



“Promoting agriculture & food systems that build healthy land, people, communities & quality of life for present & future generations.”

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The NSAS Newsletter is a bimonthly publication of Nebraska Sustainable Agriculture Society, a private, non-profit organization. Our mission is to promote agriculture & food systems that build healthy land, people, communities & quality of life, for present & future generations. The purpose of this newsletter is to inform its readers about sustainable agriculture issues, resources & activities. Members receive this newsletter as a benefit.

Seeds Shape Our Future

Seeds are the basis of agriculture. We take for granted that we will always be able to buy varieties that suit our needs. There are forces at work in the seed industry, however, that will severely limit our choices of what seeds we can buy and who we can buy them from.

Today, the seed industry is being concentrated in the hands of a few multinational corporations, and these corporations have little or no interest in sustainable agriculture. Indeed, their interests lie in the opposite direction.

In its September 29, 1998 issue, the *Wall Street Journal* pointed out that "most seed companies have either aligned themselves with or been acquired by crop-biotechnology juggernauts like Monsanto Co., DuPont Co., and Dow Chemical Co." These corporations are in the chemical business and see the seed industry as a way to insure a growing market for their herbicides.

By using biotechnology to incorporate herbicide resistant genes into plants that have already been bred to respond to high inputs of fertilizers, these multinational corporations are creating plant varieties that depend on an expensive chemical regimen to survive. This dependence will insure huge profits for the corporations and greater input costs for farmers.

This is not the only adverse effect of bioengineering of seeds. By patenting the genes they insert into the seeds, the corporations maintain legal control of the right to propagate those seeds in future generations. In other words, you will not be able to save seeds from these crops for your own use or to sell to neighbors without paying royalties. In fact, in the future a few corporations may control what we plant, what we eat, and what we wear. Profit rather than food security will be the main consideration of these corporations.

Farmers across the country refuse to passively let the corporate giants gain this control over our food system. The Farmer Cooperative Genome Project was organized to unite farmers and gardeners in an effort to ensure that people will have access to seeds that meet their needs.

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Farm Beginnings Nebraska

Farm Beginnings Nebraska is a farmer-led educational training and support program designed to help people who want to evaluate and plan their farm enterprise. Participants engage in a mentorship experience and network with a variety of successful, innovative farmers; attend practical, high quality seminars, field days and conferences; and receive resource materials. They also create links with experienced farmers through farm partnerships, land and equipment use and/or rental. This exciting program combines class time and mentoring for beginning farmers (or not-yet-beginning farmers!) in a format that works towards the practical decisions of what, why, and whether or not in the decision to farm, what to farm and all that entails.

The program began in Nebraska in 2005. We have had numerous graduates of the program. In the next 3 years we will be holding 3 programs in Western Nebraska and 2 in Eastern Nebraska. More information can be found at, <http://nebsusag.org/farmbeginningsnebraska.htm>.

One successful component of the program has been the Farmer Support Group that meets monthly as a networking opportunity for farmers, both young and old, new and seasoned, to discuss trials tribulations and successes in their farming endeavors.

The next Farm Beginnings Nebraska program will be held in the Fall of 2011 and be held in Western Nebraska. For information and to join the mailing list for the program email William at farmbeginningsnebraska@gmail.com

High Tunnels Nebraska

Increasing the Availability of Nebraska's Specialty Crops through High Tunnels

A series of webinars and workshops are being offered as part of a Specialty Crop Block Grant the Nebraska Sustainable Agriculture Society received in partnership with the UNL Nebraska Cooperative Development Center. —Increasing the Availability of Nebraska's Specialty Crops through High Tunnels aims to increase the number of producers in Nebraska using these high tunnel technologies. The objectives of this project are to: Increase awareness about high tunnels and how they can be used to extend specialty crop production in Nebraska. Increase the technical skill level among specialty crop farmers growing or starting to grow crops in high tunnels.

