Extension and Partner Response to Farm Financial and Mental Health Stress

June 17, 2019
PROGRAM

Welcome and Introduction
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NCFAR REPRESENTATIVE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
EXTENSION COMMITTEE ON ORGANIZATION & POLICY

Distinguished Speaker

MR. BOB CRAVEN
DIRECTOR
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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Open Forum

Closing
RICHARD KLEMME
ABSTRACT
Today’s presentation addresses two of the most challenging issues facing farmers and their communities - farm financial and mental stress. The Center for Farm Financial Management at the University of Minnesota has a long history of farm level financial data collection and, just as important, financial management software for annual and long-term planning. In addition, the Center partners with Minnesota’s Department of Agriculture in addressing mental health and suicide issues among Minnesota farmers and their families/communities. Bob Craven, Center Director, will be reviewing 2018 profitability, liquidity and solvency data for a farms by farm type and size. He will also be reviewing the approaches being taken on mental health. These issues are clearly interrelated with farm profitability issues exacerbating challenging mental health and a growing number of suicides among Minnesota producers. These challenging issues are by no means only located in Minnesota; they are widely dispersed across the country with almost every commodity impacted. The response to these issues by the Center, Minnesota Extension and the Minnesota Department of Agriculture is possible because the federal government, the state of Minnesota and local governments across the state invests in research and education resources to be responsive to critical issues facing rural Minnesota farmers, youth, families and communities; as well as urban areas throughout the state. Leveraging public investments with other public and private funding along with volunteer resources is a hallmark of the federal investment (primarily through USDA’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture) in the nation’s land-grant system that enables timely research, education and extension efforts that address issues facing agriculture, communities, families and youth.

Robert H. Craven – Robert Craven is an Extension Economist and Director of the Center for Farm Financial Management, Department of Applied Economics, University of Minnesota. Areas of specialty include business management, credit analysis and grain marketing. His work for the Center has focused on development of FINPACK, nationally recognized ag credit analysis software. In addition, he has led a number of USDA projects that have developed practical tools and websites for farmers and the professionals that serve them. He has been an
invited speaker at numerous conferences and seminars including the National ABA Ag Bankers Conference and the USDA Ag Outlook Forum. He has also taught over 450 workshops on farm management and marketing. Mr. Craven is also actively involved in a 1200 acre family farming operation in southwestern Minnesota. Bob’s e-mail address is: rcraven@umn.edu

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