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NEBRASKA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE



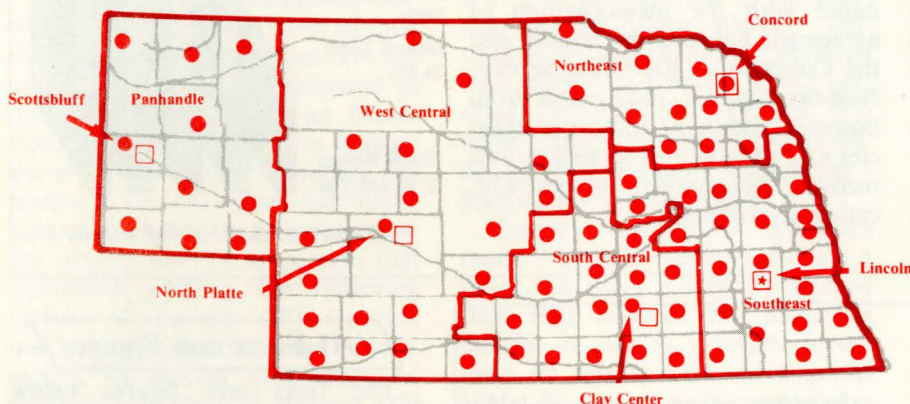
FACT SHEET

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- County offices
- Research and Extension Centers
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PURPOSE AND AUTHORIZATION

The Nebraska Cooperative Extension Service provides educational programs for Nebraskans in their communities. These programs, based on research and study, help Nebraskans adopt new skills which enable them to:

- 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.

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

In 1915, the Nebraska Legislature authorized Extension work to be carried out within Nebraska's counties in cooperation with the University of Nebraska and the United States Department of Agriculture. Extension work is carried out in accordance with provisions of the law and another memorandum of understanding signed by the State Dean and Director of the Cooperative Extension Service and cooperating County Extension Boards.

Dear Nebraskan:

This fact sheet will help you understand the purpose, structure, funding and accomplishments of our division of the University of Nebraska, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources. I am pleased to share this report of the Nebraska Cooperative Extension Service which highlights some of the many successful programs carried out during fiscal year 1985 to address problems faced by Nebraska farmers, ranchers, businesses, and families.

We are proud of the quality educational programs our staff delivers across Nebraska. And, we appreciate the efforts of the thousands of volunteers who are part of our Extension team. But, we need your participation and input to continue to meet your needs through timely, and effective programs like those featured inside.

As the map above shows, there is an Extension office near you. Our staff across the state is happy to provide you with information and assistance in the areas of agriculture, natural resources, home economics, community development and 4-H youth and volunteer development. Feel free to call on them.

Leo E. Lucas
Dean and Director

Nebraska Extension staff presented information at 22,814 public meetings and workshops in 1985.

Nebraska Extension staff conducted 2,155 training meetings for volunteer leaders in 1985.

Nebraska Extension staff prepared 6,867 items for newsletters in 1985.

Nebraska Extension staff authored 174 Extension publications in 1985.

FUNDING

The Nebraska Cooperative Extension Service is funded through federal, state, county, and non-tax monies. Figure 1 shows the division of these funds. **Federal** funds are appropriated and distributed on a formula basis, as specified by federal law, or are distributed as earmarked funds to meet special needs of national concern. **State** general funds, 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 according to Nebraska statutes. The County Extension Board submits a budget to the County Board of Supervisors. The Extension Board is then responsible for administering the appropriated funds in accordance with the memorandum of agreement between the county and the Cooperative Extension Service. **Non-tax** funds include grants from business, industry, and other agencies and foundations as well as cost recovery fees charged for some educational programs.

