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## CC302 Revised March 1982 Fact Sheet

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# NEBRASKA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE



## FACT SHEET

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### 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 Legislature as a part of the University of Nebraska budget.

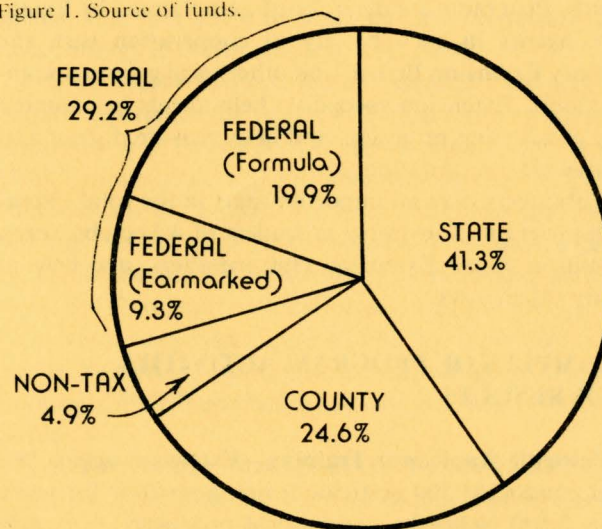
**County** tax funds are appropriated annually by the County Board of Supervisors in accordance with Nebraska statutes. The County Extension Board submits the budget to county supervisors and is responsible for administering the funds appropriated in accordance with the memorandum of agreement between 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 1980-81 Nebraska Cooperative Extension Service budget. Total revenue from all sources was \$13,931,640.

Figure 1. Source of funds.



### THE EXTENSION PROGRAM

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

#### Area

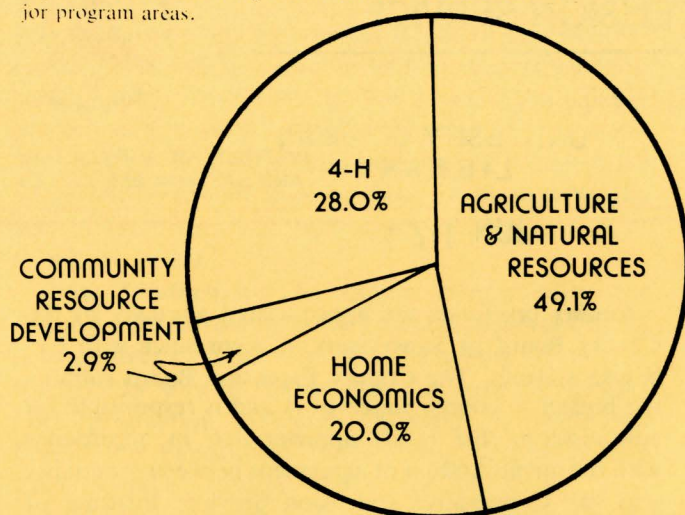
- Agriculture and Natural Resources
- Home Economics/Family Living
- 4-H/Youth Development
- Community Resource Development

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 Cooperative Extension Service provides information and educational programs to all people without regard to race, color or national origin.



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

**Pesticide Applicator Training**—Extension agents last year conducted 500 pesticide training sessions for more than 2,500 Nebraska agricultural producers. Program evaluation indicated that 83 percent of those surveyed considered the training worthwhile and indicated a major impact in changes made by applicators in calibration, storage and use of safety equipment.

**Backyard Farmer TV Program**—The Nebraska Educational Television Network reports the 29-year-old Backyard Farmer TV program is the longest running and most popular on their network. This program, viewed in 32,000 homes each week, received more than 4,300 telephone calls and 1,500 letters last year.

**Dollars and Decisions**—These events are designed to help individuals and families develop strategies for living in inflationary times. Local planning committees de-

termine the “mix” of information presented through exhibits, displays, demonstrations, and consultants. Subjects include energy conservation, financial planning, sewing for children, increasing buying skills, investments, packaging and labeling, fraudulent practices, and AGNET computer programs such as MONEY-CHECK and HOUSE.

**EFNEP**—This program to help low income families improve their diets operates in Omaha, Lincoln, Beatrice, Fremont, Grand Island, and Columbus. Unlike other federally financed programs, the Expanded Food and Nutrition Program provides no giveaways. Nutrition aides work with homemakers and youth teaching food selection for nutrient content, safe storage of food, menu planning, and preparation. Gardening and food preservation are other ways families are encouraged to increase and extend their food supply.

**4-H Awareness Team**—Twenty teenage 4-H members serve as spokespersons for the Nebraska 4-H program and the Cooperative Extension Service, UNL. Representing all five of Nebraska’s Cooperative Extension Service districts, team members make presentations to city, county and state officials, 4-H councils, civic and service organizations, and other community decision makers, as well as other young people.

**Management for Profit**—Rural business owners recognize that their security is directly linked to a strong agricultural base, and have looked to Extension for help. This program, aimed at the small business owner, was based on identified problems unique to the retail/service mainstreet business owner. Four workshops were developed during the first year: Shoplifting—America’s Fastest Growing Crime; White Collar Crime; Cash Flow Management; and Burglary—Are You a Burglar’s Target?

