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Water Current

Summer Water Tour Visits Northeast and North Central Nebraska July 19-21

by Steve Ress

"Opportunities and Alternatives in Water and Agriculture" is the focus of the 1999 Nebraska Summer Water Tour July 19-21.

"We wanted to look at water projects and agri-business issues in Northeast and North Central Nebraska this summer. These are areas of the state where summer water tours haven't stopped in a number of years and there is quite a lot to see," said tour co-organizer Mike Jess of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Conservation and Survey Division.



Big sky and plenty of pasture! Buffalo graze under a cloud-speckled blue sky on Ted Turner's Spike Box ranch near Mullen. The 56,000-acre ranch is one of the stops on the three-day 1999 Nebraska Summer Water Tour that leaves Lincoln and Kearney July 19 (photo: Steve Ress).

Buses will start from Kearney and Lincoln the first morning of the tour and meet at Columbus's Loup Public Power District hydro-generating plant. From there, buses proceed to Norfolk's Northeast Community College Lifelong Learning Center and a luncheon hosted by the Lower Elkhorn NRD. Speakers will address local water and agricultural topics, including livestock confinement facilities in operation or proposed for the area.

Afternoon stops include egg-processing operations near Wakefield and a tour of Wakefield and Pender Levy flood control projects. An evening hog roast is planned at Cuthills Vineyards near Pierce. Overnight will be at Norfolk's Holiday Inn Express.

Buses wind there way westward, towards Valentine on the second day of the tour. Enroute there will be discussions with area producers, environmental entities and water professionals and a look at water projects in the O'Neill area. Lunch will be at Long Pine before a tour of the Seven Springs Pure Spring Water bottling operation.

Continuing to Valentine, tour participants can canoe or tube the Niobrara River, arriving at Smith Falls for an evening steak fry.

The second night of the tour will be spent at Valentine's Comfort Inn and Super 8 motels. A panel of breakfast speakers will begin the final day of the tour at Valentine's Peppermill restaurant. Area habitat and recreational rehabilitation projects will be viewed before buses head south for a look at this year's Sandhills fire

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International Center for Ground Water Research and Education Proposed for NU

from the **DIRECTOR**

Edward F. Vitzthum

Periodically ideas surface that make us think, "Why hasn't someone thought of that before?" A good example is an idea that surfaced this past fall at a meeting of the Nebraska Water Conference Council.

It began when members of the Nebraska congressional delegation asked what they might do to further promote and strengthen ground water research and education at the University of Nebraska. That question prompted discussion both within the university as well as the private sector.

The discussions were summarized, and persons who attended the NWCC fall meeting were among the first to learn the proposed answer to the lawmakers question. Establish an International Center for Ground Water Research and Education at UNL.

The rationale for establishing such a center is virtually self-evident:

— Ground water is the state's foremost natural resource.

— Agriculture is the cornerstone of the state's economy and depends heavily on ground water for the irrigation water that sustains it.

— The majority of Nebraska's community depend on ground water as a supply source.

— The University of Nebraska faculty comprises one of the largest — if not the single largest — concentrations of water experts in the United States.

The latter point did not just happen. Although a rich ground water storehouse lies under the state, Nebraskans have not taken it for granted. They've seen, for example, what can happen when aquifers are found with excessive nitrate-nitrogen concentrations. Other contaminants also can become a threat to aquifer use.

Recognition of the fact that future generations of Nebraskans also will depend on ground water has resulted in a major commitment of personnel and other resources at UNL for water research, teaching and extension/outreach.

An obvious question, of course, is: How essential is it that there be an International Center for Ground Water Research? Both the academic and popular press are providing parts of the answer.

About a year ago, the Johns Hopkins University published a report predicting that world population would reach the eight billion

mark by the year 2025. Almost three years ago, Elizabeth Dowdeswell, a United Nations Under-Secretary General wrote that "...30 years from now approximately one-third of the world populations will suffer from chronic water shortages."

In a copyrighted news article this past fall the Associated Press said, "To avoid catastrophe...it is extremely important to act now..." to reduce demand for fresh water. Slowing population growth, conserving water, polluting less, and managing supply and demand were among steps they advocated.

