Advocacy for Incubator Farms and Farmers

Brought to you by the National Incubator Farm Training Initiative (NIFTI)

Made possible by generous support from the

CEDAR TREE FOUNDATION

THE CLANEIL FOUNDATION
Agenda

Technology Training – 3 minutes

NIFTI Overview – 2 minutes

Farm Bill Overview - NSAC - 10 Minutes

Beginning Farmer Rancher Opportunity Act - LSP – 10 minutes

Strategies for Advocacy - NYFC – 10 minutes

Next Steps – 5 minutes

Q & A – 20 minutes
National Incubator Farm Training Initiative (NIFTI)

- National demand for new farmers and their products
- Proliferation of new incubator projects
- Shared challenges
- Increasing requests for TA
National TA Initiative:
Major Activities

- **Webinars**
  - Series complete – look for advanced topics in the fall!

- **One-on-one Technical Assistance**

- **Online Resources** (Wiki, ListServe, etc.)
  - nifti.wikispaces.com

- **Toolkit** (Sept. 2013)

- **Field School (Sept. 12 &13th, 2013)**
  - Minnesota Food Association
  - 2 Days
  - Site visit
  - Workshops
  - Networking
National TA Initiative: Partners and Technical Assistance (TA) Providers
What’s the status of the Farm Bill?

Farm Bill Extension

- Congress writes a new Farm Bill every 5 years or so. The old one expired on September 30, 2012 – and we are currently operating on a 9-month extension (until Sept).

“Stranded Programs”

- The extension left out many programs that support beginning farmers – meaning it’s extra important that we push for support in the new Farm Bill.

Hope for a 2013 Farm Bill?

- Congress is now at work on a new 5-year bill – and one way that champions like Rep. Walz, Sen. Harkin and others use to build support for key issues is through “marker bills” like BFROA.
What is the path ahead in 2013?

Timeline

- Agriculture Committees in House and Senate will draft a new bill – including the contents of BFROA, we hope!
- “mark up” expected in early May – will look to champions to sponsor key amendments to improve beginning farmer pieces
- Still no path forward navigating House floor
- The Farm Bill process will be shaped by broader budget and debt ceiling deals
- 9 month Farm Bill extension expires on Sept 30th

*We are going to need everyone’s involvement in order to have critical programs for new farmers restored!*
Who writes the Farm Bill?

Senate Agriculture Committee – 113th Congress

Majority

Minority
Who writes the Farm Bill?

House Agriculture Committee – 113th Congress

Majority

Minority
Beginning Farmer Champions

House
- Sam Farr (CA)
- Joe Courtney (CT)
- David Scott (GA)
- Bruce Braley (IA)
- David Loebsack (IA)
- Daniel Lipinski (IL)
- Michael Michaud (ME)
- Chellie Pingree (ME)
- Betty McCollum (MN)
- **Collin Peterson (MN)**
- **Tim Walz (MN)**
- Mike McIntyre (NC)
- **Jeff Fortenberry (NE)**
- Ben Ray Lujan (NM)
- **Chris Gibson (NY)**
- Bill Owens (NY)
- Earl Blumenhauer (OR)
- Peter DeFazio (OR)
- Kurt Schrader (OR)
- Gerald Connolly (VA)
- James Moran (VA)
- Ron Kind (WI)

Senate
- Barbara Boxer (CA)
- **Tom Harkin (IA)**
- Al Franken (MN)
- Amy Klobuchar (MN)
- Jon Tester (MT)
- Tom Udall (NM)
- **Sherrod Brown (OH)**
- Jeff Merkley (OR)
- **Robert Casey (PA)**
- Tim Johnson (SD)
- **Patrick Leahy (VT)**
- Bernie Sanders (VT)
Stay Informed

- Visit the NSAC website for regular updates…
  - [http://sustainableagriculture.net/](http://sustainableagriculture.net/)

