2005

2005 Accomplishment Report

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The University of Nebraska–Lincoln Extension specializes in teaching educational programs based on research. We are the link between the research of the land-grant university system and the application of that research to improve people’s lives. We teach with multiple methods including: workshops, web based programs, on-farm research, small classes, satellite links and educational news releases in TV, radio and newspaper. The complexities of contemporary living and the challenges of the growing global economy are reflected in a constantly evolving extension program.

The Southeast Research and Extension Center is a part of the Extension Division and the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources (IANR). The extension educators and assistants serve both rural and urban needs in the 28 counties in Southeast Nebraska. They each teach in one of the six focused program areas shown to the left. Educators work in program teams to identify needs and regionally address current issues. Educators and assistants also collaborate with community partners and stay connected to community stakeholders. They are important links between the community and the local needs and the University of Nebraska.

Extension is a partnership between the Federal Government USDA (10% Federal funds), the Land Grant University (49% state funds), county government (15% county funds) and grants, contracts and fees (26% other funds).

Extension’s mission is to enhance the lives of Nebraskans through education based on research.
Food Production and Natural Resource Management

Ag Educators provide a wide variety of educational programs to increase agricultural production and protect the environment. They work with farmers and agribusiness representatives.

Ten to Twenty

Ten Ways to Boost Profits $20 an Acre is an educational program designed to increase agricultural profitability by helping producers identify small items that accumulatively add up to significant profit. The program goal is to have a $1.5 million dollar impact by 2006.

Last year 12 workshops were held across Nebraska with 253 producers attending, 91% saying they would change production practices to increase profits. Additional workshops are being held this year with a focus on effects of energy process on agriculture.

On-Farm Research

On-Farm Research helps growers conduct and evaluate on-farm research related to production issues important to their operations. Educators in the NSFGPP and Quad County projects are working to post the last 5 years of data on a new website.

More than 75 farmers from 13 counties helped participate in the on-farm research plots and will implement practices to save $5-7,000 annually. Several hundred producers also participated in educational programs and plot tours to learn about the results.

Beginning Farm Program

Beginning Farm Program was organized through a partnership with a wide variety of agencies. Nine in-depth educational sessions and a mentoring program are patterned after the Land Stewardship Project in Minnesota.

Fourteen participants from across Nebraska are currently enrolled.

Rural Advantage

Rural Advantage is a two day conference on alternative agriculture enterprises, laws and regulations, conducted annually by the Eastern Nebraska Diverse Ag Committee.

This year, 190 participants attended the conference with 60% likely to expand their alternative ag businesses.

Farmer Rancher College

Farmer Rancher College is a series of workshops conducted through a partnership with local businesses to improve profitability in crop and livestock operations by enhancing producer marketing and risk management skills.

Survey results indicate that producers value the workshop at $10.56/acre annually. Producers attending this season’s workshop manage over 400,000 acres of field crops. The cattlemen that attended managed over 111,000 head of cattle and producers indicate they will save an average of $7.40 per head annually. Over ninety percent of the 650 workshop participants said they will make changes in their farm/ranch business.

Agribusiness Professional/Producer Education

Agribusiness Professional/Producer Education includes a variety of in-depth training sessions highlighting the latest in crop production research.

393 agribusiness professionals attended seven Crop Management and Diagnostic Clinics at the ARDC. These professional/producers represent 60 Nebraska counties and 9 states impacting 5.39 million acres valued at $5.74/acre. Thirteen winter CMDC programs were also offered reaching 260 participants. 85% of the participants indicated they would make changes based on what they learned.

Soybean Management Field Days 2005 were held in four locations. 433 producers were trained, impacting 564,588 acres with savings valued at $7 per acre.

Solution Days is an educational event that spans two days.

This event reached 198 growers who manage 421,815 acres and now save $7 per acre.

Precision Ag

Precision Ag enhances the exploration, understanding and implementation of new agriculture technologies.

NeATA conference was recognized as one of the nation’s top twelve agricultural conferences to attend in 2006 by Farm Journal magazine. Farming with Computer technologies was delivered in 9 locations to over 70 people and provided hands on experience with PDAs, GPS, GIS, yield monitors, and other technologies. Programs at the ARDC included Auto-Guidance and Aerial Imagery in Crop Production.

Soybean Rust

Soybean Rust workshops reached more than 3,000 producers.

SREC educators conducted soybean fungicide on-farm research and scouted 37 sentinel plots to monitor for presence of rust.

Conservation Security Program

Conservation Security Program meetings were held for over 1,500 producers.

Of those producers, 1084 obtained a total of $10 million in funding.
Community and Residential Environment

**IPM in Schools**
SREC educators and UNL faculty developed a program to address the safe use of pesticides in schools.

Over 400 school workers were trained in safe pesticide practices resulting in healthier environments for students and teachers.

**Living Safely with Lead**
The third year of this major initiative involved training partners (Alegent, Creighton and UNMC, Lead Safe Omaha, HHS and Juan Diego Center) to teach the lead safety curriculum.

The partners delivered research based educational programs one-on-one to Omaha residents in the lead clean-up area. In addition they distribute 3,500 brochures to area residents.

