UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
USDA
Broadcasters Letter
Office of Communications
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Letter No. 3675.2012
Friday, July 20, 2012
Creative Media & Broadcast Center
202-720-7079

# BROADCASTERS LETTER

#3675.2012

Friday, July 20, 2012

## (July 20)

### JUST HOW IS THAT USDA CROP PROGRESS REPORT PUT TOGETHER EVERY WEEK?

These days USDA's Monday afternoon Crop Progress report is on everybody's radar. Here's how that report is put together each week. Lance Honig, Chief of the Crops Branch of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, saying the value of USDA's weekly Crop Progress report lies in being able to compare crops week to week, year to year, era to era.

Radio Story: How That USDA Crop Progress Report Is Put Together Every Week
ACTUALITY: The Value Of USDA Crop Progress Reports

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### HOW THE LIVESTOCK MARKETS ARE REACTING TO FEED PRICE SITUATION

Livestock markets are showing the effects of high feed costs, especially in contracts for 2013 delivery.

Radio Story: Livestock Markets Reacting To Feed Price Situation

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## RESEARCHERS ARE REPORTING THERE ARE DANGERS OF PLASTIC BAGS TO LIVESTOCK

Researchers are finding that plastic bags are posing a danger to livestock around the world. Ann Savageau, researcher at the University of California at Davis, explaining how animals can be harmed by plastic bags.

Radio Story: Researchers Report The Dangers Of Plastic Bags To Livestock\
ACTUALITY: How Plastic Bags Are Endangering Animals

# (July 19)

## GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS INCLUDING AGRICULTURE AND NAVY SECRETARIES DISCUSS THE SUCCESSFUL DEMONSTRATION OF DOMESTIC BIOFUEL AND NEW ENERGY EFFICIENCIES IN MAJOR MARITIME EXERCISE

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, Navy Secretary Ray Mabus and Deputy Assistant to the President for Energy and Climate Change Heather Zichal provided details on the demonstration in local operations of a U.S. Navy Carrier Strike Group operating on advanced biofuel, and to discuss the Administration's commitment to strengthening national energy security and developing domestic fuel sources.

The Navy is pursuing alternatives because the nation's reliance on foreign oil is a significant and well-recognized military vulnerability. "The ability to use fuels other than petroleum is critical to our energy security, because it will increase our flexibility and reduce the services' vulnerability to rapid and unforeseen changes in the price of oil," said Mabus.

For two days, off the coast of Hawaii, the U.S. Navy powered the "Great Green Fleet," a Carrier Strike Group's aircraft and surface ships, on advanced biofuel to test the fuel's performance in an operational setting. The operations included fueling helicopters and jets from the deck of a nuclear-powered carrier; completing arrested landings of aircraft onto a carrier, the first ever using biofuels; refueling a destroyer while underway; and air-to-air refueling.

"The successful demonstration was a unique opportunity to watch our highly skilled sailors doing what they do best, and to witness in an operational setting the seamless integration of advanced biofuel and energy efficient technologies in some of the U.S. Navy's most sophisticated air and sea platforms," stated Mabus.

In addition to operating on alternative fuels, including nuclear power, the Great Green Fleet showcased energy efficiency technology that increase combat capability by allowing Navy ships to achieve greater range and by reducing dependence on a vulnerable logistics supply chain. More information on the demonstration, including a list of participating ships, is available HERE.

Secretary Mabus also signed a Statement of Cooperation with the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) to formalize future cooperation on alternative fuel deployment.

"The historic significance of the Navy's operation, in real theater-like conditions, of their ships and planes on biofuels should not be underestimated. USDA's goal is to help make our US military less dependent on foreign oil and on oil that has to be transported long distances in supply lines that could be disrupted during times of conflict," said Vilsack. "Hawaii has arable land and a willing and able agricultural community that could produce readily usable fuels in the

future. USDA is working to help Hawaii become a local producer of biofuels for the Navy. We can, as a nation, change the fuel production and distribution paradigm in the world, if we are consistent in our efforts to increase our production and use of domestic biofuels which are important to our energy and national security as well a create jobs."

Contact: Office of Communications (202)720-4623
Story Info: USDA Newsroom
Radio Story: The "Great Green Fleet" Has Successful Demonstration
ACTUALITY: How The Navy Helps In Developing A Bio-Based Economy

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## JUST WHEN YOU THOUGHT THINGS COULDN'T GET ANY WORSE: A NEW AND WORRISOME WEATHER FORECAST FOR AUGUST

For farmers looking for relief from drought and heat, there is very little hopeful news in the new weather outlook for next month. Mark Brusberg, USDA meteorologist has the new national weather forecast for August.

