

?Purdue Ag outlook meeting: How will agriculture get through 2009?

Written by Administrator

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? Agriculture prices have plunged along with income prospects for much of the agriculture sector ranging from crop farmers to agribusinesses. The focus of this program is to help explain factors that are driving farm prices this year both to the heights and now to the depths.

As grain prices rose in 2006, 2007 and early this year, input costs were somewhat slower to rise. Now, input costs are too high for depressed 2009 grain prices and some adjustments will have to occur. What might those be, and when might they occur?

Wildly fluctuating farm prices mean extreme uncertainty for grain and livestock producers. Margin risks are the greatest in modern-era American agriculture. Thus, management strategies for agricultural managers to cope with this unstable period will be outlined as well.

Sponsored by the Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service Clark County and by Farm Credit Services as Scottsburg, the free program will take place on Tuesday, December 16 at 7:30 a.m. at the Clark County 4-H Center located at 9608 Highway 62 in Charlestown. Everyone is invited to attend. Chris Hurt of Purdue's Department of Agricultural Economics will present the Outlook.

The program will also examine the impact of the volatile prices on Indiana land values, cash rents, and lease arrangements. There will also be an evaluation of expected price levels for corn, soybeans, cattle, milk, and hog prices. Also featured will be strategies for grain pricing, expected 2009 input costs and the best crops to plant in 2009.

"These are highly uncertain economic times for both Agriculture and our rural communities. The impacts are being felt from Wall Street to RFD America," said David Trotter, Extension Educator, Clark County. "These are scary times with big challenges and this meeting should help farmers, landowners, lenders and agribusiness managers make better decisions in the year ahead."

For more information about the outlook meeting contact David Trotter at 812-256-4591. If you require auxiliary aids and services due to disabilities, please contact them prior to the event. Farm Credit Services at Scottsburg will sponsor a free breakfast at this meeting. Please call 812-256-4591 prior to noon on December 12.