

Delaware Grain Farmers Get Financial Tools to Boost Bottom Line

Who cares and why:

The 2002 Farm Bill's new Direct and Counter-Cyclical program can impact the profitability of nearly 6000 Delaware grain farmers who are eligible to participate in this commodities program. The program involves the amount of payments given to farmers for their crops by the federal government. Understanding the responsibilities and the available economic benefits of enrolling in this program can help farmers stay competitive in this rapidly changing global market. The financial decisions these farmers make now will be binding for the next six years.

What's been done:

Delaware Cooperative Extension partnered with Delaware FSA/USDA and held a series of workshops throughout the state from Nov/Dec 2002 and in January of 2003 to provide farmers the analytical skills necessary for them to evaluate their options. University of Delaware professor Dr. H. Don Tilmon also prepared a "Farm Bill Calculator" to help farmers determine their commodities payments based on their acreage and yields.

Impact:

Over 325 of Delaware's large grain farm owners and operators attended these workshops, making it the best-attended series of meetings conducted by the FSA in the last 20 years. In addition, the FSA/USDA has adopted Dr. Tilmon's Excel spreadsheet or "Farm Bill Calculator" for its field employees to use on a daily basis to assist farm operators and owners statewide to evaluate their options available under this commodities program. Delaware FSA State Executive Director Richard Bergold says, "It is saving us valuable time and results in more effective decision-making by farmers." The calculator is available through the University of Delaware's County Extension websites.

Funding: Extension

Contact:

Dr. H. Don Tilmon
County Extension Farm Management Specialist
University of Delaware
112 Townsend Hall
Newark, DE 19716-2130
(302) 831-1325

email: htilmon@udel.edu