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Maintaining the Cutting Edge

Proceedings of the American Agricultural Economics
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Kim B. Anderson

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Minisymposia Abstracts

The minisymposia session was designed to provide small group interaction on a variety of economic and professional issues of vital interest to Extension economists. Of the symposia proposals submitted, ten were chosen for presentation. Each consisted of two to six short papers followed by considerable discussion.

The following abstracts provide a quick overview of each minisymposium and identify the key participants to contact for additional information.

David Holder, Organizer
Extension Service, USDA

Identifying the Proper Role for Extension in Educating Debtors and Lenders on Farm Bankruptcy

Stephen Matthews, organizer (University of Missouri)

Ron Plain, moderator (University of Missouri)

Al Schroeder (University of Wyoming)

Paul Wright (The Ohio State University)

Al Bock (University of Illinois)

Farm Financial stress in the U.S. during the 1980's brought much interest among farmers in bankruptcy related farm financial strategies. Cooperative Extension in most farm belt states has done educational programming on bankruptcy pros and cons. The key concern is to keep the programs educational and balanced as between lender and debtor viewpoints. Advocacy of bankruptcy is not an appropriate role for Extension. Another area of concern is the quality of the information being given by Extension employees. It is not Extension's role to give legal advice to farmers.

Discussion centered on Chapter 12 bankruptcy. Group consensus was that it would work successfully in very few cases and that certain administrative procedures, especially payments for trustees, need to be modified.

