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5-2011

## Be A Part of the Plan - Engaging People - Linking the World

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Narjes, Charlotte; Vogt, Rebecca J.; and Hancock, Connie, "Be A Part of the Plan - Engaging People - Linking the World" (2011). *Cornhusker Economics*. 523.

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# CORNHUSKER ECONOMICS

## Be A Part of the Plan - Engaging People - Linking the World

Market Report	Yr Ago	4 Wks Ago	5/20/11
<b><u>Livestock and Products,</u></b>			
<b><u>Weekly Average</u></b>			
Nebraska Slaughter Steers, 35-65% Choice, Live Weight.....	\$97.50	\$119.48	\$108.07
Nebraska Feeder Steers, Med. & Large Frame, 550-600 lb. ....	130.98	154.00	147.66
Nebraska Feeder Steers, Med. & Large Frame 750-800 lb. ....	116.61	138.12	130.33
Choice Boxed Beef, 600-750 lb. Carcass. ....	168.19	187.38	176.83
Western Corn Belt Base Hog Price Carcass, Negotiated. ....	80.53	90.74	93.26
Feeder Pigs, National Direct 50 lbs, FOB.....	*	*	*
Pork Carcass Cutout, 185 lb. Carcass, 51-52% Lean.....	88.45	95.50	97.01
Slaughter Lambs, Ch. & Pr., Heavy, Wooled, South Dakota, Direct.....	137.00	190.00	*
National Carcass Lamb Cutout, FOB. ....	311.89	402.07	401.04
<b><u>Crops,</u></b>			
<b><u>Daily Spot Prices</u></b>			
Wheat, No. 1, H.W. Imperial, bu. ....	3.66	8.39	8.19
Corn, No. 2, Yellow Omaha, bu. ....	3.52	7.50	7.55
Soybeans, No. 1, Yellow Omaha, bu. ....	9.47	13.90	13.99
Grain Sorghum, No. 2, Yellow Dorchester, cwt.....	5.64	12.20	12.05
Oats, No. 2, Heavy Minneapolis, MN, bu. ....	1.94	3.98	3.64
<b><u>Feed</u></b>			
Alfalfa, Large Square Bales, Good to Premium, RFV 160-185 Northeast Nebraska, ton. ....	140.00	140.00	140.00
Alfalfa, Large Rounds, Good Platte Valley, ton.....	67.50	72.50	90.00
Grass Hay, Large Rounds, Premium Nebraska, ton. ....	67.50	*	*
Dried Distillers Grains, 10% Moisture, Nebraska Average. ....	115.00	221.00	215.00
Wet Distillers Grains, 65-70% Moisture, Nebraska Average. ....	35.00	79.50	80.50
<b>*No Market</b>			

Broadband is transforming the economy and society. Businesses are using telecommunications to speed up transactions, reduce costs and expand their markets. New technologies such as cloud computing are allowing businesses to further reduce costs, and increase flexibility and mobility. Students at all levels are taking courses via distance learning technologies. eHealth technologies are making complete patient information available at the point of care, eliminating the need to run redundant tests and reducing the risk of dangerous drug interactions. Broadband technologies are also opening significant opportunities for the agricultural sector to increase accuracy of production and profits, and stay abreast of changes in the financial/commodity markets.

As more services, such as applying for jobs and registering for classes are being offered using high speed internet, the digital divide increases when individuals and businesses do not adopt and utilize technology, by choice or availability. On May 20, 2011 the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) released the Seventh Broadband Progress Report and Order on Reconsideration. The report finds that 26 million Americans are unserved by broadband today, and at least one-third of Americans do not subscribe to high-speed Internet service. FCC Commissioner Michael J. Copps stated, "Every day, broadband becomes more central to the economic and civic life of our nation. Access denied is opportunity denied – we simply cannot afford to have millions of our fellow citizens on the wrong side of a digital divide."

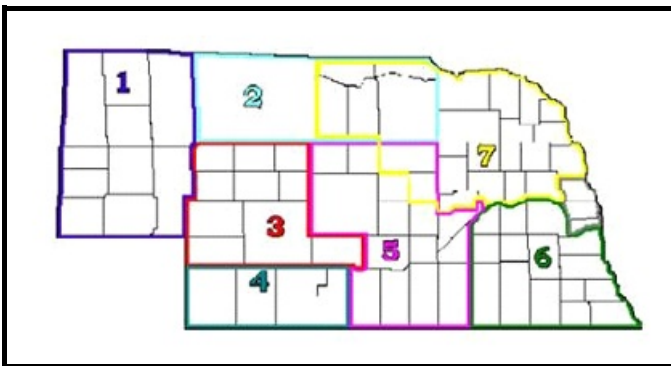
To address adoption and utilization of broadband the University of Nebraska Agricultural Economics Department and the Panhandle Research & Extension Center are cooperatively working with the Nebraska Information Technology Commission Community Council (NITC), the Nebraska Department of Economic Development (DED) and the AIM Institute. They are engaging Nebraskans in a

conversation about broadband, and creating a statewide plan. This five-year project, funded through the Nebraska Public Service Commission, is part of a larger Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) grant to increase broadband access and adoption through better data collection and broadband planning. Previous *Cornhusker Economics* articles on May 26 and July 7, 2010 provided an overview of the project and results from a statewide Internet Connectivity and Use in Nebraska Survey, conducted in March 2010.