High Tunnel Workshop. September 26th in North Platte

Registration is free but requested by September 19th. To register:

<http://go.unl.edu/hightunnelnorthplatte> Questions: Contact Elaine Cranford at ecranford2@unl.edu or (402)-472-1748

Recorded Webinars

Webinar 1:

High Tunnels & Cold Frames: Tools to Extend the Growing Season, Presented by Stacy Adams UNL Extension (Recorded April 20, 2011)

<http://connect.extension.iastate.edu/p26096626/?launcher=false&fcsContent=true&pbMode=normal>

Webinar 2:

Choosing the Right High Tunnel- Components and Design, presented by Stacy Adams UNL Extension (Recorded May 18, 2011)

<http://connect.extension.iastate.edu/p40393250/?launcher=false&fcsContent=true&pbMode=normal>

Seeds Shape Our Future Part II

The Farmer Cooperative Genome Project met in Salem, Oregon in March to explore ways in which as many people as possible can join together to assure an open access to seeds and basic genetic material for the common good. The meeting was organized by JJ Haapala, Farmer Cooperative Genome Project Administrator and Director of Research and Education at Oregon Tilth. He brought together plant breeders, farmers, people from small independent seed companies and others interested in seed production and distribution.

The conclusion of the two day meeting was that we can insure open access to seeds if we work together. Farmers will have to learn to grow more of their own seeds and make them available to others through cooperative seed exchanges or independent seed companies. Plant breeders will have to work directly with farmers to produce varieties that meet local needs. Government agencies, such as the National Germplasm Repository, are willing to work directly with anyone seriously interested in evaluating germplasm from around the world. Anyone who has an interest in the quality of the food we will eat in the future can and must support this effort.

Dr. Richard Hannan, who directs the Regional Plant Introduction Station of the National Plant Germplasm System in Washington, spoke at the meeting. He pointed out the need for farmers and gardeners to grow out seeds that are stored in the National Plant Germplasm Repository, but have not been grown out and characterized. These seeds have been collected from around the world and are part of the national collection but, due to lack of funds and people, they have never been grown out under local conditions to see how they will perform.

If serious gardeners and farmers are willing to grow out samples of these seeds, they can describe how they grow under local environmental conditions. Their reports can

become a part of the database of information that plant breeders, including gardeners and farmers, can access when they are seeking new genetic resources for their breeding efforts.

Our generation will decide the nature of the food mankind will eat in the future. If enough of us choose to accept our responsibility to breed our own seed, our food will come from a great diversity of visions of what food should be. If we choose to abdicate that responsibility, our food will reflect Monsanto's vision of food for profit instead of food for people.

The decisions we make about the seeds we plant on our farms and in our gardens will shape the future. Which genetic legacy do you want to leave to your children? The plants we enjoy today represent the choices made by individual gardeners and farmers for thousands of years. They chose certain genetic material because they thought it was beautiful, because they thought it tasted good, and because they thought it yielded more and better food, fiber, and flowers.

This genetic heritage is valuable and should be conserved, but it is more important to conserve the idea that it represents - the idea that each of us can influence the future by shaping the plants that will sustain us and our children. We need to save people who save seeds more than we need to save germplasm.

A plant germinates from a seed, grows to flower and produces seeds for the next generation. We are born, grow up, and produce children for the next generation. Unlike plants, we have the ability to influence the environment in which our children will live.

We can pass on not only our own genetic heritage, but the genetic material in plants that represents our vision of what is beautiful, bountiful and beneficial. If we choose to save seed, future generations may live in a better world. ~

2012 Conference Update

Plan to attend the Healthy Farms & Rural Advantage Conference in Nebraska City, Nebraska. The dates for 2012 are February 10-11 at the Lied Lodge and Conference Center. Our keynote this year is Fred Kirschenmann. We will also have our annual All-Nebraska Foods dinner with proceeds going to NSAS and Live Auction with all the funds raised going towards the Nebraska Sustainable Agriculture Society- NSAS!! **About:** The Healthy Farms/Rural Advantage Conference provides an opportunity for participants to acquire useful information on numerous alternatives to expand their farming operations while also practicing and promoting conservation. The conference exposes participants to new and innovative ways to utilize their agricultural operations. It also provides a platform for new, transitioning or beginning farmers to network and learn first hand from fellow farmers as well as the latest research. The conference also provides support for current farmers by fostering growth and stability in sustainable farming methods, including organic agriculture and sustainable agriculture. We do this by helping farmers to develop innovative ideas and projects that can impact their local communities and areas. A variety of interactive educational opportunities are available for adults and youth. Participants will have the chance to network with experts, university faculty, and fellow agricultural colleagues. Besides providing informative, educational sessions the conferences has commercial and educational exhibits.

