

University of Nebraska  
Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources  
Research, Extension  
and Education Centers

September 2021



### Nebraska LEAD Program



The [Nebraska LEAD Program](#) made a stop at PREEC to learn about the dry edible bean industry, sugar beet and the Panhandle Research Feedlot. Researchers and Extension Educators along with local and state businesses explained dryland cropping systems, ranching and cattle feedlots, water and irrigation and business opportunities in the Panhandle.

### Agri 042 Intro to Production class offers Digital Badging

If you are in Nebraska, it is nearly impossible to evade a connection to the state's most important industry, agriculture. But if you don't have a background or direct exposure to ag or only have experience with a certain area, grasping the complexities of production ag can be daunting for some or overlooked by others.

A new digital badge course, Agri 042 kicked off at EN-REEC and seeks to provide an overview of the production methods and systems involved in bringing food, fiber and fuel to consumers. The course introduces the multi-faceted side of the production agriculture

In August, the Agri 042 Introduction to Production Ag in Nebraska class focused on crop production. Two-day courses are designed for those with limited or no understanding of Nebraska production agriculture. The focus encompasses decision-making, production processes, conservation and economics of modern agriculture.

Comments from the class included: "Understanding that farming is more than putting a seed in the ground allows us to gain an appreciation for our farmers and for our state as a whole." Also, "I think the exercise revealed that my oversimplification of agriculture may have impacted how I thought about conservation decisions should be made in human-modified environments. With the new knowledge, I can now make more informed opinions and better management decisions."

Agri 042 (Section 951) will focus of livestock production Oct. 18-19, 2021.



The Nebraska LEAD Program began 40 years ago to develop agricultural leaders from Nebraska's future generations. The program is recognized both statewide and nationally as an innovative organization that has improved Nebraska in many ways. Members of each lead class are from commodity boards, extension boards, local school boards, or local church councils.

Applications and more information regarding Nebraska LEAD are now available at [LEAD Application Request](#)



**DID YOU KNOW?**



**Eastern Nebraska Research, Extension and Education Center**

Consists of 16,620 acres of land

Oversees 3 Lab Facilities

[Barta Brothers Ranch](#)

[Haskell Ag Lab](#)

[South Central Ag Lab](#)

Graduate Students - Biological Engineering, Agronomy & Horticulture, Entomology and Animal Science



**West Central Research, Extension and Education Center**

Consists of 16,408 acres of land

Oversees 3 Lab Facilities

[Gudmundsen Sandhills Laboratory](#)

[Water Research Lab](#)

[Henry J. Stumpf International Wheat Center](#)

Graduate Students—Biological Engineering, Agronomy & Horticulture, Entomology and Animal Science



**Panhandle Research, Extension and Education Center**

Consists of 3,624 acres of land.

Oversees 3 Lab Facilities

[High Plains Ag Lab](#)

[Panhandle Research Feedlot](#)

[Sioux County Experimental Range](#)

Graduate Students—Biological Engineering, Agronomy & Horticulture, Entomology and Animal Science

**SAVE THE DATE/CLINIC DATES**

[NS&GP Goat AI Clinic](#) North Platte—Sept. 18-19

Nebraska Specialty Crop Conference—Lincoln, Nov. 9

Nebraska Crop Management Conf. Kearney - Dec. 21

CROP PRODUCTION CLINICS—2022

Gering—Gering Civic Center—Jan. 5

North Platte—Mid-Plains Community College—Jan. 6

Norfolk—Northeast Community College—Jan. 11

Beatrice—Holiday Inn Express—Jan. 13

Hastings—C3 Hotel & Convention Center—Jan. 19

ENREC—Ithaca—Jan. 21

Kearney—Younes Conference Center—Jan. 25

York—Holthus Convention Center—Jan. 26

More details will be coming!



**Leah Beyer**, Senior Advisor for Digital Communications at Elanco Animal Health spoke on sustainability and the media's influence, what consumers are searching for when they are asking about beef production. Listen to [Leah's interview](#) of her

presentation.

Leah's full presentation can be viewed at [Beef & Environment: Do people really care? | MediaHub | University of Nebraska-Lincoln \(unl.edu\)](#).

Archived Newsletters and Print Version can be found at [REEC News and Media](#)

# REEC STATEWIDE STRATEGIC PLAN

## A Look at Statewide Strategic Directions:

Each month we will describe one of the Statewide Strategic Directions. This month we will look at Water.



### 4. Precision agriculture for both crops and livestock.



**The Goals:**

- 1) Develop farming and livestock precision management technologies with improved data collection systems.
- 2) Develop research and disseminate information on precision management systems to producers.

**The Intended Outcomes:**

- 1) REEC's will use infrastructure to conduct precision management, will utilize and test new technology.
- 2) Producers will be more inclined to utilize precision management tools to increase efficiency.

The University of Nebraska Testing Ag Performance Solutions ([UNL-TAPS](#)) is an innovative program developed by University of Nebraska research and extension specialists and educators. Rather than the typical teacher and student paradigm, the program facilitates a number of interactive real-life farm management competitions. These competitions bring together UNL scientists and extension professionals, producers, industry leaders, agriculture students, government regulators and agency personnel to become part of a highly engaged network focused on evolving profitability and input-use efficiency. This low-risk environment offers participants the ability to test a large variety of strategies and technologies.

The farm management competitions hosted in North Platte have competitors from across Nebraska, Colorado, and Kansas. Thirty teams are competing in the sprinkler corn competition, sixteen teams are competing in the subsurface drip irrigated corn competition, and sixteen teams are competing in the sprinkler sorghum competition. The TAPS competition will announce winners in each category at the annual winner banquet in Kearney on January 15, 2022.

### Gudmundsen Sandhills Laboratory Open House



The UNL [Gudmundsen Sandhills Laboratory](#) held the 22nd Annual Open House on August 25, 2021. Participants were able to attend the in-person open house at GSL or watch the online sessions in the morning. Topics covered cattle markets, early calf immunity, immunologic memory for long-term protection, sustainability and direct marketing.

Recordings can be found at [UNL | MediaHub | Gudmundsen Sandhills Laboratory](#).