Did you know that the United States Department of Agriculture / Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, better known as USDA/APHIS, provide the following programs and services?

- Farm Loans
- Housing Assistance
- Rural Development Loan Assistance
- Beginning Farmers and Ranchers
- Business Development
- Community Facilities
- Utility Services
- Crop and Livestock Insurance
- Federal State Marketing Improvement Program
- Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
- The Farmer’s Market Promotion Program
- Organic Cost Share Program

For more information on these programs and how to apply, please visit their website at http://www.aphis.usda.gov/

**FLORIDA A&M 2013 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE**

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WASHINGTON, April 8, 2013 – Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced today that applications are being accepted from qualified non-profit and public organizations (intermediaries) to provide loans to support rural businesses and community development groups. Funding, which is intended to spark business expansion and create jobs will be made available through USDA's Intermediary Relending Program (IRP). The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) remains focused on carrying out its mission, despite a time of significant budget uncertainty. Today's announcement is one part of the Department's efforts to strengthen the rural economy.

"This program is a part of the Obama Administration's ongoing effort to leverage private investments with public funds to create jobs and expand economic opportunity for rural entrepreneurs," Vilsack said. "Intermediaries serve as a critical component to boosting local economies."

The Intermediary Relending Program is USDA Rural Development's primary program for capitalizing revolving loan funds. USDA lends money to economic development intermediaries (nonprofits and public bodies) who in turn re-lend the funds as commercial loans to rural businesses (ultimate recipients) that might not otherwise be able to obtain such financing. The repayment of the ultimate recipients' loans allows the intermediary to continue to make more loans to new recipients, supporting sustainable economic development. Since President Obama took office, the program has created or saved an estimated 20,000 jobs.

For example, last year a $500,000 IRP loan was awarded to the Alabama Department of Agriculture & Industries (ADAI) to establish a revolving loan fund providing low-interest loans to ultimate recipients—businesses and communities—for energy efficient and energy saving projects. ADAI needed an affordable financing program to assist rural businesses and communities with alternative fuel production, delivery and energy savings investments. The first low-interest loan from ADAI assisted with equipment purchases for a new, small rural Alabama business. The business opening created seven jobs.

Funds are used to assist with financing business and economic development activity to create or retain jobs in disadvantaged and remote communities. Intermediaries are encouraged to work with state and regional representatives and in partnership with other public and private organizations that can provide complimentary resources.


President Obama's plan for rural America has brought about historic investment and resulted in stronger rural communities. Under the President's leadership, these investments in housing, community facilities, businesses and infrastructure have empowered rural America to continue leading the way – strengthening America's economy, small towns and rural communities. USDA's investments in rural communities support the rural way of life that stands as the backbone of our American values. President Obama and Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack are committed to a smarter use of Federal resources to foster sustainable economic prosperity and ensure the government is a strong partner for businesses, entrepreneurs and working families in rural communities.

USDA has made a concerted effort to deliver results for the American people, even as USDA implements sequestration – the across-the-board budget reductions mandated under terms of the Budget Control Act. USDA has already undertaken historic efforts since 2009 to save more than $700 million in taxpayer funds through targeted, common-sense budget reductions. These reductions have put USDA in a better position to carry out its mission, while implementing sequester budget reductions in a fair manner that causes as little disruption as possible.
Farm Operating Loans & Microloans

Are you looking for funding?

FSA’s Direct Farm Operating loans are a valuable resource to establish, maintain and strengthen your farm or ranch. Under its direct loan program, FSA loan officers are responsible for every aspect of the loan application process, and funding is provided through Congressional appropriation.

Microloans are direct farm operating loans with a shortened application process and reduced paperwork designed to meet the needs of smaller, non-traditional, and niche type operations. Apprentice and mentorship programs, non-farm business experience, and farm labor experience are acceptable alternative solutions for helping to meet farm experience and managerial requirements.

Operating loans may be used to purchase items such as:

- Livestock and feed
- Farm equipment
- Fuel, farm chemicals, insurance and other operating costs, including family living expenses
- Minor improvements or repairs to buildings
- Refinance certain farm-related debts, excluding real estate

Operating loan funds cannot be used to finance nonfarm enterprises, including earthworms, exotic birds, tropical fish, dogs or horses used for non-farm purposes (racing, pleasure, show and boarding).

There is no minimum loan amount. The maximum loan amount for a Microloan is $35,000. The maximum loan amount for a Direct Farm Operating Loan is $300,000. There is no down payment requirement.

We encourage you to contact your local office or USDA Service Center to learn more about our programs and the information you will need for a complete application.