Sessions: This year's agenda offers a number of breakout sessions with topics ranging from; Transitioning, Raw Milk, Nebraska Legislation, High tunnels, 2012 Farm Bill, SARE Farmers Forum, Distribution, Mobile Meat Processing Unit, Pollinators, Grassfed Beef, And many more! The NCR-SARE Program will be doing their farmers forum during the conference and will showcase the numerous farm projects funded with assistance from the SARE grants program. We will also have an expanded youth program. We are looking for youth presenters for the youth program as well. Youth receive a full registration for presenting. Included in the youth registration is a trip to the Tree Adventure, <http://www.arbordayfarm.org/>

Roundtable Discussions: In June NSAS hosted representatives from the USDA, FSA and the White House in a series of roundtable discussions. As an extension on these roundtable format discussions we will be holding a series of discussions at the conference. For details email William at healthyfarms@gmail.com

Lodging Details: The room rate for this year is \$89 for a single & \$99 for a double. The rate is good from February 7th - February 12th, so make it a vacation! To reserve a room 800-546-5433 & reserve a room under *The Rural Advantage / Healthy Farms* reservations. Lied Lodge & Conference Center

Exhibitor/Sponsor Information: There are numerous ways to participate in the conference including exhibitor and sponsor opportunities. Contact William at healthyfarms@gmail.com for details

All-Nebraska events: The first and original local foods event in Nebraska. A highlight of the conference will be the All-Nebraska Dinner, Live Auction and Entertainment featuring foods grown and raised in Nebraska and prepared by the highly skilled chefs of the Lied Lodge & Conference Center. This will be on Friday.

FAQ Farmer's Market: We will once again hold the FAQ Farmer's Market. It will be Saturday, February 11th beginning at 10:30 and will be open to the public. In a trade show/farmer's market style setting, the FAQ will feature Nebraska's many diverse sustainable farms showcasing their farm, their products, their methods, their practices and answering questions! FAQ, Farmers Answering Questions! This event of the conference will be free to the public and is free for farmers to attend and have a booth.

Website: For up to the minute details please visit, <http://nebsusag.org/conference.shtml>

Questions: For questions about any of these contact William at healthyfarms@gmail.com or 402.525.7794

Events, Opportunities & Listings

Open Harvest's 1st Dig Deeper Farm Tour, September 10th:

This exciting event will include tours of a local creamery and area farms. This is an excellent chance to meet your farmers (and cheese makers!) and take tours of their beautiful land. Farmers will be available most of the day (from late morning into the afternoon) to give tours and talk to the public. Each participating farm will have open hours so that you may visit just one, or as many as you like. Tour goers must provide their own transportation. A list of participants, directions to each farm, and open hours are listed in free guidebooks that will be available at Open Harvest. Farms include; Branched Oak Farm near Raymond; Common Good Farm near Raymond; Robinette Farms near Martell. Openharvest.com

No-till Cover Crop Field Day: Wednesday, September 7th. 9:30 am. Location, Rob & Trent Bohling Farm near Johnson. Contact, Gary Lesoing, 402-274-4755, glesoing2@unl.edu

6th Annual Southeast Nebraska Diversified Ag Tour: Friday, September 9th. Plans are to visit a commercial greenhouse, vegetable farm with a high tunnel, a grass-fed beef operation, a Christmas tree farm & a possibly a winery. Contact: Gary Lesoing, 402-274-4755, glesoing2@unl.edu

No-Till on the Plains Whirlwind Expo: The Whirlwind No-till Expo is set for Thursday, September 8. It will kick off promptly at 8:30 at the William R. Nielsen farm located 8 miles south of Minden, Nebraska on Hwy 10 (32 Road) to C Road, then east 1 mile to 33 Road, then south ½ mile. For more information or to pre-register by September 2, contact No-till on the Plains, Inc. at 888-330-5142 or register online at www.notill.org.

Land for Sale:

We are selling 15 acres of our Land. It is a really beautiful piece of rolling land in alfalfa. We would love to have someone buy it who would continue to take care of it sustainably. Only 15-20 min. southeast of Lincoln. Call Melissa at 402-780-5287 or (402)499-5928 or email dropofdewtherese@gmail.com

Involvement with Sustainable Ag.

We are Roger & Sharon Kappelman & we live near Grand Island. We are interested employment in the organic area - farming, greenhouse -whatever might be available. We want to be involved in organics & learn more about it. Roger has been involved in farming his whole life. He has been working for a Valley Irrigation dealer for 18 years. Has been a truck driver for many years & currently has his CDL. Operated many types of big equipment. Has done carpenter work, cement work, mechanics. Lots of experience with cattle and hogs. Email is rskap@charter.net. Phone is 402-886-2768.





