



AgriWellness Partners

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The Farm & Ranch Stress Assistance Network Update

The Farm & Ranch Stress Assistance Network (FRSAN) is at a critical juncture. As many of you know, through your efforts, FRSAN was authorized as part of the 2008 Farm Bill.

The next step is to obtain funding for this authorized program. U.S. Senators and congresspersons are working on the 2010 appropriations bill. This is one way that FRSAN could receive funds. Senators and representatives, however, need to hear from their constituents. A senator staff person has told us that other senators have not heard much from their constituents.

"It won't pass unless there is a strong grass roots effort."

-Staff person for
U.S. Senator

There are no lobbyists for this effort. *Your voice can make a difference.* The funding of FRSAN depends entirely on grassroots efforts. We encourage you to take five minutes to educate your senator or congressperson about the FRSAN and the difference it would make in the lives of this country's stressed farmers.

It is grassroots support that helped initiate other agricultural programs such as Regional Centers of Agricultural Health, AgrAbility and the AgriSafe Clinic Network.

If FRSAN receives funding, in it's first stage, nonprofit organizations could apply through an RFA process to deliver behavioral health supports to farmers and ranchers in the upper Midwest, to distressed dairy farmers in the Northeast and to an entirely new area of the country where there have been no such services.

The Appropriations bills are currently in the subcommittee stage. While it is important to contact all federal legislators, the following persons are very important because of their role at this time:

Members of the Senate Subcommittee on Agriculture Appropriations:
Herb Kohl—Chairman (WI), Tom Harkin (IA), Byron Dorgan (ND),

**Sowing the Seeds of Hope
Helplines**

Iowa Concern Hotline:
1-800-447-1985

Kansas Rural Family
Helpline: 1-866-327-6578

Minnesota Crisis Connection:
1-866-379-6363

Nebraska Rural Response
Hotline: 1-800-464-0258

North Dakota 2-1-1:
1-800-472-2911

South Dakota Rural Helpline:
1-800-664-1349

Wisconsin Farm Center:
1-800-942-2474

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Dianne Feinstein (CA), Richard Durbin (IL), Tim Johnson (SD), Ben Nelson (NE), Jack Reed (RI), Mark Pryor (AR), Sam Brownback—Ranking Member (KS), Robert Bennett (UT), Thad Cochran (MS), Arlen Specter (PA), Christopher Bond (MO), Mitch McConnell (KY), Susan Collins (ME)

Members of the House Subcommittee on Agriculture Appropriations:

Chair: Rosa DeLauro (CT) Sam Farr (CA) Allen Boyd (FL) Sanford D. Bishop, Jr. (GA)
Lincoln Davis (TN) Marcy Kaptur (OH) Maurice D. Hinchey (NY) Jesse L. Jackson, Jr. (IL) David R. Obey (WI), Ex Officio Ranking Member: Jack Kingston (GA) Tom Latham (IA) Jo Ann Emerson (MO) Rodney Alexander (LA) Jerry Lewis (CA), Ex Officio

To contact your senator please visit www.senate.gov
To contact your representative please visit www.house.gov

Mark your Calendars!

The Clock is Ticking for
Rural America
Conference

August 3-5, 2009

Sioux Falls Convention
Center

Sioux Falls, South Dakota