From Mike Duffy

Priority from Agenda: Beginning Farmers and Next Generation of Agriculturalist  Date: March 28, 2007

Situation Statement regarding Priority:
The average age of the Iowa farmer continues to increase and today there are more farmers over 65 than there are under 35. The loss of beginning farmers and the decreasing opportunities to farm are a concern to many people. Beginning farmers are not a homogenous category. There are many different reasons and ways to start farming. We must be aware of their different needs and different strategies to help them. We must also work with retiring farmers because in many cases they can help hold the key to a successful beginning farmer. Succession planning and estate planning are not the same. All disciplines can remember the beginning farmer when giving advice. Every situation is unique. Beginning farmer issue will increase over the next several years as the age of landowners increases and land moves from one generation to the next. The demands from the ethanol industry will make access to land an issue. Beginning farmers need to seek ways to generate income that is not land or capital intensive.

Strategic Purpose for Priority:
Continued economic and social vitality of rural Iowa
Creating opportunities and linkages for beginning farmers
Entry into farming
Transition into farming
Client identified need
Maintaining number of farming enterprises

ANR Extension Overarching Goals for Priority:
Identify viable alternative opportunities
Engage 200 beginning farmers in ag. Enterprises
Assist retiring farmers with succession and other transition planning

Approaches for Behavior Change:
Encourage a positive image of ag.
Facilitate entry pathways
Educate policy makers to encourage policies favorable to beginning and retiring farmers
Educate landowners, beginning and retiring farmers on policies

Target Audience(s): and Partners
Landowners
Beginning farmers
  With a family
  Non-family
  Ethnic
  On their own
  Transitioning
  Alternative ag.
  Second career
  Part-time
  Other
Retiring farmers
Current farmers to plan for succession
Extension staff
Agribusiness
Policy makers
Economic development officials
Activities:
Develop and distribute information
Identify needs
Survey assessments
Develop and implement appropriate educational programming

How to Measure Success:
See above

Key Considerations: (Ok to Express As Questions. Other Key Considerations May Be Substituted or Added)

Potential Resources & Sources of Funds:

Potential Impacts:
Positive
Negative (if no action is taken)

Collaborators, Contributors, Participants:

Synergy and/or Conflict with Existing or Related Programs:

Relationship & Contribution to Other ANR Priorities:
Environmental practices and impacts
Resource allocation decisions
Alternative production systems
Alternative marketing systems
Non commodity enterprises and approaches
Beginning and retiring farmers should be a part of all base POW's