OCIA News

Organic Crop Improvement Association, Nebraska Chapter #1 Newsletter

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ORGANIC FARMERS AND SEED SELLERS SUE MONSANTO TO PROTECT THEMSELVES FROM PATENTS ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED SEED:

Preemptive Action Seeks Ruling That Would Prohibit Monsanto From Suing Organic Farmers and Seed Growers If Contaminated By Roundup Ready Seed
On behalf of 60 family farmers, seed businesses and organic agricultural organizations, including OCIA International and OCIA Research & Education, the Public Patent Foundation (PUBPAT) filed suit on March 29th, 2011 against Monsanto Company to challenge the chemical giant's patents on genetically modified seed. The organic plaintiffs were forced to sue preemptively to protect themselves from being accused of patent infringement should they ever become contaminated by Monsanto's genetically modified seed, something Monsanto has done to others in the past. The case, Organic Seed Growers & Trade Association, et al. v. Monsanto, was filed in federal district court in Manhattan and assigned to Judge Naomi Buchwald. Plaintiffs in the suit represent a broad array of family farmers, small businesses and organizations from within the organic agriculture community who are increasingly threatened by genetically modified seed contamination despite using their best efforts to avoid it. The plaintiff organizations have over 270,000 members, including thousands of certified organic family farmers. "This case asks whether Monsanto has the right to sue organic farmers for patent infringement if Monsanto's transgenic seed should land on their property," said Dan Ravicher, PUBPAT's Executive Director and Lecturer of Law at Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law in New York. "It seems quite perverse that an organic farmer contaminated by transgenic seed could be accused of patent infringement, but Monsanto has made such accusations before and is notorious for having sued hundreds of farmers for patent infringement, so we had to act to protect the interests of our clients." Once released into the environment, genetically modified seed contaminates and destroys organic seed for the same crop. For example, soon after Monsanto introduced genetically modified seed for canola, organic canola became virtually extinct as a result of contamination. Organic corn, soybeans, cotton, sugar beets and alfalfa now face the same fate, as Monsanto has released genetically modified seed for each of those crops, too. Monsanto is developing genetically modified seed for many other crops, thus putting the future of all food, and indeed all agriculture, at stake.

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OBHRPI CALL TO ACTION

Disaster Relief for Oklahoma Family Farmers

The Oklahoma Black Historical Research Project, Inc. (OBHRPI), a 501 c(3) non-profit organization, which has served Oklahoma producers for more than a decade, is coordinating an effort to bring emergency relief to African American, American Indian and other small-scale producers in Oklahoma, in cooperation with Randall Ware and the Kiowa Nation. There is a disaster declaration for 67 counties in our state, and due to extreme heat and a combination of drought and hail, there is very little hay available in the state. The producers are unable to feed cattle and are losing animals or are being forced to sell livestock at very low prices. These losses will cause severe economic damage and harm the producer's ability to rebuild herds in the future. As a result, we are issuing this call to action.

OBHRPI has been designated to play a coordinating role with other Oklahoma organizations to distribute the hay to the worst affected producers and communities from a central distribution point that has been established. Our national partner, Rural Coalition, will assist us with communications to get this call out more widely to the networks of producers and organizations willing to assist and has set up an online donation link to the special disaster fund we have established.

OBHRPI is requesting support and assistance of its members, partners and friends in order to make this response meaningful, timely and successful. Here is how you can help:

Donating Funds: Funds are urgently needed to cover distribution costs. All donations are tax deductible. Please make checks out to OBHRPI with the memo "Disaster Relief Fund" and send to Oklahoma Black Historical Research Project, 2505 N.W. 118th Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73120 or donate on line at Oklahoma Disaster Assistance Link at <http://ruralco.org/>

Hay and Other Feed Supplies, may be delivered to our central distribution point at 2620 Coltrane Rd.
Oklahoma City, OK 73121 c/o Oklahoma Black Historical Research Project, Inc.

ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

On behalf of the Oklahoma Black Historical Research, Inc., and the Rural Coalition, we would like to thank you for your support and assistance in helping socially disadvantaged and limited resource farmers and ranchers of Oklahoma with our struggle to save the family farm.

