AGRICULTURE SECRETARY VILSACK STRESSES IMPORTANCE OF THE AMERICAN JOBS ACT FOR OHIOANS

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack visits The Ohio State University to highlight President Obama’s speech on the American Jobs Act and what it means to Ohioans. Secretary Vilsack met with leaders from The Ohio State University and from the local business community to discuss the Administration’s strategy to strengthen the U.S. economy.

"The American Jobs Act provides common-sense steps we can take right now to put more people back to work and put more money in the pockets of working Americans, without adding a dime to the deficit," says Vilsack. "In Ohio, this Act will provide a tax cut for over 200,000 businesses, immediately put over 14,000 teachers and first responders back to work, and provide over 13,000 construction workers a job improving highways and other critical infrastructure."

The American Jobs Act will be sent to Capitol Hill early next week and the Obama Administration will call on Congress to act on it immediately. The American Jobs Act has five components that will create jobs and strengthen Ohio’s economy. They are Tax Cuts to Help America’s Small Businesses Hire and Grow; Putting Workers Back on the Job While Rebuilding and Modernizing America; Pathways Back to Work for Americans Looking for Jobs; Tax Relief for Every American Worker and Family and Fully Paid for as Part of the President’s Long-Term Deficit Reduction Plan.

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

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USDA ANNOUNCES FUNDING TO IMPROVE 911 AND EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN RURAL AMERICA

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announces changes in federal regulations that will help rural communities obtain advanced emergency communications services, including 911 access to better respond to emergencies and disasters. These changes will help rural communities obtain next generation 911 services necessary to maintain the security and safety of rural residents and businesses.
"As we mark the 10th anniversary of an event that cost thousands of American lives, we continue to work to ensure the safety of our rural communities," says Vilsack. "Our telecommunications networks should work best when they are needed the most, and that is in times of emergencies. This change provides rural first responders with the tools they need to maintain mission-critical voice and broadband service during times of emergency or during natural disasters."

The new eligibility criteria would allow the USDA to leverage public and private resources to speed the rural deployment of dual-use public safety/commercial wireless networks, address homeland security communications needs along America's rural international borders, and finance enhanced 911 capabilities for carriers and communities. Advantages include the ability to precisely locate rural wireless 911 calls, contact 911 via text message, or send emergency responders photos or videos of crime scenes or accidents. The new regulation would also give RUS ability to finance wireless upgrades for public safety and security.

"Rural telecommunications providers receiving RUS loan financing have successfully built out high-capacity fiber networks capable of carrying voice and data traffic to and from wireless towers and other mobile base stations," says RUS Administrator Jonathan Adelstein. "These fiber backhaul networks are necessary to enable the deployment of mobile voice and data services to rural and urban communities. This new lending authority complements the Administration's broader efforts to improve emergency communications throughout the nation."

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

(September 8)

BIG USDA CROP REPORTS COMING SOON
In just a short while we will have a much better idea of just what the harsh summer weather has done to crop prospects.

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

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COULD WEATHER DEVELOPMENTS REDUCE CROP FORECASTS?
Will weather developments force USDA to change its previous production forecasts for corn and soybeans? USDA meteorologist Brad Rippey tackles that question.

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

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MEMBERS NAMED TO SEVEN AGRICULTURAL TRADE ADVISORY COMMITTEES ADDITIONAL APPLICANTS SOUGHT
Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack and United States Trade Representative Ron Kirk announce the appointment of 148 private-sector members to the Agricultural Policy Advisory Committee (APAC) and six Agricultural Technical Advisory Committees (ATACs).

"With U.S. agricultural exports reaching record highs as our farmers and ranchers bring the American brand to more of the world consumers, agricultural trade is demonstrating once again its vital role in the health of our nation's economy," says Vilsack. "These appointments are an important step in the Obama
Administration's ongoing efforts to expand trade and bring new opportunities to America's farmers and ranchers, as well as the businesses and workers they support," says Ambassador Kirk. "Agricultural exports are a critical component of America's economy, and the input and advice these individuals will provide in the coming years will be indispensible in helping to identify and capitalize on new and emerging trade opportunities."

