



# enewsletter

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Summer 2015

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## AgLearn is Heating Up this Summer

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*As the season gets new, so does AgLearn!*

In this issue, learn more about the major system upgrade that is underway and the thousands of tablet-friendly courses to try. You still have great SkillSoft courses right at your fingertips, too. Find out what's new with 360 assessments and make sure you are on target to close out your IDP. Don't delay—use this newsletter as the starting point to accessing AgLearn's resources today!

### Award-Winning Innovation!

#### AgLearn/USDA Win Skillsoft Innovation Award

Congratulations to the USDA and AgLearn for Receiving the 2015 Skillsoft Innovation Award for Impacting Learning in Higher Education and the Public Sector. The USDA was honored for AgLearn, which delivers continuous learning opportunities to 100,000 users to solve business problems, improve business processes and increase user engagement.

##### About the Award

Each year, Skillsoft honors clients for their work in corporate learning and development. The purpose of the awards program is to recognize innovative ideas, powerful programs and inspiring leaders who are helping to transform the corporate learning and talent management landscape by leveraging Skillsoft's products and services.

The award presentation was made at the 2015 Global Skillsoft Perspectives in May, 2015 to AgLearn team members, Jerome Davin, Todd Kaywood, John Rehberger, and Karen Simpson.



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## Tablet-Friendly Courses Make Your Learning More Accessible!

Learning is getting easier and better all of the time with AgLearn. Available now, you can access more than 2,000 courses on your tablet to help you meet your learning needs—on the go, anytime, and almost any place. These courses will not launch on smartphones but try them on your computer or tablet. For the best experience, Wi-Fi is recommended.

**For technical details, click here.**

Get your computer or tablet and get started today!

## It's Almost IDP Closeout Time!

Mark your calendar to complete your Individual Development Plan, or IDP by your individual due date. The IDP is a schedule of developmental goals and supporting activities designed to assist you with performing your job and advancing your career.

AgLearn has multiple resources to help you:

- **AgLearn IDP Course**
- **Declining an AgLearn IDP for FY15**
- **Adding Goals from Expired Plans to Your IDP (pdf)**
- **Adding Goals from Expired Plans to Your IDP**
- **Sending Outlook Reminders About IDPs**
- **Running the User Plan Status Report**

Don't forget that the customized IDP by Learner Report allows agencies' AgLearn administrators to identify all employee IDP goal activities and track progress. This report helps to identify future training needs so that training budgets can be more efficiently directed toward needs.

It's required! It's easy to do on AgLearn! Complete your IDP Today!

## 2015 AgLearn Summer Workshop

AgLearn and its guests will gather again on July 14-15, to share in the summer 2015 workshop. Day One will include high-level talks with presenters from various vendors, working partners, and representatives from the USDA and other government agencies. Day Two will focus on in-depth discussions of AgLearn business, including the ever-popular "If I Were the Supreme Ruler".

**We will also tweet live from the workshop. Follow @AgLearnToday on Twitter and use hashtag #AGLW2015.**



Not sure which of the thousands of Skillssoft courses to take? Let your colleagues show you the way! Listed here are just a few of the most popular courses that were accessed by AgLearn users in 2014.

**Global Anti-bribery**

**Interpersonal Communication: Communicating with Confidence**

**Getting Started with Excel 2010**

**Business Writing: How to Write Clearly and Concisely**

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## What's New with 360 Assessments?

If you complete a 360 assessment before October 1, 2015, you must complete another one in three (3) years. This process is easy with the USDA 360 Assessment Tracking Curriculum (Curriculum ID: USDA-360).

This tool will automatically make the retraining assignment once you have completed the assessment. You can expect the curriculum to be assigned immediately or after the feedback session has been completed. Please remember that the due date will be set for 3 years in the future.

If you need the TMS team to help with a soft launch of your 360 assessment process, just submit an ATAN ticket with the request. (Make sure to allow for at least 2 weeks prior to your scheduled start date to schedule the kick-off meeting.)

You can also find recordings of this year's 360 Process Manager training.

- [Part 1 \(First 15 minutes\)](#)
- [Part 2 \(Remainder of presentation\)](#)

See the links below to access more resources in AgLearn:

### 360 documentation

- [Nominating Raters for a 360](#)
- [Completing a 360 Assessment Survey](#)
- [Supporting the USDA 360 Assessment Process](#)
- [Building the Assessment Process Record](#)

### 180 documentation

- [Completing the USDA 180 Assessment Survey](#)

You can access  
**TOTALe**--right  
from your tablet!

TOTALe is Rosetta Stone's most comprehensive—and effective—language learning solution to date. 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.

Contact your Agency's Training Officer for details.



## Upgrade for AgLearn is Underway

AgLearn is undergoing another upgrade this year. The new AgLearn is projected to go live this Fall. The new enhancements will improve Section 508 compliance, increase mobile options, and lessen system dependence on Java.

As with previous upgrades, AgLearn will go offline for about a week while the system is being upgraded. You will be notified of the timeframe so that you can plan accordingly. Wait until you see the new AgLearn with great new benefits to you!