Contact Information

Willard Tillman, Executive Director, OBHRPI

(405) 201-6624, Wtillman2@cox.net



2011 Membership & Food Network Directory

It is time for the next Membership & Food Directory. NSAS has been producing the directory bi-annual directory since the 1980's. The directory is a helpful compilation of member and organizational information, and serves as a handy tool for you! Many keep it by their computers and phones as a resource guide. The 2011 edition will be a booklet style. It will also be available online.

What we need from you: All we ask is just some very basic information and, to keep it simple, we will print your information unless you contact us to let us know you'd rather not be listed. Please review the label printed below. This is how your entry will appear, so if there are corrections/additions, let us know. If you want your email address or website listed, please jot it down in the space provided.

Any and all are welcome: Everyone is invited to send in their information. Advocates, farmers, consumers, certifiers, NGO's, non-profits, foodies, youth, government agencies, etc. Perhaps your membership has lapsed? Check your mailing label on your newsletter. There is a date in the upper right-hand corner. If yours has passed, please consider renewing at this time. One benefit of being an NSAS member is receiving the directory for free.

For the 2011 NSAS Membership Directory, please provide the following information.

Farm (Business) Name

Farmers (or NSAS Member) Name

Farm Size

Address

County

Practices

Phone

Email

Crops & Livestock

Website

Description

Special Skills

Please send this information to William Powers at healthyfarms@gmail.com or by mail to 414 County Road 15. Ceresco, NE. 68017

Advertising and sponsorship opportunities are available. For information please email William at healthyfarms@gmail.com

Please take a few moments now to complete the form and forward or mail to William. Thank you for your time to help NSAS keep members connected!

~Jo Lowe, 2011 NSAS Treasurer

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In the case, PUBPAT is asking Judge Buchwald to declare that if organic farmers are ever contaminated by Monsanto's genetically modified seed, they need not fear also being accused of patent infringement. One reason justifying this result is that Monsanto's patents on genetically modified seed are invalid because they don't meet the "usefulness" requirement of patent law, according to PUBPAT's Ravicher, plaintiffs' lead attorney in the case. Evidence cited by PUBPAT in its opening filing today proves that genetically modified seed has negative economic and health effects, while the promised benefits of genetically modified seed – increased production and decreased herbicide use – are false.

“Some say transgenic seed can coexist with organic seed, but history tells us that's not possible, and it's actually in Monsanto's financial interest to eliminate organic seed so that they can have a total monopoly over our food supply,” said Ravicher. “Monsanto is the same chemical company that previously brought us Agent Orange, DDT, PCB's and other toxins, which they said were safe, but we know are not. Now Monsanto says transgenic seed is safe, but evidence clearly shows it is not.”

The plaintiffs in the suit represented by PUBPAT are: Organic Seed Growers and Trade Association; Organic Crop Improvement Association International, Inc.; OCIA Research and Education Inc.; The Cornucopia Institute; Demeter Association, Inc.; Navdanya International; Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association; NOFA/Mass.; NOFA Vermont; Rural Vermont; Ohio Ecological Food & Farm Association; Southeast Iowa Organic Association; NPSAS; Mendocino Organic Network; Northeast Organic Dairy Producers Alliance; Canadian Organic Growers; Family Farmer Seed Cooperative; Sustainable Living Systems; Global Organic Alliance; Food Democracy Now!; Family Farm Defenders Inc.; FTCLDF; FEDCO Seeds Inc.; Adaptive Seeds, LLC; Sow True Seed; Southern Exposure Seed Exchange; Mumm's Sprouting Seeds; Baker Creek Heirloom Seed Co., LLC; Comstock, Ferre & Co., LLC; Seedkeepers, LLC; Siskiyou Seeds; Countryside Organics; Cuatro Puertas; Interlake Forage Seeds Ltd.; Alba Ranch; Wild Plum Farm; Gratitude Gardens; Richard Everett Farm, LLC; Philadelphia Community Farm, Inc; Genesis Farm; Chispas Farms LLC; Kirschenmann Family Farms Inc.; Midheaven Farms; Koskan Farms; California Cloverleaf Farms; North Outback Farm; Taylor Farms, Inc.; Jardin del Alma; Ron Gargas Organic Farms; Abundant Acres; T & D Willey Farms; Quinella Ranch; Nature's Way Farm Ltd.; Levke and Peter Eggers Farm; Frey Vineyards, Ltd.; Bryce Stephens; Chuck Noble; LaRhea Pepper; Paul Romero; and, Donald Wright Patterson, Jr.