Clearly, an International Ground Water Center could have some very positive impacts. The draft proposal suggests a number of them: developing new technologies to reduce or halt ground water contamination, characterizing ground and surface water relationships in various locations to develop optimum conjunctive use policies, developing new technologies for ground water remediation, and more.

Like any proposal, this one will be intensively reviewed and refined over the weeks and months ahead. A copy of the draft proposal has been forwarded to Nebraska's congressional delegation. Let us hope they see the potential benefits that can derive from an International Ground Water Center, and act accordingly.

Water Current

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Northern Wyoming Hosts Four States Summer Tour

For three days this summer, Aug. 4-6, the Four States Irrigation Council water tour will visit a variety of water-related projects and programs in the Thermopolis, WY area.

The tour will be headquartered at the Holiday Inn Of The Waters in Thermopolis, WY. For motel reservations at the tour rate, phone (307)864-3131.

Touring begins with an optional visit to a dinosaur center and archeological dig in the area on Wednesday afternoon, Aug. 4. That will be followed by a 5 p.m. irrigation council board meeting and welcome mixer at the motel, beginning at 5:30 p.m.

A full day of touring on Thursday, Aug. 5 begins with a buffet breakfast at the motel followed by stops at the Highland Hanover Irrigation District moss catcher project

and the Pepsi bottling plant in Worland, WY. A late morning stop follows at the Tie Hack Dam and Reservoir. That afternoon, the tour will stop at the Buffalo hydro plant project and then return to the motel for an evening barbecue.

The final day of the tour (Friday, Aug. 6) begins with another buffet breakfast before traveling to the Meeteetse and Greybull Irrigation District for a stop at the Upper Sunshine Reservoir. Following is a trip to the Roach Gulch Reservoir, an earthen fill dam currently under construction for supplemental irrigation water.

The tour will end back in Thermopolis by 12:30 p.m. Friday. For more information, contact Brian Werner at (970)667-2437 or Norm DeMott at (307)532-7031. Space is limited to the first 100 participants.

Summer Tour Visits Northeast and North Central Nebraska in July

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damage and recovery. Next is a tour of the sprawling Ted Turner buffalo ranch near Mullen.

Lunch is in Thedford before buses return to Kearney and Lincoln.

Cost is \$295 per person and registration deadline is Friday, June 18 (checks payable to the Kearney Area Chamber of Commerce). For information, contact either the Kearney Chamber at (800)652-9435 or the UNL Water Center/Environmental Programs at (402) 472-3305.

In addition to the Kearney Chamber and UNL, sponsors include Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District, Nebraska Public Power District, KN Energy, Gateway Farm Expo and the Nebraska Water Conference Council.

SOAR and PROJECT WET Together!

Prairie Plains Resource Institute in Aurora, Nebraska is offering a "teacher shadowing" program in association with SOAR (Summer Orientation About Rivers). SOAR is an award-winning, interdisciplinary nature education day camp now in its eighth year. It runs two, one-week sessions; July 12-16 for grades 2-4 and July 19-23 for grades 4-6. We are looking for 18 enthusiastic teachers, nine for each SOAR week.

Sixty campers and 12 older students ("peer leaders") are enrolled in each week of SOAR. We meet at the Aurora Middle School, then travel by bus to various field sites (this year, to The Art Farm near Marquette; the Platte River at Bader Park Natural Area; the Eugene & Gwen Griffith farm & prairie; and Pawnee Hill historical site near Clarks).

Afternoons are spent in follow-up activities at the school. The SOAR curriculum includes activities in natural and physical science, art, history, language arts and music. The days run 8:00-3:30 (add an hour for Project WET training on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday) except that Tuesdays this year will be 3:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. for a special "Celebrate the Night" session including storytelling on the river at sunset, astronomy, and bats (and other creatures of the night). Friday is River Day, spent in the wide channel of the Platte at Bader Park, which ends at 12:30.

