



# enewsletter

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## Back-to School With AgLearn

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*AgLearn is changing with the season, with more courses and new tools!*

In this issue, AgLearn gets recognized by FGDLA for the Five-Star Award. Also find out how AgLearn and Virtual University's new partnership will help provide new tools for your success. Other features include: new courses that are becoming available, an update on Java, information about the ICAM connector and more awards!



## AgLearn Wins Five-Star Award

The Federal Government Distance Learning Association (FGDLA) has awarded the Five-Star Award to the AgLearn group in the Enterprise Applications Services (EAS), Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) of the USDA. The Five-Star Award recognizes organizations for demonstrating excellence in providing enterprise-wide distance learning solutions for the federal government.

FGDLA is a nonprofit, professional association that promotes the development and application of distance learning in the federal government. The award was presented at a special ceremony in Reston, Virginia on August 15 to John P. Rehberger, Deputy Director, Team AgLearn, USDA OCIO/EAS, pictured with Adayana Inc.'s Gail Azaroff, Vice President, Sales, Business Development (left) and Dwayne Cotti, General Manager, Onsite Services (right).

For more information on the award, visit the FGDLA Awards web page at [www.fgdla.us/awards](http://www.fgdla.us/awards).



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## TALENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM 360 PROGRAM

# Virtual University

The USDA Virtual University programs are delivered using a hybrid or “blended” learning concept allowing for maximum flexibility for the learner and the best use of USDA resources. The Virtual University and AgLearn have partnered to bring USDA a complete 360-Degree Assessment Program aligned to the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) program at no cost.

### How the Tool Works

The 360-Degree Assessment Program is a developmental tool, helping individuals to develop and strengthen their interpersonal skills and positively impact their organization. The assessment is based on feedback and information from an individual’s boss, peers, direct reports, and customers. Their input about a person’s leadership competencies as well as self-assessment is part of the tool.

### Some of the targeted efficiencies achieved from the delivery of this program are:

- Common resources, equaling one common system
- A common framework, offering baseline norms
- Competency gap analysis
- Compliance with Human Capital Assessment and Accountability Framework (HCAAF)
- Cost savings (AgLearn TMS is free)

### Program Goals and Success

The main goal of the program is to have a common set of 360 assessments that are freely available through AgLearn. The assessments would be for developmental purposes and aligned and backed by a department policy.

Anonymity and confidentiality are major success factors for the program. Except for an individual’s supervisor, all feedback is confidential because the data is aggregated. The report will contain data grouped by rater categories such as peers, direct reports, and customers.

The TMS Program has undergone a successful cross agency pilot. “Soft” launches are currently engaged in multiple USDA agencies.

### Completed/In Process Agencies:

- Office of the General Counsel (OGC)
- Office of the Inspector General (OIG)
- Grain Inspection, Packers & Stockyards Administration (GIPSA)
- Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) – ITS, ENS, ASOC
- Forest Service (FS)
- Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS)

The program is backed by a new policy that will establish the USDA Leadership Competency Framework to support leadership development of USDA employees. The policy will become official in the upcoming months and a USDA-wide TMS program announcement will be distributed shortly thereafter.

*If you have any questions, please contact the Virtual University or Team AgLearn.*

## ON THE MOVE with AgLearn

*Available now, these mobile ethics courses help you meet your learning needs, anytime, anywhere. So get your smart phone or tablet and get started!*

### Ethics:

Seeking Non-Federal Employment

### Ethics:

Basic Post-Employment Restrictions

### Ethics:

Fundraising

**MORE TITLES COMING LATER THIS YEAR!**

## Enhanced Security Awareness–Phishing

NEW COURSE

“Phishing” is the act of attempting to acquire information by masquerading as a trustworthy entity in an electronic communication. ITS has made available a new course, **Enhanced Security Awareness–Phishing**. If you want to discover more about this common type of information security attack, this course will show you how to protect yourself and USDA. Take the course and learn how to spot and report these increasingly prevalent security threats.

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## The ICAM EEMS Data Connector to AgLearn

AgLearn has moved its current user profile data feed from CED (the Common Employee Database) to the USDA Identity, Credential and Access Management (ICAM) Enterprise Entitlements Management Service (EEMS) data feed.

CED was owned and managed by National Finance Center. The ICAM EEMS data feed is populated from the National Finance Center Person Model. EEMS is part of the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) ICAM solution. This enterprise-wide solution centrally manages the identity, entitlements, and roles of all USDA employees, contractors, partners, affiliates, and customers. EEMS provisions, updates, and de-provisions accounts in AgLearn from the USDA's authoritative identity data source, Person Model.

### Current Status

The new AgLearn EEMS data feed is live in production as of September 16th, 2013. The new data feed allows for new AgLearn accounts to be created in a 24-hour period, along with many more improved user benefits.

*If you have any questions related to the new data feed please contact your Agency AgLearn Lead.*



**Mobileyou**  
LEADING USDA MOBILITY



### Is a Graphic Design Award Winner

Industry-leading magazine *Graphic Design USA* has awarded the USDA *Mobile You* logo with the 2013 American In House Design Award. This award honors the best and brightest creative teams working within corporations and institutions today.

The new mobile learning brand was developed by the design team at Adayana, Inc., headed by creative director Fofe Rehbein. The *Mobile You* identity includes the name, logo, and tagline to promote mobile learning and its benefits to the AgLearn community.

## AN UPDATE ON JAVA

Java is software that allows your computer to communicate with the main AgLearn computers. For example, Java makes it possible for the user to create a “bookmark” so that a course can be stopped and resumed later, picking up from the place the user last stopped.



### Security Problems

Unfortunately Java has had a lot of security problems in recent years. These security problems have created the need for hundreds of security patches. This patching has created reliability problems for Java. For example, an endless spinning globe at the start of a SkillSoft course is probably caused by Java on your computer not communicating with AgLearn due to patching.

### Rules of Thumb

There is no simple fix to these problems. The solution depends on how specific Java versions work with the specific software on various computers. Nonetheless, there are some rules-of-thumb for troubleshooting these problems:

Maintain only one major version of Java on your computer. The major Java version should be 6.xx or 7.xx. Confirm with the relevant Agency help desk to ensure that the latest sub-version is installed.

Test Java on the computer by accessing <http://www.java.com/en/download/testjava.jsp>. A confirmation screen will appear if it works.

If Internet Explorer does not work, try using other Web browsers such as Firefox or Safari.

If all else fails, enlist the relevant Agency Help Desk to delete current Java versions from your computer and install the latest Java