



January 2021

## Virtual Landlord-tenant Cash Rent, Ag Budgeting Workshops Scheduled

Nebraska Extension' Farm and Ranch Management team will hold a series of virtual landlord-tenant cash rent workshops in lieu of in-person meetings that were scheduled across the state through February. They will be geared toward current and future landlords and tenants and will cover current trends in cash rental rates and land values, lease provisions, crop and grazing land considerations and current university crop budget information.

The workshops, titled Ag Land Leasing, Budgeting and Management for 2021, will be led by extension land specialists Allan Vyhnaek, Austin Duerfeldt, Glennis McClure and Jim Jansen, who conduct research and outreach in land management, crop budgets, farm and ranch succession, communication and negotiations. They will address common agricultural landlord and tenant topics, including equitable rental rates, managing and adjusting farmland leases, landlord-tenant communication, pasture leasing and other land management considerations.

Following the landlord-tenant workshop on each date, an agricultural budgeting workshop will be held from 1:30 to 3 p.m. Information will be presented on using University of Nebraska-Lincoln crop budgets to calculate cost of production. The new online Agricultural Budget Calculator program will also be demonstrated. These workshops will be conducted on the same meeting link as the morning session.

Paper copies of the program curriculum will be mailed to participants who provide their address during registration, which should be completed at least one week prior to the workshop to ensure receipt by the time of the workshop.

## Workshop schedule:

**Central Region — Feb. 4:** landlord-tenant cash rent workshop, 9-11:30 a.m. CST; crop budgeting workshop, 1:30-3 p.m. CST.

[Feb. 4 Registration](#)

**Eastern Region — Feb. 25:** landlord-tenant cash rent workshop, 9-11:30 a.m. CST; crop budgeting workshop, 1:30-3 p.m. CST

[Feb. 25 Registration](#)

## Land Application Training

If you have taken the training before, watch for dates in June as you only need to attend at that time. If you don't know if you have taken it before, call Leslie Johnson at 402-584-3818.

**QUESTIONS?**  
**CONTACT THE MANURE TEAM**

Leslie Johnson, Coordinator  
402-584-3818  
leslie.johnson@unl.edu  
manure.unl.edu

**IMPORTANT NOTES!**

- Initial land application training certification requires participation in all 4 sessions. Sessions 1-3 will be conducted via zoom.
- Recertification training requires participation in Session 4 in late spring or early summer.
- Anyone is welcome to attend any of the session.
- Registration and more information is available at: [water.unl.edu/lat](http://water.unl.edu/lat)

**COST**

- Individual Zoom sessions, \$10 ea
- Initial training (all sessions), \$75
- Recertification (session 4), \$50

**SESSION 1: MINDING YOUR MANURE MANNERS**  
Feb 9 @ 1 pm OR Feb 15 @ 7 pm  
All manure users - not just those operating under a permit - should manage manure responsibly. This session will discuss manure contaminants and transport as well as setbacks, stockpiles, and transfers.

**SESSION 2: MANURE & FERTILIZER: COMPLEMENTARY ROLES**  
Feb 16 @ 1 pm OR Feb 22 @ 7 pm  
Manure and fertilizer can work together to maximize yields and profits. This session will discuss accounting for nutrients in manure in addition to making sure you know how much manure has been applied.

**SESSION 3: BENEFITS & BARRIERS TO MANURE USE**  
Feb 23 @ 1 pm OR Mar 1 @ 7 pm  
We all know manure has pros and cons, but how can we maximize the good while minimizing the problems? This session will help you determine the value of manure as well as learn how to reap manure's environmental benefits.

**SESSION 4: APPLYING MANURE MANAGEMENT CONCEPTS ON-FARM**  
These sessions have not yet been scheduled because we hope to hold them in-person with an update on regulations and discussion on how to best use manure on your operation. We anticipate offering this session in June at several locations across the state. Space at each session will likely be limited and masks will likely be required. Pre-registration will be necessary to attend.

Nebraska Extension is a Division of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln cooperating with the Counties and the United States Department of Agriculture.

Nebraska Extension educational programs abide with the nondiscrimination policies of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the United States Department of Agriculture.



## Private Pesticide Trainings

Due to COVID we have to approach these trainings differently because we have to watch room capacities to meet the directed health measures &/or UNL guidelines. Pre-registration for these meetings will be required this year. Participants may be required to wear a facial covering when attending a training.

Producers can sign-up at the link below or call your extension office to register. Once capacity limit is reached for a training, that training date will no longer be available as a selection. The information required on-line is name and phone number.

Private Pesticide Registration:

<https://go.unl.edu/nepesticidetraining>

Additional Information regarding private pesticide:

1. Cost of face-to-face training is \$50 this year. Please bring exact cash or pay with check. Credit cards are not accepted.
2. The on-line training is \$50. Please contact your local Crops and Water Educator if you have questions regarding this.
3. The home self-study exam is back this year. This training will cost \$75 to complete. Contact your local Crops and Water Educator for any questions.

## Commercial/Noncommercial Pesticide Training

At this time, plans are to offer these trainings in person. Due to COVID 19, participation numbers will be reduced also. Individuals needing this certification should get registered ASAP to reserve a spot. Register on-line at:

<https://pested.unl.edu/initial-classes-registration> for initial certification or

<https://pested.unl.edu/pesticide-safety-recertification> (for those needing recertification).

