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CC302 Fact Sheet

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NEBRASKA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE



FACT SHEET

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Citizens of Nebraska:

We have prepared this fact sheet to give you a better understanding of the purpose, organization, and activities of the Nebraska Cooperative Extension Service. I am proud of the quality educational programs our staff deliver across the state, and I particularly appreciate the efforts of the several thousand volunteers who are a part of our Extension team.

We welcome and encourage your participation and input in the program, and invite you to become better acquainted and involved with your Cooperative Extension Service.

Leo E. Lucas
Dean and Director

PURPOSE

The Nebraska Cooperative Extension Service provides continuing education programs for Nebraskans in communities where they live. These programs, based on research and study, are designed to develop skills which will help people:

- produce and market high quality food more efficiently.
- conserve and use natural resources effectively.
- raise the quality of living through wise resource management.
- develop as individuals and as members of families and communities.
- develop leadership abilities.

AUTHORIZATION

Congress, with the 1914 Smith-Lever Act, established the Cooperative Extension Service as the arm of the land-grant college system to provide educational programs in agriculture, home economics, and related subjects for persons not enrolled in a land-grant college. Working relationships and operational guidelines are defined in a memorandum of understanding agreed upon and signed by University of Nebraska Board of Regents and the Secretary, United States Department of Agriculture.

The Nebraska Legislature, in 1915, authorized Extension work to be carried on in the counties in cooperation with the University of Nebraska and the United States

Department of Agriculture in accordance with provisions of the law and a memorandum agreed upon by the State Director of Extension, for the University of Nebraska, and the cooperating County Extension Board.

FUNDING

Federal funds are appropriated and distributed to states on a formula basis to support Extension work as specified in federal law or as earmarked to meet special needs of national concern.

State general funds in support of Cooperative Extension Service as specified in state and federal legislation are appropriated annually by the the Legislature as a part of the University of Nebraska budget.

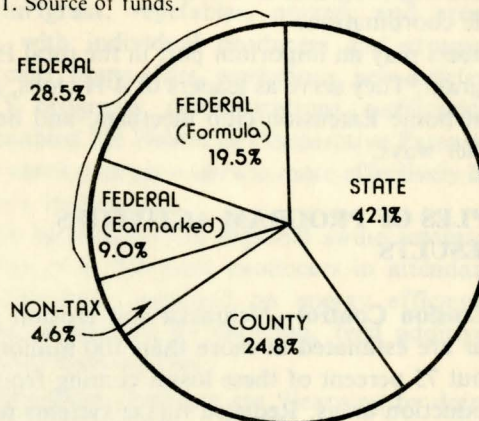
County tax funds are appropriated annually by the County Board of Supervisors in accordance with Nebraska statutes. The County Extension Board submits the budget to county supervisors and is responsible for administering the funds appropriated in accordance with the memorandum of agreement between the county and the Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of Nebraska.

Non-tax funds include grants from business and industry.

SOURCE OF FUNDS

Figure 1 represents the percentage distribution of the 1981-82 Nebraska Cooperative Extension Service budget. Total revenue from all sources was \$15,178,563

Figure 1. Source of funds.



Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Leo E. Lucas, Director of Cooperative Extension Service, University of Nebraska, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

