

Producers Agriculture Outlook Conference Set

In the past years the NDSU Extension Service has provided an agriculture outlook for agriculture lenders. This year they are going to have one for the producers. Why would you as an agriculture producer want to attend this? Given the volatility of commodity markets and input costs, how could you afford to miss this? Though farmers and ranchers have received good prices for their commodities, the cost of inputs has been very high. The bottom line is that margins can still be tight for producers. This conference will give you a heads up on what to expect this year.

Presenters will be from NDSU Extension in the Department of Agribusiness and Applied Economics. The conference will be held from 2 to 5 p.m. Feb. 22 at the Knights of Columbus Hall. Commodity elections will start at 1:30. There is no cost for this conference. I want to send a huge thank you to Titan-Machinery which has volunteered to pay for the sponsorship, including the breaks.

The schedule includes:

2 p.m.: Crop input costs/selection — Dwight Aakre and Andrew Swenson, farm management specialists, will provide the crop production cost trends and projections for the 2011 crop year, projected 2011 crop budgets and crop compare to evaluate crop selection.

2:30 p.m.: Crop marketing — Frayne Olson, crops marketing specialist, will provide his outlook of crop markets with main focus on wheat, corn and soybean and how to manage price risk.

3:20 p.m.: break

3:30 p.m.: Crop insurance and farm program update — Aakre and Swenson will provide information on the new combo crop insurance policy, prevented-planting determination and wheat-quality adjustment for falling numbers will be discussed. An update on farm programs such as ACRE and SURE will be presented.

4:15 p.m.: Livestock marketing — Tim Petry, livestock economist, will provide the beef cattle outlook.

Agriculture lenders have enjoyed this conference in the past. This year agriculture producers will be able to get a heads up on what the lenders have been presented in the past. Contact the Stutsman County Extension Office at 252-9030 for more information about the Agriculture Outlook.

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