



Contact:
David Vaina
Education & Outreach Program Director
Florida Organic Growers
david@foginfo.org

RMA Announces New Cooperative Agreements for Risk Management Education Programs
Florida Organic Growers Will Provide Training to Farmers in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, and Puerto Rico

Gainesville, FL, November 20, 2017 - USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) recently awarded 52 cooperative agreements under the Risk Management Education Partnerships Program totaling approximately \$4.8 million. This includes nine first-time award recipients and 10 national projects that involve multiple RMA regions. RMA also awarded 24 cooperative agreements under the Crop Insurance Education in Targeted States Program totaling approximately \$5 million.

As an award recipient, Florida Organic Growers (FOG) will create a series of professionally-produced, online videos (including one in Spanish) featuring local producers offering practical solutions to recordkeeping challenges. This need was identified by FOG after conducting in-depth phone interviews with growers in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, and Puerto Rico. Behind a marketing campaign supported by ally organizations and distributed through a diverse suite of media platforms, FOG will publicize the video series to organic operations and others in this five state/territory region. At the conclusion of the project, FOG will coordinate an in-person recordkeeping training session and webinar at its annual Organic Food & Farming Summit in Summer 2018. As more growers express interest in organic farming, there is an increased need for risk management training and education, particularly in the area of recordkeeping.

"RMA is pleased to provide this type of educational support to farmers and rural America to help mitigate risk," says Heather Manzano, Acting Administrator, Risk Management Agency. "These programs will provide information on Crop Insurance 101, Whole-Farm Revenue Protection (WFRP), and Rainfall Index Insurance."

"FOG is grateful for the opportunity to partner with RMA on this project, one that we believe is necessary not only to ensure full compliance with organic certification requirements but also help farms, ranches and processors increase their revenues," said David Vaina, FOG's Education & Outreach Director who will also serve as Project Director.

RMA provides funding for organizations in the form of cooperative agreements to provide education and training nationwide. Earlier this year RMA announced availability of funds for risk management education and training to assist producers, including limited resource, socially disadvantaged and other traditionally underserved farmers and ranchers. The funding also targeted training for new producers and military veterans returning to farm and ranch. Our organization is a recipient of one of these cooperative agreements.

#

About Florida Certified Organic Growers and Consumers, Inc.

Florida Organic Growers (FOG) is a non-profit organization founded in 1987. FOG is a nonprofit that supports and promotes organic and sustainable agriculture by coordinating programming and conducting educational outreach that benefits farmers, future farmers, consumers, businesses, policy makers, researchers, and students of all ages. For more information, please visit www.foginfo.org.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).