

Financial *in Later Life* SECURITY

 MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

A Cooperative Extension Initiative

Revised July 2010

1. Using the Financial Security in Later Life (FSSL) Website as a Front Line Tool

www.csrees.usda.gov/nea/economics/fssl/fssl.html

The FSSL website is designed with both the consumer and Extension Educator in mind. The site is made up of *two* distinct sections. One focuses on giving consumers information they need the successfully plan for later life events. The other section is geared toward giving Extension educators the tools they need to deliver this important information to citizens in their local areas.

2. Financial Security Guidebook and Educational Resources

www.ces.purdue.edu/financialsecurity/

This guidebook includes step-by-step instructions for community educators to conduct educational programs to change the retirement planning behavior of Americans. The target audience for the guidebook is community educators, both those who have never offered a retirement planning program as well as experienced educators who want to improve their outreach.

The guidebook includes the following:

- Detailed instructions on how to develop, implement, and evaluate a retirement educational program.
- Instructions on how to identify audiences and match the message to the audience.
- A list of existing educational resources that address financial security in later life; including a brief description of the resource and how to order.
- Strategies for how to effectively use these resources with consumers to improve their planning skills; Strategies that work in delivering successful retirement planning educational programs.
- Strategies to motivate people to plan and save for retirement.

3. Take to Road to Financial Security in Later Life

The Initiative revolves around an overview program entitled *Take the Road to Financial Security in Later Life*. The introductory brochure helps participants examine their lives and plans for the future so that they may identify their beliefs and attitudes, financial needs, and financial goals.

Download the brochure at:

www.csrees.usda.gov/nea/economics/fsll/publications/road_map_brochure.pdf

The curriculum is available at:

<http://cehd.umn.edu/fsos/EducationalTools/FinancialSec.asp/default.asp>

4. Campaigns to Promote Saving

There are two national campaigns that you will be hearing about in the media with the common goal of promoting savings: *America Saves* and *Choose to Save*.

- A. *America Saves*, a partnership between the foundation of the Consumer Federation of America (CFA) and the Cooperative Extension System, is a national *social marketing* campaign to encourage all Americans to Build Wealth, not Debt, through saving and investing. America Saves features multiple levels of implementation for local campaigns coordinated by Cooperative Extension System and local partners.

Participants enroll as an American Saver and receive quarterly newsletters, information about motivational and educational workshops in the community and local Saver's Clubs.

To view information that is available to the general public go to: www.americasaves.org.

- B. *Choose to Save* is a partnership between American Savings Educational Council (ASEC) partners and the Employee Benefit Research Institute (EBRI). This campaign utilizes extensive media coverage that targets communities to encourage saving for retirement. For information, go to www.choosetosave.org. Many materials are available such as over 100 financial calculators.

5. Additional Resources

- A. *NEFE Wealth Care Kit* is based on the principle that "through knowledge comes confidence." The Wealth Care Kit provides essential first steps to help consumers take charge of their financial lives. Using easy-to-follow worksheets and checklists, it allows individuals and families to evaluate their current financial situation, set goals, and begin to develop strategies to meet those goals.

Information in the kit is presented within the context of the five major financial planning topics: (1) insurance, (2) investments, (3) taxes, (4) retirement planning, (5) estate planning.

By reading the materials and completing the exercises provided, users can develop a personal balance sheet, determine and rank investment objectives, and start a plan for retirement. Several sections include a glossary of terms. Others outline potential strategies to help the consumer reach identified short and long-term goals in a particular area.

Ordering: Individual copies of the Wealth Care Kit are available from NEFE at no cost. Write to: National Endowment for Financial Education, 5299 Boulevard, Suite 1300, Greenwood Village, CO 80111.

Bulk quantities are not available. You can print the online version of the Wealth Care Kit at: www.smartaboutmoney.org.

- B. **Savings Fitness: A Guide to Your Money and Your Financial Future:** Publication produced by the Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards and the U.S. Department of Labor.

Ordering: To order bulk quantities, contact Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards, 1670 Broadway, Suite 600, Denver, CO 80202-4809 or call 1-888-237-6275.

