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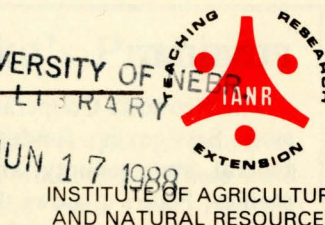


UNIVERSITY OF
NEBRASKA

NEBRASKA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

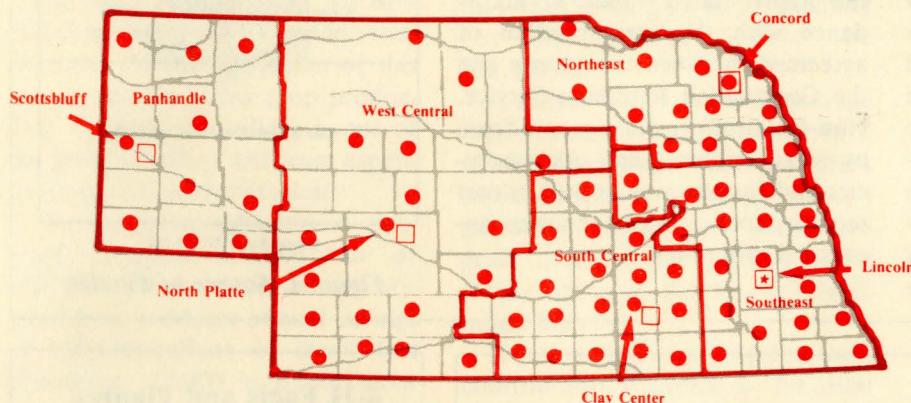
FACT SHEET

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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 1986 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 thousands of volunteers who are part of our Extension team. 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 statewide staff can provide you with research-based information and assistance in agriculture, natural resources, home economics, community small business and leadership development and 4-H youth and volunteer development. Feel free to call on them.

Leo E. Lucas
Dean and Director

Nebraska Extension staff taught adults and youths through 1,526,617 contacts through public meetings, office visits and visits to home and work place in 1986.

Nebraska Extension staff conducted 1,932 training meetings for

volunteer leaders in 1986.

Nebraska Extension staff presented information at 24,944 public meetings and workshops in 1986.

Nebraska Extension staff made 9,260 presentations for radio and 1,118 TV appearances in 1986.

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 each year 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.

Non-Tax Funds 2,663,981 (13.4%)
Federal Earmarked 1,268,627 (6.4%)
Federal Formula 3,227,611 (16.2%) Federal Total 4,496,238 (22.6%)
County Funds 4,769,168 (24.0%)
State Funds 7,962,835 (40.0%)
Grand Total 19,892,222

Figure 1. Source 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 professional staff time in the five major program areas.

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.

Community Resource Development: 3%
Natural Resources: 6%
Home Economics: 18%
4-H: 26%
Agriculture: 47%

Figure 2. Distribution of Professional Staff Time

4-H Facts and Figures

The facts and figures below summarize the current 4-H participation from county 4-H enrollment reports. The 1986 enrollment is more than 60,000 for the eighth consecutive year, with 64,795 boys and girls participating.

Numbers Participating in:

Organized 4-H Clubs	27,241
Special Interest Programs	5,560
School Enrichment Programs	38,378
Individual Study	1,209

Numbers by Sex

Boys enrolled	28,147
Girls enrolled	36,648

Percentage by Age

Preteens (9-11 years)	61%
Early teens (12-14 years)	29%
Middle to upper teens (15-19 years)	10%

Percentage by Residence

Farm	30%
Rural and towns under 10,000	25%
Cities of 10,000-50,000	16%
Cities of 50,000 +	29%

Other Facts

Percent of 9-19 year-olds in 4-H	25%
Number of organized 4-H clubs	3,758
Number of special interest groups and school enrichment groups	1,518
Number of volunteer adult club leaders	11,751
Number of volunteer teen leaders	2,777
Number of other volunteer leaders	2,609

Extension Education: Helping to Solve Nebraska's Problems

Conservation Tillage: Protecting a 100 Million Ton Resource

Nebraska erosion losses are estimated at more than 100 million tons per year. About 75 percent of this loss comes from row crop production. Conservation tillage is one of the most effective and least expensive ways to control erosion.

