To: Risk Management Education Partners

Subject: Government Shut Down

Dear Partner,

Due to a lapse in appropriations for the Risk Management Agency (RMA) as of October 1, RMA has initiated the process of orderly shutdown of nonessential operations. You can view USDA’s plans for a lapse in appropriations at http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/contingency-plans.

We understand the uncertainty that the current circumstances present for Americans that USDA serves every day, as well as our many partners around the country. Effective today, many RMA staff will be furloughed pending reinstatement of funding by Congress. These staff will not be available by phone or email, and cannot carry out work for the Agency, until funding is restored.

In RMA this means that many services will be delayed or interrupted. For example, RMA staff will not be available to answer telephone calls, respond to emails, process SF-270s (including request for advance funds), nor provide approval of promotional or educational materials. It is not known when the Agency will reopen; therefore, any work you choose to do during this time should be based on your own ability and capacity to finance until such time as the Agency resumes normal operations.

Since funding for your cooperative agreement or partnership has already been allocated to your project, you may, at your own discretion, hold meetings or conduct other functions as described in your Statement of Work.

We are committed to keeping you as up to date as possible, within the limits of current circumstances.

Sincerely,

Brandon Willis
Administrator
Risk Management Agency

October 1, 2013

VIA EMAIL

Brandon Willis
Administrator
Risk Management Agency