The APAC provides advice and information to the Secretary of Agriculture and the U.S. Trade Representative on negotiating objectives, positions and other matters related to the development, implementation and administration of U.S. agricultural trade policy. The ATACs offer technical advice and information on specific commodities.

The six ATACs are Animals and Animal Products; Fruits and Vegetables; Grains, Feed, Oilseeds and Planting Seeds; Processed Foods; Sweeteners and Sweetener Products and Tobacco, Cotton and Peanuts.

This initial group of committee members will serve until June 9, 2015. For a list of the appointees visit, http://www.usda.gov/newsroom

Contact: Andrea Mead (202) 395-3230 or Linda Habenstreit (202) 720-9442
For More Story Info: http://www.usda.gov/newsroom

(August 7)

USDA REPORT OUTLINES FOOD INSECURITY IN AMERICA

Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services Under Secretary Kevin Concannon cites important role of nutrition assistance programs as U.S. economy recovers from recession. The statistics come from the results of the USDA's Household Food Security in the United States, 2010 report. It found that the percentage of very low food security declined from 5.7 percent of households in 2009 to 5.4 percent in 2010. The USDA study indicated that in 2010, 17.2 million households in America had difficulty providing enough food due to a lack of resources. The number of food insecure households in 2010 was relatively consistent with statistics released in 2008 and 2009. The report also indicates that 59 percent of all food-insecure households participated in one or more of the three largest nutrition assistance programs near the time of the survey.

"This report underscores the critical role that federal nutrition assistance programs play in helping struggling American families put food on the table until they can get back on their feet," says Concannon. "Many families receive assistance not because they want to, but because they need it as a last resort to make ends meet. As the economy continues to recover and jobs are created, we hope to see the number of families in need of nutrition assistance shrink."

Food insecurity rates were substantially higher than the national average for households with incomes near or below the current federal poverty line ($22,350 for a family of four), households with children headed by single women or single men, and black and Hispanic households. Food insecurity was more common in large cities and rural areas than in suburban areas and other outlying areas around large cities. For the complete details of the report visit, http://www.ers.usda.gov/Features/HouseholdFoodSecurity2010/.

Contact: FNS Communications (703) 305-2281
For More Story Info: http://www.usda.gov/newsroom
USDA ROLLS OUT FIRST THEMED MYPLATE HEALTHY EATING MESSAGE: MAKE HALF YOUR PLATE FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

This first themed message, Make Half Your Plate Fruits and Vegetables, supports the new MyPlate food icon and First Lady Michelle Obama's Let's Move! initiative through a new national private-sector partnership program. "We know that consumers are inundated with multiple nutrition messages that it make it difficult to focus on changes that are necessary to improve their diet," says Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "USDA is committed to helping Americans make healthier food choices and our MyPlate symbol is a great reminder to think before we eat. By working with our national partners we can coordinate and amplify efforts to promote healthy eating tips like 'Make Half Your Plate Fruits and Vegetables' that serve as easy to understand reminders that we can all incorporate into our daily lives."

The USDA's Department of Agriculture's Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion (CNPP) has called upon its 44 National Strategic Partners and over 3,500 Community Partners to amplify this message nationwide. To extend this healthy eating message to the general public, National Strategic Partners have adopted a day during the month of September to promote Make Half Your Plate Fruits and Vegetables. A calendar showing the name of each National Strategic Partner that has adopted a day along with contact information may be downloaded at www.cnpp.usda.gov/AdoptADay.pdf.

National Strategic Partners are organizations, such as major corporations and associations, that are national in scope. Community Partners are organizations such as health clinics, schools, gyms and weight loss centers, churches, doctors, etc., that serve local, state or regional individuals and families. To learn more about the partnership programs, go to www.choosemyplate.gov/Partnerships/index.aspx.