Radio Story: A New And Worrisome Weather Forecast For August

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## THE DROUGHT IMPACT ON CROP INSURANCE AND CORN FOR ETHANOL USE

Producers in drought areas need to keep the lines of communication open with their crop insurance agents when it comes to changes in their farming plans. Risk Management Agency Administrator Bill Murphy explains some of the crop insurance options available to growers dealing with drought related issues, and how important communication is between grower and agent. Some lawmakers and livestock industry groups are already pressing for a change in the Renewable Fuels Standard to free up more corn. Others say it's too early for that. USDA Chief Economist Joe Glauber says anything that's said now about the corn crop prospects or the Renewable Fuels Standard just applies to the moment and not what could happen down the road.

Radio Story: Communicating Drought Concerns With Crop Insurance Agents
ACTUALITY: Crop Insurance Communication And Considerations
Economist Says No Need To Alter Ethanol Mandates At This Point
ACTUALITY: Ethanol And Corn Situation Very Fluid, Hard To Predict

Radio Story: A New And Worrisome Weather Forecast For August

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## THERE'S AN UPDATED VERSION OF THE KNOW YOUR FARMER KNOW YOUR FOOD COMPASS

The most recent version of USDA's tool to help consumers connect with local and regional food systems is now up and running.

Radio Story: New Version Of Know Your Farmer Know Your Food Compass

# (July 18)

## USDA DESIGNATES 39 ADDITIONAL COUNTIES IN 8 STATES AS PRIMARY NATURAL DISASTER AREAS DUE TO WORSENING DROUGHT

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack designated an additional 39 counties in 8 states as primary natural disaster areas due to damage and losses caused by drought and excessive heat. During the 2012 crop year, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has designated 1,297 counties across 29 states as disaster areas, making all qualified farm operators in the areas eligible for low-interest emergency loans. The additional counties designated today are in the states of Arkansas, Georgia, Indiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, Tennessee, Utah and Wyoming. The U.S. Drought Monitor currently reports that 61% of the continental United States is in a moderate to exceptional drought.

"Our hearts go out to all of those affected by this drought," said Vilsack. "President Obama and I are committed to ensuring that agriculture remains a bright spot in our nation's economy by sustaining the successes of America's farmers, ranchers, and rural communities through these difficult times. That's why USDA officials are fanning out to affected areas, to let our farmers and ranchers know that we stand with you and your communities when severe weather and natural disasters threaten to disrupt your livelihood. And that is also why it is important that Congress pass a food, farm and jobs bill that ensures a robust safety net for producers in times of need."

Earlier in the week, USDA esignated the entire state of Missouri a disaster area due to drought in response to a request from the state's governor. Increasingly hot and dry conditions from California to Delaware have damaged or slowed the maturation of crops such as corn and soybeans, as well as pasture- and range-land. This has prompted Vilsack to instruct USDA subcabinet leaders to travel to affected areas to augment ongoing assistance from state-level USDA staff and provide guidance on the department's existing disaster resources.

To deliver assistance to those who need it most, the Secretary last week effectively reduced the interest rate for emergency loans from 3.75%-2.25%, while creating greater flexibility for ranchers within the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) for emergency haying and grazing purposes. In addition, the disaster designations announced today fall under a new, streamlined process that simplifies Secretarial disaster designations and will result in a 40 percent reduction in processing time for most counties affected by disasters.

The Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to designate disaster counties to make disaster assistance programs available to farmers and ranchers. For additional information and updates about USDA's efforts, please visit www.usda.gov/disaster or USDA's drought page. Primary counties and corresponding states designated as disaster areas include.

Contact: Office of Communications (202)720-4623
Story Info: USDA Newsroom
Radio Story: TV #28 Ag Sec Weekly Address – Dealing With The Drought

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## SECRETARY VILSACK CALLS FOR HELP FROM CONGRESS TO HELP DROUGHT AREA FARMERS

The nation's top agricultural official says he needs help from Congress if he's going to be able to do much to help drought stricken producers, especially livestock producers.

Radio Story: Vilsack Calls For Help From Congress To Help Drought Area Farmers

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## DON'T GO BLAMING THE CURRENT DROUGHT ON ANY RECENT FOOD PRICE HIKES

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack says supermarkets are misleading consumers if they are blaming current food price hikes on the drought. Secretary Vilsack told a White House news briefing that the drought will cause prices to rise for some food items. Vilsack also gave reporters a general description of the drought.