Download at:
www.dol.gov/ebsa/pdf/savingsfitness.pdf

- C. **Investing for Your Future:** A Cooperative Extension System Basic Investing Home Study Course” teaches individuals who have not invested before that investing is accessible to nearly everyone and isn’t necessarily expensive.

The course is available at:
www.investing.rutgers.edu or in “hard copy”. The online participants have an opportunity to “Ask the Experts” and they receive monthly email messages.

Content: The first three units are designed to help participants understand how and why to invest. The next five units focus on particular types of investments such as mutual funds, fixed-income investments, and tax-deferred investments. The final three units review additional topics including investing resources, selecting professional advisors, and types and warning signs of investment fraud.

Ordering: Single copies of “Investing for Your Future” are available for \$12 each plus shipping and handling (discounts available for bulk orders) from the Natural Resource, Agriculture, and Engineering Service. Or download the order form at:
www.investing.rutgers.edu/order/ifyf-orderform2.pdf

Visit the NRAES website at www.nraes.org. Or, mail to NRAES, Cooperative Extension, P.O. Box 4557, Ithaca, NY 14852-4557, phone: (607) 255-7654; fax: (607) 254-8770, email: NRAES@cornell.edu.

- D. **Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).** The SEC educates investors on how to invest wisely and protect their savings from fraud through a variety of programs, including free publications that describe how the securities industry works, how to invest wisely and avoid fraud, and where to turn for help.

Go to www.sec.gov. It features an online Complaint Center, hundreds of frequently asked questions about investing, interactive calculators and quizzes, information about online investing, and all of their publications and alerts.

SEC encourages investors to submit their complaints or questions in writing. Investors may also call (202) 551-6000 or toll-free at 1-800-SEC-6585.

6. Retirement Planning

- A. **Planning for a Secure Retirement:** This free distance learning course offered by Purdue University at www.ces.purdue.edu/retirement provides ten modules that answer questions to consider as you make plans for retirement. The modules include specific goals, activities to complete and sources for more information.
- B. **Retirement Estimator for Farm Families:** Many farmers retire gradually, simply slowing down in their farming activities. However, some farm families want to know if they can financially afford to retire. This distance learning program, developed by Sharon A. DeVaney from Purdue University, is designed to help these families determine their potential expenses in retirement and what their retirement income might be.

Families are asked about current expenses, desired lifestyle in retirement, life expectancy, Social Security benefits, other retirement income, assets, and liabilities. Sources and link to additional information and more detailed estimates are also provided. None of the information provided by the user is kept once the user exits the Retirement Estimator. To access go to: www.ces.purdue.edu/farmretirement.

- C. **Thinking Over and Early Retirement Offer:** Iowa State University has a public website that offers easy-to-use information on five key issues people need to consider when deciding about and planning for early retirement. Go to: www.extension.iastate.edu/finances/personal/retirement/early_retirement.htm
- D. **Retirement: Secure Your Dreams:** A series of twelve publications on retirement planning may be purchased from ISU Extension Distribution Center or permission can be requested to reprint.

Go to: www.extension.iastate.edu/finances/personal/retirement/retirement.htm

Ordering: The publications are posted at

www.extension.iastate.edu/finances/personal/retirement/early_retirement.htm

Contact ISU Distribution Center, 119 Printing & Publications Bldg., ISU, Ames, IA 50011 or email pubdist@iastate.edu for price quotes or permission to reprint.

The twelve publications are:

- Begin By Planning Today
- Picture Your Future
- When Life Changes
- Retirement Income: How Much Do you Need?
- Estimating Your Retirement Expense
- Money Math
- Where will Money for Your Nest Egg Come From?
- Growing your Nest Egg: Risk and Return
- Retirement Investment Options
- Special Consideration for the Self-Employed
- Update your Home for a Lifetime of Living
- Decisions at the Time of Retirement
- If you Want to Know More

E. **Guidebook to Help Late Savers Prepare for Retirement:** This guidebook is approximately 40 pages. It features an overview of the new federal policy; how to take advantage of saving opportunities; steps that can be taken in early retirement; a list of helpful print, internet, and government resources and a workbook to help late savers take action. Go to: www.smartaboutmoney.org. Search “Guidebook for Late Savers.”