New messages in the months to come will include Enjoy Your Food, But Eat Less; Drink Water Instead of Sugary Drinks; Make at Least Half Your Grains Whole Grains; and Avoid Oversized Portions. USDA and its partners will find innovative ways to deliver the easy-to-adopt how-tos for these messages to empower consumers to make healthier food choices.

ChooseMyPlate.gov provides practical information to individuals, health professionals, nutrition educators, and the food industry to help consumers build healthier diets with resources and tools for dietary assessment, nutrition education, and other user-friendly nutrition information. As Americans are experiencing epidemic rates of overweight and obesity, the online resources and tools can empower people to make healthier food choices for themselves, their families, and their children. Later this year, USDA will unveil an exciting "go-to" online tool that consumers can use to personalize and manage their dietary and physical activity choices.


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

FORECASTERS WATCHING TWO NEW POSSIBLE TROPICAL STORMS

If you have been dealing with the effects of Lee and Irene, forecasters say you might want to prepare, just in case, for more of the same.

THE IMPACTS OF HURRICANE LEE

While there have been some benefits to the recent Gulf Coast tropical storm, there are also some areas of concern.


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TEXAS WILDFIRES GET A BOOST FROM TROPICAL STORM LEE

Several wildfires in the Lone Star State, both new and current, were fueled by the strong winds of a tropical storm over the past weekend.


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SIGN-UP DEADLINE FAST APPROACHING FOR B-CAP PRODUCERS

The signup deadline for the USDA program that helps producers start up new energy crops is fast approaching. Farm Service Agency Chief of Staff Todd Atkinson talks about how the Biomass Crop Assistance Program, or BCAP, projects in select states can provide eligible producers financial incentives to establish camelina crops for energy production.


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 # 37.11 – In an eventful weather year, forgotten by many has been a phenomenon of prolonged flooding along parts of the Missouri River. Rod Bain takes a look at the continue challenges faced by those affected by this flooding in this edition of "Agriculture USA".


UPCOMING ON THE USDA RADIO NEWSLINE – September 13 – Oil Crops, Cotton, and Rice Outlooks (ERS – WAOB); Crop Weather (WAOB). September 14 – Wheat and Feed Grain Outlooks (ERS – WOAB). September 16 – Livestock, Dairy And Poultry Outlooks (ERS – WAOB). September 19 - Crop Progress (NASS). These are USDA reports we know about in advance. The Radio Newsline carries many stories every day that are not listed in this lineup.

USDA Radio Newslne, 202-720-6776, 5:00pm ET
Or go to www.usda.gov, click on Newsroom at top of the page, scroll down on right side of page until you see Radio and TV. Then click on Daily Radio News Service or Weekly Radio Feature Service. For questions about USDA Radio’s Features, fax name, station, and address to 202-690-2165.

FROM OUR TELEVISION SERVICE

USDA Guarantees Loan For Florida Biofuel Plant

The U.S. Department of Agriculture issues a loan guarantee supporting construction of a waste to energy bio-processing facility in Florida.

YouTube: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vqLAmxTptXw&feature=channel_video_title
Video Podcast: http://downtoearth.usda.libsynpro.com/rss

A new TV feature is available on the USDA FTP site
Filename: florida biofuel

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

HURRICANE IRENE STRIKES A BLOW TO NORTH CAROLINA TOBACCO CROP – If the hot and dry conditions weren’t enough, Hurricane Irene comes in with a final nail in the coffin. Rhonda Garrison (Southern Farm Network - Raleigh, NC http://www.sfntoday.com) reports, “It’s generally considered that most of the tobacco left in the fields east of I-95 is a total loss. This has been such a tough growing season for tobacco producers with the intense heat, and drought conditions. The crop was three or more weeks late, and short in stature before the storm. Flue-cured tobacco is cut three times, and most fields had only been cut once. In a normal year, tobacco would have been out of the field by the end of August.”

