



ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY SYSTEMS

The mission of the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service is to advance knowledge for agriculture, the environment, human health and well-being, and communities. The programs and activities of the Economic and Community Systems unit provide national leadership and support for research, extension, and education to increase the prosperity of America's communities, families, and agribusinesses. To learn more about the Economic and Community systems unit, please visit <http://www.csrees.usda.gov/about/offices/ecs.html>.

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Agricultural Markets and Trade - Successful marketing - getting products from producers to domestic and international consumers - is a complex chain of activities that is crucial to the economic survival of farms and agribusiness. CSREES funds and supports marketing and trade research, higher education, and extension work. In addition, the Agency partners with other public and private sector organizations to promote successful marketing and trade methods and strategies including alternative markets, products, policies, and institutions. Contact: **Henry "JH" Bahn** at 202-720-8143 or hbahn@csrees.usda.gov. For more information, please visit <http://www.csrees.usda.gov/agriculturalmarketsandtrade.html>.

Environmental and Resource Economics - This program develops and transfers knowledge with innovative approaches to today's complex resource allocation and agro-environmental issues. The program goal is to help farmers, ranchers, households, communities, and policy-makers understand trade-offs in their decision making and to help them make more economically and environmentally sustainable choices. Priority areas include developing recreation/tourism for health and economic well-being; evaluating land use/landscape changes and agro-ecosystem multi-functionality; quantifying intangible goods and services; and assessing conservation program effectiveness. Contact: **Fen Hunt** at 202-720-4114 or fhunt@csrees.usda.gov. For more information, please visit <http://www.csrees.usda.gov/environmentalresourceeconomics>.

Farm Financial Management - Each year, hundreds of U.S. farm businesses fail; some of these failures are caused by poor financial management. Farm management involves successfully integrating the factors of production--land, labor, and financial resources--to realize an economically viable, ecologically sound, and socially responsible farm business. CSREES provides funding opportunities and staff expertise to address these concerns, allowing producers to meet their business and financial goals successfully. This program emphasizes **Risk Management Education** and **Trade Adjustment Assistance**. Contact: **Janie Hipp** at 202-720-3605 or jhipp@csrees.usda.gov. For more information, please visit <http://www.csrees.usda.gov/farmfinancialmanagement>.

Financial Security - Financial security is the ability to meet day-to-day expenses while saving and investing for longer-term needs. Working through land-grant university partners, programs help youth, economically-vulnerable individuals and families, and consumers making financial decisions about later life acquire the knowledge, tools, and motivation to achieve financial security. America Saves and the NEFE® High School Financial Planning Program® are among leading Extension programs. Multi-state research focuses on household savings behavior and family-owned businesses. Degree programs in family financial planning prepare financial services professionals. Contact: **Jane Schuchardt** at 202-690-2674 or jschuchardt@csrees.usda.gov. For more information, please visit <http://www.csrees.usda.gov/financialsecurity>.

Public Policy - Public policies - in the form of international, national, state, and local laws, regulations, and treaties - can greatly influence the economic well-being of the U.S. agricultural sector, agribusiness sectors, and individual producers. CSREES provides national leadership, funding, technical assistance, and advice to land-grant colleges and universities that have specific research and extension programs related to agricultural and rural policy research and analysis. In addition, CSREES supports public issues education programs conducted by the Cooperative Extension System. Contact: **Maurice Dorsey** at 202-720-6014 or mdorsey@csrees.usda.gov. For more information, please visit <http://www.csrees.usda.gov/publicpolicy>.



Rural and Community Development - Small towns and rural places are the building blocks of rural society. Facing dramatic changes, they need greater capacity for community-led development. Local leaders and organizations need information, skills and decision-making tools to help understand problems, identify opportunities, engage citizens, and plan for renewal and growth. CSREES supports research and extension to meet these needs. This program includes focuses in **Economic Development** and **Regional Development**. Contact: **Sally Maggard** at 202-720-0741 or smaggard@csrees.usda.gov. For more information, please visit <http://www.csrees.usda.gov/ruralcommunitydevelopment>.

Small and Home-based Business - Small businesses are a vital part of the U.S. economy, creating 80 percent of its jobs and accounting for nearly 40 percent of its private sales. CSREES' role is to supply science-based information and to help entrepreneurs understand these changes and take full advantage of emerging opportunities. Working with its many partners, CSREES promotes high-quality research to stimulate innovation in the private sector. It also helps build the skills and capacity of outreach professionals whose job it is to help entrepreneurs initiate and expand their businesses. Contact: **Sally Maggard** at 720-7041 or smaggard@csrees.usda.gov; **Antonio McLaren** at 202-720-5997 or amclaren@csrees.usda.gov. For more information, please visit <http://www.csrees.usda.gov/smallhomebasedbusiness>.

Small Farms - The Small Farm Program is committed to meeting the needs of the small farm community. The program's goal is to improve the economic viability of small farm enterprises through partnerships with the land-grant university system and other public and private organizations, including farmers, community-based organizations, and foundations. The program encourages research, extension, and education programs that meet the specific needs of farmers. Contact: **Denis Ebodaghe** at 202-401-4385 or debodaghe@csrees.usda.gov. For more information, please visit <http://www.csrees.usda.gov/smallfarms>.

Sustainable Agriculture - The goal of sustainable agriculture is farming and ranching systems that are profitable, environmentally sound, and good for communities. One way that CSREES advances sustainable agriculture is through the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program, an innovative research and education grant program, which has funded more than 2,500 grants to help farmers and ranchers explore options to meet today's farming challenges with an eye toward long-term solutions. Contact: **Jill Auburn** at 202-720-5384 or jauburn@csrees.usda.gov. For more information, please visit <http://www.csrees.usda.gov/sustainableagriculture>.

Sustainable Biobased Economies - Agricultural production for bioenergy, biofuel, and bioindustrial products, along with rural land use and infrastructure for other renewable energy resources, have the potential to dramatically alter the economy, social structure, and ecology of U.S. farms, rural communities, and landscapes. CSREES supports science-based research, education, and extension activities to promote a bioeconomy that is sustainable and accrues real and lasting benefits for rural people and places. Our efforts are directed toward securing an energy future that protects and rewards agricultural producers and rural communities for the value they create forging a new bioeconomy. Contact: **Patricia (Pat) C. Hipple** at 202-401-2185 or phipple@csrees.usda.gov.

Urban Programs - CSREES recognizes the interrelatedness and interdependence of people living in rural, suburban, and urban areas. Its educational programs help link producers of food and fiber to consumers by focusing on issues such as homeland security, obesity, natural resources, and community development and well-being. Contact: **Maurice Dorsey** at 202-720-6014 or mdorsey@csrees.usda.gov. For more information, please visit <http://www.csrees.usda.gov/urbanprograms>.