**Termite School**
Two-day, intensive termite school includes both classroom and hands-on training. Faculty also developed a reference manual and web site.

The first hands-on classes for 34 professionals resulted in a 96% improvement in the confidence rate of professional applicators.

**On-Site Waste Water**
SREC and UNL faculty developed a curriculum and trained 500 waste water installers/inspectors. Certification is now required in the state.

90% of the individuals taking training completed certification exams.

**Urban Lakes and Run-off**
Ten homeowner demonstration sites were developed to train the public in issues related to lead contaminated soil, IPM, run-off and sustainable landscaping principles.

A Greater Omaha Lakes Watershed group was formed with leaders from the five metro lake watershed councils.

**Community Development**

**Leadership Development**
Two regional community Leadership Plenty programs were conducted.

35 new community leaders were trained during the multiple session class. Several community projects resulted and these new leaders are teaching the next round of classes.

**Urban Community Projects**
Several programs help neighborhoods plan for the future.

During a leadership and visioning session 12 community learning center coordinators gained skills in community asset development. A community survey and visioning session was held with one urban neighborhood which resulted in members' implementing several changes. Educators are assisting 4 ethnic community centers with survey, demographic data for a grant and future programming.

**Regional projects**
Three regional community groups participated in surveys and visioning sessions which resulting strategic planning for future development and tourism.

**Electronic Retailing and e-Government**
180 people attended multiple classes across the district which introduced ways to expand business opportunities through the web and expand governmental services through web based information.

**Acreage Owners**
A series of seven Rural Living Clinics were each offered in 3 sites.

These clinics reached 630 participants targeting safe environmental practices, efficient landscaping and well/septic education. The electronic newsletter is sent to over 300 subscribers. Visit http://acreage.unl.edu.

**Arsenic and Uranium**
Over 100 public water supplies are at risk for arsenic and uranium.

SREC and UNL faculty developed a series of five NebGuides on drinking water and wells. They held 12 educational trainings in multiple counties across Nebraska on safe drinking water.

**Erosion and Sediment Control**
138 urban contractors, builders and developers attended a workshop designed to reduce sediment in urban lakes during home construction.

A 6-month follow up evaluation indicated participants implemented erosion control plans and curb inlet protections.

**Watershed Protection**
Specific programming on septic and wells in Duck Creek, Shell Creek, Cunningham Lake resulting in several systems being inspected and repaired.

Educational programs over the last several years resulted in Swan Watershed reducing sediment by 70% and nitrogen by 61%.
Nutrition, Health and Wellness

**ServSafe**
Taught in English and Spanish, food safety classes focus on proper food preparation, food storage and proper sanitation.

SREC educators trained 2,319 food service managers with an 80% certification rate, they also trained 271 non-managers.

**NEP**
Nutrition Education Program reaches low income mothers and children with information about nutrition, food preparation and buying.

The NEP staff taught 4,425 low resource people, graduating 1,341 with 75% increasing food buying skills and 80% increasing nutrition practices. They also reached 4,293 youth with multiple school programs.

**Every Woman Matters**
The in-depth program series on nutrition and exercise reached 280 persons in 19 counties.

These programs resulted in 70% of participants being able to meet their health goals.

**Building Strong Families**

**Credit Debt**
190 sixth grade students attended a Money Camp on the UNL campus.
They reported a significant gain on credit and banking skills.

Credit Card Blues programs introduced 1250 high school students to facts about consumer credit.

The programs resulted in a significant change in students’ knowledge of credit card use.

** Guardians**
In partnership with the Nebraska court system, Extension developed training for court appointed guardians.

As a result of this year’s training, 125 court guardians had significant change in knowledge of financial/legal responsibilities.

**Child Care Professionals**
SREC staff trained 898 childcare providers this year in issues related to conflict resolution and identifying and dealing with aggression.

**Divorcing Families**
300 parents participated in a series of educational classes on helping children cope with divorce.
Parents demonstrated 60% increase in communication skills and 36% increase in conflict resolution skills as a result of the training.

**Methamphetamine**
Seventy community presentations reached over 3,000 people in 2005 with information about how to recognize and respond to meth labs and meth dealers. 16,000 manuals were distributed statewide and several other agencies are using the materials to fight meth use in communities across Nebraska.

**Medicare**
201 programs on the new Medicare prescription drug benefit were delivered in the district with many individuals being assisted and savings of hundreds of dollars per participant.

**4-H Youth Development**

**Military Kids**
One hundred Offutt AFB youth learned 33 self-reliant life skill behaviors during 4-H after school programs. The Speak Out for Military Kids team has spoken to 50 groups and 2,500 Nebraskans on support for military families who are often deployed to different locations.

**Ag Awareness**
Today fewer children have an opportunity to be connected to agriculture through the family farm. The Ag Awareness program is designed to increase youth’s knowledge of agriculture.

Almost 2,500 students attend programs at locations throughout the district. Teachers receive teaching packets about agriculture and food production.

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Extension is a Division of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln cooperating with the Counties and the United States Department of Agriculture. University of Nebraska–Lincoln Extension educational programs abide with the nondiscrimination policies of the University of Nebraska–Lincoln and the United States Department of Agriculture.