



2019 West Virginia Farmer Tax Education Outreach Program

Project Director: Lisa Jones, West Virginia University Extension Service

Situation: A family-run farm in West Virginia began as a hobby in a hand-built greenhouse where the bumper crop was raised by seed. The primary crop of flowers began as a passion for gardening and quickly evolved through the use of social media as consumer demand increased. Through hard work, a strawberry bed was built and flourished. In 2019, after requests came flooding in for everything from flowers, produce, and even homemade cookies, it became clear to the owners that they would need to begin a farm business to keep up with the need and help organize and manage their financial records.

Outcomes: As a result of receiving a first-time attendee scholarship, this producer was able to participate in the 2020 West Virginia Small Farm Conference. The scholarship was crucial in

offsetting expenses to take time off from work and the conference provided valuable knowledge on a Schedule F. As a result of attending the conference, this producer gained the necessary tools to organize their paperwork and meet with an accountant the following week.

Impacts: By gaining a better understanding of farm taxes and tax liability, participants in this project gained an overall increase of financial knowledge, a better understanding of agricultural taxes, and implementation of financial risk management such as hiring an accountant. In addition, this project expanded relationships between accountants and small farm producers throughout West Virginia as well as with agricultural tax experts nationally. Through this program, producers were encouraged to register their businesses which resulted in some saving thousands of dollars annually and having a direct impact on their farms' sustainability and resiliency.

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"This session gave me immediate knowledge and resources to help organize my paperwork to meet with my accountant the following week. Extremely valuable!"

– West Virginia Farmer

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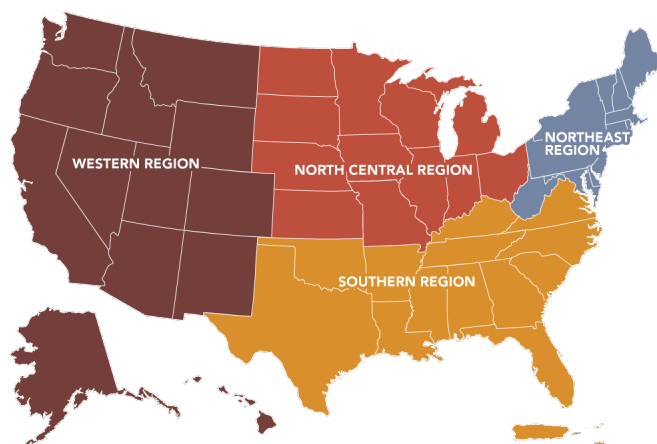
Extension Risk Management Education is supported by
the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

“Educating America’s farmers and ranchers to manage the unique risks of producing food for the world’s table.”

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 education projects that have generated tangible results for agricultural producers in 56 US states and territories. Beginning in 2020, the Centers initiated a new funding opportunity for the delivery of risk management education to agricultural producers underserved by the Federal crop insurance program. Priorities for both of these programs include commitments to funding results, providing transparent accountability, and encouraging collaboration. The accomplishments of all funded projects are available for public viewing on the ERME website:
<http://ExtensionRME.org>



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