

## **Risk Management Education (RME) Program**

The Risk Management Education program (RME) is a nationwide program that promotes the empowerment and strengthening of the skills of individuals who are involved in the management of agricultural production, marketing, financial, legal and human resources risks. The program, administered through four regions, provides competitive grants to educators. RME also supports a national online library that provides valuable information, such as print and electronic information relating to risk management education.

The RME focuses on providing educational grants usually involving educators and others in an interdisciplinary approach. Awards generally range from \$1,000 - \$50,000.

For FY 2009, the RME program is providing a special emphasis to the following types of project proposals, designed to reach:

1. beginning farmers or ranchers;
2. legal immigrant farmers or ranchers that are attempting to become established producers in the United States;
3. socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers;
4. farmers or ranchers that
  - a. are preparing to retire; and
  - b. are using transition strategies to help new farmers or ranchers get started; and
5. new or established farmers or ranchers that are converting production and marketing systems to pursue new markets.

Contact the appropriate RME regional center for specific information on available funding options, application deadlines, and other information.

North Central Region, University of Nebraska Lincoln, (402) 472-1742,  
<http://www.ncrme.org> <http://www.ncrme.org/documents/2009RFA.pdf>

Northeast Region University of Delaware, (302) 831-6540, <http://www.necrme.org>,  
<http://www.necrme.org/publications/2009NECRMERFA.pdf>

Southern Region Texas AgriLife Extension Service, (254) 968-4144,  
<http://srrme.tamu.edu>, <http://srrme.tamu.edu/SRRMECRFP2009.pdf>

Western Region Washington State University Cooperative Extension, (509) 477-2168,  
<http://westrme.wsu.edu>, <http://westrme.wsu.edu/documents/2009RFA.pdf>

Examples of projects funded through the RME program since 2003 are available through its national database of projects of over 650 projects. The database is searchable by keyword, title, project type, state, or region. The database is maintained at the National Ag Risk Library, <http://www.agrisk.umn.edu>. The site also offers tips on how to write successful proposals, print and electronic publications, success stories, calendar of events and contacts at the national, regional, and state levels.

Contact J.S. Hipp, national program leader for Economic and Community Systems, for more information. 202-720-3605; [jhipp@csrees.usda.gov](mailto:jhipp@csrees.usda.gov).