian country."

"We look forward to working closely with USDA to serve Indian Country. American Indian farmers are a vital part of Tribal economies and the nation's agricultural industry. Agriculture is the backbone of the nation," said BIA Director Mike Black. "With these MOUs in place, we will be able to work with USDA and its programs as partners in helping American Indian farmers maintain their farms, strengthen the local tribal economies, and bring their produce to market for the benefit of all Americans, and the world."

"This partnership shows the important role tribal lands play in conservation stewardship in America," NRCS Chief Dave White said. "Landowners across the U.S., including those on tribal lands, contribute to cleaner water and air, healthier soil and better homes for wildlife. This memorandum is one effort of many in which NRCS, BIA and Indian landowners and land users can join together to nurture a better landscape."

"The Farm Service Agency is eager to implement this agreement," said FSA Administrator Juan M. Garcia. "We respect and honor the centuries of stewardship that the Indian tribes participating in our conservation and farm programs have shown for the land we all share. We are pleased to solidify our partnership with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Natural Resources Conservation Service to conserve the soil, care for our water and air, and help the tribe's maximize their agricultural production."

The MOUs set up a framework for consultation, training, coordination, and the provision of technical assistance which will increase the amount of Indian land enrolled under USDA

conservation and farm loan programs and improve service delivery on those lands. Farming and animal management, grazing, ranching and related food and agricultural operations will be supported through improved interdepartmental coordination. The MOUs, which are in place for five years, also support establishment of Native rural businesses, renewable energy development, and job creation. Additionally, the BIA will work with Rural Development to increase homeownership, home repair, and rehabilitation opportunities, and improve energy efficiency of homes on Indian lands through improved coordination of program delivery. Finally, the MOUs will complement the USDA's Rural Utilities Service (RUS) work with BIA to implement and administer the Substantially Underserved Trust Areas (SUTA) provision of the 2008 Farm Bill to increase affordability and availability of RUS-supported infrastructure on Indian lands.

The MOUs also help further the objectives of the Keepseagle settlement agreement, which resolved a lawsuit regarding past discrimination by USDA against Native American farmers and ranchers concerning its farm loan program.

Contact: Nedra Darling, DOI (202) 219-4152 or Wayne Maloney, USDA (202) 720-4623
Story Info: [USDA Newsroom](#)

**WHAT IT TAKES TO BE A WINNER IN
AMERICA'S FAVORITE FARMERS MARKETS CONTEST**

A state that had five of its farmers markets rated top in the nation share what it takes to win that honor. Elaine Lidholm of the Virginia Department of Agriculture, a state where five of their markets ranked in the top 20, advised on how to get a farmers market in the rankings.

Radio Story: [Winning The America's Favorite Farmers Markets Contest](#)
[ACTUALITY: Getting Your Farmers Market Ranked In The Top 20 In The Nation](#)

(September 25)

USDA SOYBEAN BOARD APPOINTMENTS ANNOUNCED

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced 16 new members to the United Soybean Board. "These appointees represent a cross section of the soybean industry and I am confident that they will serve the soybean producers well," said Vilsack.

The appointed Soybean Board Members are: James H. Carroll, III, Arkansas; Walter L. Godwin, Georgia; David P. Hartke, Illinois; Mark A. Seib, Indiana; Laura L. Foell, Iowa; Dennis R. Clark, Kentucky; Raymond S. Schexnayder, Jr., Louisiana; James A. Call, Minnesota; Todd A. Gibson, Missouri; Mark Caspers, Nebraska; Morris L. Shambley, North Carolina; Jay M. Myers, North Dakota; John B. Motter, Ohio; Jim Musser, Pennsylvania; David G. Iverson, South Dakota; And Robert W. White, Jr., Virginia.

The 69-member board is authorized by the Soybean Promotion, Research And Consumer Information Act. The secretary selected the appointees from soybean producers nominated by qualified state soybean boards. All appointees will serve 3-year terms beginning December 2012.

