



# enewsletter

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## Autumn leaves, AgLearn is here to stay

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### AgLearn Has Everything You Need To Close out the Year!

It's Fall and we want you to know what AgLearn has been up to lately. In this issue, get highlights from the 2014 Strategic Workshop, a LincPass challenge, and more great books and courses!

### Be Part of the 80% Solution:

#### Use LincPass to Protect Yourself and USDA

USDA has an ambitious goal for LincPass users and you can play a part. The goal is that 80 percent of its employees will use their LincPass to access USDA networks and data. *Are you in that number?*

The USDA's goal is part of a Federal initiative to fully use the LincPass capabilities to protect facilities, networks, and information. The USDA is proud of its wide-ranging missions that impact the health, well-being, and quality of life of all Americans. Yet, if the wrong individuals gain access to this information, billions of dollars could be lost through cyber-supported crime. You can help by using your LincPass for logical access to the networks and physical access to USDA facilities. LincPass is one of the easiest ways to combat the theft of intellectual property.

AgLearn can train you on the benefits of using your LincPass and where to go for help. The course is designed as an introduction to some individuals and refresher to others on the HSPD-12 and LincPass. You can get step-by-step instructions on how to utilize your LincPass card to log into your computer. **[Click here to access wss LincPass Training!](#)**

If you have more questions about LincPass, just visit **[USDA Connect!](#)** Join the USDA and your colleagues in making the USDA's systems safer and more secure by using your LincPass.

#### Could You be a Zombie?

What is a zombie? A user who is in AgLearn but does not have *control* of their Internal eAuth account. Control means the user has completed the EEMS registration process which is done via e-mail. *Users cannot access AgLearn unless this situation is corrected.*

Zombie users exist within 24 agencies. If you might be one, you must work with your Agency Registration Lead (ARL) to rectify the situation. Team AgLearn cannot assist with this issue. The ARL will send another registration email to the user who must then open it and take control of the account.

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## 2014 Strategic Workshop Review

The 2014 workshop was held in mid-July in Washington, DC. Attendees gathered to share information and give their input into AgLearn as we approach another year. For the first time, the entire workshop was tweeted live time, sending snippets and key points from the presenters of the day. (You can still take a look at the tweets on [Twitter #AGLW2014](#)).

### Day 1

The group heard a presentation from Jerome Davin, Director, IT Workforce Planning on the AgLearn scorecard and vision for the future. He said people had been asking for mobile access to courses more than ever before and that AgLearn is meeting the demand. Attendees indicated that cultural transformation is happening--people are not just taking mandatory courses but are taking advantage of the full scope of AgLearn learning opportunities. Mobile users have jumped from 600 last year to a whopping 7000 users to date---a good sign that AgLearn is accessible for even more users. In addition, Davin said Books 24/7 is the highest we've ever seen it.



In the SuccessFactors presentation, Todd Wisemen pointed out that only 20% of employees are fully engaged in their work and that SuccessFactors can improve that number. Next, Rosetta Stone's Mike Weldon and Justin Lautenschlager discussed the V3 & V4TOTALe solutions. In response to feedback from users, they announced the mobile access and apps for smartphones, tablets and Android devices. They reported that more than 6200 hours of study were achieved by AgLearn users since November 2013.

Todd Bettker from the Target Center said there have been huge advances in technologies for people with disabilities (follow them at [@USDATARGET](#)).

Skillssoft's Anita Heller emphasized that the most important aspect of learning is getting support from first-line managers. She said engagement, alignment, adoption and value make for a great learning culture.

Attendees got an update on the New Supervisor Curriculum Pilot from Janine Gillis, Training Specialist (Training Officer), OCIO/ITS/Business Services Division. She encouraged agencies to volunteer some mentors citing that as a big challenge for this initiative. Jake Faibish took the floor to talk more about supervisory training. He said the key to great organizations is having great supervisors and that the three components of the Development Model---individual, agency, and department---must work together.