An Extension educational program affecting 130,000 out of 540,000 acres in a seven county targeted area produces annual savings of 100,000 gallons of diesel fuel equivalent, 21,000 hours of labor and a 38 percent drop in soil loss.

Annual use of conservation tillage, as estimated by SCS, has averaged 45 percent since 1983 and has ranged from 40 to 53 percent. However, no-till use in Nebraska has increased every year, going from 407,000 acres in 1983 to at least 506,000 acres in 1986. Surveys of Extension clientele at area tillage meetings reflect the growing percentage of attendees who plan to adopt conservation tillage practices:

Year	Attendees	Respondents	Plan to adopt
1983	685	315 (46%)	158 (50%)
1984	925	425 "	319 (75%)
1985	875	403 "	322 (80%)
1986	900	432 (48%)	363 (84%)
	3,385	1,575	1,162 (74%)

Grain Drying and Storage

Approximately 1.3 billion bushels of grain are stored on farm each year in Nebraska before marketing. Maintaining the quality of grain through harvest, drying and storage is the ambitious agenda of this Extension effort.

On average, each Nebraska farmer stores 25,000 bushels of grain. Respondents on Extension evaluation forms indicate that infor-

mation received on grain storage management saves them approximately 2 cents per bushel. If all farmers reached through Extension efforts this year experienced similar savings, the net gain in profitability for agriculture would be \$12,000,000.

A check was made of 16 storage facilities in one county during April to help assess the condition of grain stored on farm in Nebraska. In all, 4 percent of the 333,600 bushels of grain checked was judged to be totally damaged and unmarketable unless blended.

If future grain checking programs confirm that 4 percent of the grain stored in Nebraska is damaged, the impact of improved storage practices could be considerable. Even if damaged grain is blended, normal dockage levels make this a multi-million dollar problem which Extension has the research base to address.

Rural and Urban Forestry

Nebraska's marginal lands, often better left in trees, are being cleared for cropland at an alarming rate; forest acreage has declined over 20 percent in 20 years (app. 8,500 woodland acres each year). About 718,300 acres of woodland and 139,100 acres of windbreaks still exist. However, many of these areas are not properly cared for or managed. In particular, windbreaks planted in the 1930's are mature and need renovation.

Tree resources in Nebraska's cities and towns are being better cared for as indicated by an increase in the number of "Tree Cities - USA" from 13 to 24 in the last year. In spite of a depressed rural economy, approximately 2 million trees were planted in Nebraska last year. At an average stocking rate of 450 trees per acre, this represents the

planting of over 4,000 acres to trees, mostly in windbreaks. These windbreaks and other tree plantings result in energy savings, increased crop yields, increased wildlife habitat, and other benefits.

*Extension programs in forestry are delivered in cooperation with the Nebraska Forest Service, the Nebraska Technical Assistance Center and the Department of Economic Development.

Food and Nutrition: Eating Today for a Healthier Tomorrow

Since eighty percent of all illnesses are handled without professional care, self-care is a fact of life. Diet is a major part of preventive health self-care. Yet, nutrition misinformation abounds. And, some persons preserve foods without use of safe/tested recipes and without complete knowledge of safety recommendations. As health care costs and the cost of living continue to escalate, we believe people's concern about eating well and economically will continue to grow.

Extension launched an in-depth pilot program in seven counties in 1986 under the name, Eating Today for a Healthier Tomorrow. In post-period evaluations participants reported significantly higher dietary intakes of fiber, calcium, vitamins A and C, riboflavin and lower intakes of cholesterol and fat than persons in a control group.

In Dawes County, 6 months post-evaluation showed 33 percent had made dietary changes and 33 percent had begun calcium supplementation. In Saunders County 262 Extension clients reported on their progress: 82 percent increased nutritional intake, 68 percent learned ways to save food dollars and 73 percent improved cooking techniques.

