



expanding their operations (including limited resource producers), and farmers looking to transition out of agriculture and retire.

The workshops focused on: 1) what to consider when negotiating the lease; 2) online resources available to both landlords and tenants; 3) handling the landlord-tenant relationship; and 4) alternative dispute resolution. Educational materials from the workshops were also posted online, including videos and the publication “Agricultural Leasing in Maryland”, which explains leasing issues relevant to all producers in Maryland.

The initial workshops involved 107 participants, and the project team notes that the web resources have also proven to be very popular. In addition to being posted on a dedicated web page, the resources have been cross-posted by other entities including the University of Maryland's Agriculture Law Education Initiative, Maryland FarmLink, and FarmAnswers.org. This has significantly broadened the outreach of the materials and the overall impact of the project.

Managing Legal Risk through Effective Written Farm Lease Strategies in Maryland

A needs assessment of emerging agricultural issues in **Maryland** identified the importance of understanding issues related to land leasing for both farm operators and land owners. The survey found that 80% of respondents saw issues related to agricultural land leasing as an important or very important issue for Maryland farmers. Leasing farmland can offer a lower cost option for starting or expanding an operation, but the legal ramifications should be carefully considered.

To address this need, a team led by **Paul Goeringer, an Extension Legal Specialist at the University of Maryland**, designed an educational project on the risks of land leasing. The project provided six workshops and a webinar series addressing the legal liabilities associated with leasing farmland in Maryland, and targeted multiple producer audiences – beginning farmers starting new operations, existing farmers



“I acquired a lot of information. Mediation was important and I appreciate learning about all the resources available.”

– Maryland Farmer





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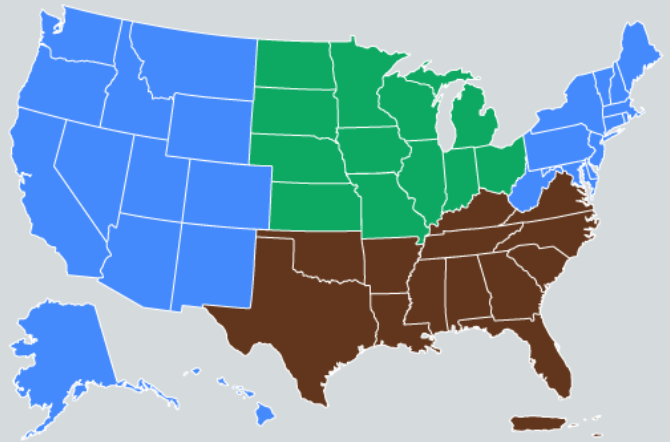
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**“Educating America’s farmers and ranchers
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Extension Risk Management Education (ERME) is delivered through four regional centers that provide grant funding and leadership within their regions.

Projects are producer-focused, results-based and encourage public-private partnerships. Funded projects must identify targeted results that will help producers manage risk and then describe how the project will measure those results.

Extension Risk Management Education has funded innovative programs that have generated tangible results for producers in every state. ERME is committed to funding results, providing transparent accountability, and encouraging collaboration. View the accomplishments of all funded projects on our website. <http://ExtensionRME.org>



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