F. **Plan Well, Retire Well: Your How to Guide:** The goal of this program from the Illinois Extension Service is to assist middle-income individuals, who are between 25 to 50 years old, to plan effectively for retirement. The web-based educational program emphasizes the importance of setting financial goals and saving early for retirement. It provides information and interactive activities on the various ways to prepare for retirement including investment strategies. Go to: www.retirewell.uiuc.edu/

G. **What Every Women Needs to Know about Money and Retirement—A Simple Guide:** The Women’s Institute for Secure Retirement is a nonprofit organization that works to improve women’s economic status through education. www.wiserwomen.org. Then click on publications.

They also produce a quarterly newsletter and have a series of fact sheets that can be printed from their website.

H. **Social Security Administration:** The website and your local office have many publications that are very informative about Social Security rules and regulations. www.ssa.gov

I. **Your Retirement Planning Checklist:** Serves as an organizer and reminder, helping you stay on track as you develop your plan and update it over the years. Available from University of Illinois, Pubs Plus, 1917 S. Wright St, Champion, IL 61820, phone: 1-800-345-6087, email: PubsPlus@illinois.edu. Cost \$19.99 plus \$4.00 shipping. <https://pubsplus.uiuc.edu/browsedollars.html>

6. MSU Retirement Extension Publications

- A. *Individual Retirement Accounts* (MT199807)
 This MontGuide explains Traditional IRAs (deductible and nondeductible) and Roth IRAs, and discusses who can contribute to an IRA, how to set one up, and how much can be contributed. It also explores the tax consequences of different IRAs at different income levels. www.msuextension.org/publications/FamilyFinancialManagement/MT199807HR.pdf
- B. *Inheriting an IRA: Planning Techniques for Primary Beneficiaries* (MT200310)
 When an IRA owner dies, the account balance is distributed to the owner's beneficiaries according to certain rules. In many cases, beneficiaries can use planning techniques (even after the owner's death) to minimize taxes on the IRA.
www.msuextension.org/publications/FamilyFinancialManagement/MT200310HR.pdf
- C. *Inheriting an IRA: Planning Techniques for Successor Beneficiaries* (MT200311)
 When the owner of an IRA dies, the IRA account passes to his/her primary beneficiaries. When one or more of the primary beneficiaries dies, certain rules govern how successor beneficiaries inherit the IRA balance.
www.msuextension.org/publications/FamilyFinancialManagement/MT200311HR.pdf
- D. *Shopping for Individual Retirement Accounts* (MT200207)
 This MontGuide tells how to evaluate different IRAs before investing and provides a worksheet to help compare one with another.
www.msuextension.org/publications/FamilyFinancialManagement/MT200207HR.pdf
- E. *Withdrawals from IRAs When the Owner is Under age 59 ½* (MT200308)
 This MontGuide describes the tax consequences that apply to withdrawals from IRAs and other qualified retirement plans when the IRA owner is under age 59 ½. Includes exceptions to the 10 percent early withdrawal penalty.
www.msuextension.org/publications/FamilyFinancialManagement/MT200308HR.pdf
- F. *Withdrawals from IRAs When the Owner is Between age 59 ½ and 70 ½ and When the Owner Turns 70 ½* (MT200309)
 This MontGuide describes the tax consequences that apply to withdrawals from IRAs and other qualified retirement plans when the IRA owner is between ages 59½ and 70½, or over 70½.
www.msuextension.org/publications/FamilyFinancialManagement/MT200309HR.pdf
- G. *Medicaid and Long-Term Care Costs* (MT199511)
 This MontGuide outlines the legal and tax ramifications, as well as impacts on emotional and physical health of financing long-term care.
www.msuextension.org/publications/FamilyFinancialManagement/MT199511HR.pdf |

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