



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL, ENVIRONMENTAL AND DEVELOPMENT ECONOMICS

Search

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

- HOME ABOUT US UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM GRADUATE PROGRAM PROGRAMS AND RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

About Us

0

- News In the Press Events Our People Gamma Sigma Delta Contact Us

Mark Your Calendars: AEDE faculty members Matt Roberts, Ian Sheldon and Carl Zulauf to speak on "Drought and the Farm Bill: What 2012 Means for Farm Policy" - September 18th from 10-11am in the Tobin Building at the Farm Science Review

This article was originally published on the Ohio State University Extension website.

OSU Experts to Discuss Farm Bill and What the Drought of 2012 Means for Farm Policy

September 11, 2012

LONDON, Ohio - With the current farm bill set to expire Sept. 30, farmers, who are already dealing with the effects of the worst drought in 50 years, want to know how soon a new bill could be passed and what it will mean for their bottom line, Ohio State University Extension economist Matt Roberts said.

But with the Republican-controlled House and Democrat-led Senate disagreeing on key farm bill provisions including the amount of cuts to the food stamp program and the shape of the farm program, it is unclear when a new bill will be passed and what that new bill will mean for farmers, he said.

That has left farmers reeling with the uncertainty of what the potential farm bill could mean for their farm future, Roberts said.

"The most defining moment of the past two or three years has been the drought of 2012, so how will that affect where the farm bill debate will go?" he said. "The farm bill is so important because it sets the rules of the game of how farmers operate.

"So any changes to that policy affect farmers in terms of their decisions on whether to expand, contract or grow new crops. The drought this year has caused a lot of losses across the farm sector, so understanding what the safety net is going forward is crucial to help farmers make production decisions for 2013 and beyond."

Roberts will talk about the implications during "Drought and the Farm Bill: What 2012 Means for Farm Policy," Sept. 18 from 10 to 11 a.m. at the Tobin Building during the Farm Science Review near London, Ohio.

The panel discussion will feature Roberts; Ian Sheldon, the Andersons Professor of International Trade in Ohio State University's College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences; Carl Zulauf, an agricultural economics professor and a farm policy expert in the college; and Katharine Ferguson, the Rural Policy Director for U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown.

"The goal of the talk is to help farmers better understand what the forces are that are shaping the farm bill, what the farm bill may look like, and when we may actually see it pass," Roberts said. "The fact is that we are still trying to pull our way out of the recession, with a lot of people receiving (food stamps), combined with the worst drought in 50 years and significant pressure from Washington to get spending under control and lower the deficit.

"So how will these forces get reconciled with the farm bill in the legislative process?"

Farm Science Review is sponsored by the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences, OSU Extension, and the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center. Pre-show tickets are \$5 at all OSU Extension county offices. Tickets are also available at local agribusinesses. Tickets are \$8 at the gate. Children 5 and younger are admitted free. Hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sept. 18-19 and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sept. 20.

For more information, see http://fsr.osu.edu. For the latest news and updates, follow Farm Science Review on Twitter (@OhioStateFSR) and Facebook at http://www.facebook.com/FarmScienceReview.

Writer: Tracy Turner 614-688-1067 turner.490@osu.edu

Source: Matt Roberts 614-688-8686 roberts.628@osu.edu



COLLEGE OF
FOOD, AGRICULTURAL, AND
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

© 2011, The Ohio State University

Department of Agricultural, Environment, and Development Economics
2120 Fyffe Road, Columbus, OH 43210
Phone: 614-292-7911

[Contact Us](#)

[Give to Ohio State](#)

The College of Food, Agricultural,
and Environmental Sciences

Ohio State University Extension

Ohio Agricultural Research and
Development Center

Ohio State Agricultural Technical
Institute