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23rd Women in Agricultural Conference

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CORNHUSKER ECONOMICS

UNIVERSITY OF
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Lincoln

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University of Nebraska–Lincoln Extension

Institute of Agriculture & Natural Resources
Department of Agricultural Economics
<http://www.agecon.unl.edu/Cornhuskereconomics.html>

23rd Women In Agriculture Conference - 2008

Market Report	Yr Ago	4 Wks Ago	3/7/08
<u>Livestock and Products,</u>			
<u>Weekly Average</u>			
Nebraska Slaughter Steers, 35-65% Choice, Live Weight.....	\$98.10	\$90.63	\$90.24
Nebraska Feeder Steers, Med. & Large Frame, 550-600 lb.....	127.35	125.62	130.47
Nebraska Feeder Steers, Med. & Large Frame 750-800 lb.....	104.82	*	101.46
Choice Boxed Beef, 600-750 lb. Carcass.....	155.70	148.57	150.03
Western Corn Belt Base Hog Price Carcass, Negotiated.....	59.42	56.04	52.32
Feeder Pigs, National Direct 50 lbs, FOB.....	76.30	47.13	46.52
Pork Carcass Cutout, 185 lb. Carcass, 51-52% Lean.....	68.32	61.03	59.13
Slaughter Lambs, Ch. & Pr., Heavy, Wooled, South Dakota, Direct.....	85.25	90.50	84.37
National Carcass Lamb Cutout, FOB.....	244.63	254.89	260.40
<u>Crops,</u>			
<u>Daily Spot Prices</u>			
Wheat, No. 1, H.W. Imperial, bu.....	4.59	10.14	11.31
Corn, No. 2, Yellow Omaha, bu.....	3.90	4.75	5.33
Soybeans, No. 1, Yellow Omaha, bu.....	7.13	12.27	13.12
Grain Sorghum, No. 2, Yellow Dorchester, cwt.....	6.48	8.55	9.21
Oats, No. 2, Heavy Minneapolis, MN , bu.....	2.74	3.40	3.79
<u>Hay</u>			
Alfalfa, Large Square Bales, Good to Premium, RFV 160-185 Northeast Nebraska, ton.....	*	135.00	135.00
Alfalfa, Large Rounds, Good Platte Valley, ton.....	*	85.00	85.00
Grass Hay, Large Rounds, Good Northeast Nebraska, ton.....	*	*	*
* No market.			

Over 300 women from across the state participated in the 23rd Women In Agriculture Conference held February 21-22, 2008. For some, it was their first time attending the conference, and for others it was their 23rd. Participants spent time listening to keynote speakers, participating in topic specific workshops and socializing. The women also had the opportunity to learn about new things happening in the agricultural industry by visiting with booth attendants and talking with the sponsors of the conference. "I enjoyed the positive attitude that rubbed from one person to another – such fun!" said a participant from Gosper County.

The conference had over 35 workshops in five sessions, covering topics such as: GPS usage, farm bill, beginning farmer programs, accounting, estate planning, Excel features, business plans, cow-calf records, stress management and many more! These workshops were designed for women to hear about specific information they could use on their farms, ranches or businesses throughout the year. When asked what changes participants plan to make within the current year as a result of the conference, one participant from Nuckolls County said she will "put up a new machine shed because of the tax change she was informed about."

Three optional FunShops were also a part of the program on Thursday evening. Nebraska State Patrol Sergeant Jim Stover talked about personal safety. He showed the women techniques on how to get out of an unwanted harassment situation, and then gave them time to practice what they had learned. Another one of the FunShops, Step into Gardening, gave them a chance to get their hands dirty by making a stepping stone they could take home with them on Friday. The final FunShop helped workshop attendees learn basic techniques on buying and selling items on eBay.

The conference is designed to provide timely and useful information that the participants can take back to their family operations or their personal lives. We also encourage them to take what they learn and make changes to their operation



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Student Scholarship recipients talk with Women in Ag Coordinator, Megan Voss.

based on their new knowledge. As a result of the conference, a Cuming County participant said that within the next ten years she will “cut back on what I physically do outside in the operation, but plan to continue computer and bookkeeping. I plan to take better care of me!!”

There were several speakers scattered throughout the conference that all of the participants had the opportunity to hear. The conference was kicked off by motivational speaker Shannon Zetterlund, who spoke to the women about being positive, that if you are looking for happiness you will find it. The evening entertainment was provided by Joseph E. Hall, who wooed the ladies with his magnificent voice. He earns his living by singing and performing Elvis music for groups. “Elvis is alive and well!” according to one conference participant!



Participants socialize during the conference.

The group also heard from Jill Brown, Career Specialist with the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (CASNR), at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She spoke on opportunities for success in agricultural careers, and how women can better market themselves. Sending the group home was T. Marni Vos, humorist motivational

speaker, who had many of the women rolling on the floor. She incorporated in her talk the need to realize laughter is joy overflowing. She also said that we are becoming, and that this conference could help all of us become, what we are destined to be. A Holt County participant said “I certainly left with many memories and a very upbeat charge to my body and soul!!”

There were many first time attendees at this years Women In Ag Conference, with many of these being students. CASNR offered partial scholarships to Community Colleges, 4-H, FFA and other students, and provided five full scholarships to any current CASNR student who wanted to attend. It was very exciting to have these young adults join us, networking and sharing information. One student said, “the sessions were great! It helped me learn what I want to go to college for.” A total of five CASNR students and 12 other students took advantage of the opportunity to participate.



Kathy Koch, Financial Advisor for Strategic Legacy Advisors presents her workshop, “Spending Your Dash” to a full house.

This was the first conference for the new Women in Ag project coordinator, Megan Voss. She has attended the conference in the past and worked to incorporate some new ideas into the conference, while still maintaining many of the traditions of this longstanding conference.

“Women in Ag is not really a series of workshops. It’s more than that. It’s an event to be shared with interesting women,” summed up a participant from Clay County.

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