Radio Story: Don't Blame Current Food Price Hikes On The Drought
ACTUALITY: Vilsack Says Drought Will Cause Food Price Rises
ACTUALITY: Vilsack's Overall Description Of The Drought

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## LOANS AND GRANTS AVAILABLE TO IMPROVE HOUSING FOR FARM WORKERS

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that USDA Rural Development is accepting pre-applications for loans and grants to build or rehabilitate rural rental housing for domestic farm workers.

"The Obama Administration believes that strong rural communities are a key to a stronger America. Through this program, USDA is offering financial assistance to expand the availability of safe, affordable rental housing for farm workers," said Vilsack. "The Department's support for rural rental housing not only helps creates jobs and related employment when new units are constructed, it also does so through the rehabilitation of existing ones."

Through the Rural Housing Service, USDA plans to award loans and grants to increase the supply of available rental housing for domestic farm laborers. The housing is intended for any domestic farm laborer who receives a substantial portion of his/her income from the primary production of processed or unprocessed agricultural or aquacultural commodities. It must be operated on a non-profit basis. Groups eligible for the loans and grants include housing authorities, state and local governments, Indian tribes, non-profit organizations, and community- and faith-based groups.

Entities that construct new, off-farm housing for farm workers may be eligible for operating or rental assistance in addition to construction/rehabilitation loans and grants. Under the rental assistance program, USDA Rural Development pays the owner of a housing complex the difference between the tenant's contribution (30% of his or her adjusted income) and the monthly rental rate.

Priority will be given to applicants seeking funds for housing projects that are energy efficient and generate energy – such as through geo-exchange systems, wind turbines and photovoltaic

systems. In addition, points and consideration will be given for property management green certifications from a variety of credentialing entities.

The application process will be in two phases: the initial pre-application (or proposal) and the submission of a final application. Only those pre-applications or proposals that are selected for further processing will be invited to submit final applications.

For additional information, see page 42258 of the July 18, Federal Register, http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2012-07-18/pdf/2012-17462.pdf. The deadline for submitting pre-applications is September 17, 2012.

Contact: Jay Fletcher 202-690-0498
Story Info: USDA Newsroom

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## THE CROP INSURANCE INDUSTRY IS READY FOR EXPECTED DROUGHT RELATED CLAIMS

A USDA official says crop insurance companies are prepared for potential claims related to this year's drought conditions.

Radio Story: Crop Insurance Ready For Drought Related Claims

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## USDA OFFICIALS CONTINUE TRAVELS TO DROUGHT AND FIRE STRICKEN AREAS OF THE COUNTRY

USDA officials continue to visit and evaluate areas plagued by ongoing and potential disasters such as drought and wildfire.

Radio Story: USDA Officials Travelling To Fire And Drought Areas

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## IT SEEMS THE DROUGHT IS HAVING A DIFFERENT AFFECT ON ITS VICTIMS, HITTING SOME HARDER MORE THAN OTHERS

While Mother Nature has already thrown farmers, ranchers and producers serious curve balls this growing season, some fruit producers are faring better than others. The heat and drought are taking a toll on some dairy farm operations. USDA chief economist Joe Glauber says the livestock and dairy sector will be hit a lot harder than crop producers by this year's drought. Meantime, an already economically pressured ethanol industry is likely to be under even more pressure as drought makes corn more expensive. Glauber adds ethanol exports are still strong, but slowing down a bit.

Radio Story: The Drought Has Been Harder On Some More Than Others
Extreme Heat And Dryness Don't Bode Well For Dairies
ACTUALITY: Not Much Of A Drought Safety Net For Animal Agriculture
Drought Puts Ethanol Industry Under Even More Pressure
ACTUALITY: Ethanol Exports Down A Bit, But Still Strong

# (July 17)

## AGRICULTURE SECRETARY VILSACK TOURS METHANE DIGESTER OPERATION ON A PENNSYLVANIA DAIRY FARM

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack saw how a Pennsylvania dairy farm that is using an anaerobic digester to convert manure into electricity and high quality bedding, cutting energy costs and providing a resting area for more contented cows. The digester, which went on-line a year ago, was funded in part with the support of USDA Rural Development.

"Using enhanced manure management techniques not only provides a new source of income for famers, it also improves air and water quality while providing renewable electricity for hundreds of homes in the community," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "It's a win-win-win."