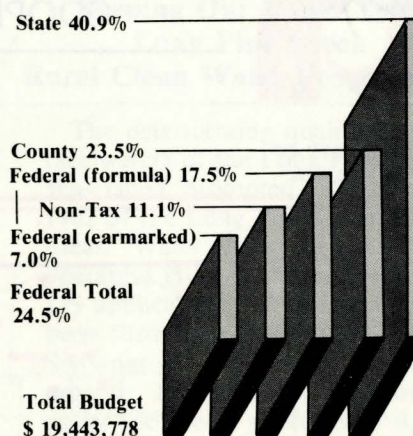


Figure 1. Sources of Funds

THE EXTENSION PROGRAM

Nebraska Cooperative Extension Service programs focus on high priority needs and problems in five major areas:

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

Extension agents and specialists serve as faculty of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of Nebraska-Lincoln. They plan and carry out the programs of the Cooperative Extension Service. Figure 2 shows the distribution of Extension faculty in the five major program areas. Extension assistants and aides are hired to help with specific programs.

Extension programs are available to all Nebraskans. The primary audience includes farmers, ranchers, agricultural businesses, public and private organizations, community leaders, families, homemakers, and youth. Extension programs are identified and planned through the cooperation of Extension agents and Extension specialists on campus and in district centers for each county in cooperation with the County Extension Board and local groups or individuals.

Volunteers play an important role in the delivery of Extension programs. Extension volunteers lead 4-H clubs, they teach lessons at home Extension club meetings, and they help in countless other ways to support Extension programming.

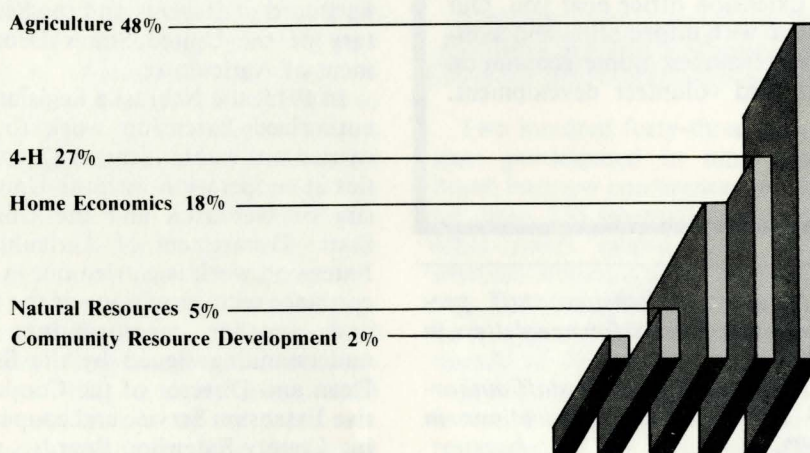


Figure 2. Distribution of Staff

4-H Facts and Figures

The facts and figures below summarize the current 4-H participation from county 4-H enrollment reports. The 1985 enrollment is more than 60,000 for the seventh consecutive year, with 64,070 boys and girls participating.

Numbers Participating in:

Organized 4-H Clubs	27,329
Special Interest Programs	4,126
School Enrichment Programs	38,576
Individual Study	1,206

Numbers by Sex

Boys enrolled	28,348
Girls enrolled	35,722

Percentage by Age

Preteens (9-11 years)	52%
Early teens (12-14 years)	33%
Middle to upper teens (15-19 years)	15%

Percentage by Residence

Farm	31%
Rural and towns under 10,000	27%
Cities of 10,000-50,000	14%
Cities of 50,000 +	28%

Other Facts

Percent of 9-19 year-olds in 4-H	25%
Number of organized 4-H clubs	2,328
Number of special interest groups and school enrichment groups	1,567
Number of volunteer adult club leaders	9,701
Number of volunteer teen leaders	2,456
Number of other volunteer leaders	2,243

Nebraska Extension staff taught adults and youths through 1,585,469 contacts through public meetings, office visits, phone calls, personal letters, and visits to home and work place in 1985.