- Or sign up for “Action Alerts” here:
  - [http://sustainableagriculture.net/take-action/sign-up-for-action-alerts-2/](http://sustainableagriculture.net/take-action/sign-up-for-action-alerts-2/)
Land Stewardship Project
Adam Warthesen
Policy Program Organizer
Land Stewardship Project
• **Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program:** provides resources to community groups and institutions to offer training and assistance to new producers.
  – NIFA competitive grant program;
  – $100M over 5 years;
  – Strong track record and strong demand

• **Access Conservation Programs:** targets conservation programs to help new farmers establish and improve conservation performance on their operations.
  – Retains EQIP and CSP 10% funding set-aside; and offers early payment options
  – Conservation Reserve Program – Transition Incentive Program (TIP) offers $50 million to allows beginning farmer or rancher to access excising CRP land.
Beginning Farmer and Rancher Opportunity Act of 2013

- **Credit and lending options for new producers:** improves and strengthens credit options for new producers provided through the Farm Service Agency and other lenders.
  - Codifies the new Microloan program offered now through FSA that is aimed to help beginning and small farmers;
  - Provides need adjustments to loan caps and limits for FSA products and gives USDA more discretion in determining experience requirements to be deemed eligible for loan programs; and,
  - Establishes the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Individual Development Accounts Pilot Program.

- **Other provisions**
  - Retains set-aside priority for new producers in the Value-Added Producer Grant Program; and,
  - Creates a new Veterans Agriculture Liaison position at USDA.
BFROA Summation

- Cost and duration
  -$275 million

- Value and aim of the legislation

- Above and beyond – BFROA 2011
Contact

Adam Warthesen
Land Stewardship Project
821 E 35 Street
Minneapolis, MN 55406
adamw@landstewardshipproject.org
612-722-6377
http://landstewardshipproject.org/
National Young Farmers Coalition

Lindsey Lusher Shute
Director
WE NEED YOU!
How to Get Involved

- **LEARN**
  - Ask questions
  - Read up on Beginning Farmer and Rancher Opportunity Act…
  - …and funding issues with Beginning Farmer and Rancher Dev. Program
WE NEED YOU!
How to Get Involved

- HIGHLIGHT ISSUES + MAKE THE ASK
  - Write an op-ed or get reporters to do stories on why beginning farmers in your region need support
  - Schedule a meeting to speak with your member of Congress about the needs of local farmers and ask them to sign-on as a sponsor to the BFROA – Bring along farmers and graduates!
  - Write a letter or email to your member of Congress and ask them to support BFROA
  - Get other local farmers and orgs to do the same (or write one big sign on letter). Think Farm Bureau, EDCs, Chambers, Agrbusiness Dev Councils, food groups, local governments, etc.
Stay Involved with NYFC

- Visit the website:
  - http://www.youngfarmers.org/

- Become a member:
  - https://org2.democracyinaction.org/o/7323/donate_page/membership

- NYFC’s Speakers Bureau
  - http://org2.democracyinaction.org/o/7323/signup_page/speakers
NIFTI Next Steps

- **Technical Assistance**
  - A limited amount of TA is available through project partners
  - Initial intake and first 5 hours free
  - Contact New Entry for more info ([eagudelo@comteam.org](mailto:eagudelo@comteam.org))

- **Online Resources**
  - Website
  - Wiki – Share your resources!
  - List Serve

- **Save the Date: Incubator Field School!**
  - Sept. 12 – 13th

- **Webinars**
  - Please send ideas for additional webinar topics
  - We will begin our next webinar series in October 2013

- **Your input is critical!**
  - Please complete the evaluation after this webinar
  - Feel free to email with ideas, feedback or questions
Questions?
Thank you for attending

Please complete your evaluations!

Contact us:

Eva Agudelo Winther
National Incubator Farm Training Initiative Coordinator
New Entry Sustainable Farming Project
eagudelo@comteam.org
978-654-5731