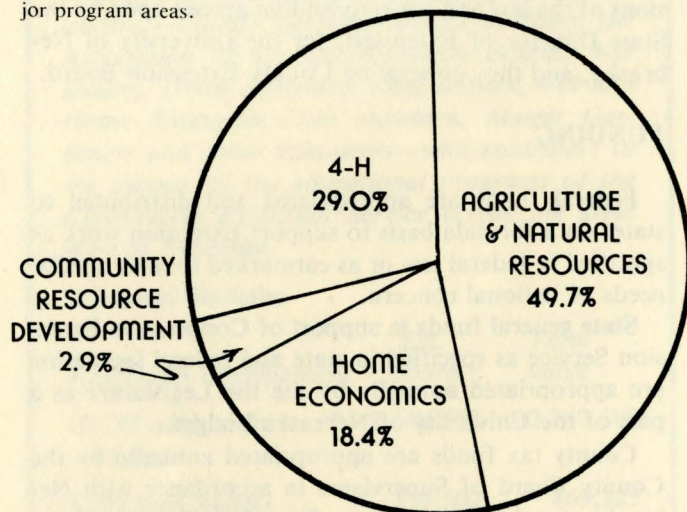
THE EXTENSION PROGRAM

Programs of the Nebraska Cooperative Extension Service focus on high priority needs and problems in four major areas (Figure 2).

Area

- Agriculture and Natural Resources
- Home Economics/Family Living
- 4-H/Youth Development
- Community Resource Development

Figure 2. Distribution of professional staff resources among four major program areas.



Extension agents and specialists, members of the faculty of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, are employed to conduct the program. Extension assistants and aides are also employed to help with specific programs.

Extension programs are available to all citizens. Primary audiences served include: farmers, ranchers, agricultural businesses, public and private organizations, community leaders, families, homemakers, and youth. Programs are determined and planned by Extension agents in each county in cooperation with the County Extension Board, and other local groups and individuals. Extension specialists help agents in planning and conducting programs and help provide district and state-wide coordination.

Volunteers play an important part in the total Extension program. They serve as leaders of 4-H clubs, teach lessons at home Extension club meetings, and help in many other ways.

EXAMPLES OF PROGRAM ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

Soil Erosion Control—Nebraska soil erosion losses each year are estimated at more than 100 million tons with about 75 percent of these losses coming from row crop production areas. Reduced tillage systems recommended by Extension continue to grow in terms of producer interest and adoption in Nebraska. In the past

four years, acreage utilizing conservation tillage methods has increased almost 20 percent. No-till acreage has increased 30% and eco-fallow acreage has increased four-fold in the same time period.

Beef Management—Thirty five of Nebraska's County Extension offices were involved in emphasizing a program of weaning more calves. Extension specialists and agents continue to utilize AGNET computer programs to help livestock producers with management decisions. Other programs include managing calving difficulty, controlling diseases, increasing conception rates, and improving herd health.

Building Family Strengths—A Cooperative Extension Service program included four area conferences attended by more than 800 persons, and a newsletter reaching 11,000 homes during 1982. More than 50 percent of the conference participants indicated some attitude or behavior change with their family following the conference.

Dollars and Decisions—Programs or workshops on various aspects of consumer affairs were presented for groups in 25 locations. One Sandhills homemaker commented, "I wish I had known about these work-at-home schemes—we just lost \$40 on one—but never again."

4-H Awareness Team—Twenty teenage 4-H'ers tell the 4-H story throughout Nebraska as members of the 4-H Awareness Team. Team members use skills learned during a 3-day training conference to represent 4-H to government officials, community decision-makers, civic organizations, younger 4-H'ers, and other teenagers. Last year 5,400 contacts were made by these 4-H'ers.

Microcomputers—There is substantial interest by farmers in using microcomputers in managing the farm business. The Cooperative Extension Service held about 25 meetings on microcomputers last year. Program participants included farmers, ranchers, homemakers, teachers, bankers, and 4-H members.

Farm Accident Victim Extrication Procedures—Nebraska has 11,500 emergency medical technicians who have received training relative to farm accidents developed and presented by the Cooperative Extension Service. Results of the program have been outstanding. Statistics indicate a reduction in farm injuries and fatalities.

Health Education—Programs to motivate people to improve and maintain individual and community health were conducted with the help of 78 University of Nebraska Medical Center personnel, 27 Nebraska physicians, and many other Nebraska agencies. Helen Becker Health Conferences, Stress Workshops, County Health Fairs, and other health programs sponsored by the Nebraska Cooperative Extension Service during 1982, were attended by over 14,000 people.

