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NEBRASKA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

FACT SHEET

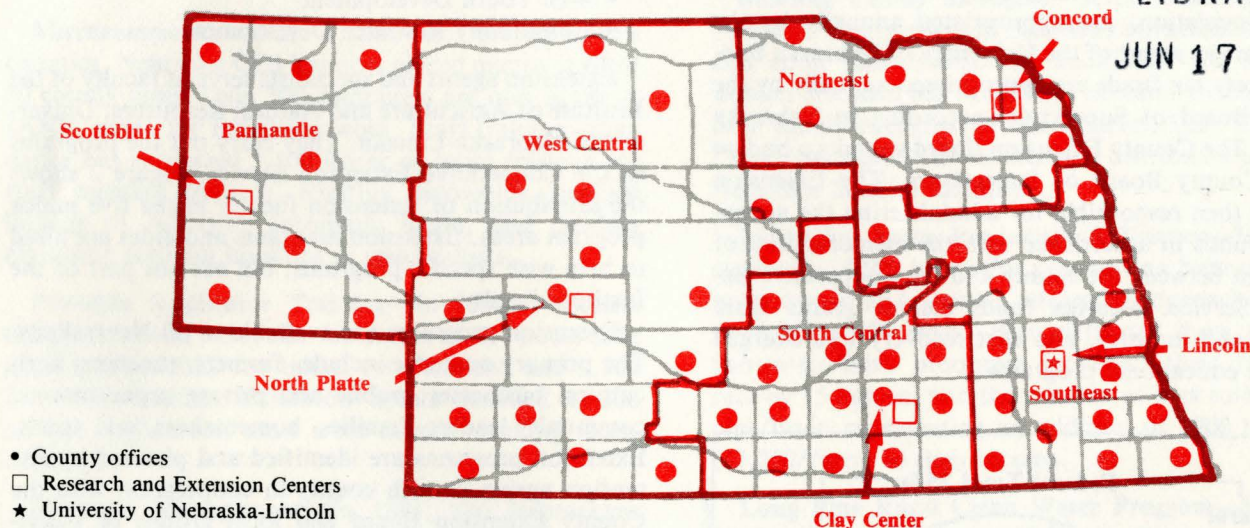


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This fact sheet will help you understand the purpose, organization, and activities of our division of the University of Nebraska, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources. We are proud of the quality educational programs our staff delivers and we appreciate the efforts of the several thousand volunteers who are part of our Extension team.

Maybe it's time for **you** to get better acquainted and more involved with your Cooperative Extension Service. As the map above shows, there is an Extension office near you. We need your participation and input to continue to meet your needs through timely and effective programs like the ones highlighted inside.

Leo E. Lucas
Dean and Director

PURPOSE AND AUTHORIZATION

The Nebraska Cooperative Extension Service provides educational programs for Nebraskans in their communities. Extension programs, based on research and study, help Nebraskans adopt new skills. These skills 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 of 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 a memorandum of understanding signed by the State Dean and Director of the Cooperative Extension Service and the cooperating County Extension Boards.

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 and industry, and cost recovery fees charged for some educational programs.

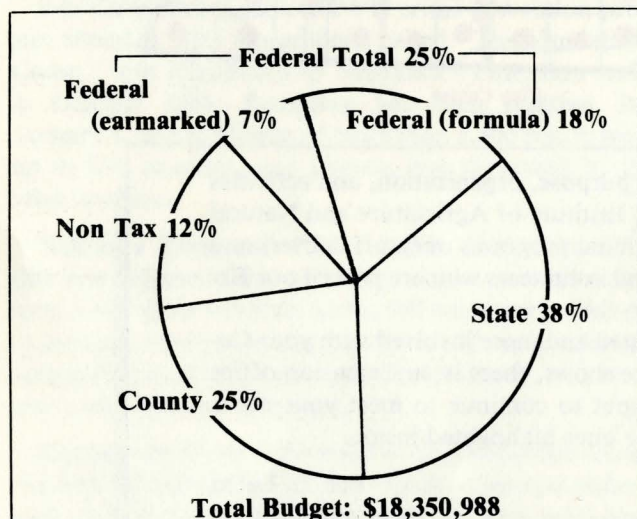


Figure 1. Funding of Nebraska Cooperative Extension Service.

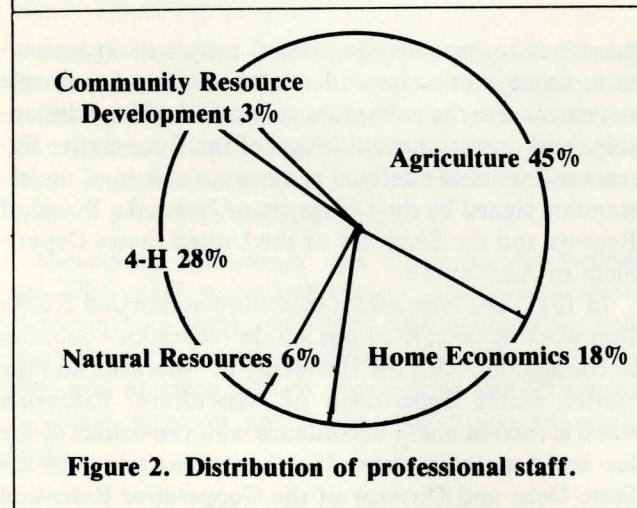


Figure 2. Distribution of professional staff.