### Day 2

The day started with a recap of the previous day's agenda from John Rehberger. Then Jerome Davin presented the 2014 Aggie Award winners (see the [list of winners](#)). John Rehberger returned to tell the group how to get the most from ATAN and AAN and how to efficiently manage tickets.

Best Practices in Course Development was then presented by Dana DeRouche and Brad Stine of Team AgLearn. They offered great tips on how to make your courses more 508 compliant by keeping it short, clear, and digestible. Curtis Mcilvain was up next with the fundamentals and definitions of what makes a "zombie" (see the [Zombie article](#) for more information and how to resolve the issue).



Rounding out the day was "If I Were Supreme Ruler" led by Kathy Fallow, a roundtable discussion on the challenges that AgLearn users face. Participants joined the chat remotely as well. After sharing ideas and experiences, the workshop wrapped up with great expectations for 2015. (See the [photo gallery](#) for pictures from the event).

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## Dispel the Language Learning Myths with Rosetta Stone

Sometimes you can talk yourself out of learning another language. According to "**7 Language-Learning Myths That Are Holding Us Back**", here are a few important myths that could be stopping you!



### **Myth #1: Everyone already speaks English.**

If you believe this one, you might be surprised to know that only 1/4 of the world speaks English. If you do the math, that leaves more than 5 billion people with whom you might need to communicate in another language. Rosetta Stone can help you communicate with practically anyone in the world.

### **Myth #2: It's impossible to learn a language after your teenage years.**

It is true that learning a new language gets more difficult as we get older. Fortunately, Rosetta Stone language software is designed with the college-aged and adult learners in mind. You can learn using methods that have proved successful for learners beyond the teenage years.

### **Myth #3: Language learning is unnecessary with modern translation technologies.**

Learning a language is more than translating words and phrases. To truly master a new language, you must be familiar with the nuances of various cultures that allow you to create productive business and personal relationships across cultural divides.

Rosetta Stone is the most comprehensive and effective language learning solution. It combines their award-winning learning methodology with online activities and instruction designed to deliver a robust and enriching language-learning experience. Learners enjoy live practice sessions led by coaches, engaging language games, and opportunities to put newly developed language skills to use through Native Socialization.

For information about Rosetta Stone access, contact John Rehberger at OCIO.

## Are U Mobile?

With Mobile U, you can learn anywhere, anytime, on many devices. Here are some courses that are available for your smartphone and or tablet right now! Get the training you need, when it's easy for you. More courses will be added throughout the year.

### **AgFind - USDA's Contacts App (Web Based USDA-AGFIND-CONTACTS-APP)**

A "How to Guide" that gives USDA mobile users a searchable database of contact information for any USDA employee, contractor, affiliate, volunteer and fellow.

### **Using your Desktop Computer and Mobile Devices Safely (508 Compliant) (Web Based pc usda db iseu a02 dt enus)**

This course examines the types of threats that desktop computers and mobile devices may face, and effective ways to secure them.

## 2014 AGLearn AGGIE AWARD WINNERS

Each year, AgLearn is pleased to recognize the agencies that excel at maximizing AgLearn and its resources. Here is a list of this years' proud winners. Congratulations again to all!

### **+ The Helping Hand Award** Farm Service Agency (FSA)

### **+ Outstanding Achievement: Discretionary Completions** 1st Place – Risk Management Agency (RMA) 2nd Place – National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) 3rd Place – National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA)

### **+ Outstanding Achievement: Mission Completions** 1st Place – Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) 2nd Place – RMA 3rd Place – FSA

### **+ Outstanding Achievement: Return On Investment (RIO)** 1st Place – Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) 2nd Place – NASS 3rd Place – RMA

### **+ Outstanding Achievement: Total Activities** 1st Place – RMA 2nd Place – NIFA 3rd Place – OCIO

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## 2014 Strategic Workshop Photo Gallery

