



NEWS RELEASE

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Oregon Forums on Rural Jobs and Economic Growth Two Events on Economic Revitalization by USDA

(Tualatin, OR) - January 12, 2010 - Oregon leaders of two federal agencies announced today that they will be holding job forums in Albany on Jan. 21 and Bend on Jan. 28. Vicki Walker, State Director of Rural Development (RD) and Lynn Voigt, State Executive Director of Farm Service Agency (FSA) are preparing to collect public comments and ideas about rural economic revitalization during these listening and discussion sessions.

"We are inviting business and labor leaders, but also the general public to share with us their ideas about job creation and revitalizing the rural economy," said Vicki Walker. Lynn Voigt added, "Job developers and agency staff at the state and county levels have also provided input to our effort and it has been much appreciated."

Oregon events will be held Thursday, January 21 from 9:00 AM to Noon in Albany, and Thursday, January 28 from 1:00 - 4:00 PM in Bend. For those unable to attend, but interested in making job creation and economic development suggestions, USDA has a website available. Follow the "Oregon Jobs and Economic Growth Forums" link at either of the following USDA websites: www.rurdev.usda.gov/or/ or www.fsa.usda.gov/or/.

In mid-December, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that USDA would begin a series of roundtables and community forums on job creation and economic growth in states throughout the country. These roundtables follow the Forum on Jobs and Economic Growth that President Obama hosted at the White House on December 3.

(More)

On January 21, the Jobs Forum will be held at the Linn County Fair and Expo Center, 3700 Knox Butte Rd. in Albany. On January 28, the location will be Central Oregon Community College, Hitchcock Auditorium, 2600 NW College Way in Bend.

Subjects will include how to revitalize the rural economy through job creation and what kind of jobs may be most beneficial for Oregon's economic development needs. The high potential for Green Job stimulus in Oregon will also be discussed. A panel with organizational leaders in jobs and economic development opens each session and will include a brief overview presentation to stimulate awareness of rural economic conditions in Oregon.

Both Farm Service Agency and Rural Development are agencies within the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), a federal department whose focus is the protection and expansion of rural economic health. Jobs Forums like these are being held across the U.S. during this time of economic stress to continue a dialogue between government and the public about the best ways to revitalize the economy.

For further information on the Jobs Forums in Oregon, please contact either Nancy Larson at Rural Development at 503-414-3304 nancy.larson@or.usda.gov or Marissa Cody at Farm Service Agency at 503-692-6830 x 228 marissa.cody@or.usda.gov .

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