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Cooperative Extension

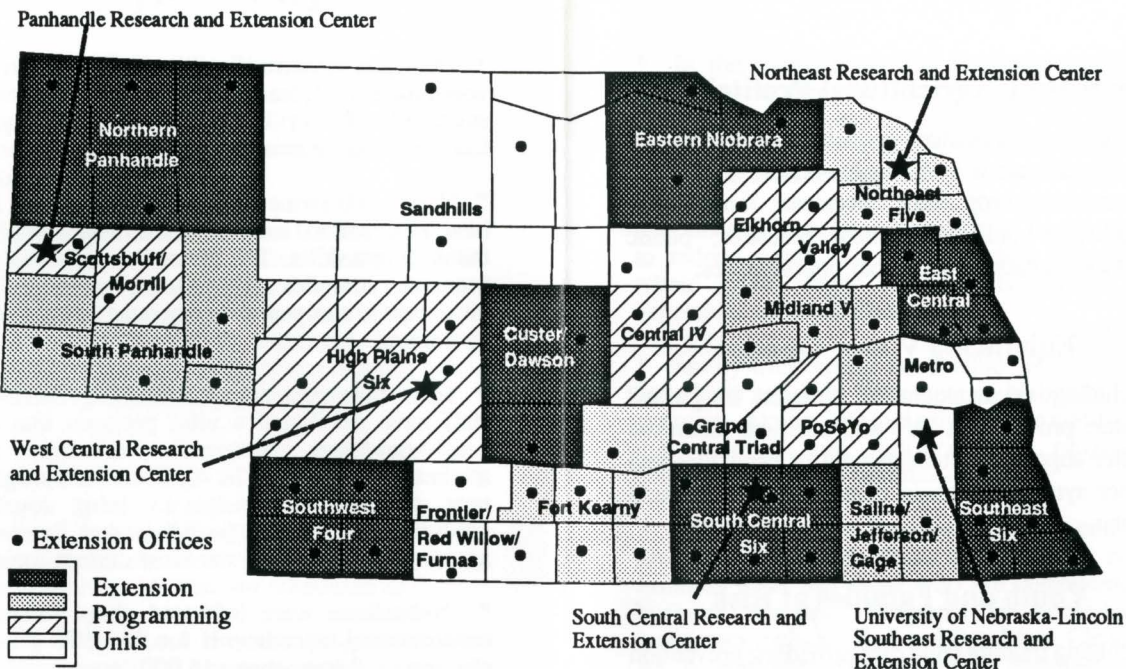
*The
Facts*

1991-92

Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources
University of Nebraska-Lincoln



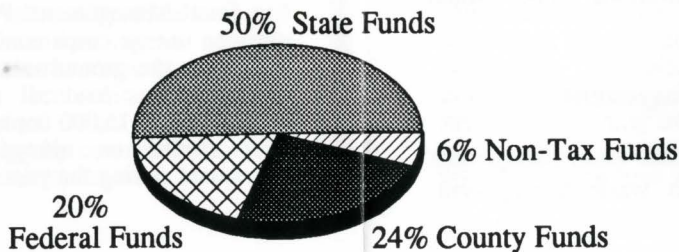
The Location



There are 21 multi-county Extension Programming Units (EPUs). The EPU concept enables our faculty to function more as educators with greater depth in subject matter expertise. A number of EPUs have increased their programming and cost-effectiveness through restructuring staff arrangements. Some units have combined their funding operations and merged Extension Boards into one local decision-making body. Extension staff in the field are proactive in responding to the critical clientele issues.

The Partnership

Cooperative Extension is a partnership of three levels of government -- local, state and federal. The sources of funding for the 1991-92 budget of the Cooperative Extension Division, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of Nebraska-Lincoln are shown below.



The Priorities

Increasing Agricultural Profitability

including sustainable agriculture; development and utilization of value-added products; alternative crop and livestock enterprises; marketing and management practices; public policy education and global opportunities.

Enhancing Water Quality

including management of nitrogen in ground water; providing a safe and adequate domestic water supply and management of pesticides and other synthetic organic contaminants in ground water.

Youth and Families at Risk

including training child care providers; prevention of family violence/abuse; parent empowerment and positive caring; youth advocacy; youth outreach; youth personal development and healthy lifestyle practices for youth.

Food Safety and Quality

including proper handling of foods; safe use of pesticides and antibiotics used in food production and risk communication.

Revitalizing Rural Communities

including community/economic development, planning and action; small-scale entrepreneurship and community organizational and youth leadership training.

Waste Management

including residential/domestic waste management and solid and hazardous waste management, planning and action.

The Impact

* The Landowners Satellite Videoconference was broadcast from Lincoln to 23 sites in the state, 52 sites in Iowa, and as far away as California and Arizona.

* Nearly 200 swine producers are involved in a new program to increase their marketing and management skills. The Swine Records Analysis program compiles semi-annual averages for producers to compare their operation with similar operations.