HERE'S WHAT YOU GET AS A SOAR SHADOWING TEACHER: a \$250 stipend; certification in PROJECT WET including the WONDERFUL 516-page PROJECT WET manual; a SOAR education hand-

book with many activities and suggestions for how to do a program like SOAR; a week of FUN and firsthand observation of how SOAR works, including many activities that can be used at your school; optional credit through University of Nebraska at Kearney.

If you are already certified in Project WET, you will not be required to stay the extra time at the end of the three specified days for WET training.

If you are a teacher in ESU 7, 9, or 10, you can enroll through your ESU. Anyone else: please contact Prairie Plains Resource Institute, 402-694-5535 / ppri@hamilton.net Also direct any questions you may have about this program to PPRI.

Please act quickly - first come, first served!!

—Bill & Jan Whitney

Earth Wellness Festival, Master Navigator Program Win Annual IANR Team Awards

A children's environmental education project and an Internet training program for rural Nebraskans won team awards from the University of Nebraska's Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at that organization's annual conference in April.

The Earth Wellness Festival earned IANR's 1998 Team Effort Award. The team received \$10,000 to continue teaching southeast Nebraska youth innovative ways to understand and improve the environment, said Glen Vollmar, IANR's coordinator for special projects.



The Earth Wellness Festival team earned NU's Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources "Team Effort Award" at that organization's annual conference at the UNL East Campus in April. Many organizations contribute to the festival each year (photo: Steve Ress).

IANR's Center for Rural Community Revitalization and Development won the IANR Initiative Team Effort Award for its Internet training, the Master Navigator program. The team will receive \$2,500 to continue training rural Nebraskans in cutting-edge communications techniques.

The awards honor IANR faculty and staff teams that produce results in research, teaching, extension, service, or international programs, Vollmar said.

In five years, nearly 16,000 fifth-graders from Lancaster County and six other southeast Nebraska counties have attended the Earth Wellness Festival, which fosters opportunities for pupils and teachers to link environmental issues with a science-based curriculum. Pupils receive learning kits in the fall for the spring festival. Curriculum and materials for more than 20 activities are included in the kits.

The festival's steering committee team represents schools and other public and private organizations. IANR team members are Bob Kuzelka, assistant to the director, NU Water Center/Environmental Programs; DeLynn Hay, NU Cooperative Extension water resources extension specialist; Arlene Hanna, extension associate, and Soni Cochran, extension assistant, both with NU Extension in Lancaster County. Over 80 area educators, environmentalists and public and private sector representatives collaborate on the festival each year.

Poll Shows Rural Nebraskans Wary of Large Hog Operations

by Molly Klocksinn,
IANR Newswriter

Rural residents are wary of large-scale hog operations in Nebraska, especially any proposed near their towns or homes, the University of Nebraska's third annual Nebraska Rural Poll shows.

Among respondents, 38 percent said they were very concerned about large hog facilities being developed in Nebraska, said John Allen, the rural sociologist who conducted the scientific poll for NU's Center for Rural Community Revitalization and Development. The proportion of respondents who were very concerned jumped to 49 percent for operations near their community and to 69 percent when within a mile of home. The poll defined large-scale operations as having 2,000 or more head at one site at a time.

Results are based on 4,196 responses from Nebraskans living in towns and the country in the

state's 87 rural counties. The survey was mailed to 6,500 randomly selected rural households during February and March. The poll's margin of error is plus or minus 3 percent.

Some rural Nebraskans have formed opinions about large hog operations based on first-hand experience, but others have developed perceptions based on media reports, the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources sociologist said.

Among those who have developed perceptions, the poll shows they fear large hog operations lead to reduced market access for smaller producers, potential environmental harm and a weaker economy, he said.

"If people's perceptions are correct, it could have major consequences for agriculture in Nebraska," he said.

Nearly 60 percent of respondents agreed smaller pork production facilities are better than large

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Tips to Washing Pesticide-Contaminated Clothing

by Rose Marie Tondl
NU/IANR Clothing Specialist

Clothing worn when applying pesticides should be laundered differently than other clothing because of the residues in the clothing.