Extension Education: Helping Solve Nebraska's Problems

Extending Non-Farm Finances: Personal and Family Financial Management

Nebraskans are seeking the help of Extension to take control of their personal financial destinies. For example, 270 people participated in budgeting workshops or an Extension home study course on budgeting in 1985. A follow up survey was mailed to the 150 home study participants three months after they took the course. Forty-two percent (63) responded yielding the following report: 43 percent (27) reported making changes in their investments; 38 percent (24) consulted financial advisors; 31 percent (19) improved communication about financial goals and developed a recordkeeping system; 27 percent (17) prepared a net worth statement,

Building Livestock Marketing Savvy: Nebraska Livestock Marketing

Volatile livestock prices during 1985 stimulated demand for more marketing assistance. Livestock information was presented to 443 farm couples through one and two-day workshops. Participant surveys showed an estimated 82 percent (363) updated their marketing plans, 91 percent (403) increased their information sources and 96 percent (425) improved market intelligence as a result of the workshop. Eleven price forecasting workshops served 1,409 farms/ranches. Follow-up surveys showed an estimated 78 percent (1,099) initiated or updated their marketing plan, 73 percent (1,028) advanced their knowledge of forward pricing and 92 percent (1,296) increased their understanding of technical analysis.

Nebraska Extension staff made 10,845 presentations for radio and 1,483 TV appearances in 1985.

Nebraska Extension staff wrote 18,426 news articles in 1985.

informed someone else of the location of important papers, kept records of transactions, improved their budget and began to use personal allowances; 25 percent (16) made changes in life insurance disability income plans, homeowner's insurance and estate plans.

Financial planning seminars reached another 150 people. As a result, as many as 40 percent of them (60) reviewed their insurance policies or started a family inventory; 30 percent (45) set financial goals; 20 percent (30) completed a net worth statement; and 15 percent (22) started cash flow budgeting.

An estimated 18,400 Home Extension Club members participated in a lesson on credit during 1985. Completed evaluations submitted by the leaders of 97 clubs (representing over 900 members) showed 62 percent of the clubs (60 of 97) plan to make changes in their credit habits as a result of the lesson. Of the 60 clubs planning to make changes, members of 65 percent of the clubs (39 of 60) plan to make a change by establishing their own credit identity.

Managing Stress in Turbulent Times: Building Psychological and Social Strength

In 1985, 47 stress management workshops helped 5,236 Nebraskans look at ways of recognizing and coping with stress. Fact sheets on stress, anger and loneliness were developed and distributed on request by the thousands. Other Nebraskans found the best avenue to stress management was building or renewing family strength. Nine hundred and eighty-five of them attended full-day and evening Building Family Strengths conferences. Written evaluations showed an estimated 95 percent of participants (935) increased their knowledge of what's

Managing For Tomorrow: Farm Financial Management and Financial Counseling

The economic environment of the 1980's poses new risks for farm and ranch families. They must survive today and develop long range plans for tomorrow. During 1985, 600 families participated in Nebraska Extension's Managing for Tomorrow program. Eighty-five percent of them (510) got new ideas from the program. Six months later, 81 percent of that group (413) had applied the idea(s). Before participation in the program, 21.5 percent of the families (129) had written goals for their farm/ranch business. After the program, 71.4 percent (428) reported they had written goals because of their participation. In addition, 75 percent (450) stated they were now using written goals in their farm/ranch management. For 53 percent of the participants (318), their current enterprise mix was reaffirmed. Another 43 percent (258) analyzed enterprise alternatives they hadn't previously thought of. During 1985, 400 families turned to Farm/Ranch Financial Counseling Centers for help. Of these, 250 carried out an analysis of their financial situation.

needed to build and maintain strong families. Another estimated 85 percent (837) said the workshops increased their capacity and improved the skills they need to make changes. An estimated 50 percent (492) committed to adopting more positive behavior. An additional 830 men and women attended workshops on family stress, communication and strength. Fifty-five percent of a small sample stated they planned to change undesirable attitudes and behaviors to more constructive ones.