Family owned Pennwood Farms is able to produce all of its farm operation electricity using an anaerobic digester. It then sells enough power back to the local grid to meet the needs of an estimated 600 people. The digester also produces clean bedding as a byproduct, which saves the owners from having to buy bedding for the dairy herd. Manure from the 570 cow dairy farm creates about 920,000 kWh of electricity a year.

USDA supported deployment of the biodigester by providing grants and loans in 2010 totaling over $528,000 through the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP). Last month, Secretary Vilsack announced funding under REAP for an additional 450 projects nationwide. REAP, authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill, offers funds for farmers, ranchers and rural small businesses to purchase and install renewable energy systems and make energy-efficiency improvements. These federal funds leverage other funding sources for businesses.

Anaerobic digesters like the one the Secretary are in concert with an agreement with U.S. dairy producers signed by the Secretary in Copenhagen, Denmark in 2009 to accelerate adoption of innovative manure to energy projects on American dairy farms. The agreement represents a public/private partnership and is another demonstration of the Obama Administration's commitment to curb the emissions of greenhouse gases. Since the MOU was signed, the Obama Administration has provided 149 digester awards to eligible applicants.

Anaerobic digester technology is a method of converting waste products, such as manure, into electricity. The technology utilizes generators that are fueled by methane captured from the animal manure. Solid byproducts of the system are dried and used on the farm as livestock bedding material, and liquid byproducts are used as high-quality organic fertilizer in place of chemical fertilizers.

Contact: USDA Newsroom
Story Info: Jay Fletcher (202) 690-0498

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## PROPOSED RULE TO INCREASE ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN RURAL HOMES AND BUSINESSES

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced a proposed regulation to help rural homeowners and businesses make affordable energy improvements to their homes and buildings. This is expected to expand job opportunities in the construction industry and save homeowners and

businesses money on their energy bills. Another goal is to promote energy efficiency while increasing domestic energy production in order to protect consumers against high energy prices.

"This energy efficiency effort can help rural Americans reduce energy costs while simultaneously expanding business and investment opportunities in rural communities," said Vilsack. "The upfront costs of energy improvements often preclude homeowners and businesses from investing in cost-effective, energy efficiency upgrades. This rule will help make those costs more affordable through increased lending opportunities."

The proposed rule would allow USDA through the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) to establish policies and procedures to implement energy efficiency loan programs aligned with USDA's Rural Economic Development Energy Efficiency (REDEEE) effort, which is designed to create jobs in the energy efficiency industry, and builds upon the work that Rural Development has done in providing funding and support for improving the energy efficiency of single and multi-family housing, businesses, farms, and utility companies.

Currently 96% of rural cooperatives (RUS primary borrowers) have some form of an energy efficiency program. The proposed rule will help leverage and expand those programs for existing borrowers to include a relending program that enables rural utilities and cooperatives to lend to homeowners and businesses.

Eligible projects include consumer energy efficiency improvements, energy audits, small scale renewable energy systems, demand side management investments, and consumer education and outreach programs. This stems from the 2008 Farm Bill, which explicitly identified energy efficiency as an eligible purpose for USDA funding. Rural utility companies participating in the program would submit an energy efficiency work plan and seek reimbursement for costs.

USDA could fund a variety of energy efficiency improvements that meet criteria proposed in the rule. For example, projects to conduct home energy audits and finance improvements necessary to reduce electricity use would be eligible for financing, as would demand side management projects that are designed to more efficiently control the use of electricity during peak demand periods.

Contact: USDA Office of Communications (202) 720-4623
Story Info: USDA Newsroom
Radio Story: Vilsack Proposes New Program To Save Energy In Rural Homes
ACTUALITY: How The Energy Efficiency Loan Program Would Work

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## USDA REVIEWING PUBLIC COMMENTS ON WHAT TIME TO RELEASE REPORTS

Public comment recently gathered to determine if USDA should move commodity report release times is currently under review by officials. USDA Radio's Rod Bain spoke with Joe Prusacki of the National Agricultural Statistics Service)

Radio Story: USDA Reviewing Public Comments On What Time To Release Reports

# (July 16)

## USDA OFFICIALS STAND WITH FARMERS AND RANCHERS AFFECTED BY EXTREME WEATHER AND NATURAL DISASTERS

As serious drought conditions continue to creep across nearly two-thirds of the lower 48 states, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) officials are fanning out to rural communities across the country to show support to farmers and ranchers affected by a string of extreme weather in 2012. Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services Michael Scuse went to Michigan, Ohio and Indiana—three states affected by severe frost and freezes in the spring, with Indiana now experiencing increasing levels of drought. In the weeks ahead, additional USDA subcabinet leaders will travel to Tennessee, Kentucky, Illinois, Arkansas, Missouri, Colorado, New Mexico, Texas, and others to augment ongoing assistance from state-level USDA staff.