**Ecofallow**—The ecofallow concept of soil and water conservation continues to increase in popularity in southwestern Nebraska. Extension agents report that farmers are increasing grain yields by as much as 30 bushels per acre through better moisture conservation, reducing fuel consumption, reducing wind and water erosion, and reducing labor requirements. Some counties have increased acreage of ecofallow ten-fold in four years.

**Livestock Housing**—The cost-price squeeze on livestock production and increased energy costs are bringing more questions relative to livestock housing efficiency. More than 3,000 producers heard Extension specialists report that heat losses could be reduced 10-15 percent through improved construction techniques and the proper use of insulation. Following recommended ventilation procedures can decrease health problems, improve productivity, and lower operating costs.

**Home Sewing**—This practice can make the clothing dollar go farther. But, the sewing machine must function properly. Sewing machine repair workshops conducted by Extension staff enable home sewers to save \$14-20 by reconditioning their own equipment. Other



workshops by Extension specialists and/or agents focus on clothing construction skills. Six months after participating in a workshop, 23 participants said they had sewn 147 infants and toddlers garments for 31 children and saved \$499 over comparable ready mades.

**Family Health Conferences**—The annual Helen Becker Family Health Conferences, jointly sponsored by the University of Nebraska Medical Center and the Cooperative Extension Service, highlight current health issues and encourage participants to take more responsibility for their own state of wellness.

#### 4-H FACTS AND FIGURES

The "facts and figures" from county 4-H enrollment reports reflect growth in many areas. Enrollment for the past year was the fourth highest in Nebraska history. Increase continued in special interest programs and urban areas, but an upswing was also noted in organized 4-H clubs, enrollment of farm youth, and the number of adult 4-H volunteer leaders.

| Type of Program                         | 1981         |
|---|--------------|
| Enrollment in organized 4-H clubs       | 29,849       |
| Enrollment in special interest programs | 30,867       |
| Enrollment in TV instructional series   | 762          |
| Enrollment in EFNEP programs            | 2,281        |
|   | <hr/> 63,759 |

| By Sex           |        |
|------------------|--------|
| Number of boys   | 27,850 |
| Percent of boys  | 43.7%  |
| Number of girls  | 35,909 |
| Percent of girls | 56.3%  |

| By Age                            |       |
|-----------------------------------|-------|
| Pre-teens, 9-11 years             | 52.3% |
| Early teens, 12-14 years          | 32.5% |
| Middle & upper teens, 15-19 years | 15.2% |

| By Residence               |       |
|----------------------------|-------|
| Farm                       | 34%   |
| Rural & towns under 10,000 | 26.5% |
| Cities 10,000 to 50,000    | 12.8% |
| Cities over 50,000         | 26.7% |

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| The average age of 4-H participants         | 11.8  |
| Percent of Nebraska youth 9-19 years in 4-H | 22.1% |
| Number of organized 4-H clubs               | 2,596 |
| Number of special interest groups           | 1,074 |
| Number of adult 4-H volunteer leaders       | 9,224 |

**Volunteer 4-H Leaders**—The 11,714 volunteer 4-H leaders perform many roles. The volunteer leader is a behavior model, an important "significant other" who helps young people through the crucial stages of development as they become adults. The average volunteer in 4-H contributes more than 300 hours per year. For every hour spent on 4-H by a professional Extension worker, volunteers spend 10 hours. A contribution of 3,514,200 hours at \$5/hour is a \$17,571,000 investment serving youth needs in informational education.

**Wastes as Resources**—Programs on management of animal, municipal, and industrial wastes have involved communities all across the state. Recycling in agricultural soils, composting technology, land application of composts, organic solids and slurry wastes, and wastewaters are all part of this program.

**Fertilizer Efficiency**—Knowledge gained through soil schools and other Extension activities is resulting in savings in individual fertilizer costs. Producers report savings of \$15 to \$41 per acre without lowering the grain yield.

**Managing Windows for Energy Efficiency**—More heat is lost through doors and windows than any other part of a building. Homeowners and renters seeking ways to conserve energy, beyond insulation and weatherization, find window treatments a reasonable alternative. Publications, a slide/tape presentation, and exhibits of actual windows have been used by Extension agents and specialists in teaching how to select/construct energy efficient window treatments.

**4-H Projects**—Projects are an essential "learning by doing" experience for youth. 4-H members average participation in 2.3 projects per member annually. Some 35,517 gained experience in animal programs; 8,350 in plants and soils; 14,603 in energy, machines and engineering; 461 in areas of economics, jobs and careers; 11,302 in community development, service and government; 8,412 in leisure education and cultural arts; 2,569 in cultural understanding; 47,081 in individual and family resources, management, consumer education, clothing, EFNEP and nutrition; and 6,174 in communication.

