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Friday, July 1, 2011

(June 30)

AGRICULTURE SECRETARY VILSACK ANNOUNCES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUNDING TO CREATE JOBS, ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND STRENGTHEN RURAL COMMUNITIES

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announces the selection of 43 community-based organizations to receive funding to promote economic growth and the selection of six rural microenterprises for loans and grants to support rural business development create jobs and strengthen local communities. "A strong rural America and a strong agricultural industry go hand in hand," says Vilsack. "These investments will bring increased economic opportunity to rural residents and communities. And they will help organizations expand job opportunities across the nation, part of the Obama Administration's effort to win the future."

The funding announced today is being provided through the Rural Community Development Initiative Program (RCDI) and the Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program (RMAP). RCDI helps community-based development organizations, federally recognized Indian tribes and other groups promote economic growth in low-income, rural communities. Recipients are required to obtain matching funds, which increase the value of the grants. The grants are awarded to public or nonprofit intermediary organizations. The funds are then provided to recipients, which must be located in eligible rural areas. RCDI funding, much of it regional in nature, underscores the USDA's support of locally-led regional strategies. Recipients under the Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program are development organizations that make loans to microenterprises and microentrepreneurs and provide business-based training and technical assistance grants to rural microborrowers.

Of the more than \$9.5 million in total funding, more than \$3 million is being provided for Microentrepreneur assistance loans and grants (RMAP). The complete list of the USDA RMAP loan awards can be found at <http://www.usda.gov/newsroom>.

Contact: Office of Communications (202) 720-4623
For More Story Info: <http://www.usda.gov/newsroom>

USDA TO PROTECT PRIME SAGE-GROUSE HABITAT IN THREE WESTERN STATES

The Department of Agriculture USDA will provide approximately \$18.2 million in additional financial assistance to help eligible ranchers in Idaho, Utah, Wyoming conserve critical sage-grouse habitats through the Grassland Reserve Program (GRP). "USDA and its partners are taking a proactive approach to maintaining large and intact grazing lands that support healthy sage-grouse populations," says Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "GRP will provide these states with another tool to conserve this at-risk species and also protect important ranch lands."

GRP, a voluntary program, allows ranchers and farmers to limit future development of the land while retaining the right for landowners to conduct common grazing practices and operations using rental contracts and conservation easements. USDA directs financial resources and technical expertise to help landowners protect and restore these lands. USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service and Farm Service Agency administer GRP.

For the first time this fiscal year, the USDA will be dedicating a portion of GRP funding solely to protect sage-grouse habitat. This announcement means that GRP is now formally included among the conservation programs used for the USDA's Sage-Grouse Initiative (SGI). Launched in 2010, SGI has become an extremely successful effort in the West by targeting funding toward the removal of threats in the most important places where sage-grouse numbers remain high. Eligible ranchers in Idaho, Utah and Wyoming can use this funding to maintain large and intact sagebrush grazing lands, which allows sage-grouse populations to thrive. For information about NRCS conservation programs visit www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs.

Contact: Office of Communications (202) 720-4623

(June 29)

ACREAGE NUMBERS MOSTLY UP, GRAIN STOCK NUMBERS MOSTLY DOWN

The latest 2011 acreage and grain stock reports from USDA show an inverse for the major crops.

For Radio Story: <http://audioarchives.oc.usda.gov/radnewsdetail.asp?ID=15624>

AG SEC TOURS DESERT SOUTHWEST WILDFIRE SCENE

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack saw up close some of the many locales burned in Arizona and New Mexico dealing with wildfire damage this spring. "The fires that have raged throughout the Southwest this year have been some of the worst in years," says Vilsack. "The U.S. Forest Service is heavily engaged with federal, state and local partners in fighting these fires. Today, the Arizona fires are more than 90 percent controlled and we're making progress in New Mexico, a testament to the men and women, many of them from the Forest Service, who put themselves in harm's way to help protect our land, our property, our communities and - most importantly - the American people."