Pesticides can be absorbed through the skin, making proper laundering an important step in reducing pesticide poisoning. Usually symptoms from handling such clothing are minor, such as headaches, coughing, dizziness and skin or eye irritation.

The person doing the laundry should be told when clothing is contaminated. Such clothing should be handled carefully and separated from other laundry. Avoid touching pesticide-contaminated clothing with bare hands; wear chemically resistant gloves when handling. Pre-rinsing or presoaking helps get clothes cleaner and reduces health risks. A stain remover can help get visible stains out of clothes. Also use heavy-

duty liquid detergent and hot water — the hotter the water, the cleaner clothes will get. Use the longest wash cycle, and wash clothing two to three times if heavily soiled or if pesticides are highly toxic.

Be sure to run the washing machine through one cycle empty with hot water and detergent to eliminate any residues left by the clothes. Hanging clothes outside is the best way to dry them, as the sun may degrade some of the pesticides. Starch also can be used when laundering to help trap pesticides on fabric surfaces. At the next washing, pesticides will come out of clothing easier.

Cleaned clothing used for chemical applications should be stored in a different place, away from other clothes, and should be kept to wear only for pesticide applications. Don't wear dirty, contaminated clothes two days in a row. Throw clothes away that had a lot of highly toxic chemical spilled on them.

Missouri Named River in Peril for Second Straight Year by American Rivers Group

For the second straight year, the American Rivers group has named the Missouri River the second most endangered river in the United States.

The national river conservation group says the Missouri continues to suffer from habitat loss due to damming and channelization that began some 50 years ago. A newer threat the group is raising concerns the lining of remaining natural stretches of riverbank with rock or other materials to stabilize banks and help control erosion.

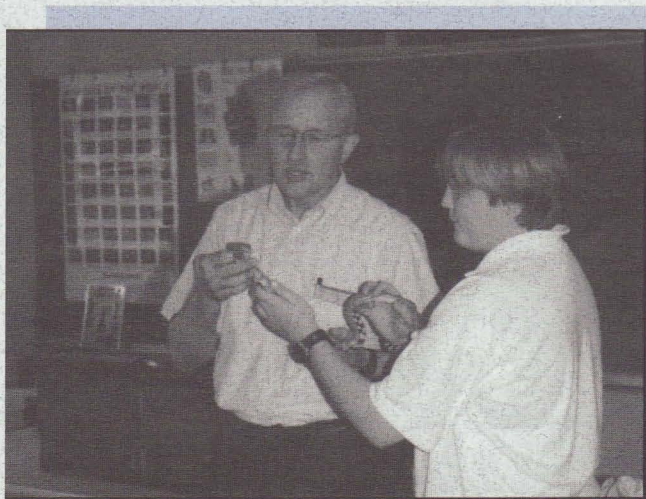
Much of this work is being done in previously unchannelized reaches such as the federally-designated recreational river reach below Gavins Point Dam and along an 84-mile stretch of the river below Garrison Dam in North Dakota.

An American Rivers regional representative is urging that all but emergency bank stabilization projects be put on hold, while a spokesman for the Army Corps of Engineers said that agency has a duty to handle permit applications and grant them if they are warranted.

The Corps of Engineers is scheduled to release a new proposal for managing the river in October. That comes at a time when the bicentennial of the 1804-1806 Lewis and Clark Voyage of Discovery expedition is fast approaching. Partially in anticipation of celebrating that historic journey, many communities along the Missouri

River are becoming more interested in not only stabilizing the river's banks, but also in redeveloping their riverfronts and riverside communities.

(Taken in part from an article in the Omaha World-Herald by staff writer Julie Anderson)



But is it slimy? Earth Science students at Cathedral of the Risen Christ middle school examine a corn snake. The snake is one of several "live performers" in NU Pesticide Coordinator Larry Schulze's "Wild World of Pest Management" presentations that stress integrated pest management awareness and proper use of pesticides and pest management (photo: Steve Ress).



