



Producer Resources Workshop



Committed to the future of rural communities

Topics to be discussed

- Farm Worker Housing
- Cooperative Development
- Value Added Producer Grants
- Energy Programs

Farm Worker Housing

- Purpose

- To Develop new or renovate existing farm labor housing facilities
- To provide decent, safe and sanitary housing for domestic agricultural workers

Farm Worker Housing

- Type of Assistance Available
 - Off Farm Housing
 - Loans and Grant made to Nonprofit organizations or Public Bodies
 - On Farm Housing
 - Loans made to Individual farmers, Family Farm Corporations or Associations of Farmers

Farm Worker Housing

- Off Farm Housing
 - Can be located in an urban or rural area
 - Applications only taken once a year and is competitive based on the need in the Community
 - Grants are available to make rents affordable
 - Rent Subsidies available to reduce tenants cost of housing
 - Tenants must be taken on a first-come, first served basis

Farm Worker Housing

- On Farm Housing
 - Can be located in an urban or rural area
 - No Funds Grants are available
 - No Rent Subsidies are available
 - Applications are accepted year round and are process as received
 - Housing is based upon the need of the farmers operation – To House their Workers

Farm Worker Housing

- Rate and Terms
 - Interest Rate is 1%
 - Term is up to 33 years

East Hillsborough – Plant City



Manatee Village – Ruskin



San Jose Mission - Dover



Cooperative Development

- Purpose
 - To assist rural residents form new cooperative businesses and improve the operations of existing cooperatives
 - This purpose has expanded beyond the concentration on agricultural cooperatives to include assistance to all types of rural cooperatives

Cooperative Development

- Types of Assistance
 - Technical Assistance
 - Research
 - Education and Information
 - Cooperative Program Specialist

Cooperative Development

- Technical Assistance
 - Initial Feasibility Study
 - Business Plans
 - Development of Bylaws
 - Training of Cooperative Directors
 - Strategic Marketing Plans
 - Problem Solving Help

Cooperative Development

- Research
 - Studies are conducted to support cooperative dealings with changing markets and trends
 - The studies include Financial, Structural, Managerial, Policy, Member Governance, Legal, Social and Economic Issues

Cooperative Development

- Education and Information
 - Research Reports
 - Educational Publications
 - Video Training material
 - A monthly magazine, “ Rural Cooperatives”

Cooperative Development

Cooperative Specialists work on-site with an existing cooperative or a group exploring Formation. They help the groups decide:

- How best to improve the performance of an existing Cooperative
- Whether to form a new Cooperative

Cooperative Development

- Examples of Cooperatives
 - Florida Natural - Citrus
 - SunKist - Citrus
 - Blue Diamond – Nuts
 - Sunsweet – Dried Fruit/Juices
 - Withlacoochee River Electric Cooperative
 - Ocean Spray
 - Southeast Milk – Florida Dairy Cooperative

Cooperative Development

- Benefits of Cooperatives
 - Greater marketing strength
 - Lower volume cost for raw materials
 - Improve Profit Margins
 - Strength in Numbers
 - Shared Resources and Risks

Contact Information

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