## Regional Forums

Eight forums were held in the Spring of 2011 to kick off the planning efforts. The regions were identified using the seven existing Nebraska network regions (see map below) and an additional eighth regional meeting was held in the Omaha area, which includes the counties of Douglas, Sarpy and Washington (Metropolitan Area Planning Agency). Over 300 participants attended the forums. They represented local telephone companies, internet service providers, education, municipalities, agribusiness, health-care, economic development, industry and consumers. Participants engaged in conversations about broadband, with the themes of accessibility, affordability and education highlighted in each of the regions. Availability was also a concern addressed in a number of the regions. Of these 300 people, around 80 were willing to serve on Regional Steering Committees that are currently being formed. Regional coaches (University of Nebraska Extension Educators) have been identified to facilitate and continue the conversation, with a goal of having preliminary themes for regions announced at a Statewide Broadband Conference in November 2011, and plans completed in Spring 2012. Regional teams will be using the NITC *Engaging People. Linking the World: Broadband Planning Workbook* to walk through this process.

## Nebraska Network Map



(See Regional Broadband Coaches Contact Information.)

The regional teams will be a part of creating a vision that includes increasing broadband adoption, usage and connectivity. Regions will look at broadband from a

number of perspectives, including: leadership and support; economic development and e-commerce; telecommunications infrastructure; technology literacy and access; advanced technology training; community services and information; healthcare; agriculture; social capital and quality of life. The Broadband Planning Workbook is a guide that will be available for communities, as well as the regions to continue conversations.

## You Can Be Involved

Successful regional planning teams will consist of eight to 24 core members representing areas in:

- Local government
- Business
- Economic development organizations
- Education
- Healthcare
- Libraries
- Agriculture
- High speed internet providers
- Non-profits, arts, culture, and history groups
- And other significant groups or sectors within the community.

You can be involved and engaged in creating a vision for your region that includes increasing broadband adoption, usage and connectivity. For more information or to become engaged in the planning process, contact one of the regional coaches listed below.

### Regional Broadband Coaches Contact Information:

1. Western Region - Jenny Nixon, (308) 668-2428, jnixon1@unl.edu
2. North Central - Jay Jenkins, (402) 376-1850, jjenkins2@unl.edu
3. New Frontier - Shane Potter, (308) 696-6708, spotter3@unl.edu
4. Southwest - Nancy Frecks, (308) 334-5666, nfrecks1@unl.edu
5. Southeast - Dennis Kahl, (402) 643-2981, dkahl1@unl.edu
6. South Central - Dennis Kahl, (402) 643-2981, dkahl1@unl.edu
7. Northeast - Carroll Welte, (402) 374-2929, cwelte1@unl.edu
8. Omaha (region follows Metropolitan Area Planning Agency) - Vernon Waldren (402) 444-7804, vwaldren1@unl.edu and Rod Armstrong, AIM Institute

To follow the progress of this initiative, a broadband portal will be created over the summer. A temporary Web site has been established with contact information, and provides a brief update on the project at <http://etraining.unl.edu/broadband>. Current activities related to this project include the Public Service Commission State Broadband Map, <http://broadbandmap.nebraska.gov/> and the Department of Economic Development business surveys that focus on broadband adoption and utilization in businesses. Future activities include focused surveys and focus groups to gain more information about unserved areas; a web portal; statewide conference; and best practice videos.

Broadband steering team members include: Anne Byers, Nebraska Information and Technology Commission; Tim O'Brien and Allison Hatch, State of Nebraska Department of Economic Development; Rod Armstrong, AIM Institute; Charlotte Narjes and Becky Vogt, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Center for Applied Rural Innovation/Agricultural Economics; and Connie Hancock, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension-Cheyenne County.

Others actively involved in the project include the Nebraska Public Service Commission; the Regional Coaches listed above; and Dr. Jeff Hart, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension, serving as a cultural coach for the overall project to provide guidance and work with unserved populations.

Sources:

Federal Communications Commission Seventh Broadband Progress Report and Order on Reconsideration (2011).

NITC "Engaging People, Linking the World: Broadband Planning Workbook" originally written by Anne Byers, NITC and updated in 2011.



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This Broadband Mapping and Planning Initiative is funded through a grant to the Nebraska Public Service Commission by the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration and aims to increase broadband adoption and utilization.