**Soil and Water Management**—The Nebraska Cooperative Extension Service has emphasized conservation tillage and nonpoint pollution control. As much as 140 million tons of soil is lost annually to erosion from Nebraska cropland. More than 8,500 people attended 65 meetings on conservation and water quality.

**Leadership**—Two leadership development programs addressed by Extension were: BOLD (Building Organizations through Leadership Development)—a training program designed to enhance the skills of volunteer leaders serving agriculture and rural communities; and LEAD (Leadership Education/Action Development)—developed as a coordinated program with other units of the University of Nebraska and the Nebraska Leadership Council. This series of leadership seminars is to



develop strong leaders and spokespersons for Nebraska agriculture.

**Irrigation Scheduling**—Irrigated land in Nebraska increased from 4 million acres in 1970 to about 7.9 million acres in 1981. Nebraska is third in the nation in number of irrigated acres. Irrigation scheduling or water management programs advocated by the Cooperative Extension Service are used on about 2 million Nebraska acres—representing an energy and nitrogen savings of 63 million dollars.

**Pork Production**—The major responsibility for operating the farrowing house on many Nebraska farms is often held by a woman. Nine farrowing schools attracted 218 women. Other methods used to increase pork production efficiency included the Nebraska Feeder Pig Exposition, Problem Pig Clinics, Young Pork Producers College, and Area Swine Days.

**4-H Youth Complex**—One accomplishment during 1981 was construction of the 4-H Youth Complex at the State Fair. The facility enhances our potential for programming and improved service to volunteer leaders and youth. This year's State Fair participation set a record with 11,863 entries—a 15 percent increase. The more than 6,200 4-H youth who participated represented an 8.7 percent increase. Volunteer staff at the State Fair increased with more than 250 helping in 1981. Fairs give youth immediate feedback and recognition and a place to show what they have experienced and learned in 4-H. The fair will continue to be part of 4-H.

**Homemaking and Family Life a Lost Art?**—Not as far as 25,762 members of Nebraska Home Extension clubs are concerned. Lesson materials for clubs are developed by Extension specialists and Extension agents. Topics for 1982 include "How To Say Yes—How To Say No," "Addressing Your Retirement Readiness," "Consumer Calendar," "Money in Our Children's Hands," "Preventing Home Burglaries," "Property Rights of Women," and "Meating Meals".

**Parent Child Interaction (PCI)**—Based on the assumption that parents are a child's first and most important teacher, and that children learn through play, the PCI project enables parents to increase their child's cognitive and perceptual skills. Using nine toys which teach concepts such as colors, shapes, numbers and spatial relationships, the 145 children completing the program increased their skills as determined by pre- and post-tests. Parental attitude scores generally increased to a more favorable attitude toward their children.

**4-H Mission Study**—This report, "Perspectives for Tomorrow Today" identifies many future pursuits for 4-H. A major goal is to contribute to feelings of self worth, self esteem and to help youth strengthen self-identify. Fifteen percent of the 4-H enrollment are teens 15 years old and above. The State Awareness Team, State 4-H Conference, Trips to Washington Focus, and counselors at 4-H Centers all contribute to this goal. In addition, the community involvement project and community pride programs add significantly to a sense of community.

## REACHING OUT

Teaching methods used by Extension staff to help meet the needs of Nebraskans include a variety of informational educational techniques. During the 1981 program year, staff:

- presented information at 22,902 public educational meetings and workshops.
- conducted 3,053 training meetings for volunteer leaders.
- made 14,918 presentations for radio and 1,727 television appearances.
- wrote 20,529 news articles.
- prepared 8,830 items for newsletters.
- authored 134 Extension publications containing information needed by farmers, ranchers, homemakers, homeowners, businessmen and youth.
- assisted adults and youth through more than 1.8 million personal contacts involving public meetings, office calls, telephone calls, personal letters and visits to the home or place of business.

**Rodent and Bird Damage Control**—Nebraska's integrated pest management program involves rodent and bird control education for hog farms. In addition, rat, mouse, pocket gopher control and bird damage educational control programs have been started. A pilot project with Nebraska Pork Producers reported the Cooperative Extension Service was their best source of information for rodent control.

**Water Law**—The Cooperative Extension Service provides timely information statewide regarding judicial, legislative and administrative developments in Nebraska water law. This is accomplished primarily by the publication, Nebraska Water Law Update.

**Microcomputers on the Farm**—There has been substantial interest by farmers in using microcomputers as a decision-aid in managing the farm business. Two statewide workshops were held last year, along with some county awareness meetings. The focus of this program has been to acquaint farmers and ranchers with the potential of computer application on the farm.

**Nutrition**—Extension specialists and agents use a variety of ways to tell the facts about good nutrition—news columns and other media, food preparation demonstrations (nutrition is most appropriately attained through food), and a variety of publications such as "Food Quackery."

**Lifestyle, Feedmix, Carcost and Cropbudget**—These are among the many programs available on the AGNET system which can be used to make management decisions about the farm operation, family financial management, or even how lifestyle affects well being. Computer terminals in Extension offices access the multi-state AGNET system.