Water News Briefs

Call for Papers — Bison Symposium

The University of Nebraska's Center for Great Plains Studies will present "*Bison...The Past, Present and Future of the Great Plains*" April 6-8, 2000. They are inviting submissions of papers, panels and other proposals or abstracts. These may include displays, posters, graphics, stories, dramatic presentations and films focusing on the past, present and future role of bison on the plains.

Proposals or abstracts of 150 to 200 words, with a cover letter and brief resume, should be submitted by July 1, 1999 to: Dr. Charlene Porsild and Dr. Ken Winkle, Co-Chairs, Center for Great Plains Studies, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 1213 Oldfather Hall, P.O. Box 880314, Lincoln, NE 68588-0314. For more information, phone (402)472-3082 or e-mail cgps@unlinfo.unl.edu.

Constructed Wetlands Video

A new Cornell University Cooperative Extension video, "Use of Constructed Wetlands for Stormwater Runoff," shows how properly constructed wetlands moderate flow extremes and improve water quality.

Added benefits include enhanced groundwater recharge, aesthetic appeal, and the creation of wildlife habitat. The 20-minute program shows how wetlands function to reduce pollution, explains appropriate design elements, highlights success stories and suggests sources of

assistance for planning and constructing a wetland.

Produced by Gary Goff, Rebecca Schneider, Paul Curtis, in the Department of Natural Resources, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences; and Glen Palmer, Media and Technology Services, Educational Television Center at Cornell University.

Copies of the new video may be obtained from the Cornell University Resource Center, 7 BTP, Ithaca, NY 14850 for \$19.95 (payable to "Cornell University"), which includes handling and postage. For more information, phone (607)255-2090, FAX (607)255-9946 or e-mail Dist_Center@cce.cornell.edu

Wetlands Tabloids

Copies of "*Wetlands-Understand a Resource*," a 16-page newspaper tabloid on Nebraska wetlands, remain available at no cost to those planning summer programming on water, environment or wetlands topics. The tabloids include information on a variety of wetland issues, a pull-out map of Nebraska's major wetland complexes, policies and programs effecting wetlands and a list of agencies dealing with wetlands. Requests for multiple copies for distribution or education programs can be accommodated. Requesters pay only the cost of having the tabloids mailed or shipped. Tabloids can be picked-up at 103 Natural Resources Hall on the UNL East Campus. To reserve copies phone (402)472-3305 or e-mail sress1@unl.edu.

National Water Quality Database

A national database containing a vast array of water quality materials and sources is available by going to <http://www.waterdatabase.org>.

The site was recently developed and posted to the web by National Extension Water Quality Database Coordinator Cathy Burwell of the Agricultural and Biological Engineering Department, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN.

The database is a joint effort of the USDA and Land Grant Universities across the nation.

"One of the primary goals was for a national URL that would make readily available important water quality resources from around the country to those who need this kind of information to make critical water quality decisions," Burwell said.

For more information, contact Burwell at (765)494-1167 or access <http://www.purdue.edu/abe>

Planet Protector's Club

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has a new project called the Planet Protector's Club. By joining it, kids can assume the role of an ace detective or an enviro-naut from outer space to learn about solid waste and recycling.

This new education activity kit from EPA tasks kindergarten and elementary kids with investigating environmental missions, solving mysterious stories on the Web, pledging to reduce waste and exploring reuse and recycling. Some of the activities can be found at www.epa.gov/epaoswer/osw/kids.htm. To order the kit, contact the EPA Resource Conservation Recovery Amendment (RCRA) hotline at 800-424-9346 and ask for document EPA 530-E-98-002. These materials are usually free or very inexpensive.

JUNE

7: Project WET Educator Workshop, 9am to 3:30pm, York. Contact: Stephanie Mousel at Upper Big Blue NRD, (402)362-6601.

7-11: The 44th Institute in Water Pollution Control, Manhattan College, New York City, New York. Pre-register for one of two one-week courses: Water Quality Modeling or Treatment of Municipal, Hazardous and Toxic Wastewaters. For a brochure and information, contact Florence Byrne, Program Coordinator, Environmental Engineering Department, Manhattan College, Riverdale, New York 10471 or phone (718)862-7277.