USDA officials will also provide guidance on the department's existing disaster resources and remind producers to keep thorough records of losses as the department's authority to operate the five disaster assistance programs authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill expired on Sept. 30, 2011, and Congress has not yet acted to restore these vital forms of assistance.

"Our hearts go out to all of those affected by this year's disasters, from frost and freezes to fires and drought," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "Without a robust package of disaster assistance programs available to struggling farmers and ranchers, it is important that USDA officials visit rural communities and talk with producers not only about their current options but also about the need for proper planning through these difficult times. And we remind Congress that as agriculture remains a bright spot in our nation's economy, it is crucial that producers have a safety net in times of need, and that USDA has the tools to act quickly and deliver assistance when producers need it most."

USDA agencies have been working for weeks with state and local officials, as well as individuals, businesses, farmers and ranchers, as they begin the process of helping to get people back on their feet. USDA offers a variety of resources for states and individuals affected by the recent disasters. Individuals can also apply for other types of federal disaster assistance at www.disasterassistance.gov.

In rural communities, USDA's Rural Development works with existing individual and community borrowers that have been affected by a natural disaster to help them with their loans. With respect to loans guaranteed by Rural Development, borrowers should initially contact their lender for assistance.

USDA's Farm Service Agency provides emergency loans through the Emergency Loan Program to help producers recover from production and physical losses due to natural disasters. Producers will be eligible for these loans as soon as their county is declared a Presidential or Secretarial disaster county. Last week, Vilsack announced three significant improvements to USDA programs and processes related to Secretarial disaster designations: a final rule that simplifies the process for Secretarial disaster designations and will result in a 40 percent reduction in processing time for most counties affected by disasters; a reduced interest rate for emergency loans that effectively lowers the current rate from 3.75 percent to 2.25 percent; and a payment reduction on Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) lands qualified for emergency haying and grazing in 2012, from 25 to 10 percent.

Hot, dry and drought conditions across states from California to Delaware have damaged some crops and slowed development of others. USDA's Risk Management Agency reminds producers faced with questions on crop losses to contact their crop insurance companies and local USDA Farm Service Agency Service Centers, as applicable, to report damages to crops or livestock loss, and not to destroy or discontinue care for your crops. For additional information and updates about USDA's efforts, please visit www.usda.gov/disaster.

Contact: USDA Newsroom
Story Info: USDA Newsroom

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## USDA RELEASES AGROFORESTRY GUIDE FOR FARMERS, WOODLAND OWNERS

Agriculture Deputy Secretary Kathleen Merrigan released a first-of-its-kind practical agroforestry handbook that contains information to help establish, manage and market agroforestry projects that are profitable and sustainable over time. The handbook, Profitable Farms and Woodlands, is written for underserved and limited resource farmers and woodland owners living in the Southeast and includes five main agroforestry practices: alley cropping, forest farming, riparian buffer strips, silvopasture and windbreaks.

"*Profitable Farms and Woodlands* will help landowners make good use of their land in terms of making profits but also as land stewards," said Merrigan. "Our emphasis on agroforestry helps focus on job creation, increasing rural prosperity, support local and regional food systems, and helps to guide stewardship of working farms and forests."

Agroforestry is a unique land management approach for farms, ranches and woodlands that intentionally combines agriculture and forestry to create integrated and sustainable land-use systems.

Among the information in the book are simple explanations of how growing medicinal plants, mushrooms or cultivating bee products can help landowners become part of a multi-billion dollar industry. In Georgia, for example, a forest farmer can grow goldenseal and earn $6,500 an acre. Or an 800-log shiitake business can reap roughly $6,000 per year.

Other information focuses on responsible landownership through the use of windbreaks and riparian buffers. Riparian buffers can help a farmer save money or even earn added income because the buffers help protect water quality, improve food and cover for wildlife and fish, and can even be designed to grow profitable products such as berries, nut crops, and timber.
Each practice in the book is brought to life through success stories, including that of Frances and Will Powers of Oconee County, Ga., who faced losing their family farm but are now successful fourth-generation farmers.

A limited number of hard copies of the 85-page handbook are available upon request for use in agroforestry training and landowner workshops. Contact the National Agroforestry Center for more information.

