The Outreach and Assistance Program for Socially Disadvantaged (SDA) Farmers and Ranchers in Arizona

Executive Summary

Background: The Outreach and Assistance Program for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers in Arizona is a project to assist socially-disadvantaged Arizona farmers and ranchers in owning and operating successful farms and ranches. This project is funded by USDA, and activities will be accomplished through the combined efforts of the University of Arizona College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS), Apex Applied Technology, Inc. (AATech), and EnSave, Inc.

Main Focus: With the assistance of UA CALS Cooperative Extension, a needs-assessment will be conducted to determine a priority list of presentation topics, workshops, and field trips that will aid socially-disadvantaged farmers and ranchers to 1) Improve participation among SDA farmers and ranchers in the full range of USDA programs and 2) Build relationships between current and prospective SDA farmers and ranchers and USDA’s local, state, regional, and national offices.

Eligibility: A socially-disadvantaged group is a group whose members have been subject to racial or ethnic prejudice because of their identity as members of a group, without regard to their individual qualities. These groups consist of the following:

- American Indians or Alaskan Natives
- Asians
- Blacks or African Americans
- Native Hawaiians or other Pacific Islanders
- Hispanics

A socially-disadvantaged applicant is an individual or entity who is a member of a socially-disadvantaged group. For an entity, at least 50 percent ownership in the farm business must be held by socially-disadvantaged individuals.

Services: The needs-assessment will determine which of the aid and services will be offered at workshops. Possible topics include:

- Conducting onsite workshops at farms, tribal community centers, or county extension offices
- Organizing off-campus technology demonstrations at farms and tribal community centers
- Administering on-farm agricultural energy planning
- Offering project development and grant-writing services for farmers and ranchers
- Providing engineering services for farmers and ranchers
- Conducting workshop evaluations

In addition, a website will be developed to disseminate information to SDA farmers and ranchers.

For more information, please contact Dr. Edward Franklin, Department of Agricultural Education at eafrank@ag.arizona.edu or (520) 621-1523.

Website: http://cals.arizona.edu/farmer-opportunities