Incident commanders say the Pacheco fire has burned some 46,000 acres. Arizona's Wallow fire covered over 500,000 acres and is 93 percent contained. "I saw for myself the aftermath of the Wallow fire on a stand of trees that had been previously thinned in order to improve forest health. Where the Forest Service had worked to remove excess fuel, I saw healthy trees with burned underbrush. In the lands that were untouched by thinning practices, the fire left only scorched earth behind. It is clear that forest restoration work can make a significant impact on reducing the fuel for these fires."

The U.S. Forest Service, an agency within the U.S. Department of Agriculture, manages fire response and suppression in our nation's 193 million acres of national forests and grasslands. The Forest Service

currently has nearly 9,000 personnel assigned to more than 130 wildfires across the United States, and most are concentrated on wildfires burning in the Southern and Southwest regions of the United States,

Working through cross-jurisdictional partnerships before a fire starts rather than relying on suppression alone is one strategy Vilsack cited. Community partnerships with the Forest Service have an array of tools at their disposal. The National Fire Protection Association's Firewise Communities program, for instance, teaches homeowners, community leaders, planners, developers, firefighters, and others ways to protect people and property from wildfire.

Contact: Office of Communications (202) 720-4623

For More Story Info: <http://www.usda.gov/newsroom>

For Radio Story: <http://audioarchives.oc.usda.gov/radnewsdetail.asp?ID=15621>

COLLABORATION A MAIN PART OF WHITE HOUSE RURAL COUNCIL

USDA's effort to improve rural education is one example of how a recently announced White House Council hopes to address issues facing rural America. Education Deputy Assistant Secretary John White explains two of the highlight topics at this week's White House Council on Rural America assembly in Minnesota.

For Radio Story: <http://audioarchives.oc.usda.gov/radnewsdetail.asp?ID=15619>

<http://audioarchives.oc.usda.gov/radnewsdetail.asp?ID=15620>

USDA URGING RESIDENTS TO BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR THE ASIAN LONGHORNED BEETLE

The beetles, which are a serious pest to hardwood trees, are expected to surface in July. This has prompted the Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to ask for the public's help in detecting and preventing the spread of an Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB) (*Anoplophora glabripennis*) infestation. "July is when we start to see adult beetles emerge after a winter spent growing and developing deep inside the tree they've infested, and they are easy to see if you know what to look for," says Rebecca Bech, deputy administrator for APHIS' plant protection and quarantine program. "It is important to familiarize yourself with the signs of an ALB infestation and monitor your own trees and trees in your community for this destructive pest."

The ALB is a large beetle. Its body is approximately 1- to 1-1/2 inches long and is shiny black with random white spots. Its antennae, which are longer than the insect's body, are banded black and white and it has six legs. Its feet are black and sometimes appear with a bluish tint. Adult beetles typically first appear during the month of July and will continue to be present throughout the summer and into the early fall months. Adult ALB can be found anywhere, including on trees, benches, patios and outdoor furniture, sides of houses and sidewalks, etc.

The beetle can also be found, and unknowingly transported, in firewood. Cutting a tree into firewood will not kill the ALB developing inside it, and adult beetles can still emerge from the wood, thereby spreading an ALB infestation to new areas. Firewood from ALB regulated areas must be used within the regulated area. If you see signs of ALB infestation on your firewood, please call the USDA or your state department of agriculture immediately. Firewood also presents a very real threat to the Nation's forests, not only from the ALB, but other invasive species, such as the emerald ash borer (EAB), as well. APHIS is asking residents not to move firewood and to purchase firewood locally from the area where it will be burned.

Federal, state and local partners are currently working to eradicate active ALB infestations in portions of Massachusetts, New York and New Jersey. ALB was detected in Ohio this month and surveys are currently being conducted to determine the size and scope of the infestation. Eradication has been declared from infestations in Illinois and Hudson County, N.J. While the ALB does not pose a risk to human health, it is extremely dangerous to hardwood trees. ALB is known to attack and kill healthy maple

trees, as well as ash, birch, elm, European mountain ash, golden rain, hackberry, horse chestnut, katsura, London plane tree, mimosa, poplar and willow. To date, the beetle has caused the destruction of more than 72,000 hardwood trees in the United States alone.

