2016 Ag Outlook and Strategy Forums for Producers

Producers know their costs of producing crops and livestock continue to be high while market prices are going down. As profits decrease or there are losses, producers may have difficulty securing operating loans or have to take money from the savings they accumulated over the past few years of good prices. What are they to do?

Colorado State University Extension will host six outlook and strategy forums throughout Colorado in early March. Producers participating in the forums will learn about the outlook for commodity prices, production costs for each area, current Farm Service Agency programs, and various strategies for being profitable when prices are low.

Dr. Stephen Koontz, CSU agricultural marketing expert, will present current outlook information for commodities common to the areas in which the forums will be conducted. Koontz is well known throughout Colorado and the U.S. for his knowledge of the domestic and world factors that drive market prices for such things as corn, wheat, cattle, oilseeds, and hay. He is also familiar with imports and exports.

Jeff Tranel and Brent Young, CSU agricultural and business management economists, will discuss the costs and returns for various commodities. They will also explore strategies, including new crop insurance products, that a producer might use to change his production and marketing to better match his individual costs with forecasted market prices. USDA Farm Service Agency personnel will talk about the FSA programs available to producers in Colorado.

The ag outlook and strategy forums will be held in Sterling at the NJC campus on March 1st, Burlington at the Community Center on March 2nd, Lamar at the Prowers County Annex on March 3rd, Limon at the Community Building on March 3rd, Craig at the Moffat County Extension office on March 7th, and Montrose at Friendship Hall on March 8th. All programs – except the one in Limon – will be held from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. The program in Limon will be held 2:30 pm to 5:30 pm.

Registration is free. People wanting to participate in the program may contact Jeff Tranel or Brent Young or register at the door.

For more information about the forums, please contact Jeff Tranel at 719-545-1845 or jtranel@colostate.edu or Brent Young at 970-522-7207 or brent.young@colostate.edu.

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