Increasing Nebraska Crop Production Profits: Corn, Soybeans, Wheat, Alternative Crops

Farmer acceptance of Extension crop production programs continues to save farmers money. For example, in 1985 farmers reduced N rates on corn by as much as 50 pounds per acre through better interpretation of soil tests. One farmer estimated that by following UNL fertilizer recommendations, he could save \$2,400. The Ag Hotline has helped many producers save money on insect control. In one county, it is estimated that \$500 thousand were saved through the Ag Hotline on corn rootworm alone (number of calls multiplied by an average savings of \$10/acre resulting from the information gained). Demonstration remains an Extension strong suit. One county reported that after viewing a University test plot of corn planted into soybean stubble, at least 12 farmers tried this low tillage alternative.

Average soybean yields continue to rise at a rate of .25 bu/a/year and irrigated yields at a rate of .46 bu/a/year due partly to Extension programs. Through growth in management skill on soybean acreage, the impressive gains shown below are estimated by Extension.

Alternative crops continue to diversify Nebraska's production picture. This year, potato production in Nebraska increased by 47 percent (valued at \$12.5 million), onion acreage increased to 1,200 acres (valued at \$3.6 million), and to go with this expansion, an onion growers association was formed. Warehouse, storage and packing facilities were built at four locations and one frozen food facility was built. The direct and wholesale marketing of vegetables increased to 18,000 acres.

Practice	Acres Impacted	Value Added per Acre	State Annual \$ Impact
Soybean variety selection	120,000	\$30	\$3.6 million
Soybean seeding density	80,000	8	.6 million
Seed treatment at planting	10,000	10	.1 million
Foliar treatment	3,000	8	.024 million

Total annual impact on state agriculture economy

\$4.324 million

Conserving Soil, Water and Energy: Conservation Tillage

Based on Conservation Tillage Information Center estimates, conservation tillage usage has increased from 6.3 of 12 million acres in 1983 to 7.5 of 16.7 million acres (45 percent of Nebraska's cropland) in 1984. No-till alone increased 20% to 490,000 acres in 1984. Extension can claim part of the credit for this shift. For example, 80% of 880 attendees (704) at ten 1985 Area Tillage meetings in Nebraska indicated they planned to change their tillage practices as a result of information provided by Extension. Changes noted include adoption of no-till (especially following soybean production) and elimination of at least one tillage operation. One Nebraska county estimated that if 40 percent of the local farmers eliminated one

disking on just half of their cropland, they could save \$1.2 million.

Nurturing the Entrepreneurial Spirit: Home-Based Business

Two hundred forty-three Nebraskans participated in nine home-based business conferences in 1985. Of these, 173 reported gaining new ideas which helped them decide whether running a home-based business was in their future and, if so, how to successfully manage one. A sample of 21 participants was surveyed six months after the conferences. Twelve of those surveyed responded (57%). One third of the respondents (4) were involved in a home-based business when they at-

Keeping Our Water Safe: Long Pine Creek Rural Clean Water Program

The deteriorating quality of surface waters of the Long Pine Creek Watershed prompted initiation in 1982 of the Long Pine Creek Rural Clean Water Program.¹ Of 124 operating units in the project area, 119 applications for contracts have been filed since the project began. Sixty-one of these have been approved. In 1985, 27 landowners under contract controlling 4,103 acres followed University of Nebraska fertilizer recommendations. The landowners saved approximately \$23,600 in nitrogen fertilizer costs. Other farmers in the project area (controlling 4,500 acres) saved an estimated \$154,850 on all fertilizer nutrients. In addition, 29 landowners under contract controlling 4,519 acres of irrigated cropland participated in insect scouting services offered by the farmer-operated Long Pine Area Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Association. Farmers using the scouting service the Association provided saved approximately \$55 thousand on acres that would have been treated had there been no scouting program.

¹Other cooperators for the Long Pine Program include: the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, The Soil Conservation Service, the Nebraska Department of Environmental Control, the Nebraska Forest Service, the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, the Middle Niobrara Natural Resources District and the Ainsworth Irrigation District.

tended the Extension conference. After the conference, two adopted or changed pricing techniques, one changed recordkeeping practices and one expanded advertising and promotion. Two thirds of the respondents (8) were not involved in a home-based business before the conference. After the conference, half of them (4) initiated or continued active planning for a home-based business. The other half (4) decided to postpone planning for a home-based business.