

SERVICEMEMBER AGRICULTURAL VOCATION EDUCATION (SAVE)

HAPPY NEW YEAR

2021

Monthly Newsletter

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Announcement

SAVE Farm begins a new chapter this month. The first class of our Sustainable Agriculture Program will start January 11, 2021. We are dedicated to providing our students with the best education in sustainable agriculture as possible to ensure that they are successful in the future agricultural operation. For those who are interested in attending this six month program, should contact the SAVE Farm Operations Section or visit www.thesavefarm.org.

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Farmer and Ranchers Going into 2021!

2020 was a year that will not be forgotten. The COVID-19 outbreak and the subsequent actions taken to mitigate the pandemic have already had a significant effect on the marketplace.



The stock outages we had seen in the grocery stores were because of acute demand, everyone rushed to the stores for supplies in a short time period. Because this happened all over, stores struggled to restock because shipments had been limited by wholesalers. The public continued to rush stores for supplies, making it hard for them to catch up. This demand exceeded supply at a particular point in time that was unanticipated.

Companies were impacted, but in terms of market capitalization. Agricultural companies have been traditionally more financially conservative. Some of those companies were stressed.

Scrutiny in food production has steadily increased because of food safety recalls, consumer demand, and sustainability efforts. This scrutiny was intensified during the pandemic.

For many farmers and ranchers, the pandemic altered their family lifestyle. The pandemic spurred telecommuting to off-farm jobs, online education for school-age children, and closures of day care for young children. Due to the lack of high-speed internet, these challenges were made even harder as 24% of rural adults said it was. Even with the return of school and businesses to an online format to facilitate social distancing, farmers were in the same boat as they were during planting.

USDA's Risk Management Agency announced it will extend crop insurance flexibilities for farmers due to the pandemic. Specifically, providing relief for electronic notifications and signatures is extended through July 15, 2021. Organic certification, replant self-certification and assignment of indemnity are extended through June 30, 2021. The USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) is also allowing Approved Insurance Providers (AIPs) further flexibilities for production reporting, submitting written agreement requests, and obtaining producer signatures for written agreement offers. Producer signatures for written agreement offers, issues by RMA on or before June 30, 2021, with an expiration date on or before July 30, 2021, will allow producer signatures to be accepted after the expiration date with proper self-certification or documentation.



There are many other flexibilities that started on March 27, 2020 announced by RMA. RMA staff are working with AIPs and other customers by phone, mail, and electronically to continue supporting crop insurance coverage for producers. Farmer with crop insurance questions or needs should continue to contact their insurance agents about conducting business remotely. Visit www.farmers.gov/coronavirus for the most current updates on available services.

AmeriCorps, Those Behind the Scenes

SAVE Farm would not have been as successful in 2020 without the hard work and efforts of the AmeriCorps Members.

AmeriCorps is a voluntary civil society program supported by the U.S. federal government, foundations, corporations, and other donors that engages adult public service work with a goal of “helping others and meeting critical needs in the community.” AmeriCorps Members commit to full-time or part-time positions offered by a network of nonprofit community organizations and public agencies, to fulfill assignments in the fields of education, public safety, health care, and environmental protection.

This initiative of the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), was created under President Bill Clinton by the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993, incorporating VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) and the National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC).

The program first became operational in 1994 and has expanded over time, with over 80,000 members participating annually as of 2012. Members of AmeriCorps may be provided low financial compensation in the form of cost-of-living allowances, student loan deferment, Public Service Loan Forgiveness, and the AmeriCorps Education Award. Other benefits that may be viewed as less tangible include professional skill development and work experience.

Our AmeriCorps Members bring passion and perseverance where the need is greatest. They serve and have served as agents for change, living and working alongside community members to meet our nation’s most pressing challenges and advance local solutions.

If you feel that you would like to volunteer your service through AmeriCorps’ VISTA Program, find out where to put your passion to work by searching thousands of opportunity listings across the country. VISTA members will serve in a project identified and managed by the community while earning a modest living allowance that reflects the income level of the community where you’re serving. AmeriCorps Members in the VISTA Program must be:

- 18 years or older (no upper age limit)
- Be able to pass a national service criminal history check
- Hold one of the following citizenship or legal residency statuses: US citizen, US National, Lawful Permanent Resident (i.e., Green Card status), and persons legally residing within a state. Examples of persons legally residing within a state may include those holding the following classifications: refugee, asylee, temporary protected status throughout VISTA service, and holding Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status.

For information about serving, visit www.my.americorps.gov.



AmeriCorps