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 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, but are not part of the Institute faculty.

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 by Extension agents in each county in cooperation with the County Extension Board and local groups or individuals. Extension specialists across Nebraska help provide district and state-wide coordination.

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

REACHING OUT

Extension staff use a variety of teaching methods to reach Nebraskans. During the 1984 program year, they

- presented information at 22,149 public meetings and workshops.
- conducted 2,233 training meetings for volunteer leaders.
- made 12,075 presentations for radio and 1,701 TV appearances.
- wrote 19,332 news articles.
- prepared 7,312 items for newsletters.
- authored 211 Extension publications containing information needed by farmers, ranchers, homemakers, homeowners, businessmen and youth.
- taught adults and youths in 1,639,100 contacts through public meetings, office visits, phone calls, personal letters, and visits to home and workplace.

EXTENSION PROGRAM RESULTS

Ecofarming—With the help of a loaned sprayer, a computer spray analyzer, and a drill to seed no-till or limited tillage wheat, 100 persons were taught ecofarming practices this year. These efforts affected 350,000 acres of Nebraska farmland. This suggests a savings of 175,000 tons of soil and a gain of seven million bushels of grain.

Microcomputers—From a 1981 pilot project in five counties, Nebraska CES has now placed micros in 63 of 80 county units. Over 300 computers are now in use at IANR, many for Extension work. Staff training attendance has surpassed 1,100 (three or more sessions per staff member trained). Exciting innovations include linkage to AGNET, automatic logon, and pending nighttime autodial hookups to reduce costs.

Pesticide Applicator Training—In 1984, Nebraska CES trained 3,552 commercial pesticide applicators—1,052 for initial certification, and 2,500 for recertification. Extension agents certified 21,308 private applicators; most were farmers seeking recertification.

Financial Management—In 1984, 876 Nebraskans gained financial skills through the Cooperative Extension Service. Thousands more improved their existing skills with Extension's help. Nebraska CES also continued its work with Offutt Air Force Base by providing financial training which benefited 822 people.

Residential Energy Management—Two pilot programs this year involved over 150 Nebraskans who learned how to increase energy efficiency in their homes. Eight counties conducted workshops on window treatments involving 663 people. In all, 6,839 Nebraskans were reached by CES through this program.

Save Our Shapes (SOS)—SOS is the Cooperative Extension Service's alternative to commercial weight loss programs. SOS is carried out with the help of trained volunteer leaders (49 of whom were trained this year). The fact that SOS materials are requested by TOPS, YMCA, YWCA, and businesses in Nebraska testifies to its popularity.

Health Promotion—Helen Becker health conferences, a two-day health fair, study lessons, wellness days, and a Food and Fitness Camp moved 2,750 Nebraskans closer to healthy lifestyles in 1984. About two thirds of the participants surveyed indicated they expected to improve their exercise practices.

4-H Project Link—Ten outstanding young men were chosen to represent Nebraska agriculture and 4-H in Japan, the midwest's best customer for agricultural products. Project Link, financed in part by the United States Information Agency, was one of several International 4-H Youth Exchange Programs that allowed 62 persons to live and learn in one of twenty countries in 1984.

Biology Career Workshop—IANR faculty and high school biology teachers guided 65 high school juniors through the annual, one-week workshop on agricultural and scientific careers. The students, interested in research, Extension, and or teaching, met at the Eastern Nebraska 4-H Center with funding help from the State Department of Agriculture.

Building Family Strengths—Seven Building Family Strengths Conferences in Nebraska attracted 980 youth and adult participants. An additional 420 men and women attended ten workshops on family communication, family strengths, or family stress. The "Enriching Family Strengths" newsletter was distributed to 22,000 Nebraska families monthly.

Improving Swine Production Efficiency—Extension staff spent 4,020 hours this year serving Nebraska pork producers in an intensive, integrated approach to swine production efficiency. Best estimates show that 400 farrow-to-finish producers increased their farrowing rate by 15 percent and the number of pigs sold by 0.75 pigs/litter, representing an addition of \$900 thousand (\$2,250/farm) to their income.

Long Pine Rural Clean Water Program—Nebraska CES supervises minimum tillage, fertilizer management, irrigation scheduling, and integrated pest management as one of eight agencies involved in the Long Pine program. Estimates show that using University of Nebraska recommendations saved farmers in the project \$135,000 on 7,000 acres. Adopting the integrated pest management program raised yields 10 percent.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM)—This year, 4,130 producers received IPM training through Nebraska CES. Resulting savings were chalked up across the state: Northeast—\$81,300; West Central—\$2.5 to 6.3 million; Southeast—5 to 10 percent cost savings and yield improvement by field monitoring.