Agriculture Production and Marketing Television Program—"Farm and Ranch Report," a weekly television series started in May 1982, provides the agricultural producer in Nebraska with current production and

marketing information. This program, aired on the Nebraska Educational Television Network, has a magazine format which permits coverage of a variety of current topics.

Irrigation—Pilot irrigation management projects show that 35 percent of the energy and water can be saved by irrigation scheduling and efficient water management. About 1/3 of Nebraska's irrigated acres use a scheduling procedure. Irrigation scheduling by Nebraska farmers and ranchers saved 16.8 million inches of water and \$52 million in energy last year.

Clothing Construction—Blazer and tailoring workshops in 18 counties drew 932 participants in the 40 classes conducted. Surveys after these workshops showed that participants saved from \$30 to \$100 on each jacket made, with an average saving of \$50. With each participant making one jacket, these 932 persons saved \$37,280. Evaluations showed that several persons had already completed more than one jacket and many had plans to make additional garments.

4-H FACTS AND FIGURES

The "facts and figures" below summarize the current 4-H participation from county 4-H enrollment reports. The 1982 enrollment is the fourth highest in Nebraska 4-H history, with 63,896 boys and girls participating.

Type of Participation	1982
Organized 4-H clubs	29,459
Special interest programs	2,793
School enrichment programs	36,644
Individual study	1,184
Instructional TV series	1,561
By Sex	
Number of boys enrolled	27,649
Number of girls enrolled	36,247
By Age	
Pre-teens, 9-11 years	51.6%
Early teens, 12-14 years	34.0%
Middle and upper teens, 15-19 years	14.4%
By Residence	
Farm	31.9%
Rural and towns under 10,000	24.9%
Cities, 10,000-50,000	15.3%
Cities, 50,000 +	27.9%
Percent of Nebraska youth 9-19 years in 4-H	22.9%
Number of organized 4-H clubs	2,495
Number of special interest groups and school enrichment groups	1,337

EFNEP—Improving nutrition practices is the focus of the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP). Low income families and youth participate. During 1982, 1,620 families and 2,208 youth were enrolled.

County 4-H Council Training—Five meetings for 4-H Council members were held in each of the Extension districts in 1982. The 4-H Council is charged with planning and management decisions which affect the 4-H and Youth Development program in each county.

Planning and management decisions affect hundreds of 4-H participants each year. The 4-H Council meetings provide opportunity for county level leadership to become acquainted with their counterparts in neighboring counties, to be updated on current 4-H programs, and to share ideas and viewpoints.

Waste Management Resources—Cooperative Extension Service programs emphasizing recycling of animal, municipal, and industrial wastes by composting solids and irrigating with wastewater resulted in saving \$160,000 for one poultry producer and more than \$1 million for two large slaughter-houses in Nebraska during 1982. Galvanizing plants were also shown how to make fertilizers from spent acids classified as hazardous wastes by the Environmental Protection Agency.

Agricultural Marketing Days—Multi-county marketing conferences were held around the state in 1982. Participating producers indicated increased understanding in the changing market environment, local price patterns and pricing opportunities, and development of marketing plans that would aid them in evaluating different pricing alternatives.

Weather Impact—The Ag-Climate Situation Committee of the Nebraska Cooperative Extension Service met weekly during the growing season and issued advisories on weather impact on crop and livestock management decisions. This committee was challenged by many weather developments, but responded quickly to Extension agents via AGNET and to the public by mass media.

Horticulture—Commercial horticulture programs have been conducted on edible dry beans, fruits and nuts, turfgrass, vegetables, nursery and greenhouse plants, with individual producers and groups. Telephone calls, home visits, workshops, new articles, radio and TV programs, demonstrations, publications and tours enabled the Nebraska Cooperative Extension Service to reach a larger audience more effectively last year than ever before.

Swine Seminars—Ten regional swine seminars were held with over 500 pork producers in attendance last year. Specialists reported on energy efficient swine housing, economics of nutrition, feed additives, and control of pseudorabies.

