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To:

Local Media

Contact:

J. Michael Davidson, Director of Campbell County Economic Development

(434) 592-9595, jmdavidson@campbellcountyva.gov

Re:

Central Virginia Produce, Livestock, and Feed Storage Systems Program

Date:

April 17, 2014

Central Virginia Produce, Livestock, & Feed Storage Systems Program Awarded Grant From Virginia Tobacco Commission

Livestock producers in fourteen Central/Southside Virginia Counties will be eligible for matching grants this year under a program funded by the Virginia Tobacco Indemnification & Community Revitalization Commission. During its January 6, 2014 meeting in Richmond, the Tobacco Commission approved \$487,000.00 in Agribusiness funding for the Central Virginia Produce, Livestock, and Feed Storage Systems Program. The Central Virginia Produce, Livestock, & Feed Storage Systems Program offer producers in a 14-county region an opportunity to apply for a cost share incentive of up to \$3,300 per producer. This project includes the counties of Amelia, Appomattox, Bedford, Brunswick, Buckingham, Campbell, Charlotte, Cumberland, Halifax, Lunenburg, Mechlenburg, Nottoway, Pittsylvania, and Prince Edward. The grant focuses on produce production, livestock and feed storage systems in tobacco dependent communities, thereby, enhancing farm profitability with corresponding benefits to the region's overall economy. Cost share funds will be available to agricultural producers who meet all eligibility requirements.

"I am pleased the \$487,000.00 Produce, Livestock, & Feed Storage Systems Grant program recommended by the Agribusiness Committee was approved by the Virginia Tobacco Commission", said Delegate Thomas C. Wright, Jr. (R-61st). "Produce and livestock farmers will have the opportunity to enhance their production capabilities which will benefit the regions overall economy." Delegate Wright is a member of the Virginia Tobacco Indemnification and Community Revitalization Commission and serves on the Tobacco Commission Agribusiness Committee.

Producers interested in applying for funding must attend a minimum of one informational/educational session out of seven (7) opportunities offered by Virginia Cooperative Extension prior to applying for funds. These sessions have been scheduled at the following locations on the dates and times listed below:

4/29/14- 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm- Cumberland County- at the John Randolph Firehouse

5/13/14-6:00 pm to 8:00 pm- Brunswick County- Lawrenceville, County Building Auditorium.

5/21/14-6:00 pm to 8:00 pm-Nottoway County-Southern Piedmont Agricultural Research and Extension Center, Blackstone

5/15/14- 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm- Campbell County- Lynchburg Livestock Market

5/20/14- 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm- Pittsylvania County- Olde Dominion Agricultural Complex

5/20/14- 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm- Charlotte County- John H. Daniels Community College, Keysville

5/22/14- 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm- Halifax - Mary Bethune Office Complex, Board of Supervisors Meeting Room, Halifax

Cost share applications will be accepted beginning 8:00 am on Monday, June 2, 2014 at the Virginia Cooperative Extension offices in the participating counties. Funding is limited and will be provided to producers who have not previously received a Tobacco Commission Agri-business Grant on a first-come-first-serve basis. Incentives will only be awarded on a one-time basis per producer and/or per farm. Pending availability of funding a second round of applications will be received in 2015 for producers that have received prior grant funds. For more information on this program, please contact your local extension agent.

The Tobacco Indemnification and Community Revitalization Commission is a 31-member body created by the 1999 General Assembly to promote economic growth and development in tobacco-dependent communities, using proceeds of the national tobacco settlement. To date, the Commission has awarded 1,744 grants totaling more than \$1 Billion across the tobacco region of the Commonwealth, and has made available nearly \$229 million in indemnification payments to tobacco growers and quota holders. For information on the Commission's history, mission, funding programs and recent grant awards, visit our website at www.tic.virginia.gov or call toll free 877-807-1086.