

News Column

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Extension has Farm Bill Information Available

Next Wednesday, February 11th, Ellis County Extension will offer an In Depth Farm Bill program in Hays at the Agricultural Research Center. As a matter of fact there will be two farm bill programs the same day, because the original one in the morning has filled up, so the same program will be offered again beginning at 1:30 p.m. The RSVP deadline for both programs was February 6th, but we can still take registrations up to Monday, February 9th by calling 785-628-9430 or emailing Theresa at tam3@ksu.edu

If you have signed up for either program but don't know much yet about the farm bill, doing a little homework before you come could help you out in better understanding the presentation. I know not everyone likes to use a computer but if you have one and an internet connection, I would encourage you to spend a little time on the K-State Research & Extension Ag Economics web site looking over some of the farm bill information. The web address is www.agmanager.info and once on the home page you will click onto "2014 Farm Bill Policy Page".

There is a vast amount of information about the new farm bill on this page so don't get overwhelmed. My first suggestion is to scroll down to the Commodity Program Papers section and view the 2014 Farm Bill Decision-Making Steps. Next view the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ): Title I Programs of the 2014 Farm Bill, from there you can look at the Glossary of Farm Bill Terms, then on to how to update payment yields and reallocating base acres documents. There are even videos showing you how to work through the calculation sheet for updating yields and reallocating base acres, and so forth. Then if you feel comfortable enough you could even download the OSU-KSU 2014 Farm Program Decision Tool which is an Excel spreadsheet, and be sure to print off the accompanying instruction sheets and take a stab at putting in your farms information and let the computer do the calculations. The decision tool allows you to run different scenarios of grain prices and resulting payments and to compare ARC-CO to PLC.

K-State Research & Extension even taped the recent farm bill program held in Wichita, so if you view the video, you could really get a good jump start on understanding the new farm bill before coming to the Hays Farm Bill program on the 11th. Of course this could also be a good reference to go back to if you need a recap. The Farm Bill Policy page in my opinion is laid out nicely and is user friendly. You can clearly read the title of each paper and presentation and then if you want click onto view and it will come up and when done just hit the back arrow to get back to the farm bill policy page again. All of this information can be found at www.agmanager.info

If you need any assistance with working through the excel decision tool or have any questions before or after the Farm Bill Program in Hays, please don't hesitate to contact your local County Extension Office. I

can be reached at the Ellis County Extension Office, Monday through Friday at 785-628-9430 or email me at scampbel@ksu.edu