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"Celebrating Our Heritage, Exploring Our Future"

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CORNHUSKER ECONOMICS

University of Nebraska–Lincoln Extension

March 24, 2010

Institute of Agriculture & Natural Resources
Department of Agricultural Economics
http://www.agecon.unl.edu/Cornhuskereconomics.html

"Celebrating Our Heritage, Exploring Our Future"

Market Report	Yr Ago	4 Wks Ago	3/19/10
Livestock and Products, Weekly Average			
Nebraska Slaughter Steers, 35-65% Choice, Live Weight	$83.37	$90.21	$ *
Nebraska Feeder Steers, Med. & Large Frame, 550-600 lb.	111.02	121.04	127.58
Nebraska Feeder Steers, Med. & Large Frame 750-800 lb.	94.38	102.92	105.72
Choice Boxed Beef, 600-750 lb. Carcass	134.35	144.58	153.69
Western Corn Belt Base Hog Price Carcass, Negotiated	55.18	66.10	67.92
Feeder Pigs, National Direct 50 lbs, FOB	70.60	*	*
Pork Carcass Cutout, 185 lb. Carcass, 51-52% Lean	59.49	69.24	73.66
Slaughter Lambs, Ch. & Pr., Heavy, Wooled, South Dakota, Direct	93.25	*	*
National Carcass Lamb Cutout, FOB	248.87	253.88	273.07
Crops, Daily Spot Prices			
Wheat, No. 1, H.W. Imperial, bu.	5.26	3.88	3.77
Corn, No. 2, Yellow Omaha, bu.	3.84	3.50	3.58
Soybeans, No. 1, Yellow Omaha, bu.	9.30	9.19	9.46
Grain Sorghum, No. 2, Yellow Dorchester, cwt.	5.91	5.36	5.63
Oats, No. 2, Heavy Minneapolis, MN , bu.	2.05	2.30	2.24
Feed			
Alfalfa, Large Square Bales, Good to Premium, RFV 160-185 Northeast Nebraska, ton.	190.00	135.00	135.00
Alfalfa, Large Rounds, Good Platte Valley, ton.	77.50	87.50	87.50
Grass Hay, Large Rounds, Premium Nebraska, ton.	140.00	*	*
Dried Distillers Grains, 10% Moisture, Nebraska Average.	131.00	103.00	95.00
Wet Distillers Grains, 65-70% Moisture, Nebraska Average.	50.13	35.50	34.00

***No Market**

The 25th Women in Agriculture (WIA) Conference "Celebrating Our Heritage, Exploring Our Future" was held in Kearney, Nebraska on February 25-26, 2010. Hosted by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Agricultural Economics Department, over 375 women participated in the event. A majority came from across the great state of Nebraska, but a few individuals made the trip from Colorado, Kansas, Iowa and South Dakota. Our evaluation data is incomplete at this time; however we have results compiled from 125 evaluations.

Twenty-five women indicated that this was their first conference. One woman was attending for her 25th time. Average attendance among the women was approximately 6.7 times. The main goal of the conference was to heighten the participants' skills and gain knowledge to take back to their agricultural operations.

Over the past 25 years we have had a diverse group of participants, and our diversity continues to grow. We had a wonderful representation from participants, booth attendants, sponsors, staff members and student scholarship winners. The College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (CASNR) presented three full scholarships for UNL students, and ten partial scholarships for other community colleges and high school students. We also had an additional six community college students attend the conference. Some of our top sponsors included Farm Credit Services of America, Reinke Manufacturing Company, Inc., Nebraska Farm Bureau and the USDA/Nebraska Farm Service Agency. The success of the WIA Conference is due to our 26 sponsors and 21 booths, which provided much needed support and great resources for the participants at the conference.

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Participants listened to keynote speakers, attended a variety of workshop sessions and socialized with the other women. There were several speakers featured throughout the conference that everyone had the opportunity to listen to. Michele Payn-Knoper, Cause Matters, Corp., kicked-off the conference with an enthusiastic look at the agriculture industry, our need to celebrate it and to celebrate our role. The need to share with others their passion for agriculture and the use of social media tools to help them get a positive message out to many people was part of her advice to the participants.

Michele Payn-Knoper, Cause Matters, Corp. Keynote Speaker

Jo Bek, Professor, Nebraska College of Technical Agricultural

Nebraska Pride Chorus - Thursday evening entertainment

Some very special participants joined us for the evening to celebrate our 25 years of Women in Agriculture Conferences. Doug Jose (Professor, UNL) initiated conversations and acted as moderator for the night's events. R. LaDene Rutt, a rancher from Chappell, Nebraska who has attended each of the 25 conferences, shared what the conferences have meant to her over the years. She spoke of her passion for agriculture and how WIA has kept her "in the know."

Next, Jane Green from Sutton, Nebraska (who along with Deb Rood was one of the founders of WIA), walked the group through the idea, initiation and the formulation of WIA. She was also able to talk about how things have changed in the last 25 years since the conference was started. We then took the opportunity to look ahead with Jill Brown, Career Specialist for CASNR. She worked with current speakers to identify what they might be talking about in another 25 years. These three women were a great example of how one conference can connect so many people from across the state.

For our Thursday night dinner entertainment the group was serenaded by the Nebraska Pride Chorus. This dynamic chorus, made up of ladies from across Nebraska, performed a variety of music from several genres. Friday, our final day, began with Jo Bek, Professor in Animal Science at the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture. She kept the audience laughing with stories of her experiences as a strong female in agriculture. For our final sendoff, Yvonne Hollenbeck, cowgirl poet from Clearfield, South Dakota, shared poetry that she wrote regarding her life as a Sandhills rancher. It was a great way to end the conference!

The WIA Conference hosted 38 workshops (including seven that were repeated), to address new issues, refine old practices and create networking opportunities for the participants. The variety of workshop topics ranged from calving issues to resources for business growth, and from financials to communication. Some of the workshops attracting the highest attendance included "Championing Agriculture" by Michele Payn-Knoper; "Managing and Sharing Photos Online" by Dennis Kahl and Dewey Teel; "Stress Control" by Gail Brand; "Estate Planning" by Joe Hawbaker; "Building a Legacy" by Kathy Koch; and "Advocate for Agriculture" by Lisa Brass. Some of the topics spurred the participants to be proactive in their thinking about their operations. From the information currently analyzed, 95 percent of the women noted that the workshops at WIA were relevant and timely.

Ninety-one percent of women indicated that their confidence increased by using the content learned in

the workshops. An increase in knowledge from the different workshops was reported by 86 percent of the women. A Colfax County woman said that as a result of one of the workshops she would work on "computerizing my farm books - I have been putting it off and Peg made it look do-able."

Jana Kruger, "Hostess with the Mostest" during an evening FunShop

The conference is designed to provide useful information to participants. They are encouraged to use their newly gained knowledge and skills and incorporate it into their farming operation. One participant from Adams County said that business and financial management changes she plans to make in the next year include, "Better tax management, I am already confident in my accounting. Get more involved in agronomy on the farm. Also, gained a few new ideas in motivating an unmotivated employee." One lifestyle change a participant from Franklin County will make over the next year is "Support agriculture with social networking and better promote the wonderful life we live in rural Nebraska."

We look at the Women In Agriculture Conference as more than just a conference, but a tool to educate and empower our participants. You can start planning for next year's conference, to be held February 17 and 18, 2011.

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Congratulations on 25 Years, Women In Agriculture!