

23 MARCH 2007

Risk Management Education Funding Opportunities

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Risk Management Agency (RMA) announced a correction in the application deadline for the availability of grant funds through its regional Risk Management Education Centers. Applications are now due by the end of the day on April 23, 2007.

These are funding opportunities for projects that help farm and ranch families succeed through targeted risk management strategies. Risk management education provides training that improves the ability of agricultural producers and their families to effectively manage the risks associated with farming and ranching businesses. The purpose of these cooperative partnership agreement programs is to deliver training and information in the management of production, marketing and financial risk to U.S. agricultural producers. The program gives priority to educating producers of crops currently not insured under federal crop insurance, specialty crops and underserved commodities, including livestock and forage.

Two opportunities for funding are available. A total of \$5 million for Commodity Partnerships for Risk Management Education will be funded to a maximum of 50 partnership agreements with a maximum award level of \$100,000. Also available are 50 agreements of up to \$10,000 for Commodity Partnerships for Small Agricultural Risk Management Education Sessions totaling \$500,000.

With the addition of several new risk-management products, including the Livestock Risk Protection-Lamb pilot program in 27 states, the 2007 Extension Risk Management Education Grants Programs offer an opportunity for the development of state and regional projects to help sheep producers understand how the various options can be used in their operation to help manage risk in their sheep enterprises.

"We encourage sheep producer leaders and state affiliates to work with education professionals in their states to develop proposals to help educate producers in how to manage risk," stated Burdell Johnson (N.D.), president of the American Sheep Industry Association.

Detailed information about the grant programs is located in the Federal Register at <http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20071800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2007/E7-4592.htm>

And

<http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20071800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2007/E7-4593.htm>.