## Chemigation

For those producers needing a chemigation license or to re-certify their chemigation license, please register at: <https://go.unl.edu/nechemigationtraining>.

Again, as capacity limits are reached for training sites, that date and location will no longer be available. Plan to register early for any trainings you need this year.

For any questions regarding these trainings, contact your local county extension office.

The phone number for the Dixon County Extension Office located at the Haskell Ag Lab is 402-584-2234.

## “Serious Fun” Early Childhood Book Club

By Sarah Roberts, Extension Educator at the Haskell Ag Lab

“Play is often talked about as if it were a relief from serious learning. But for children play is serious learning. Play is really the work of childhood.” This quote by the late Fred Rogers embodies the joy of early childhood.



As early childhood professionals, parents or educators, how can you use play as a tool for meaningful learning? Practice guided play strategies and discover the importance of intentionality in setting up your environment. Uncover children’s natural curiosity and imagination in a variety of focus areas such as language, math, art, and science. Join Extension Educators Jackie Steffen and Sarah Roberts in the Winter 2021 book club reading *Serious Fun: How Guided Play Extends Children’s Learning* by Marie L. Masterson & Holly Bohart.

This virtual book club meets three times—February 8, March 1, and March 29 at 7:00 pm each evening. During this time, members will reflect on the assigned readings, learn new concepts and strategies they can apply to their setting, and network with others in their profession.

What’s in it for early childhood professionals? Participants will earn four (4) professional development clock hours while collaborating with peers to discover ways to engage in both child and adult-guided play.

Class size is limited and books should be acquired before the first session. Register online at [go.unl.edu/seriousfun](https://go.unl.edu/seriousfun) by February 1, 2021. To learn more about *Serious Fun*, email: Jackie at [jsteffen2@unl.edu](mailto:jsteffen2@unl.edu) or Sarah at [sarah.roberts@unl.edu](mailto:sarah.roberts@unl.edu).

## Science with Sarah by Sarah Roberts

Greetings fellow scientists! A few days ago, I washed a large tray and left it outside to dry overnight. In the morning, there was ice coating the top. Apparently, there was some water leftover inside that froze in the low overnight temperatures. Looking at the fun designs made in the ice, I thought of a cool (pun intended) activity for you to try at home!



### Ice Painting

- Using a plastic ice cube tray, fill each opening with water (or snow from outside).
- Squirt a few drops of food coloring into each opening. Mix colors to create a variety of tints.
- Place a popsicle stick into each color and put tray in the freezer until water is completely frozen.
- Remove ice paint and paint designs of your choice on white or colored construction paper or cardstock.

### Questions to Ask:

- How many colors can you make? Can you make a different color for each tray opening?
- What takes longer to freeze: cold water or warm water?
- If your paint melts before you are done with it, can you refreeze it to use again?
- For questions or more fun science experiments, email me at [sarah.roberts@unl.edu](mailto:sarah.roberts@unl.edu). Stay warm and THINK OUTSIDE!

## Soils School to Feature Latest Strategies in Soil Management

The 2021 Soils School will be hosted in a recorded, online format via Zoom, kicking off at 9 a.m., Feb. 17 and concluding the afternoon of Feb. 18.



Co-sponsored by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Department of Agronomy and Horticulture and the Nebraska Agri-Business Association, this course has been designed for all employees for advanced application of the principles of soil management and to provide research and Extension updates. Leading experts from the University of Nebraska will be presenting the latest up-to-date information.

The course provides continuing education units (CEUs) for Certified Crop Advisers. Watch it live on Feb. 17-18, 2021 or earn credits by accessing the recordings and self-reporting your CEUs. A total of nine Soil & Water (SW) and seven Nutrient Management (NM) CEUs are being made available through this course.

Interested individuals can now view the [2021 Soils School agenda](#) for a list of session topics and presenters .

Videos and presenter slides will be made available electronically to registrants not in attendance following the event.

There is a \$200 registration fee for members of the Nebraska Agri-Business Association and \$300 registration fee for non-members. The registration deadline to watch presentations live is Friday, Feb. 12. Register online through the [Nebraska Agri-Business Association's calendar page](#).

## Manure Stockpiles: Mind Your Manners

By Todd Whitney - Extension Educator Cropping Systems & Water

Manure stockpiles must be built following some regulations, but where those regulations end, manners should remain. I suspect that just about everyone reading this article has been told on more than one occasion, "Mind your manners!" Or, perhaps as a parent, it's this very simple instruction that you now give to your kids as they head out the door to spend time with someone outside the household.

What does this have to do with manure management, you're wondering? With livestock manure, regulatory requirements differ whether you own the animals that are creating the manure or you receive manure from a livestock farmer to use on your crop fields. Simply put, when manure is transferred from a concentrated animal feeding operation (CAFO) to anyone not associated with that livestock farm, regulations tied to the CAFO's permit or nutrient management plan do not transfer with the manure. But does that mean the manure should be handled any differently? Where regulations end, manners should remain. Whether telling someone or being told ourselves, the message is simple: Behave politely.

As responsible land stewards, farmers who follow "good neighbor practices" may save on commercial fertilizer costs while at the same time protecting groundwater from contamination due to nutrient leaching. Properly stockpiled manure stored on field edges can be a "win-win" for farmers and their rural neighbors through addressing two common concerns: runoff and odors.