For a copy of the complaint, go to <http://www.pubpat.org/assets/files/seed/OSGATA-v-Monsanto-Complaint.pdf>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Carol Peters

northeastrcd@plywtelco.net 402-582-4866



Is the New Multi-Billion \$\$ Industry on the Rocks?

Norfolk, NE – Unusual weather patterns, blamed in part to La Nina, has caused massive drought conditions in much of the south, along with record rainfall in other areas causing severe flooding. These conditions have played havoc with feed and grass production which affect the grassfed industry; the new multi-billion dollar industry.

Since corn and hay prices are continuing to rise, finding ways to reduce input costs, while remaining profitable, is weighing heavily on producers' minds. In some areas of the US, cattle prices are falling because of the lack of and/or high cost of feed. With feed costs so high, what can a producer do to protect himself from a drop in cattle prices? This quandary is the focus of an upcoming seminar for cattle producers in Norfolk, NE, on Sept. 15–17, 2011 at the Northeast Community College Ag Complex.

Speakers include:

Dr. Fred Provenza - The Symbiosis Between Animal, Land and Man

Dr. Will Winter - Natural Animal Health and Treatment

Dr. Lee Manske - Ecologically Beneficial Relationship Between Land and Cattle

“The Organic Chef – Al Rosas” named “Culinary Entrepreneur of the Year 2007” will prepare a meal and share some chef insight with producers

Kit Pharo

Mark DeBoo

Larry Melhoff

Grassfed Meat Buyers and More!

The Grassfed Exchange, www.grassfedexchange.com, founded in 2009, promotes grass-fed beef for the social good of our land, our consumers and our communities. The GFE provides information for both consumers and producers and encourages the exchange of ideas and works to develop strategies that will bring value to the grass-fed industry. For more information about the upcoming seminar, visit www.grassfedexchange.com or call Carol Peters at 402-582-4866.~

Support Your Values for less than 10 cents per day!

For ten cents per day you can get one small cup of coffee per week, a happy meal per month, or if you are lucky you may get one tank of gas per year. I have observed people dropping a dime on the floor and not even exerting the energy to pick it up. Though ten cents may not buy a lot in today's economy, that is all it costs to share your values through NSAS publications & activities. If you are not a member, consider joining NSAS. If you are a member, consider building NSAS membership through a gift membership.

Email Jill today to find out how,

jillw@hartel.net, or visit <http://nebsusag.org/join.shtml>

Nominations for annual awards

Educator of the Year. The NSAS Educator of the Year Award recognizes an individual who exemplifies sustainable agriculture in their teachings and interactions with others

Beginning Farmer of the Year. The NSAS Beginning Farmer of the Year award recognizes a farmer or farm family that has been working towards implementing sustainable or organic practices on their farm

Farm Family of the Year. The NSAS Farm Family of the Year award recognizes a family who embodies the values of sustainable agriculture in their families and on their farms.

Nominations are due by November 1st and can be sent to William at healthyfarms@gmail.com

USDA Makes Funds Available to Meet Urgent Credit Needs of Producers

WASHINGTON, July 28, 2011 – Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced today that a high demand for guaranteed farm ownership and direct farm operating funds has prompted USDA to transfer appropriated funds between programs as authorized by law, to meet the urgent credit needs of producers, including beginning and minority farmers and ranchers.

"Demand is strong for direct operating loans and guaranteed farm ownership loans, while demand for subsidized guaranteed operating loans has stabilized," said Vilsack. "With these funds, we can help thousands of producers establish and maintain their family farming operations and obtain long-term credit assistance through a commercial lender."

The transfer will make an additional \$100 million in loan funds available for the direct operating loan program, providing 1,600 small, beginning and minority farmers with resources to establish and maintain their family farming operations. In addition, \$400 million in loan funds will be made available for the guaranteed farm ownership loan program giving an additional 1,000 family farmers access to commercial lending backed by USDA. Both programs had run out of funds resulting in a backlog of approved but unfunded loan applications.

This measure will allow all of the backlogged loans to be funded and provide sufficient funds to meet the needs of new loan applicants for these programs while at the same time leaving sufficient funding for the subsidized guaranteed farm operating loans program to meet the expected demand for fiscal year 2011. Producers needing additional direct operating or longer term guaranteed farm ownership loans funds are encouraged to make application at their local Farm Service Agency office.

For more information,
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/stateoffapp?mystate=ne&area=home&subject=landing&topic=landing>

Or contact the Nebraska FSA office at 402-437-5581