

ANNUAL REPORT

SRMEC.UADA.EDU

2023

UofA

DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION

University of Arkansas System



SOUTHERN
EXTENSION
RISK
MANAGEMENT
EDUCATION



National Institute of Food and Agriculture
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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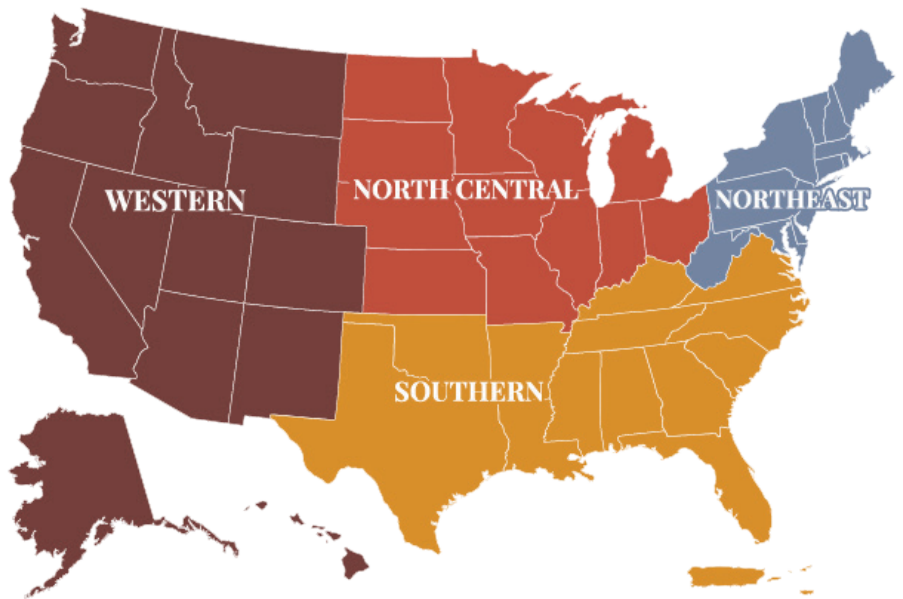
Extension Risk Management Education is supported by the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture. USDA funding is provided for the scientific/education portion of the program.

About Us

Extension Risk Management Education (ERME) is delivered through four regional centers that provide grant funding and leadership within their regions. The four regional centers include, the University of Arkansas (Southern), the University of Nebraska (North Central), the University of Delaware (Northeast), and Washington State University (Western). The ERME national program is delivered regionally through the Regional Centers in partnership with the Digital Center housed at the University of Minnesota. ERME is funded by USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

The Southern Extension Risk Management Education Center (SRMEC) serves the following 13 Southern states: Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Florida, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and the territories of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Projects are 18 months in length and are designed to help producers learn new strategies to manage the agricultural risks they face. The goal is simple...give farmers and ranchers the tools to improve their risk management skills and capabilities. Projects address the five general types of risk associated with farm and ranch businesses: production, price/market, financial, legal, and human risks.



The Southern Risk Management Education Center has funded innovative programs that have generated tangible results for producers in every state and territory across the southern region.

OUR MISSION
Empowering Producers to Manage Risk

Between 2016 and 2021, SRMEC funded 126 grant projects, 101 of which are completed and approved.

Currently, SRMEC is competitively funded with an annual budget of roughly \$2 million to invest in farmer and rancher risk management. This includes all types of projects:

- Exploratory Projects (Planning Projects)
- Education Projects
- Producers Underserved by Crop Insurance

During 2022-2023, a total of 24 projects were awarded funding.



LEARN MORE

Special Projects



Learn more about this
SRMEC Special Project and
find your state contact



www.agftap.org

Project is funded by a cooperative
agreement through the USDA
Farm Service Agency

What is AgFTAP?

The Agricultural Finance, Tax and Asset Protection (AgFTAP) education program seeks to enhance farmers and ranchers ability to understand and navigate the farm business tax and asset protection decisions for their operations, as well as the important relationships between federal income taxes and USDA farm programs. This mission is managed through an online portal of educational trainings and resources.

Services Provided

WORKSHOPS

AgFTAP holds workshops for:

- Tax practitioners, including an online certificate course conducted by tax educators.
- Extension educators, providing communication and direction about FTAP program resources, tools, and timelines.
- Farmers and ranchers, focusing on the links between tax laws, asset protection strategies and USDA programs.

RESOURCES

Audio, video, and online
courses focused on:

- Heirs' Property
- Estate Planning
- Farm Tax Issues
- Farm Tax Planning
- And more...





