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'Annie's Project' to take place in January

Thursday, December 16, 2010
Brazil Times

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. -- The Purdue Extension Women in Agriculture team will present a new round of Annie's Project courses starting in January to help farm women become better business partners.

The program includes critical decision-making and information topics on production, marketing, financial, legal and human resources risk management.

"Annie's Project is a very valuable set of business-based workshops, especially in this time of volatility in agricultural prices and inputs," Purdue Extension educator Kelly Heckaman said.

"At a time when it's vitally important to manage farm operations by the margins, Annie's Project will emphasize ways to make better financial and risk management decisions."

This year's program will take place every Thursday from Jan. 13, through Feb. 17.

Host sites in Henry, Delaware, Kosciusko and Fulton and Wayne and Union counties and the Pinney Purdue Agriculture Center will present Annie's Project, from 1-4 p.m.

Sites in Benton, Dearborn and Ohio, Franklin, Hamilton and Jasper counties and southwest Indiana will host the program 6:30-9:30 p.m.

Session topics include:

- * Jan. 13 -- "Introduction to Annie's Project,"
- * Jan. 20 -- "Farm Family Finances;" Lynn Lambert of Lambert, Lanoue and Smoker LLC CPAs,
- * Jan. 27 -- "Farm Financial Analysis;" Freddie Barnard, Purdue Extension agricultural economist,
- * Feb. 3 -- "Marketing Crops and Livestock;" Corinne Alexander, Purdue Extension agricultural economist,
- * Feb. 10 -- "Computer Software and Record Keeping for the Farm Business," and
- * Feb. 17 -- "Farm Business Plans;" Maria Marshall, Purdue Extension agricultural economist.

"We have a great mix of local and Purdue speakers for the series," Heckaman said. "The Purdue specialists and agribusiness experts add valuable experience and practical information to the program."

Registration is \$75 per person until Jan. 6. After that date, registration increases to \$85 per person.

A brochure with specific county schedules and contact information is available on the Purdue Women in Agriculture website (www.agriculture.purdue.edu/wia).

Annie's Project is a six-week course designed especially for farm women.

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Sessions combine lecture, discussion, individual and small group activities and computer training.

The program began in honor of Annie Fleck, who lived in a small town in Illinois and spent her lifetime learning to become a better farm business partner with her husband.

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