To locate your local FSA office, log onto http://www.fsa.usda.gov, or find a listing in the telephone directory in the section set aside for governmental/public organizations under the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency. Our local FSA offices will be happy to provide you with further information and a loan application.
TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 2013
DOORS OPEN AT 5:45 PM, EVENT STARTS AT 6 PM.

MARION COUNTY EXTENSION AUDITORIUM—SOUTH HALL
2232 NE JACKSONVILLE ROAD
OCALA, FL 34470

REPRESENTATIVES FROM USDA RELATED AGENCIES WILL BE ON HAND.

**THIS EVENT IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**
Farmers/Ranchers/ Producer Educational Training

SARE grants fund research and education projects exploring:
- On-farm renewable energy
- Pest and weed management
- Pastured livestock & rotational grazing
- No-till and conservation tillage
- Nutrient management
- Agroforestry Marketing
- Sustainable communities
- Systems research
- Crop and livestock diversity and more!

NRCS

- Agricultural Management Assistance
- Agricultural Water Enhancement Program
- Air Quality Initiative
- Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative
- Conservation Innovation Grants
- Conservation Stewardship Program
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program
- Emergency Watershed Protection Program

Serving Family Farmers, Cultivating Opportunities.

FSA's farm loan programs are a valuable resource to establish, improve, expand, transition, and strengthen your farm or ranch

Farm Operating Loans & Microloans
Operation Expenses
Livestock, Equipment
Food, Seed, Fertilizer

Farm Ownership Loans
Purchase Farmland
Improvements & Repairs
Soil & Water Conservation

Rural Youth Loans
4-H Projects
FFA Projects
Youth Farmers

Emergency Farm Loans
Production Losses Physical Losses

Guaranteed Farm Loans
Farm Operating
Farm Ownership

Minority and Women Farmers and Ranchers
Beginning Farmers & Ranchers

Farm Credit of Northwest Florida accomplishes the mission of providing reliable credit and financial services to those who work and live in rural America. Farm Credit offers customized financial products and specialized knowledge for just about every agricultural related industry, including Farm and Agribusiness Loans and Record Keeping.
CUTEST BIRD PHOTO CONTEST
A PHOTO CONTEST FOR POULTRY ENTHUSIASTS AND BIRD LOVERS

How to Enter
You may enter a maximum of two photos per person each month on the Biosecurity For Birds website, http://healthybirds.aphis.usda.gov. You will need to fill out the online form to submit the photos.

Deadlines
The deadline for submitting entries for each of the four months is March 31, April 30, May 31 and June 30, 2013. Entries submitted for a particular month will be considered for that month only, unless they are resubmitted.

Submission Guidelines
1. Submitted images must be in color and each should be no larger than a two MB file in jpeg format.
2. Participants may submit a maximum of two photos per month.
3. Photos must be the work of the person submitting (unless a parent or other responsible adult is submitting for a minor), and the photographer must own all rights to the works submitted. The photographer retains ownership of all submitted images. By submitting your photos you are granting USDA/APHIS the right to reproduce, display and publish your images without compensation, and you are indicating that individuals in your photos have agreed to allow the USDA to reproduce, display or publish the photos that contain their likeness in any manner and without compensation.

To enter, go to this website: https://web01.aphis.usda.gov/biobird_contest.nsf/contest_entry?OpenForm

USDA/APHIS reserves the right to cancel, terminate, modify or suspend the photo competition.
The purpose of the annual Florida Small Farms and Alternative Enterprises Conference is to provide farmers with up-to-date, research-based, in-depth educational information. The conference aims to facilitate solutions-based collaboration by encouraging networking and an open dialog among members of Florida’s small farms community. Additionally, the conference is an excellent vehicle for increasing awareness of Florida’s small farms industry, which organizers accomplish by including participation from decision makers and supporting institutions, and partners from the public sector.

Through concurrent educational sessions led by industry experts and noted researchers, the annual Florida Small Farms and Alternative Enterprises Conference provides opportunities for attendees to learn about groundbreaking research and access educational support about topics such as operating sustainable and profitable enterprises, integrating cost-effective methods to meet state regulations, and applying the latest research to real-world problems. Attendees also participate in workshops, hands-on demonstrations, and organized networking activities, enabling them to share their knowledge while interacting with peers from all over the state.

Who Should Attend:

- Small family farms
- Transitional farmers
- Beginning farmers
- Allied-industry representatives
- Educators and researchers
- Agricultural associations
- Policy-makers
- Foundations
- Anyone interested in becoming a part of, and strengthening, the small farm community in Florida.

How to Register?

Online registration is coming soon; for more information, log onto [http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/smallfarms/index.html](http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/smallfarms/index.html).