8: Project Learning Tree Educator Workshop, 9am to 3:30pm, York. Contact: Stephanie Mousel at Upper Big Blue NRD, (402)362-6601.

9-11: 3-day PLT, WET and WILD Combined Educator Workshop, starting at 5pm on the 9th and ending at 4pm on the 11th, Norden. Contact: George Probasco at ESU #17, (308)387-1420.

18-20: "Prairies and Pines Under the Sandhills Sky," third in the series of Educate Yourself about Nebraska's Natural Resources, by the Nebraska Environment Education Association (NEEA). For registration information, contact Gloria Carstens at (402)362-7306 or Becky Witulski at (402)441-7895.

21: Project Learning Tree Educator Workshop, 8:30am-3:30pm, Neligh. Contact: Carol Jessen at ESU #8, (402)887-5041.

22: Project WET Educator Workshop, 9am-4pm, Neligh. Contact: Carol Jessen at ESU #8, (402)887-5041.

22-23: PLT, WET and WILD Combined Educator Workshop, 9am to 4pm (both days), Lincoln. Contact: Brooke Levey at UNL, (402)472-5274.

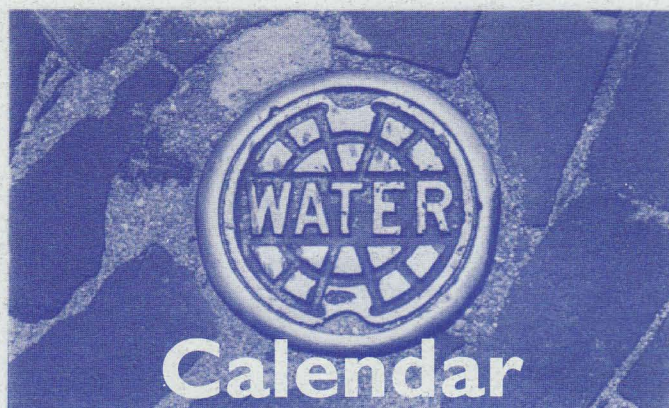
23-24: PLT, WET and WILD Combined Educator Workshop, 8:00am to 4:00pm (both days), Omaha. Contact: Thesesa Fink at Fontenelle Forest Association, (402)453-5615.

23-26: Groundwater University, The Groundwater Foundation, Lincoln. For students that will be entering grades 7-12. Application must be made by April 23. For an enrollment application and more information, contact Wendy Conrad, Groundwater University Director, P.O. Box 22558, Lincoln, NE 68542, phone (800)858-4844 or e-mail wendy@groundwater.org.

JULY

8-9: Assessing Wastewater Options for Small Communities: A Train-the-Trainer Program, National Environmental Center for Small Communities, West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV. Overview/viability/assessment of wastewater systems, etc. For information, or to register, contact Sandy Miller at (800)624-8301 ext. 5536.

19-21: Nebraska Summer Water Tour. Visiting Northeast and North Central Nebraska. For information, contact Tricia Liedle, UNL Water Center, (402)472-3305 or e-mail sress1@unl.edu



22-23: PLT, WET and WILD Combined Educator Workshop, 8:30am to 3:30pm (both days), Kearney. Contact: Elaine Specht at ESU #10, (308)237-5927.

24: PLT, WET and WILD Combined Educator Workshop, July 24 and 31, 8:00am to 4:00pm (both days), Omaha. Contact: Thesesa Fink at Fontenelle Forest Association, 402/453-5615.

AUGUST

4-6: Four States Irrigation Council summer water tour. Visiting a variety of sites in the Thermopolis, WY vicinity. For more information, contact Norm DeMott at the Goshen Irrigation District, Torrington, WY at (307)532-7031.

4-6: PLT, WET and WILD Combined Facilitator Training, Halsey. Facilitators: Brooke Levey and Carl Wolfe. Contact: Brooke Levey at UNL, (402)472-5274.

9-13: Nebraska Forestry Shortcourse, Chadron State College, Chadron. For information and registration details, contact Dr. Scott J. Josiah, Extension Forester, 107 Plant Industry, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, NE 68583-0814, phone (402)472-6511 or e-mail sjosiah2@unl.edu.

