



Farm News



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Farm Management Newsletter
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Benchmarking Strengths and Weaknesses

It's not a new concept in agriculture, but the power of computers gives you the opportunity how you stack up comparing a wide range of variables. The Annual Local Farm Management Report, 2004 Red River Valley Annual, and the Region 3 report for North Dakota provides you a wealth of information to compare your farm financial information and input costs to other similar farms in the area. This database of information can be used by you to help identify and study the strengths and weaknesses of your farm business. If you have not received a report and would like one mailed out, please call Julie at 671-2274 and she will mail one out. You also can go to the database at www.finbin.umn.edu and run any sort that you would like.

Marketing Meeting

Date: July 20

Place: NDSCS Tech Center (Where My Office Is)

Time: 9:30 coffee with program at 10:00 am. Mike Krueger will do the presentation.

If you would like to bring a friend, please feel free.

Marketing Club Meetings

June 14 7:00 AM Pats

June 15 7:00 AM City Centre Café Mooreton

June 28 7:00 AM Pats

June 29 7:00 AM City Centre Café Mooreton

USDA Online

By **Flint Daugherty**, NCTC Farm Business Management Instructor, Hallock, MN.

Have you ever been working in the evening and wished that you could find out how much you owe on that facility loan you have with the Farm Service Agency? You can now turn to the World Wide Web 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to keep up to date on your USDA program information. It doesn't get much easier when you're getting those tax numbers together or eventually wanting to look at your maps. I should note that the map section is not up and running yet but is coming soon.

The USDA has put together a Customer Statement that consolidates all program information in a summary page. For example you can view your Conservation Program Contract(s) with information supplied by NRCS and FSA. There is a Benefit Summary section in which you can look up any payments you received from the USDA Agencies. For those of you that have a direct loan with FSA there is a Farm Loan Program section displaying information on your active loans. Information is also shown as to your local office contact and the information they have on file to contact you.

Where do you find all of this interesting information? You will first need to go to the Farm Service Agency web site, <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/>. Then choose the Customer Statement link under FSA eGOV title. At this point you can view a sample statement or begin taking the necessary steps to create your own login ID and password.