The SRMEC Navigator program works to enhance understanding of federal crop insurance. The effort is funded by USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) through a cooperative agreement. The project seeks to serve producers historically underserved by federal crop insurance by:

- Leveraging the land-grant system agricultural economist to create relationships and outreach on crop insurance products and services.
- Building awareness and/or understanding of the network of Approved Insurance Providers (AIPs) while connecting the AIPs with targeted producer groups and academic institutions.
- Connecting with outreach educators—including 1862 farm management committees, 1890 Small Farm Programs (2501 programs), and USDA Liaisons—to enhance the level of crop insurance outreach to historically underserved farmers and ranchers.
- Educating and promoting the programs, products, and services of crop insurance stakeholders—RMA, National Crop Insurance Services, and AIPs.
- Collecting customer service data and stakeholder feedback while also analyzing crop insurance metrics to improve sector performance measures.

This is a 2-year pilot project serving only the Southern region's states. To learn more about the project, visit the Center's program web link listed below. Visit RMA's website to learn more about federal crop insurance.



**LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS
SRMEC SPECIAL PROJECT**

www.srmec.uada.edu/navigator

Navigator Tool-Free Number: 888-731-0888

This is a special project/
cooperative agreement
supported by the U.S.
Department of Agriculture,
under agreement number
RMA22CPT0012755.

Partnerships




A group of 13 Southern Land Grant University Extension Programs in collaboration with the Southern Extension Economics Committee, the Agricultural and Food Policy Center at Texas A&M, and the Southern Risk Management Education Center at the University of Arkansas officially launched a new digital platform to provide timely, concise, insightful analysis on issues facing southern agriculture.



RISK MANAGEMENT TOOLS

and resources available online.



SCAN FOR SURVEY
Tell us, about your risk management and help fellow cattle producers





Learn more under the Producers tab at NCBA.org.

The SRMEC is proud to collaborate with the National Cattlemen's Beef Association to provide risk management resources specifically designed for cattle producers.

Annually, SRMEC selects three outstanding projects from our most recently completed cohort. These Projects of Excellence are recognized for educational materials, evaluation processes and impacts. Annually, an ERME Regional Outstanding Project is selected one year after completion based on impacts and success story.



Project Director John Bovay with the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University received the Excellence award for the 2020 education project, “Virginia Sustainable Farms and Agribusiness Initiative”.



Project Director Angie Martin with the Texas Corn Producers received the Excellence award for the 2020 education project, “Who’s Going to Fill My Shoes: Planning from the beginning to the end for succession in a farming operation education project”.

Project was selected as an ERME Outstanding Regional Project in 2023

Grant Funds in Action



The 2021 Funded Project “Where’s the Beef? Economic and Legal Considerations for Direct Sales” had a great turnout. Huge thanks to Tiffany Dowell Lashmett and Dr. Justin Benavidez for leadership on an outstanding project and for sharing pictures. The project developed and presented resources on the legal restrictions and requirements for marketing beef directly from the farm to consumers. The 650 participants directly recieved a 100+ page book of detailed legal and economic resources/tools.



DR. RON RAINEY

DIRECTOR

An Extension Economist, Rainey focuses on enhancing farm and ranch value-added entrepreneurship, risk management and marketing throughout the agricultural sector.

Over his almost 30-year career, his programs, expertise, and leadership have been recognized at the state, regional, and national levels.



LAWSON CONNOR

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

Connor currently serves as an assistant professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness at the University of Arkansas with research and extension appointments in crop production economics.



ERICA BARNES FIELDS

GRANTS/ FINANCIAL MANAGER

Financial manager responsible for administering grants and managing the financial aspects for the Center. Fields is the primary financial contact for Center grants.



CELISE WEEMS
PROGRAM MANAGER

Weems is an experienced agricultural professional driven to help farmers and ranchers enhance their business operations. She promotes the Center's resources and stakeholder engagement activities across the region. She holds a Master of Economics from the University of Arkansas and an MBA from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.



JAMIE COUSINS
COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

Cousins holds a BA in Communications from Louisiana Tech University and an MA in Communication Studies from the University of Louisiana at Monroe.

Formerly a Dean of Continuing Education, she has over 16 years experience in Higher Education.



MARCIA SMITH
ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST III

Smith brings 17 years' experience serving as Administrative Office Manager in the Division of Student Affairs for the University of Central Arkansas. Actively involved in her community and workplace, Smith has held a number of roles including Staff Senator and Advisory and Diversity Board Member.



NANCY CLARK
ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST

Clark retired from Transamerica Insurance after 20 years of service as the Office Manager and Sr. Executive Assistant to the President, COO and CMO. Shortly after retirement, she took a position with FCS Dept. at the University of Arkansas, Cooperative Extension Service.

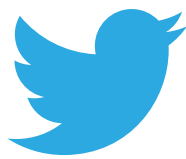
She is currently working in Ag and Econ Business with the Crop Insurance Navigator project.

Contact Us

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www.srmec.uada.edu



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