Contact: Office of Communications (202)720-4623

Story Info: [USDA Newsroom](#)

THE NEW FOOD PRICE FORECAST FOR 2013 REFLECTS THIS YEAR'S DROUGHT

Our food bills next year will reflect the drought this year. Meantime, food prices this year will top last year, but there is one bit of good news in the latest food price forecast. Ricky Volpe, USDA food price economist, saying he's lowered his forecast for this year's retail price increase for pork from a range of 2 to 3% inflation to 1 to 2%.

Radio Story: [Food Price Forecast For 2013 Reflects This Year's Drought One Bit Of Good News In Latest 2012 Food Price Forecast](#)
[ACTUALITY: 2012 Retail Pork Price Forecast Lower Than Expected](#)

THE LATEST CROP PROGRESS REPORT

The drought continues in many areas and that's reflected in the latest report on range and pasture condition. The first so called "killing" freeze has come earlier than normal to the Upper Midwest, but there was very little left to kill. A Pacific hurricane might bring rain to the southwestern U.S.

Radio Story: [Range And Pastures Nationally In A Little Better Shape This Week](#)
[Early Season Freeze Is Basically A "Non Event"](#)
[pacific Hurricane Might Bring Rain To Southwest U.S.](#)

(September 24)

STATEMENT FROM AGRICULTURE SECRETARY TOM VILSACK ON THE FAILURE TO PASS A FOOD, FARM AND JOBS BILL

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack made the following statement about Congress' not passing a comprehensive, multi-year food, farm and jobs legislation before the current law expires on September 30, 2012.

"In a year that has brought its share of challenges to America's farmers and ranchers, the House Republicans have added new uncertainty for rural America. Unfortunately, House Republicans left Washington without passing comprehensive, multi-year food, farm and jobs legislation, leaving thousands of farming families exposed. U.S. agriculture is fighting to maintain the tremendous momentum it has built over the past three years, but with natural disasters and other external forces threatening livelihoods of our farmers and ranchers, certainty is more important than ever. Americans deserve a food, farm and jobs bill that reforms the safety net for producers in times of need, promotes the bio-based economy, conserves our natural resources, strengthens rural communities, promotes job growth in rural America, and supports food assistance to low-income families. Without the certainty of a multi-year bill, rural communities are being asked to shoulder undue burdens."

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

**CLAIMS FILING PERIOD FOR HISPANIC AND WOMEN FARMERS AND
RANCHERS CLAIMING PAST DISCRIMINATION AT USDA
OPENS SEPTEMBER 24, 2012**

The claims period is now open for Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who allege discrimination by the USDA in past decades. Claims can be filed between September 24, 2012 and March 25, 2013.

"Hispanic and women farmers who believe they have faced discriminatory practices from the USDA must file a claim by March 25, 2013 in order to have a chance to receive a cash payment or loan forgiveness," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "The opening of this claims process is part of USDA's ongoing efforts to correct the wrongs of the past and ensure fair treatment to all current and future customers."

The process offers a voluntary alternative to litigation for each Hispanic or female farmer and rancher who can prove that USDA denied their applications for loan or loan servicing assistance for discriminatory reasons for certain time periods between 1981 and 2000.

As announced in February 2011, the voluntary claims process will make available at least \$1.33 billion for cash awards and tax relief payments, plus up to \$160 million in farm debt relief, to eligible Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers. There are no filing fees to participate in the program.

The Department will continue reaching out to potential Hispanic and female claimants, around the country to get the word out to individuals who may be eligible for this program so they have the opportunity to participate.

Call center representatives can be reached at 1-888-508-4429. Claimants must register for a claims package (by calling the number or visiting the website) and the claims package will be mailed to claimants. All those interested in learning more or receiving information about the claims process and claims packages are encouraged to attend meetings in your communities about the claims process and contact the website or claims telephone number.

Website: www.farmerclaims.gov

Phone: 1-888-508-4429

Claims Period: September 24, 2012 - March 25, 2013

Independent legal services companies will administer the claims process and adjudicate the claims. Although there are no filing fees to participate and a lawyer is not required to participate in the claims process, persons seeking legal advice may contact a lawyer or other legal services provider.