If you see the ALB, or other signs of an ALB infestation, or if you have questions about control and eradication efforts, please call your local APHIS state plant health director, your state department of agriculture or the ALB cooperative eradication program in your state.

If you find an ALB, you can help to stop the spread by capturing it, placing the insect in a jar and freezing it. This will preserve the insect for identification. Early detection of ALB infestations is very important because it can limit an infested area and the number of trees destroyed. More information about the ALB can be found at www.aphis.usda.gov and click on "Asian Longhorned Beetle" under the "Hot Issues" heading. You may also log on to www.beetlebusters.info.

Contact: Rhonda Santos (508) 852-8044 or Lyndsay Cole (970) 494-7410
For More Story Info: <http://www.usda.gov/newsroom>

(June 28)

**USDA SECRETARY VILSACK AND HHS SECRETARY SEBELIUS
LAUNCH FIRST JOINT NATIONAL MULTIMEDIA CAMPAIGN
TO HELP FAMILIES PREVENT FOOD POISONING**

The Centers for Disease Control estimates one in six Americans get sick from food poisoning each year. To bring awareness, the Ad Council is joining the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service, in partnership with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the CDC, to debut their first joint national multimedia public service campaign to help families prevent food poisoning in the home. The *Food Safe Families* campaign kicks off in time for the July 4th holiday and the start of summer when foodborne illnesses tend to increase. It's a time when such illnesses tend to increase with more outdoor meals, and other factors that increase the risk for disease-causing bacteria in food.

Food poisoning, also called foodborne illness, is a serious public health threat in the U.S. CDC estimates that approximately 1 in 6 Americans (48 million people) suffer from foodborne illness each year, resulting in roughly 128,000 hospitalizations and 3,000 deaths. While USDA, HHS and other federal government agencies are dedicated to protecting consumers by setting and enforcing food safety standards, it is also the federal government's responsibility to give consumers important safety information for safe food handling in the home.

The new *Food Safe Families* public service campaign aims to raise awareness about the risks of foodborne illness and educate consumers, especially parents, to take specific actions to reduce their personal risk. Through humorous over-the-top depictions of the four key safe food handling behaviors, the television public service advertisements (PSAs) urge parents to keep their families safer from food poisoning and deliver clear steps to reduce their risk. Audiences are encouraged to achieve the following safe food handling behaviors:

Clean: Clean kitchen surfaces, utensils, and hands with soap and water while preparing food.

Separate: Separate raw meats from other foods by using different cutting boards.

Cook: Cook foods to the right temperature by using a food thermometer.

Chill: Chill raw and prepared foods promptly.



KEEP YOUR FAMILY SAFER FROM FOOD POISONING
Check your steps at FoodSafety.gov

"The launch of the Ad Council campaign comes at a time of heightened attention to food safety issues, when American families are looking for clear and concise information on how to better protect themselves," says Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "Ensuring the safety of food is a top priority for USDA and we work with the meat and poultry industry each day on best practices to decrease potential risks. The Ad Council campaign has the potential to generate unprecedented national exposure to issues of food safety and foodborne illness prevention."

"Our food safety strategy is based on preventing food safety problems, and these efforts must begin where food is produced and continue where food is processed and marketed," says HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius. "Consumers also play a role in preventing food safety problems by properly handling, preparing and storing food in the home. This campaign will help consumers understand their role in farm-to-table food safety."

The campaign includes English and Spanish-language television, radio, print, and Web advertising, as well as an integrated social media program. All campaign elements direct audiences to visit FoodSafety.gov, a recently refreshed and updated site in English (www.foodsafety.gov) and Spanish (www.foodsafety.gov/espanol), where they can learn about food safety practices. Consumers can also access "Ask Karen" (www.foodsafety.gov/experts/askkaren/index.html), an online database with answers to nearly 1,500 questions related to preventing foodborne illnesses.

