CORNHUSKER ECONOMICS

University of Nebraska–Lincoln Extension

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Department of Agricultural Economics
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North Central Risk Management Education Center

Market Report	Yr Ago	4 Wks Ago	5/15/09
Livestock and Products, Weekly Average			
Nebraska Slaughter Steers, 35-65% Choice, Live Weight	$93.47	$88.77	$84.58
Nebraska Feeder Steers, Med. & Large Frame, 550-600 lb.	131.73	117.44	127.16
Nebraska Feeder Steers, Med. & Large Frame 750-800 lb.	110.31	100.88	99.70
Choice Boxed Beef, 600-750 lb. Carcass	156.66	145.37	146.14
Western Corn Belt Base Hog Price Carcass, Negotiated	79.05	59.20	63.63
Feeder Pigs, National Direct 50 lbs, FOB	40.26	65.17	61.00
Pork Carcass Cutout, 185 lb. Carcass, 51-52% Lean	81.66	60.94	60.66
Slaughter Lambs, Ch. & Pr., Heavy, Wooled, South Dakota, Direct	*	92.00	105.00
National Carcass Lamb Cutout, FOB	254.62	249.27	246.06
Crops, Daily Spot Prices			
Wheat, No. 1, H.W. Imperial, bu.	7.71	4.92	5.50
Corn, No. 2, Yellow Omaha, bu.	5.53	3.67	4.00
Soybeans, No. 1, Yellow Omaha, bu.	12.94	10.28	11.29
Grain Sorghum, No. 2, Yellow Dorchester, cwt.	9.37	5.50	6.16
Oats, No. 2, Heavy Minneapolis, MN , bu.	3.96	1.86	2.28
Feed			
Alfalfa, Large Square Bales, Good to Premium, RFV 160-185 Northeast Nebraska, ton.	*	190.00	*
Alfalfa, Large Rounds, Good Platte Valley, ton.	77.50	77.50	*
Grass Hay, Large Rounds, Premium Nebraska, ton.	85.00	85.00	*
Dried Distillers Grains, 10% Moisture, Nebraska Average.	182.50	130.00	145.00
Wet Distillers Grains, 65-70% Moisture, Nebraska Average.	67.00	49.00	53.25

***No Market**

The North Central Risk Management Education Center has been providing program coordination for extension risk management education in the North Central Region since 2001. During this time, nearly five million dollars has been awarded to public, private and non-profit entities to carry out producer-focused, results-based risk management education programs. The North Central Region includes Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin.

The Center, hosted by the University of Nebraska Agricultural Economics Department, is one of four risk management education centers in the country. The other three are located at the University of Delaware, Texas A&M University and Washington State University. Each Center runs autonomously through their own institution, which enables them to support agricultural programming unique to their own region. The mission of the North Central Center is to provide producers in the North Central Region with the training needed to select the risk management strategies that will achieve their business and family goals, and the tools to take action on those strategies.

Funding decisions are made by the Center Advisory Council, composed of eight individuals involved in agricultural lending, insurance, marketing, extension and production, all within the North Central Region. When considering a proposal for funding, the Advisory Council looks to see that, in addition to meeting at least one of the five areas of risk management: production, marketing, financial, human and legal (Baquet, Hambleton and Jose, 1997), each project also addresses six other criteria: results, verification, participation, collaboration, creativity and applicability. Applicants are encouraged to consider projects that focus on special-emphasis programming,

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such as beginning or transitioning farmers, immigrant or minority farmers, women's education and sustainable or value-added agriculture.

This year, 93 pre-proposals were submitted through the on-line application process. Of this group, 43 were asked to submit a full-proposal. In April 2009, the Advisory Council awarded nearly $700,000 to 24 project directors. In addition, for the first time Special Emphasis Challenge Grants for $3,000 each were awarded. Project directors will use the funds to research and assess the value of a future Risk Management Education (RME) program, in the hope that they will apply for a competitive grant in 2010.

Past and Future Center Activities

Center staff members recently completed a series of focus group meetings in all 12 states in the region to see what risk management education needs exist. Participants consisted of producers, lenders, insurance agents and extension personnel. Labor issues, transition and estate planning and marketing in volatile times were items most frequently mentioned. During the Request for Applications phase each fall, North Central Center staff members hold a webinar for anyone interested in submitting a pre-proposal. Participants learn what makes a good risk management project and proposal, the criteria for proposal evaluation and how to use the on-line application site. Project directors have indicated that this training has proven very valuable for them as they look at potential project topics and then put their pre-proposal together.

Each summer the North Central RME Center holds a workshop for new project directors to provide them with the building blocks to deliver successful projects and achieve results. Previous workshops have included topics such as Risk Management and Collaboration, Personality Types and Learning Styles, Successful Evaluations, and Expanding and Compounding Your Programming Efforts. The 2009 Summer Workshop will be held in Minneapolis in August.

Together with the other Regional Centers and the Digital Center located at the University of Minnesota, the North Central RME Center co-hosts the National Risk Management Education Conference and the National Women in Agriculture Conference, each one held in alternating years. In 2009, the National Risk Management Education Conference was located in Reno, Nevada, with over 150 participants attending. The 2010 National Women in Agriculture Conference will be held in Baltimore, Maryland next March.

In response to a changing agricultural economy, a National Farm Financial Management Train-the-Trainer Workshop will be held in Omaha in early June 2009. Sponsored by all four RME Centers, the North Central Center and the UNL Department of Agricultural Economics are taking the lead. Participants were recommended by their state Extension Program Leader or the Director of their Regional Risk Management Education Center. Proposed results of the workshop include the participant's ability to organize and carry-out a statewide plan to provide financial and related counseling services to farm families as needed.

The North Central Risk Management Education Center funding is allocated through CSREES (Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service). More information can be found at www.ncrme.org.

The NCRME Center Staff include: Doug Jose, Director; Dave Goeller, Assistant Director; Alissa Haines, Grants Coordinator; and Cheryl Griffith, Publicity and Promotion.

References:

Baquet, Alan, Ruth Hambleton and Doug Jose. Introduction to Risk Management – Understanding Agricultural Risk. Risk Management Agency, USDA, 1997.

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