Audio and video public service announcements in English and Spanish from Secretary Vilsack and downloadable print and web banner ads on the Hispanic and women farmer claims process are available at:

http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentidonly=true&contentid=PSAs_Print_and_WebBanner_Ads.xml

Contact: Office of Communications (202)720-4623

Story Info: [USDA Newsroom](#)

Radio Story: [Two PSA'S - Ag Secretary's Message To Women And Hispanic Farmers](#)
[:30 Anuncio de servicio público del USDA para agricultores hispanos o mujeres agricultoras](#)

**CONSUMERS CAN EXPECT TO PAY MORE
FOR BEEF AT THE GROCERY STORE**

Retail beef prices are at near record highs and expected to climb higher in the next year, but how high can they go without running into consumer resistance?

Radio Story: [Higher Retail Beef Prices](#)

For more agriculture news visit www.USDA.gov



[Read USDA's Latest Blog Posts](#)

**Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack's
WEEKLY RADIO ADDRESS**

[TV #38 Ag Sec Weekly Address - Community Facilities Investment](#)



[USDA Celebrates 150 Years](#)

FROM OUR RADIO SERVICE

(Feature Line-Up Subject To Change Prior to Update On October 2, 2012)

AGRICULTURE USA CD # 40.12 – Tea has been around for about five thousand years, but scientists are just now uncovering the many health benefits of this age old beverage. On this edition of AGRICULTURE USA, Gary Crawford takes a look at the history of tea and some current research that might verify that tea might very well be called the "super drink".

CONSUMER TIME CD # 40.12 – Food Price Forecast For 2012-2013, What Atlantic Hurricane Season in 2012?, New Research Shows Even More Health Benefits With Tea, Meat Characteristics Determined Via Technology, Don't Wait Until Next Spring To Plant New Trees.

AG UPDATE CD # 40.12 – Updates From Grain Stocks Reports, Latest From Quarterly Hogs And Pigs Report, Two Conservation Tools Used In Drought Fighting Efforts, Hay Producers In Imported Fire Ant Quarantine Areas – Good News, Studying Dairy Cow Longevity.

UPCOMING ON THE USDA RADIO NEWSLINE – October 2 - Crop Weather Report (WAOB). October 8 – NO NEWSLINE (Columbus Day Federal Holiday). October 9 – Crop Progress 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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FROM OUR TELEVISION SERVICE

[Healthier Soils To Get Through Drought](#)

When it comes to drought relief most eyes look to the sky. Now some USDA experts are suggesting that at least part of the drought solution is not above us, but below us in the soil.

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

User name: usdanews

Password: Newscontent1

Filename for **TV Feature**: soil health drought

The new file is in QuickTime Movie (H.264)

YouTube: [Soil Health Drought](#)

Video Podcast: [soil health drought iTunes](#)

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Please email bob.ellison@usda.gov if you have problems or suggestions.
Also, use this free ftp client if you have problems.
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OFF MIKE



U.N. SECRETARY-GENERAL TO ADDRESS 2012 WORLD FOOD PRIZE EVENT – The historic visit will highlight the commitment of Secretary-General H.E. Ban Ki-moon and the United Nations to confronting global hunger and promoting peace.

"Given the exceptional leadership that the United Nations has played and continues to play in confronting global hunger, we are extremely honored that Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has accepted our invitation to travel to Des Moines to participate in the World Food Prize," said Ambassador Kenneth M. Quinn, President of the World Food Prize Foundation.

The Ambassador noted that "it is especially meaningful for the Secretary-General to participate at this ceremony since the 2012 World Food Prize Laureate - Dr. Daniel Hillel - is an individual who has endeavored to build peace and understanding throughout the Middle East by sharing the micro-irrigation technology which he helped develop in Israel."

In addition to the Secretary-General, two other high-ranking United Nations representatives will also participate in the Laureate Award Ceremony: Her Royal Highness Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein, a U.N. Messenger of Peace; and Ambassador Ertharin Cousin, the Executive Director of the U.N. World Food Programme.

More than 1,500 participants from more than 70 countries are expected to take part in the week-long World Food Prize series of events October 16-20, including: the Laureate Award Ceremony, the Borlaug Dialogue international symposium, the Iowa Hunger Summit, and the World Food Prize Global Youth Institute.

***Broadcasters if you have any humanitarian or community service events
you'd like to share please forward to 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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