USDA: Carol Blake 202-720-9113

FDA: Stephanie Yao 301-796-0394

CDC: Christine Pearson 404-639-3286

For More Story Info: <http://www.usda.gov/newsroom>

For Radio Story: <http://audioarchives.oc.usda.gov/radnewsdetail.asp?ID=15613>

<http://audioarchives.oc.usda.gov/radnewsdetail.asp?ID=15614>

USDA Blog Post: [Food Safe Families: First-Ever National Multimedia Food Safety Campaign Launches to Reduce Food Poisoning in the U.S.](#)

USDA INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR VALUE ADDED PRODUCER GRANT TO ASSIST FARMERS

Applications are being accepted for grants to provide economic assistance to independent producers, farmer and rancher cooperatives and agricultural producer groups through the Value-Added Producer

Grant Program. "By creating value-added products, farmers and ranchers can expand economic opportunities, create jobs and keep wealth in rural communities," says Deputy Agriculture Secretary Kathleen Merrigan. "These funding opportunities will promote business expansion and entrepreneurship by helping local businesses gain access to capital, technical assistance and new markets for their products and services."

The application deadline is August 29, 2011. For further details about eligibility rules and application procedures, see the June 28, 2011, [Federal Register](#). [Value-Added Producer Grants](#) may be used for feasibility studies or business plans, working capital for marketing value-added agricultural products and for farm-based renewable energy projects. Eligible applicants include independent producers, farmer and rancher cooperatives, and agricultural producer groups. Value-added products are created when a producer increases the consumer value of an agricultural commodity in the production or processing stage. To see a video featuring Deputy Secretary Merrigan discussing the VAPG program [click here](#).

Contact: Dane Henshall (202) 260-0996
For More Story Info: <http://www.usda.gov/newsroom>

USDA DEREGULATES NEW GENETICALLY ENGINEERED CORN SEED

The USDA has deregulated a new genetically altered corn variety that will be used to produce hybrid corn seed. The request came from Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc. which petitioned APHIS for a determination of nonregulated status for their GE corn event DP-32138-1 in 2008. The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service prepared a plant pest risk assessment (PPRA) as required by the Plant Protection Act and an environmental assessment (EA) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act. On Jan. 5, 2011, both documents and Pioneer's petition were made available for public review and comment, and APHIS received a total of 52 comments from various groups and individuals.

APHIS determined that the corn is unlikely to pose a plant pest risk. The finding is based on the agency's analysis of field and laboratory data submitted by Pioneer, references provided in the petition, peer-reviewed publications, information analyzed in the EA, the PPRA and its review of the comments provided by the public. The corn is therefore no longer subject to APHIS regulations.

DP-32138-1 utilizes Pioneer's seed production technology process to improve the efficiency of hybrid corn seed production. The multistep process yields a non-transgenic male-sterile female parent. This non-transgenic material can then be used for hybrid seed production. The process results in a commercial product that does not contain the DP-32138-1 transgenes. Interstate movements and field trials for DP-32138-1 have been conducted under permits issued or notifications acknowledged by APHIS since 2005. Notice of this decision is published in the June 28 *Federal Register*.

Contact: R. Andre Bell (301) 734-3853 or Lyndsay Cole (970) 494-7410
For Radio Story: <http://audioarchives.oc.usda.gov/radnewsdetail.asp?ID=15615>
USDA Blog Post: <http://blogs.usda.gov/2011/06/28/usda%e2%80%99s-biotechnology-deregulation-process/>

FARMERS PLAYING BIG PART IN GULF COAST ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION

Farmers are playing a major role in restoring the natural ecosystem in the Gulf Coast region after last year's oil spill.

For Radio Story: <http://audioarchives.oc.usda.gov/radnewsdetail.asp?ID=15608>

(June 27)

**DR. JOSE GRAZIANO DA SILVA ELECTED AS
THE NEXT FAO DIRECTOR GENERAL**

*Joint Statement by U.S. Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Kathleen Merrigan and
U.S. Ambassador to the UN Food and Agriculture Agencies Ertharin Cousin*

“Dr. Graziano da Silva follows Jacques Diouf, who helped usher in a process of renewal and reform that is transforming the United Nation's largest specialized agency into a more dynamic, responsive and accountable organization in the fight against world hunger. The United States thanks Dr. Diouf for his hard work and dedication during his 18 years as Director General. The reforms he helped begin are now more important than ever as global food prices continue to rise and the Food and Agriculture Organization itself is faced with a difficult financial climate.”