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

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## HERE'S A LOOK AT HOW REVENUE STREAMS MIGHT PLAY OUT FOR CORN PRODUCERS

More than 3,700 schools have received honors for expanding nutrition and health, far exceeding First Lady Michelle Obama's 2,250 goal. USDA Deputy Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services Janey Thornton announced that 3,717 schools are now certified in the HealthierUS School Challenge (HUSSC), an initiative that boosts the health and nutrition of the nation's schoolchildren. The HUSSC is one of the key parts of Mrs. Obama's *Let's Move!* initiative to end childhood obesity within a generation.

"USDA committed to working with schools across the nation to reach the goal of having 2,250 HealthierUS School Challenge-certified schools by the end of June 2012," said Thornton. "USDA and its partners not only succeeded in meeting that milestone, but have also surpassed the goal set for June 2013, a year ahead of schedule."

In February 2010, the First Lady and USDA challenged stakeholders to double the number of HUSSC schools within a year and then add 1,000 schools per year for the following two years. Schools participating in the Challenge are recognized with Gold of Distinction, Gold, Silver, or Bronze certification. Schools participating in the challenge voluntarily adopt USDA standards for their efforts in improving food and beverage offerings, teaching kids about nutritious food choices and being physically active, providing opportunities for physical activity, and having supportive school wellness policies.

"By prioritizing nutrition and physical activity for their children, leaders in these schools and the communities that support them are playing a crucial role in building a healthier next generation," said Thornton. "Through their leadership, we are confident that schools across the nation will be able to implement the new standards for nutrition and ensure that the 32 million lunches and 13 million breakfasts served in schools every day will continue to play a key role in the fight against obesity in this country."

Radio Story: How Revenue Streams Might Play Out For Corn Producers

For more agriculture news visit **www.USDA.gov**

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

USDA Blog

-Reaching Out, Every Day in Every Way-

## The Latest USDA Blog Posts

USDA Energy Improvement Loans for Homeowners & Businesses (**RD**)
USDA Community Facilities Funds Promote Student Fitness in South Dakota (**RD**)
In South Dakota, Feds Feed Families (**RD**)
New York Cultural Transformation Day (**RD**)

Learn more about President Lincoln's agricultural legacy here.

**USDA Celebrates 150 Years**

# FROM OUR RADIO SERVICE

***(Feature Line-Up Subject To Change Prior to Update On July 24, 2012)***

**AGRICULTURE USA CD # 30.12** – Mother Nature has given U.S. producers extreme dryness and heat this year resulting in serious drought. In this edition of Agriculture USA, Susan Carter takes a look at the impact of the drought from various perspectives including the effect on crops and livestock and how emergency disaster programs comes into play.

**CONSUMER TIME CD # 30.12** – Helping Rural Homeowners Save Energy And Money, Megatrends In Global Food Security, Preparing The Flower Bed For The Dog Days Of Summer, The Right Soil And Container Are Keys To Container Gardening, Dealing With Stink Bugs In Homes.

**AG UPDATE CD # 30.12** – How Crop Insurance Can Handle This Year's Drought, Combing Comments ON Possible USDA Report Release Times, Strong Production Estimates For Small Crops, Making Ag Irrigation Systems Good To The Last Drop, The Stink Bug Goes From Being A Pest To A National Crisis.

**UPCOMING ON THE USDA RADIO NEWSLINE** – July 24 – Crop Weather Report (WAOB). July 25 – Food Price Outlook (ERS). July 30 – 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.**

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USDA Radio and TV Programming

# FROM OUR TELEVISION SERVICE

## Most Food Prices Steady, Except For Beef

The USDA says consumers will be paying more for beef and less for vegetables at the grocery store for the rest of year, while other food prices stay fairly steady

**FTP Download instructions:**
The host: ftp://ocbmtcmedia.download.akamai.com
User name: usdanews
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The new file is in QuickTime Movie (H.264), MPEG 4, MPEG2 and HDV
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## 4-H and FFA Champions of Change

Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack invites your nominations of 4-H and FFA leaders who could be recognized at the White House a "Champions of Change" this September. Visit www.whitehouse.gov before August 3rd for more information and to tell us why your nominee should be recognized as a White House Champion of Change.

**YouTube**: 4-H and FFA Champions of Change

Please email Bob.Ellison@OC.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

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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.***
***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

Compiled and Edited by **Susan Carter**
Radio Broadcaster/Reporter/Producer
202-720-7079 susan.carter@oc.usda.gov

USDA Broadcasters Letter

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