



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EXTENSION

Risk Management Educational Programming Important In Maryland

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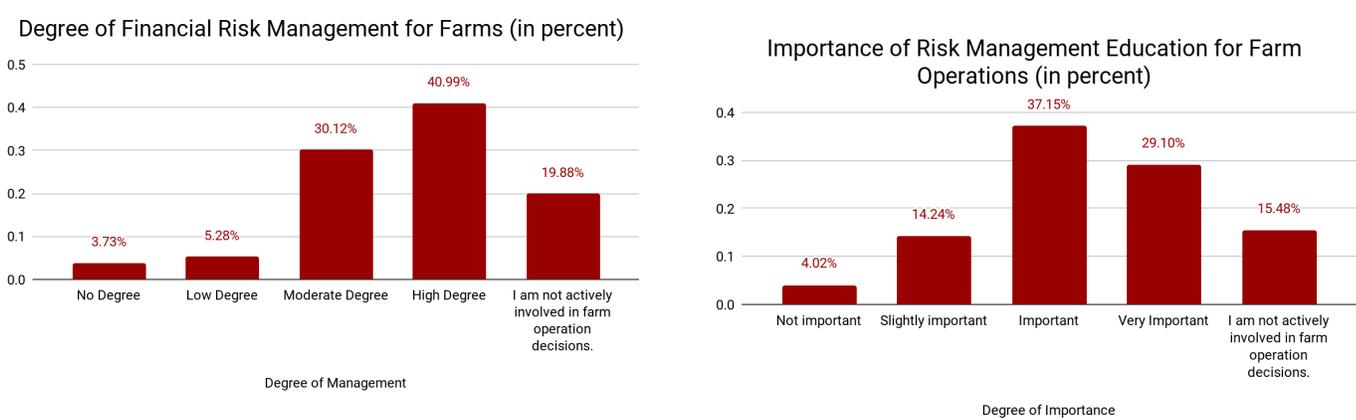
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Since 2003, the University of Maryland Extension has provided outreach and education through a partnership with Maryland Department of Agriculture and USDA- Risk Management Agency (RMA). The Risk Management Education Program is funded by the USDA-Risk Management Agency’s Targeted States Grant Program.

University of Maryland Extension holds winter agronomy meetings for Maryland farmers, crop advisors, and agriculture professionals, providing the latest education and research to participants. Farmers from the Lower Eastern Shore to Western Maryland participate in these annual winter meetings to increase crop production knowledge, meet regulatory requirements, and improve production practices. During the 2018 winter agronomy meetings, University of Maryland Extension (UME) conducted a survey of risk management issues facing farmers and the need for risk management education. These sessions drew 336 farmers, with over 96% of the participants residing in the state of Maryland. Of those participating, 77% are farmers or landowners and 57% farm full time. On average, they have farmed for over 30 years and own 101-500 acres of land.

Participants were asked to what degree they manage financial risk on their farms. Over 40% of participants said they manage their financial risk to a high degree. Overall, approximately 71% of the participants manage financial risk at a moderate to high degree. Managing risk includes using insurance and other risk management tools to decrease production, market, financial, institutional, and human risk.

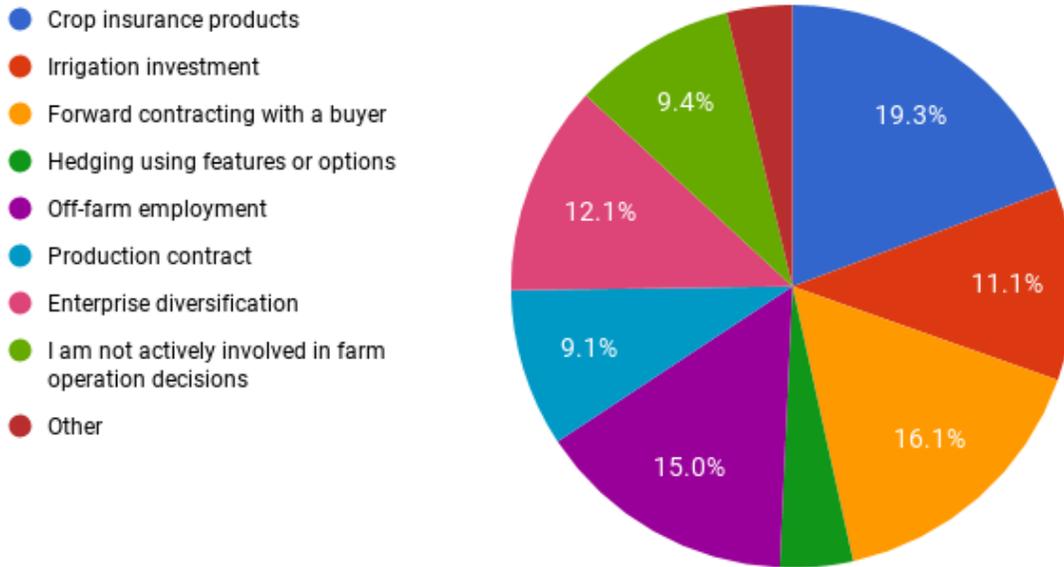
More than 66% of participants believe risk management education programs are important or very important.



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The most-used risk management tools include crop insurance products (19%), forward contracting with a buyer (16%), and off-farm employment (15%). Crop insurance products pay farmers when their yield falls below their insured yield level or when their revenue falls due to less yield or reduced prices. Contracting sets price, quality, and quantity of output to ensure the sale. Off-farm employment is another career with a safer income.

Risk Management Tools Utilized for Operations (in percent)



Of the 142 participants who purchase crop insurance protection, the majority have revenue protection (42%) or yield protection (46%). The main reasons that participants do not purchase crop insurance protection are because of the cost (32%), use of other practices (29%), or the crops produced are not covered (21%).

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Maryland Crop Insurance Education Partners



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