We look forward to working closely with Dr. Graziano da Silva to ensure that the FAO continues to reform and to push for more sustainable agricultural development, greater access to nutritional crops and more opportunities for women, particularly small holder farmers, to receive the technical capacity and training support that are required to participate in the agricultural sector. As the FAO begins a new era in its history, we remain committed to supporting the organization, its continuing reforms, and its critical work combating hunger around the globe.”

Contact: Office of Communications (202) 720-4623

For Radio Story: <http://audioarchives.oc.usda.gov/radnewsdetail.asp?ID=15602>

MORE TEENS TRYING FAD DIETS

In a trend that is disturbing to nutrition and health experts; more teens are trying extreme fad diets.

For Radio Story: <http://audioarchives.oc.usda.gov/radnewsdetail.asp?ID=12530>

BALANCING PASTURE AND FEEDLOT SYSTEMS FOR CATTLE

A USDA researcher says having a sustainable approach can bring environmental benefits from cattle herds, whether they are on pasture land or in feedlots.

For Radio Story: <http://audioarchives.oc.usda.gov/radnewsdetail.asp?ID=15442>

For more agriculture news go to www.usda.gov and click Newsroom on the toolbar.
Also, check out the [USDA Blog](#)



FROM OUR RADIO SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA CD # 27.11 – 2011 has been a difficult year for many cotton growers across the country due to several weather and insect related issues. Rod Bain takes a look at this situation, and what hope for relief there could be for cotton farmers, in this edition of "Agriculture USA".

CONSUMER TIME CD # 27.11 – How To Make Things Really Nice For E.Coli Bacteria. Bagging Those Bagworms. Protection Is Best To Prevent Mosquito Bites. You've Got Bedbugs...So What's Next? Mixed Bag Of Summer Fruit Available This Year.

AG UPDATE CD # 27.11 – Farms Accounting For Smaller Portion Of Greenhouse Gas Emissions. Hog Producers Still Cautious About Expansion. Studying Cattle Grazing And Ecological Benefits. Using A Seed Treatment For Better Return On Investment. Shift Up, Throttle Back To Save Fuel.

UPCOMING ON THE USDA RADIO NEWSLINE – July 5 – Crop Progress Report (WAOB). July 6 – Crop Weather (WAOB). July 11 – Crop Progress Report (WAOB). July 12 – Crop Production Reports (NASS) and World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates. (ERS-WAOB). **These are USDA reports we know about in advance. The Radio Newsline carries many stories every day that are not listed in this lineup.**

Access the Radio Newsline at 202-720-6776, 5PM ET or go to www.usda.gov, click on Newsroom at top of page, scroll down on right side of page to Radio and TV.
Then click on Daily Radio News Service or Weekly Radio Feature Service.
Questions on USDA Radio's Features, fax name, station, and address to 202-690-2165.

FROM OUR TELEVISION SERVICE

Tough Summer Weather Predicted For Much of the Country

This spring's extreme weather is going to continue for much of the country
YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xZ5mZW36n8c>

Windows: <mms://ocbmtcwmp.usda.gov/content/bmtc/vnr/062711CAP.wmv>

A new TV feature is available on the USDA FTP site

Filename: summer weather

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 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

THE FLOODING CONTINUES IN NORTH DAKOTA – As a result along the Missouri and Souris Rivers a significant amount of land did not get seeded this year. **Al Gustin** (KFYR and KBMR - Bismarck, North Dakota <http://www.kfy.com/main.html> and <http://www.kbmr.com/main.html>) says the latest official estimate is 63 million acres unplanted, which is more than a fourth of the intended acreage. “But the percentage is much higher in some counties ... as high as 80 percent in one Northwestern North Dakota County. I talked to a farmer from that county who says he didn't plant anything at all.”

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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