The folks at the Southern Farm Network took some photos themselves and some were provided by Graham Boyd, Executive Vice President for the Tobacco Growers Association of North Carolina.
IT’S TIME FOR THE KANSAS STATE FAIR – The festivities are in Hutchinson, Kansas. This year’s program, held Sept 10th, is an Agriculture and Economic forum. Greg Akagi (WIBW Radio/Kansas Agriculture Network, Topeka, Kansas http://www.wibw.com/) and Kelly Lenz (WIBW Radio/Kansas Agriculture Network, Kansas http://www.wibw.com/) are on hand doing double coverage.

The participants include Kansas Senators Pat Roberts, ranking member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, Jerry Moran, former long time member of the House Agriculture Committee, and Kansas Congressman Tim Huelskamp, member of the House Agriculture Committee. Akagi says, “The hour long program will feature representatives from seven Kansas commodity, livestock, and ag groups, who will be asking questions to the participants.”

Like many farm broadcasters, the WIBW farm broadcasters have been busy covering other summer ag events as well. “Kelly was the host of a livestock forum at the annual Flint Hills Beef Fest in Emporia back in August.” Also, Lenz, along his wife Mary, recently returned from a station sponsored 9-day tour of Ireland. Many WIBW Radio/Kansas Agriculture Network listeners went along on the trip which featured several stops that were agriculture related.

THE FARM PROGRESS SHOW OPENS – The kick-off was Tuesday August 30th in Decatur, Illinois. Andy Eubank (Hoosier Ag Today – Indianapolis, Indiana http://www.hoosieragtoday.com) says, “As the show opened Paul Jr. from American Chopper rode in on the brand new custom built DEKALB Chopper built for Monsanto to kick off the 100th anniversary celebration of DEKALB next year.” The photos show Paul Jr. riding the chopper into the DEKALB tent and inside the tent Midwest farmers cheer on the presentation of the chopper to Monsanto by Paul Jr., his brother Michael, and wife Rachael.
KBVF-AM NEEDS A PROGRAM/FARM DIRECTOR – Brian Andrews (KBVF-AM
Fergus Falls, Minnesota kbrf1250.com/KBF/KBF.htm) informs, “That September 15th is my last day at
Lakes Radio; Not sure who the replacement will be.” ‘Off Mike’ gives Andrews our best wishes. No word
yet either on where he will be landing next.

4-H COUNCIL NAMES NEW AG RELATIONS DIRECTOR – A Nebraska native and alum of
the 4-H in Merrick County, Jeff McCullough has a wealth of experience with the Cooperative Extension
System, and has a committed interest in realizing a strong ag workforce, as well as worldwide food
security. In his new role, McCullough will be supporting existing ag partnerships and drive new
development opportunities from the ag industry for domestic and global 4-H programs.

McCullough brings his more than 20 years of experience in fund development, strategic brand
communications, and ag relations to the job. He’s a former brand communications and PR consultant,
McCullough’s resume includes working with such ag companies as John Deere, Monsanto, Pioneer,
Merck and Abengoa Bioenergy.

“When I think of the roots of 4-H regarding science and technology, I believe there is a natural and
obvious connection with the roots and evolution of agriculture and I am looking forward to working with
that connection. 4-H has proven to be an effective tool for agricultural and economic development, so
maintaining and building the agricultural workforce and feeding the world are certainly areas where 4-H
has, and will continue to contribute. I am eager to continue my relationships with ag partners and
agribusiness at the state level, throughout the U.S. and internationally.”

“4-H is committed to the development of agriculture in this country and creating successful rural
economies around the world,” says Donald T. Floyd, Jr., president and CEO of National 4-H Council.
“We are thrilled to welcome Jeff whose vast experience in both ag relations and 4-H will undoubtedly
benefit the agricultural industry as well as 4-H ag programs worldwide.”

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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

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