

Farmers To Sign Up For Helpful USDA Programs

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman recently reminded farmers of pending application deadlines for emergency assistance programs.

"There are many USDA programs that are available to farmers this year to help them through difficult times," said Glickman. "I urge farmers to call or visit their local USDA office to ensure that they know about all the help they may be eligible for and to sign up before the deadline."

Application deadlines for programs previously announced this year are:

2000 Oilseeds Program: \$500 million in payments is available to the more than 600,000 producers of the 2000 crops of certain oilseeds.

Eligible oilseeds include canola, crambe, flaxseed, mustard, rapeseed, safflower, sesame, soybeans, and sunflowers. Application deadline is January 12, 2001.

2000 Crop Year Peanut Market Loss Assistance Program: An estimated \$61 million is available to partially compensate over 16,000 peanut producers for low commodity prices and increasing production costs. Application deadline is February 1, 2001.

Flood Compensation Program: \$24 million is available to producers to help offset losses due to land inundated with flood waters. Application deadline is January 19, 2001.

Wool and Mohair Market Loss Assistance Program: Approximately \$11 million in relief is available for farmers who suffered economic loss due to low prices during the 1999 marketing year. Application deadline is December 29, 2000.

2000 Lamb Meat Adjustment Assistance Program: Approximately \$10 million is available to producers whose lamb carcasses meet minimum grade specifications. Application deadline is August 15, 2001.

Local USDA Farm Service Agency offices also will begin accepting applications soon for the following programs:

2000 Crop Disaster Program (CDP): Funds will be made available to producers who have been affected by crop disaster. The signup period will begin January 18, 2001.

2000 Livestock Assistance Program (LAP): An estimated \$438 million is available to producers for grazing losses due to weather related disasters. The signup period will begin January 18, 2001.

Dairy Market Loss Assistance (DMLA III): Payments to operations that received assistance under DMLA II will be automatically issued to producers later this month. Payments will also be available to new operations and to operations that did not have 12 months of marketing established under DMLA II, and will be based on October 1999-September 2000 marketings. The four-week signup period for these producers will begin in late January, 2001.

1999 Cranberry Crop Market Assistance: Up to \$20 million will be available to cranberry producers to help offset low market prices experienced during the 1999 crop year. Farmers will be notified in mid-December concerning the application process which has been simplified by coordinating with existing data held by the Agricultural Marketing Service.

2000 Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP): Up to \$10 million

will be available to producers who lost livestock due to natural disaster, fire and anthrax. The signup period will begin January 18, 2001.

Extension of the 1999 Livestock Indemnity Program/Contract Growers (CG-LIP): Program coverage of last year's CG-LIP will be extended through February 7, 2000. The signup period will begin January 18, 2001.

Apple Market Loss Assistance: Up to \$100 million will be available to apple producers to help offset low market prices experienced during the 1998 and 1999 crop years. The signup period will begin January 18, 2001.

2001 Pa. Angus Queen Contest

The Pa. Angus Auxiliary is once again excited to extend the opportunity to become the Pa. Angus Queen to all eligible young ladies. Contestants must be between the ages of 15-21 and an active member of the Pa. Junior Angus Association to participate in the queen contest. The applications for the contest were mailed on Nov. 1, and the entry deadline is Dec. 15.

The candidates will be interviewed on Saturday at Farm Show and will need to attend the annual banquet held on Sunday, Jan. 7 for the crowning of the new queen. Contestants should contact Barb Weaver to purchase a ticket for the banquet. If you have any questions, please contact Jill Bucks at (717) 533-6674.

New 'TEAM BEEF' Program Targets Two Audiences

MIDDLETOWN (Dauphin Co.) — The Pennsylvania Beef Council and the Penn State University Department of Animal Science will host 'TEAM BEEF' at Penn State University on Feb. 19-22, 2001.

'TEAM BEEF' encompasses two hands-on short courses, BEEF 201 and BEEF 202. BEEF 201, the former BEEF 2000, is designed for cattle producers and will begin on Monday, Feb. 19 and conclude on Wednesday, Feb. 21.

BEEF 202, designed for select chef and restaurant managers, will begin Wednesday evening, Feb. 21 and conclude on Thursday, Feb. 22.

BEEF 201 is a program designed to give cattle producers the opportunity to follow live cattle from the feedlot all the way through to the product that ends up on the consumers plate. Those attending this hands-on short course will evaluate live cattle, including visual and ultrasonic, observe the slaughter process, and grade and inspect carcasses with a USDA inspector and grader.

Attendees will then fabricate the carcass into retail and wholesale cuts. In addition, a variety of guest speakers will be speaking on current issues in today's beef

industry.

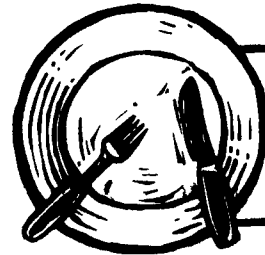
This two-and-a-half day course offers Pennsylvania beef producers a great opportunity to gain a better understanding of price and value concepts at the feedlot, packing plant, and retail levels.

By the completion of this course, producers should have a better understanding of the vital role they play in meeting the beef industry's goal of providing the consumer with a consistent and quality product and how they can more effectively and efficiently reach that goal.

Space is limited to the first 25 participants, which will be determined on first come, first serve basis. The deadline for reservations is Jan. 19, 2001.

The registration fee for each BEEF 201 participant will be \$40 for Pennsylvania producers and \$50 for out-of-state producers and agribusiness persons. Each participant will be responsible for paying for hotel accommodations. The Pennsylvania Beef Council will make a block hotel reservation for the group.

To make a reservation for BEEF 201 or for additional information, contact Holly Marshall or Wendall Landis at the Pennsylvania Beef Council office, (717) 939-7000.



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