Registration Scholarships for Florida Small Farmers

Florida small farmers who cannot attend the conference due to financial hardship have the opportunity to apply for a registration scholarship. Up to a $180 value, the scholarship covers the cost of a full conference registration. Other costs associated with the conference such as travel, lodging, and incidentals are not covered under the registration scholarship and will be the responsibility of the individual.

Applications will be reviewed in the order received by a committee composed of small farm producers and university extension faculty. Priority will be given to first time conference attendees. Past winners are not eligible and all scholarship recipients must be 18 years of age or older. Scholarship recipients name and Florida County will be posted on the conference website.

The number of scholarship that can be awarded will depend on the total amount of donations received for this purpose.

Florida small farmers applying should complete the application and send by June 1 for consideration.

Applicants will be notified by June 21. Awardees will be required to complete a registration within one week of notification to confirm scholarship acceptance (by June 28). Participants with special needs (such as visual, hearing or walking impairments) can be reasonably accommodated by contacting the Office of Conferences & Institutes at least 21 working days prior to the conference. We can be reached by phone at 1-352-392-5930, by FAX at 1-352-392-9734, or by calling 1-800-955-8771 (TDD). The TDD number can only be accessed from within the State of Florida.
FAMU will host its Annual Grape Harvest Festival Saturday, August 24, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The 13th Annual FAMU Grape Harvest Festival is a community event being sponsored by FAMU and coordinated through its Center for Viticulture and Small Fruit Research in the FAMU College of Agriculture and Food Sciences.

This year’s festival will have an assortment of fun-filled amusements, educational displays and informative demonstrations for both young and old.

For more information, call (850) 599-3996.
Who Should Attend: Meat and Poultry Processors, Food Producers, Food Handlers, Food Service Personnel, Students, and Anyone interested in the safety of their food

Objectives of Course: Identify and assess food hazards, caused by physical, chemical, biological agents that may contribute or cause food borne illness

When: Monday, May 6, 2013 and Tuesday, May 7, 2013 (Two Day Workshop) 8:30 am – 5:00 pm both days

Where: Florida A&M University’s Quincy Extension and Research Center Teleconference Center located @ 4259 Bainbridge Highway, Quincy, Florida

Registration: No Cost

Contact: Call or Email,
Dr. Keawin Sarjeant (850) 599-3383 or Keawin.Sarjeant@famu.edu
Carmen Lyttle-N’guessan (850) 412-5363 or Carmen.lyttlenguessa@famu.edu
1740 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd.
215 Perry Paige Bldg. South Tallahassee, FL 32307

Tel: 850-599-3546
Fax: 850-561-2151
TDD: 850-561-2704
www.famu.edu/cep

Cooperative Extension Program

Dr. Robert Taylor, Dean and Director of Land Grant Programs, College of Agriculture and Food Sciences (CAFS)
Vonda Richardson, Interim Assistant Director, Cooperative Extension Programs
Dr. Lawrence Carter, Director of Special Outreach Programs
Lue Jolly, Coordinator/ Enhanced Food & Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP)
Tondalaya Nelson, 4-H Youth Development Specialist
Sandra Thompson, Community Resource Development Program Leader/ Extension Specialist
Dr. Ray Mobley, Extension Veterinarian
Angela McKenzie-Jakes, Extension Animal Science Specialist/ Program Leader Small Ruminant Program
Dr. Jennifer Taylor, Extension Specialist – Small Farms/Sustainable Development
Carmen Lytte-N’guessan, Coordinator, Animal Healthcare/Veterinary Tech. Program
Dr. Glen Wright, Director of Animal Health
Dr. Robert Purvis, Extension Veterinarian
Dr. Dreamal Worthen, Professor/Community Resource Development
Gilbert Queeley, Research Associate
Dr. Keawin Sergeant, Asst. Professor, Animal Science/Trainer- HACCP
Trevor Hylton, County Extension Agent (Leon & Wakulla)
Covey Washington, County Extension Agent (Jefferson)
Alex Bolques, County Extension Agent (Gadsden)
Lester Muralles, County Extension Agent (Gadsden)
Melva Morfaw, County Extension Agent (Madison)
Donna Salters, Coordinator Rural Entrepreneurial Outreach Program
Amelia Davis, Coordinator, Management Analysis/ SDA Newsletter Editor
Linda Sapp, Project Coordinator, Vet-Tech Program
Faith Clarke, Coordinator, OASDFR Project
Carmita Whitehead, CYFAR Site Coordinator
Sonji West, EFNEP Program Assistant (Gadsden County)
Tonia Torres, EFNEP Program Assistant (Hillsborough County)
Maria Jones, EFNEP Program Assistant (Gulf County)
Jimonica Geri, EFNEP Program Assistant (Escambia County)

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