Citizenship-Washington Focus—The 4-H citizenship education program conducted each summer at the national 4-H Center in Washington, D.C., attracted four groups with a total of 160 delegates from Nebraska in 1984. The delegates raised a total of \$112,000 to cover the cost of their participation.

4-H Microcomputer Education—This year, 175 youth in 63 counties were enrolled in 4-H computer projects. Four-H computer camps were held at each of the 4-H camping centers for youth. The 4-H computer programming contest in conjunction with the AK-SAR-BEN Livestock Exposition attracted thirty-two entries. A microcomputer was awarded to the winner in each of three divisions.

4-H Food and Fitness Campaign—A first-time special summer camp at Sidney's Lodgepole Valley 4-H Youth Camp included fitness assessment, a fun run, and a computer nutrition assessment. Nine counties solicited essays for a national food and fitness competition.

Agricultural Energy Conservation Project—A five-year pilot program to decrease energy consumption, reduce soil erosion, and conserve water through an integrated systems approach is underway. The program features many field demonstrations and technical support from staff in numerous disciplines.

Managing for Tomorrow—The Nebraska Cooperative Extension Service has launched a national pilot farm financial management program. This intensive educational program, targeted to farm couples, offers 20 hours of in-depth financial management workshops, 12 hours of individual consultation and computer analysis of alternatives available to the farm business. More than 600 farm families have participated in this program to date.

Residential Horticulture—*Backyard Farmer* with a weekly audience of 50,000 continues to be a major vehicle for disseminating information on residential horticulture. The severe winter and wet spring of 1984 spurred action in the horticulture diagnostic clinic—ranked very good by 90 percent of its clients.

4-H Crime Prevention—A 4-H crime prevention project aimed at 5th - 8th graders, called "The Vandalism Game," was introduced to Nebraska's Extension staff in October 1984. Reception has been positive. By January 1, an enrollment of more than 1,500 was firmed up in five counties, and interest was expressed by 25 other counties.

Nebraska Farm and Home Safety—Nebraska CES this year registered the following successes: 312 educators, 5,625 farm workers, and 6,500 emergency medical technicians were trained in principles of farm and home safety. Five new training units were developed, and accidents were reduced 10 percent.

Community Crime Prevention—Ten Nebraska counties have community crime prevention programs underway, several other counties sought help with local prevention efforts. In all, 500 youth were trained in rural crime prevention, and rural crime was reduced 10 percent in the active counties.

BOLD—Building Organizations through Leadership Development ended the year with five mini-seminars which reached 115 people, and the presentation of selected leadership lessons to 290 students, employers, farm organization leaders, and several self-improvement or personal development groups.

Managing, Marketing, and Financing in Nebraska—CES staff sponsored twelve multi-county workshops to help farm and ranch families improve their management, marketing and financing skills. Four hundred and nineteen persons participated and 90 percent of those surveyed noted that they'd learned usable skills.

Integrated Reproductive Management—Improvement or incorporation of management techniques to optimize reproductive rates is underway through a new demonstration herd program in Nebraska. If the reproductive efficiency of beef cows is improved by 5 percent an estimated increase in income of \$30 million can be realized by Nebraska beef producers.

4-H Projects—Some 36,604 4-H members gained "learn by doing" experience in animal programs; 8,040 in plants and soils; 9,649 in engineering, machines and wood science; 13,689 in natural resources; 767 in economics, jobs and careers; 14,680 in citizenship and community involvement; 8,264 in leisure and cultural education; 4,262 in energy; 13,738 in health and safety, 59,419 in individual and family resources; and 10,038 in communication arts and sciences.

4-H FACTS AND FIGURES

The facts and figures below summarize the current 4-H participation from county 4-H enrollment reports. The 1984 enrollment is more than 60,000 for the sixth consecutive year, with 68,365 boys and girls participating.

Numbers Participating in

Organized 4-H Clubs	28,777
Special Interest Programs	5,826
School Enrichment Programs	35,193
Individual Study	1,162

Numbers by Sex

Boys enrolled	27,599
Girls enrolled	35,766

Percentage by Age

Preteens (9-11 years)	51%
Early teens (12-14 years)	33%
Middle to upper teens (15-19 years)	16%

Percentage by Residence

Farm	32%
Rural and towns under 10,000	30%
Cities of 10,000-50,000	16%
Cities of 50,000 +	22%

Other Facts

Percent of Nebraska youth age 9-19 years in 4-H	24%
Number of organized 4-H clubs	2,431
Number of special interest groups and school enrichment groups	1,509
Number of volunteer adult club leaders	9,904
Number of volunteer teen leaders	2,808
Number of other volunteer leaders	2,011