4-H Projects—Projects are "learning by doing" experiences for youth. Four-H members average 2.67 projects per member annually. Some 36,322 gained experi-

SALUTE TO VOLUNTEERS

The Cooperative Extension Service was recognized by the following proclamation signed by Governor Bob Kerrey on January 18, 1983:

I, Governor Robert Kerrey, do hereby proclaim this, the third week of January 1983, as Nebraska Cooperative Extension Service Week. This week is dedicated to the Extension staff and volunteer leaders,—County Extension Board members, the Association of County Extension Boards, 4-H leaders, Home Extension Club leaders, 4-H and Home Extension Club members, Master Gardeners and other volunteers—who contribute to the success of the educational programs of the Cooperative Extension Service across the great state of Nebraska.

Volunteer Statistics

	Est. hours	Total value
<i>4-H Youth Development</i>		
10,198 adult club leaders	2,549,500	12,747,500
2,595 teen leaders	259,500	869,325
2,432 other leaders (supplies)	72,960	364,800 2,039,600
<i>Home Extension Clubs</i>		
7,456 lesson leaders (supplies)	178,944	894,720 59,648
<i>Extension Boards</i>		
960 members	72,000	360,000
<i>Ag, CRD and Home Ec</i>		
4,983 planning committee members	49,830	249,150
1,005 adult leaders (other)	15,150	75,750
<i>Total</i>		
29,629 volunteers	3,197,884	17,660,493

ence in animal programs; 10,119 in plants and soils; 14,913 in energy, machines and engineering; 10,412 in health and safety; 577 in areas of economics, jobs and careers; 12,718 in community development, service and government; 11,171 in leisure education and cultural arts and understanding; 51,970 in individual and family resources, management, consumer education, clothing, EFNEP and nutrition; and 6,060 in communication.

Dairy Herd Health—One of the most innovative Extension efforts conducted in recent years in Nebraska is the Herd Health (Mastitis Control) Program. Mastitis is the most significant dairy problem in Nebraska, costing dairymen about \$20 million per year. The Extension

REACHING OUT

Teaching methods used by Extension staff include a variety of informational educational techniques. During the 1982 program year, staff:

- presented information at 21,724 public educational meetings and workshops.
- conducted 3,312 training meetings for volunteer leaders.
- made 13,780 presentations for radio and 1,563 television appearances.
- wrote 20,092 news articles.
- prepared 8,908 items for newsletters.
- authored 129 Extension publications containing information needed by farmers, ranchers, homemakers, homeowners, businessmen and youth.
- assisted adults and youth through more than 1.7 million personal contacts involving public meetings, office calls, telephone calls, personal letters and visits to the home or place of business.

Mastitis Control Project is saving 1,200 dairymen more than \$1 million annually.

Community Crime Prevention—Educational materials and programs on crime prevention have been developed by the Cooperative Extension Service to help Nebraskans prevent some of the annual \$10 million property losses that result from larceny, burglary and theft.

Crop Pests—Crop protection clinics attract larger audiences each year. Average attendance was 188 at each of 14 meetings last year with a total attendance of 2,625. This interdisciplinary approach has been well received by farmers and agribusiness. Many other Extension programs are conducted each year on various aspects of pest control.

Grain Storage—Nebraska farmers have more than 1 billion bushels of on-farm grain storage capacity, more than 22 percent of all grain in the federal reserve program. Extension programs have been developed identifying proper management practices to maintain grain quality in marketable condition.

Food Preservation—Programs in 39 counties reached more than 1,200 consumers, and 2,200 persons were taught safe preservation techniques through Home Extension Clubs (an estimated savings of \$170,000 based on a \$50 saving per family).

Livestock Housing—Through improved construction techniques and increases in use of insulation, more than 5,500 livestock producers were shown how construction heat losses can be reduced by 10-15 percent. Numerous reports have been received of decreased health problems, improved growth, decreased mastitis, and lower operating costs as a result of the installation of better quality ventilation equipment and improved maintenance procedures.