

1 AN ACT concerning agriculture.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The County Cooperative Extension Law is amended
5 by changing Section 2b as follows:

6 (505 ILCS 45/2b) (from Ch. 5, par. 242b)

7 Sec. 2b. The Cooperative Extension Service of the
8 University of Illinois may ~~shall~~ establish a Rural Transition
9 Program to be operated in cooperation with the Department of
10 Commerce and Economic Opportunity to provide assessments,
11 career counseling, on-the-job training, tuition
12 reimbursements, classroom training, financial management
13 training, work experience opportunities, job search skills,
14 job placement, youth programs, and support service to farmers
15 and their families, agriculture-related employees, other rural
16 residents, and small rural businesses who are being forced out
17 of farming or other primary means of employment or whose
18 standard of living or employment has been reduced because of
19 prevailing economic conditions in the agricultural or rural
20 economy. Eligible farmers and their families shall include
21 those who can demonstrate proof of financial stress, proof of
22 foreclosure, proof of bankruptcy, proof of inability to secure
23 needed capital, proof of voluntary foreclosure or proof of

1 income eligibility for assistance programs administered by the
2 Department of Human Services (acting as successor to the
3 Department of Public Aid under the Department of Human Services
4 Act). Eligible agriculture related employees shall mean tenant
5 farmers or other farm employees and employees of businesses
6 related to agricultural production who are facing
7 displacement, unemployment or underemployment due to a closure
8 or reduction in operation of such business or farm due to poor
9 economic conditions that prevail in the agricultural or rural
10 economy. Other eligible rural residents shall include those
11 residing in rural areas whose employment or standard of living
12 has been reduced due to the poor economic conditions that
13 prevail in the agricultural or rural economy. Eligible small
14 rural businesses shall include those existing or new businesses
15 established and operating in rural areas that lack access to
16 other sources of services provided by this Section. In carrying
17 out the provisions of this Section, the Cooperative Extension
18 Service may enter into agreements with the Department of
19 Commerce and Community Affairs, community colleges, vocational
20 schools, and any other State or local private or public agency
21 or entity deemed necessary.

22 (Source: P.A. 94-793, eff. 5-19-06.)