* Farm management and marketing Extension staff have developed a pilot program that can help producers integrate production and marketing decisions. The Ag Econ Cafe program uses a telephone bridge to bring together producers, Extension specialists and Extension agents in discussion of the most current topics.

* Nebraskans were informed about proposed constitutional amendments for the 1990 general election. More than 15,000 copies of an Extension publication explaining the amendments were distributed. Twenty public meetings were held. Media sources were widely employed to extend information.

* Demonstrations at 30 field sites showed agricultural producers and agribusiness representatives how to better manage irrigation and nitrogen application through the Mid-Nebraska Water Quality Demonstration and Platte Valley Nitrogen Management projects.

* The Domestic Water Quality educational program was instrumental in 132 staff making 32,140 direct clientele contacts. Twelve targeted testing educational programs were presented with over 360 private water supplies tested.

* Best Management Practices (BMPs) for nitrogen use on crops continue to be the central theme for the groundwater nitrate team. Field demonstrations lead all activities to produce change. Over 15,000 copies of three NebGuides (fact sheets) on nitrogen-BMPs have been distributed during the past two years.

The Impact

* The 4-H School Enrichment Project "Water Riches" was used with at least 8,500 participants. About 50 groundwater flow demonstration models have been supplied and are used in K-12 schools in the state.

* Seven Sprayer Calibration Clinics were held for 137 applicators. In Butler County, 250,000 acres of cropland were treated by the calibrated sprayers. A five percent improvement in accuracy resulted in an estimated savings of \$125,000 in agri-chemicals plus a reduced risk of groundwater contamination.

* Since 1987 conferences cosponsored by Cooperative Extension and state and community agencies have reached nearly 1900 day care providers, nursery school teachers and others who are responsible for the care of preschool children. Conferences at 14 sites are scheduled in 1991.

* The Nebraska 4-H youth program reaches more than 83,000 young people between the ages of 9 and 19. Four-H helps youth acquire knowledge, develop life skills and strengthen the values that enable them to become increasingly self-directive, productive, and contributing citizens. Almost 10,000 adults volunteer time and contribute resources to the 4-H program.

* A grant from Extension Service/USDA will facilitate focusing on rural Nebraska young people who face the multiple risks of isolation, inadequate school-aged child care, alcohol abuse and teen pregnancy. Through a collaborative effort initiated and led by Cooperative Extension, 3,000 youth between the ages of five and 14 will plan and implement purposeful, contributory activities during their scheduled school release days in the "13 Days - 13 Kids" team program.

* In Northwest Nebraska, with stimulation and guidance from an Extension Agent, a needs assessment in the Gordon community identified these priority needs: economic development, improved availability of rental housing, and enhanced forward vision by community leaders, and recreation opportunities for teens and young adults.

The Impact

* In the Metro Extension Programming Unit (Douglas, Lancaster, Sarpy and Saunders Counties) participants in the Eating a la Health series gave thumbs-up approval to the program. With nearly three-fourths of 240 evaluations returned, it was evident that the program was instrumental in helping participants design ways to reduce sugar, salt and fat while increasing whole grain breads and cereals, fruits, and vegetables to boost fiber intake.

* Family Community Leadership (FCL) Teams have been active in 70 percent of Nebraska's 93 counties. Almost 300 individuals have completed the training and fulfilled the program's community service commitments.

* Getting Down to Business provides one-day programs for entrepreneurs with existing small business units and those who are considering a business start-up. Programs for home-based businesses include: Bed and Breakfast, Cleaning As A Business, Sewing As A Business, and Crafts Marketing. These programs have been delivered across the state with a total of 297 participants.

* Extension's Public Policy Education programs have focused on widespread interest and concern over expected changes in EPA regulations governing solid waste disposal. A Satellite video conference for elected officials and decision makers was downlinked in more than 20 locations across the state. A "Question and Answer" Fact Sheet was completed based on questions from viewers in the satellite video conference. More than 1,000 copies have been distributed to public officials and other citizens throughout the state.

* In Hall County, Extension Agents have provided technical and educational support of the "Don't Bag It" program to divert yard waste from the landfill. They also are actively involved in an effort to dispose of livestock paunch manure through composting and feeding to livestock, and in providing instruction on ways to reduce household hazardous waste.

The Mission

The University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension has a proud and vital heritage. The mission of the University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension is to help Nebraskans address issues and needs related to their economic, social and environmental well-being through educational programs based upon scientific knowledge.

To effectively carry out this mission, the following factors are critical:

- * Competent staff
- * Involvement of clientele in program determination
- * Comprehensive and effective program planning, marketing and delivery
- * Programming which is responsive to environmental issues
- * Effective use of communication technology
- * Sufficient funding (local, state, federal)

*Kenneth R. Bolen, Dean and Director
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