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Disclaimer: This web page is designed to aid farmers with their marketing and risk management decisions. The risk of loss in trading futures, options, forward contracts, and hedge-to-arrive can be substantial and no warranty is given or implied by the author or any other party. Each farmer must consider whether such marketing strategies are appropriate for his or her situation. This web page does not represent the views of Kansas State University.

15 Sponsored Farm Bill Educational Meetings Announced¹

Fifteen Sponsored Regional Farm Bill Educational meeting locations and dates have been announced. Please mark the date and location on your calendar for the date and location near you.

January 12:	Wichita	January 13:	Pittsburg
January 14:	Emporia	January 15:	Ottawa
January 20:	Salina	January 21:	McPherson
January 22:	Pratt	January 26:	Goodland
January 27:	Scott City	January 28:	Liberal
January 29:	Dodge City	February 10:	Phillipsburg
February 11:	Hays	February 12:	Marysville
February 13:	Atchison		

Doctors Mykel Taylor and Art Barnaby will make the presentation. Registration in some locations will start at 8:00 am with presentations beginning at 8:30 am and finish at noon, while in other locations, registration will begin at 1:00 pm, with presentations starting at 1:30 and ending at 5:00 pm.

The topics that will be included are an introduction and outline of the commodity programs and the major changes to crop insurance. FSA personnel will make a short presentation on commodity program procedures. We will cover the economic tradeoffs between the program options. Finally we will cover the OSU-KSU Excel based decision

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aid tool. This will help participants to understand and utilize the tool in the evaluation of their farm numbers. We will also provide an overview of the decision aid tools that were funded by USDA that also cover the commodity program decision.

These meetings are being sponsored by 4 Premier Sponsors that include:

1. Ag Risk Solutions
2. ARMtech Insurance Services
3. Farm Credit Associations of Kansas
4. ProAg

Premier sponsorships are closed, but supporting sponsorships are still available. If your company would like to be a sponsor in one or more of those 15 meetings please email Rich Llewelyn at: rwl@ksu.edu for more details.

Supporting sponsors will be given non-preferred booth space, a public thank you from us during the meeting, and the opportunity to visit with their customers or potential customers during the breaks. The supporting sponsors will also be listed on handout material. The cost for being a supporting sponsor is \$500 per meeting or \$4,000 for all 15 meetings. The Premier Sponsors will have their logos on our slides and will receive the preferred booth location, but the cost was more than double.

We have at least two supporting sponsors who have already signed on through “word of mouth”. We are now announcing publicly that any agribusiness who would like to be a supporting sponsor at one or more of these meetings, Kansas State University would greatly appreciate your support. Premier and supporting sponsors will receive a supply of \$25 tickets to pass out to consumers. County agents will also be given a supply of tickets. It is required that all participants have a ticket so that we can make sure we have enough coffee, handouts, chairs, etc.

USDA has stated that farmers will have at least until March 31 to elect one of the commodity programs. Once a commodity program is elected, that farm serial number is locked in for the next 5 years, even if the land changes ownerships or tenants. So this is an important decision that farmers will likely want to take their time evaluating their options. We don't expect most farmers will make a decision until after the first of the year, so these meetings should be timely. The Wichita meeting is accessible by air too; either private or commercial. Note the first meeting in Wichita is also the date for the National Collegiate Football title game. So you may want to select another location because I expect the Cats will still be playing football!