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Friday, January 24

Business Sense Training for DFO's, 1st of 3 sessions, also Feb. 21 and March 8, Agricultural Center, Gettysburg, (888) 373-7232.
Meeting of Franklin County Co-operative Association, Kauffman's Community Center, 7 p.m., (717) 263-9226.

Saturday, January 25

Pa. Holstein Clarion/Venango Annual meeting, Wolf's Den Restaurant, Knox, 7:30 p.m.
Central Susquehanna Counties Farm Managers' Workshop, Session 5, Watson Inn, Watson town.
Bradford County Holstein Association meeting, Troy Fire Hall, Troy, 11:30 a.m.
Forest Landowners' Conference, Penn State Behrend College, Erie, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., (814) 563-9388.
Cornell Shearing School at Cornell Sheep Farm, Slaterville Road, near Harford, N.Y., 9 a.m.-3 p.m., (607) 844-8367.

Sunday, January 26

Wheat Industry Conference and Exposition, Albuquerque, N.M., thru Jan. 31.

Monday, January 27

New York State Farmer's Direction Marketing Conference, Saratoga Sheraton, Saratoga Springs, N.Y., thru Jan. 29, (315) 475-1101.

Tuesday, January 28

Hispanic Workforce Management Conference, Holiday Inn, Grantville, thru Jan. 29, (607) 255-4478.
Tri-State Tillage Conference, Radisson Hotel, West Middlesex, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., (814) 782-0033.
Alternative Viticulture Seminar, Spring Garden Conference Center, Middletown, thru Jan. 29, (717) 394-6851.

SEPA Crops Conference, East Brandywine Fire Hall, Guthriesville, 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m., (610) 696-3500.
Franklin Corn Clinic, Kauffman Community Center, 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., (717) 263-9226.
Lancaster Eco-Farm Days, Miller's Natural Farm Store, Bird-in-Hand, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Wednesday, January 29

Nutrient Management Orientation, PDA, Room 309, Penn State Dept. of Agronomy, Harrisburg, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., and Jan. 30, 9 a.m.-noon.
International Dairy Housing Conference, Radisson Plaza Hotel, Fort Worth, Texas, thru Jan. 31, (269) 428-6327.
Southeast Pa. Crops Conference, Days Inn, Allentown, 9 a.m.-2:15 p.m. and 6 p.m.-9 p.m., Lehigh (610) 391-9840, Northampton (610) 391-9840.

Thursday, January 30

Hispanic Workforce Management Conference, Canandaigua Inn, New York, thru Jan.

31.

Southeast Pa. Crops Conference and Pesticide Information, Montgomery 4-H Center, Creamery, 9 a.m.-2:15 p.m. and 6 p.m.-9 p.m.
Cumberland Crop Clinic, Penn Twp. Fire Hall, 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., (717) 240-6500.
Lebanon County Auction Vegetable Meeting, Schaefferstown Fire Hall, Schaefferstown, (717) 240-4391.
Lancaster County Cooperative Association Annual Meeting, Lancaster Farm and Home Center, 6 p.m.-9 p.m., (717) 394-6851.
Ways to Improve Farm Profitability, Nickleville Church, Nickleville, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., (814) 782-0033.

Friday, January 31

Organic Vegetable Systems from Seed to Market Workshop, Ballston Spa, New York, thru Feb. 2, (518) 427-6537.
Southeast Pa. Crops Conference, Leesport Farmers' Market, 9:30 a.m.

Saturday, February 1

Lawrence County Sheep and Wool Meeting, Liberty Grange, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., (814) 865-4700.
Meat Goat Producers' Conference, Genetti Lodge and Conference Center, Hazleton, 8:45 a.m.-3:15 p.m., (570) 454-2494.

Sunday, February 2

Annual Conference, Association of Applied Urban-Ag Interface and the Future of Agriculture, Embassy Suites Hotel, San Luis Obispo, Calif., thru Feb. 4, (707) 265-9349.
Shade Tree Symposium, Lancaster Host Resort, thru Feb. 4.

Crop Insurance Agreement To Remain In Force

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The USDA announced that the Risk Management Agency's (RMA) Standard Reinsurance Agreement (SRA) and Aquatic Crop Reinsurance Agreement (ACRA) would remain in effect for the 2004 reinsurance year.

The SRA and the ACRA define the terms of reinsurance between RMA and the companies participating in the crop insurance program.

The Agricultural Risk Protection Act of 2000 permits the reinsurance agreements to be negotiated at the discretion of USDA once during the 2001 through 2005 reinsurance years. The renegotiated SRA and ACRA then would be in effect indefinitely or until new legislation comes into force.

The decision to defer cancellation of the SRA until later was made after careful consideration of many factors. The current unsettled nature of the industry was a major concern. This is reflected in lingering drought conditions in some parts of the country coupled with the demise of the largest company participating in the crop insurance program. Moreover, there is a growing recognition of the need to increase oper-

ational efficiencies within the companies and to reduce program costs.

"The Agricultural Risk Protection Act of 2000 provided important risk management tools for farmers," said Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman. "Deferring the negotiations will give all parties more time to evaluate ways to improve program effectiveness and to reinforce the strong foundation required for even more effective risk management in the future."

USDA is expected to announce next year that it will seek renegotiation of the SRA and the ACRA that would become effective with the 2005 reinsurance year.

"We believe this approach makes the most sense," said Ross J. Davidson, administrator of the Risk Management Agency. "We reached this decision after consultation with participating insurance companies and are optimistic that the additional time will enable us to cooperatively achieve meaningful changes for the program, including substantial cost savings and enhanced regulatory oversight of the delivery systems."



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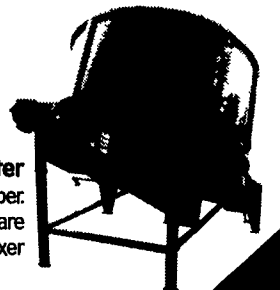


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