

Ag & Eggs Preparing for 2009

The situation

2008 was a year of high grain prices and high input costs for the first half of the year and then rapidly declining grain prices the second half of the year. As the grain prices declined the input prices associated with fertilizer and energy did not decline at the same rate. At the same time a new farm bill was written and passed. This complicated set of circumstances makes planning for 2009 extremely difficult for farmers.

Extension response

Traill County Extension contacted Ag Country Services of Hillsboro and in collaboration we designed an end of the year educational event to help get the farmers to begin the process of planning for 2009. Included in the topics of the program included Farm Financial Trends, Input Costs and Breakevens, Farm Bill, ACRE & SURE, Farm Program Payment Limits, Market Outlook, Risk Management and "A Whole New World" – An overview of global and U.S. economies and implications for North Dakota producers. Attendance at the meeting was 62.

Impacts

Farm Bill & Financial Trends presentations were very well received with over 90% of the respondents reporting them as Excellent to Very Good and the information will be used when they are signing up or not signing up for provisions in the new farm bill. They also indicated that the information will be utilized as they begin planning for 2009 planting and marketing of crops.

Input Costs, Breakevens and Risk

Management presentations evaluation indicated that over 80% of the participants reported them as Excellent to Very Good. Written comments indicated that many will take a second look at their preliminary plans and take actions to minimize their risk in 2009 and into the future.

Feedback

"I learned more about the SURE program, well taught programs."

"Planning for next year, we need to be patient in making decisions and become a risk manager."

Contact

Kendall Nichols
NDSU Extension Service – Traill County
Box 730
Hillsboro, ND 58045
kendall.nichols@ndsu.edu