



enewsletter

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SUMMER 2014

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Everything Under the Sun

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AgLearn Has Everything You Need To Keep You Learning This Summer!

We kick off this issue with some great news – the USDA was presented with the “21st Century Best Practices Award” from the USDLA! We also introduce you to Windows 7, Microsoft Office, and Lync with helpful online courses. We reacquaint you with USDA Connect, provide information about financial planning, and have great reads available at Books 24x7. Rounding things out are updates on the Strategic Workshop, our Twitter feed, and the EEMS Data Connector.

2014 USDLA AWARD WINNER!

Two Years in a Row!

The USDA wins the prestigious “21st Century Best Practices Award”.

This award is given to organizations that have shown outstanding leadership in the field of distance learning by the United States Distance Learning Association (USDLA).

USDA is able to provide these award-winning resources thanks to the support provided by AgLearn.

According to Jenny Jopling, President of USDLA, “This year’s USDLA Awards recipients represent the finest examples of online courses, best practices, and leadership in our field [...] We are so very proud and excited to be able to recognize this level of excellence.”

These awards highlight those distance learning instructors, programs, and professionals who have achieved and demonstrated extraordinary results through the use of online, videoconferencing, satellite and blended learning delivery technologies.

GOODBYE XP, Hello WINDOWS 7

Introducing Windows 7!

This new operating system makes working faster and easier with quick start-up and shut-down times, faster file-transfer, and better JavaScript performance.

Take advantage of the benefits today!

+ [Getting Started with Windows 7](#)

+ [Windows 7 Essentials I](#)

+ [Windows 7 Essentials II](#)

Search AgLearn for even more courses!

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USDA Connect is Here for You!

When was the last time you used USDA Connect? This business collaboration platform is the ideal way to stay on top of enterprise activities with AgLearn and the USDA agencies. Check out USDA Connect and the AgLearn community! Also on the site, you will find the latest announcements in the center section, links to useful resources on the right margin, and quick access to groups, lists, and surveys on the left side.

Access the USDA Connect site [here](#) and go exploring!



Twitter Anyone?

AgLearn has embraced Twitter and **we want you to join us!** You can hold and monitor real-time conversations about your work or the industry, and see what your colleagues and followers are up to. You can use it for customer service to share best practices. If you need to make business connections, Twitter is a great way to reduce standard emails and phone calls—according to experts, people may not return calls but they almost always return tweets!

If you want to build a professional brand, or program-focused brand like AgLearn, Twitter allows you a global reach that surpasses traditional methods. Make it easy to keep your followers up-to-date with current information about your work and easily communicate with them, too. Ultimately, Twitter can enhance your business relationships and you can use it to keep up with news and trends, too.

Check out the Twitter feed on the **AgLearn splash page**. If you haven't joined Twitter, it's easy to get started. **You can start by following @AgLearnToday!**

MICROSOFT eLearning COURSES

For Office 2010, Windows 7, and Lync 2010

NEW!

AgLearn has courses to help you learn more about applications you use every day like Excel, Word, and Outlook. Learn how to start working with Windows 7 and the user interface enhancements, work with devices and printers in Windows 7, or maintain and protect your computer and data. Enhance your knowledge of some of the networking and remote connectivity enhancements found in Windows 7, how to use the collaboration features in Lync 2010, and the features and benefits of Outlook 2010. Here are a few of the available courses

+ **[Working with Microsoft Lync 2010 for Collaboration](#)**

+ **[Beginner Skills in Microsoft Outlook 2010](#)**

+ **[Intermediate Skills in Microsoft Outlook 2010](#)**

+ **[Beginner Skills in Microsoft Excel 2010](#)**

+ **[Intermediate Skills in Microsoft Word 2010](#)**

Search AgLearn for even more courses!

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The 2014 Strategic Workshop

It's almost time for the annual AgLearn Strategic Workshop! The AgLearn team will gather with the leads and special guests to share information, best practices, and other information of value to AgLearn users. Sessions will also be offered virtually via Adobe Connect to make it convenient for you to participate.

Want up-to-the-minute coverage of the conference? Follow **@AgLearnToday#AGLW2014** on Twitter for live updates on each days' activities. Be sure to mark your calendars for July 15 & 16 and help AgLearn to make this workshop another success for you.

Update on the EEMS Data Connector to AgLearn

Since it went live last September, the new data feed has allowed for new AgLearn accounts to be created in a 24-hour period, along with many more improved user benefits!

AgLearn's user profiles are housed in the USDA Identity, Credential and Access Management (ICAM) Enterprise Entitlements Management Service (EEMS) data feed. 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.

Get Smarter With Your Money

Whether it's financial literacy, retirement planning, or tax-deferred retirement plans, Debbie Mason, a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™* professional with **Dmason Financial**, has the information you need.

Dmason Financial has customized courses for employees in each of the Federal civil service and military retirement systems: Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS); CSRS Special; Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS); FERS Special; and Military Final Pay, High-3, and CSB/Redux.

Go to AgLearn to get started today!

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