SEPTEMBER

12-16: NACAA AM/PIC meeting, Omaha. Plans are progressing rapidly for the NACAA Ag. Agent meeting. If you want to learn more about our plans, visit our website: <http://www.ianr.unl.edu/nacaa99/>.

OCTOBER

12-25: Second National Small Farm Conference, Regal Riverfront Hotel, St. Louis, Mo. To provide an opportunity for people in the public and private sectors, including community-based organizations, land-grant institutions, small and medium sized farmers to strengthen collaboration and partnerships.

NOVEMBER

15-17: The 15th Annual Groundwater Foundation Fall Symposium, Omni Hotel, CNN Center, Atlanta, GA. Understanding and addressing risks to groundwater. For information on the symposium, or presenting, contact Cindy Kreifels or Zoe McManaman at (800)858-4844.



Winning entry in The Groundwater Foundation's recent school art contest was this poster by fifth grader Amanda Coleman of Dodge Elementary in Grand Island. Second place went to fifth grader Autumn Heller of Elwood Public School in Elwood; third place went to fifth grader Jeff Markley of Dodge Elementary in Grand Island. Eight honorable mentions also were awarded (graphic: The Groundwater Foundation).

Poll Shows Rural Nebraskans Wary of Large Hog Operations

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operations for both the state and local economy. Only 12 percent thought larger operations were better for the state's economy and 16 percent thought they were better for the local economy.

"They believe more, smaller producers are better for the economy," he said.

The poll reflects many respondents' concern about potential environmental problems from large hog operations, especially odor. Sixty-four percent said they had experienced at least a minor level of unacceptable odor. Most said they hadn't directly experienced or didn't know if they had experienced other potential problems, such as high nitrate levels in drinking water, surface water contamination or unacceptable noise.

Just over half agreed that even properly managed large hog facilities damage the environment. Nearly three-fourths agreed all hog operations should be monitored for proper waste treatment and disposal.

"It shouldn't surprise me how sensitive rural Nebraskans are about the environment," Allen said.

Just over one-third of respondents were willing to make the economic tradeoff of having some pork production and some odor problems in their community, he said. However, nearly the same proportion were

willing to abandon pork production in Nebraska to avoid odor problems. Another 30 percent were undecided.

That's a high proportion willing to give up a part of agriculture that helps diversify the state's economy, Allen said.

"The trick is how do we get the value-added benefit of pork production without some of the negative consequences?" he said.

The poll reflects many respondents' uncertainty about large hog facilities, Allen said. As more information becomes available on how large hog facilities would affect their communities, those rural Nebraskans who are undecided will likely form their opinions, and others may change their views.

"I think it's the unknown, combined with the media presentation of these things," he said. "There's a lot of emotion and emotion gets blended with fact."

For example, roughly 30 percent were undecided about whether large operations are better for the state's economy, about whether large operations damage or protect the environment and about the pork production/odor tradeoff.

Over half were undecided on larger operation's effects on a community's social relations. Thirty-nine percent said large hog operations would diminish their

community's over-the-fencepost trust, Allen said.

One-third were undecided on how large hog operations will affect market access for smaller farms. Although some large hog operations buy area farmers' pigs, many rural residents think large operations decrease farmers' opportunities to sell swine, he said.

Allen said he sees tension among rural residents, especially over the size and ownership of some proposed hog operations.

"The issue seems to be, how many do you need to make a living?" he said.

If large hog operations were to move into their communities, most respondents said they would favor local ownership. Seventy-nine percent agreed it's better for the community if local farmers, rather than outside investors, own large facilities.

Poll results are available on the center's World Wide Web page at <http://www.ianr.unl.edu/rural/ruralpoll.htm>.

The Nebraska Rural Poll was conducted in cooperation with the Partnership for Rural Nebraska, IANR's Cooperative Extension Division, the Agricultural Research Division and the Center for Rural Community Revitalization and Development.

WATER CENTER/ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS

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