Building Family Strengths

Strong families are vital to the success of our communities and our country. Yet public policy, community organization and private behavior are not always supportive of building family strengths. Fathers, teens, grandparents and entire families are future Extension clientele groups for programming in this area.

Over 400 rural adult men and women attended three, one-day-and-evening "Building Family Strengths" area conferences in 1986. Knowledge increased for 92 percent of participants. Eighty-five percent said the conference increased their capacity and improved their skills for making change. Sixty percent stated they would attempt to adopt more positive behaviors. Approximately 450 men and women attended 7 workshops on family communication/family strengths/family stress. Sixty percent indicated some attitude/behavior change would be attempted.

Improving Swine Production Profitability

An intensively integrated approach by Extension specialists in five academic departments has been used to provide educational information to pork producers for improving overall swine production profitability.

Ten "Whole Hog Day" meetings emphasized the importance of nutrition, housing, health, reproduction and management on productivity and profitability of a swine operation. Seven hundred people attended these meetings with 88.2 percent rating the applicability of information excellent. Combining increased efficiency of reproduction, nutrition, weaned-pig management, and health impacts from survey responses, we estimate the economic impact of the Whole Hog Day Programs at 4 million dollars.

The Nebraska Pork Exposition and Feeder Pig Show attracted

3,500 pork producers. Fifty pork producers have increased their farrowing rates by 10-15 percent since constructing better breeding and gestation facilities. Nebraska pork producers have reduced their feed cost by \$7,000,000 by using cheaper feed ingredients, better manufacturing practices and culling nonproductive animals.

Agricultural Financial Management

Extension has dedicated significant resources to helping local banks and producers in the throes of bank closings. Lynn T. Leffert, FDIC, had this to say about one such effort in Gering, NE, "The Extension Service personnel knew the local agricultural economy, they were trusted by all parties as they had no axe to grind and through their herculean efforts, there are already 61 family farms that have been salvaged."

The economic environment of the 1980's poses new risks for farm and ranch families. They must survive today, and then develop a long range plan for survival and profit which incorporates family goals, financial planning, and the use of risk management tools in an integrated management plan. Nine hundred families have participated in the "Managing for Tomorrow"

program to date. Program benefits include: use of knowledge gained by 68 percent of the participants six months after the program; rise in the percent of participants who prepared written goals from 21.5 percent before the program to 71.4 percent after the program. Of 800 families participating in the Farm/Ranch Financial Counseling program, 450 analyzed their financial situations.

Integrated Reproductive Management

Through interdisciplinary Integrated Reproductive Management (IRM) team recommendations, management changes have been made for nine cooperating herds. They involve more than ten phases of production from cow fertility and culling, to range and pasture management.

Overall results have shown an 8 percent increase in calf crop weaned of cows exposed and a 23 lb.-increase in calf weaning weights between 1984 and 1985. Some individual herd results include increasing pregnancy rates from 70 to 95 percent for cows and 75 to 89 percent for heifers, reducing calf death loss from 15 to 3 percent, shortening breeding and calving seasons from 90 to 60 days and saving \$3,000/year on the winter supplementation program.

Human Health

Half of the mortality from the ten leading causes of death is strongly influenced by lifestyle. In health and wellness promotion and in preventive medicine, the goal is to help individuals and families to better understand how patterns of living

contribute to positive health and how to alter those situations which lead to health abuse. In seven Nebraska counties, the following behavior changes were reported after a variety of Extension educational experiences:

Behavior Change	Change Group	Percent
Established Exercise Program	102/290	35.17
Changed Eating Habits	135/290	46.55
Lost/Maintained Weight	58/290	20.00
Improved Feelings About Self	103/290	35.51
Increased Ability to Deal With Stress	58/290	20.00
Attitude Changed	203/290	70.00
Shared Learning With Others	167/290	58.62
Gained Knowledge: drug combinations	696/748	93.04
Gained Knowledge: food/drug interactions	698/748	93.31
Used Caution: food/drug interactions	558/748	79.59