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Farm bill and leasing meetings information

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the survey that the higher average rents came about mostly from renegotiation of leases that had not been changed for several years. On the other hand, many of the higher rental rates either stayed the same or were lowered slightly for 2009.

Other resources available for estimating a fair cash rental rate include Ag Decision Maker information file C2-20, "Computing a Cropland Cash Rental Rate," and file C2-21, "Flexible Farm Lease Agreements." Both of these include decision file electronic worksheets to help analyze leasing questions.



Farm bill and leasing meetings information

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Informational meetings were held throughout the state this spring to cover provisions of the 2008 Farm Bill. This summer, meetings will continue to address new sign-up dates, rules, and other regulations that have been finalized in recent weeks. The meetings will cover payment limitations, current Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP), the new revenue component known as the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program, and the new permanent disaster program (SURE).

The meetings are intended to assist landowners and operators in their decision whether to enroll in the new ACRE program or stay with the current DCP. ISU Extension ag business field specialists will discuss revenue features of the ACRE program. The Ag Decision Maker ACRE decision tool will be presented to show projected revenue and payments. Meetings will last approximately two to three hours.

Meeting times, locations, and registration information are included on the AgDM meetings page (<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/info/meetings.html>), and new locations will be added as they become available. Information Files and updated Decision Tools for the 2008 Farm Bill are available on the Ag Decision Maker Farm Bill page (<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/info/farmbill.html>). Decision Tools are updated frequently to correct for new price information or rule adjustments that have been made.

Farmland Leasing Workshops

Farmland leasing workshops are also being held during July and August. Workshops are designed to assist landowners, tenants and other agri-business professionals with issues related to farmland ownership, management, and leasing agreements.

Each workshop attendee will receive a set of useful materials about farm leasing arrangements. Workshops will last approximately three hours and will be led by Iowa State University Extension farm management specialists.

The Leasing Meetings page (<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/info/meetings2.html>) lists available meeting dates, locations, and registration information. Locations will be added as they become available, or contact the local county extension office to find the nearest meeting location. The Leasing section of AgDM also provides useful materials for negotiating leases, information on varying types of leases, and lease forms.

Knowing the latest information and where to find the best resources will make decisions easier for you and your clientele. Look to ISU Extension and Ag Decision Maker for information and decision tools this summer.