CROPPING SYSTEMS PRODUCTIVITY
STATEWIDE IMPACT REPORT

Meeting the Challenge

- The world population is expected to increase to 9 billion people by 2050. One challenge is increasing yields to feed this growing population while reducing environmental risk and encouraging resource stewardship.
- To help meet this challenge, Nebraska Extension collaborates with and shares unbiased, research-based information with a diversified agricultural audience - conventional, sustainable, and organic growers and agricultural industry professionals.
- Campus based and out-state research in addition to on-farm research allow UNL Extension to answer producer questions.

Nebraska Extension’s Impact

- In 2014, the CropWatch website (http://cropwatch.unl.edu) recorded 692,495 page views from 212 countries/territories linking to Extension cropping system programs and resources.
- 536 participants representing 3,166,621 total crop acres attended Soybean Management Field Days across Nebraska. Respondents (n=331) placed a value of $7.66 per acre on the knowledge gained and/or anticipated change in practices, for a total combined value of $24.7 million for the program.
- Three Precision Agriculture Yield Data Management Workshops were conducted reaching 62 participants in 2014. Of the respondents, 73% reported an increased knowledge from the day-long workshops and 72% reported that they planned expand of their current practices to more effectively manage their farming operations.

Public Value

- Programming in Cropping Systems Productivity leads to greater production efficiencies, increased profitability, and enhanced soil and water resources.
- Nebraska benefits as a whole by securing more farmers in rural communities with disposable income, enhancing the quality of Nebraska natural resources, and multiplying the value of agricultural research investments.
Crop Management Diagnostic Clinics at the Agricultural Research Development Center (ARDC) in 2014 impacted 324 participants from 48 Nebraska counties and 6 states who managed or influenced a total of 7.9 million acres. Five in-depth clinics resulted in respondents (n=218) reporting an estimated value of the knowledge gained and/or anticipated practices changes of $9.21 per acre, bringing the total estimated value of the program to $77 million.

The No-Till Conference and Cover Crop Field Day had 219 participants combined. No-Till Conference respondents (n=51) reported an average savings per acre as a result of changed practices of $8.40/acre on the 49,900 acres they manage or influence. Cover Crop Field Day respondents (n=15) reported a value of $8.13/acre over 23,000 acres they manage or influence.

The South East Nebraska Crop Clinics had 616 participants. The average value per acre as a result of changed practices reported by respondents (n=145) was $10.11/acre over the 174,600 acres they manage or influence.

The Small Scale Farming Workshops reached 57 participants, with 77% indicating they were likely or very likely to grow or raise something new on their farm. Sixty eight percent reported that knowledge gained is likely or very likely to help them increase their sustainability and profitability.

The Western Nebraska Sustainable Ag Crops and Livestock Conference reached thirty-nine participants. Sixty percent of respondents (n=15) reported an increased knowledge on the principles of cover crop growth, nitrogen fixation, and grazing. Seventy-one percent indicated they are likely or very likely to plant cover crops as a result of the educational experience. Eighty percent estimated the value gained as a result of conference at $11.33 per acre. The respondents represent 16,450 acres of cropland; 390 head of livestock; and 2,040 acres of range or pasture managed.

The Local Food System Tour had 38 participants, with 76% of respondents (n=29) indicating they had a significant improvement in their knowledge of local food systems.

Four Managing Cropping Challenges workshops brought agronomic information to 65 northeast Nebraska participants, with respondents (n=27) reporting an average value gained as a result of the workshop of $7.00 per acre over a total of 62,000 acres.