

Nebraska Extension Flood Resources Website

As Nebraskans begin returning to their homes and farms in the aftermath of widespread historic flooding, Nebraska Extension has mobilized a number of resources to aid in the recovery.

“Extension is committed to helping Nebraska recover from this disaster,” said Chuck Hibberd, Dean of Nebraska Extension. “Our team of statewide experts is available to offer assistance with immediate needs and will be there every step of the way for as long as it takes.”

Information is available on Nebraska Extension's flood resources webpage, located at: <http://flood.unl.edu>, which serves as a resource hub for families, homeowners, producers and businesses facing flood cleanup. New and updated information is added to this site on an ongoing basis.

Extension encourages individuals returning to homes and properties to first take steps to ensure their safety, said Sarah Purcell, Extension Educator. When a home or building is flooded, there is likely damage to the structure. Remember, buildings need to be thoroughly dried before remodeling can take place.

Before drinking water it is critical to test domestic wells for bacteria. Extension has compiled a list of the state’s certified public health environmental laboratories where homeowners can obtain a water test kit. This list is also available on the flood resources webpage.

Producers can find recommendations for salvaging as much quality grain as possible on this website, as well as options for disposing of flood-soaked grain, including land application, burning, or disposal in a lined landfill, said Purcell.

Another resource for producers describes how to assess flood damage to the interior and exterior of farm buildings, including what to look for now and what could weaken the structure or cause health concerns later.

Tips for homeowners facing food-safety concerns after the flood can also be found on the flood resources webpage. This includes guidelines to help people decide when to throw out food and how to disinfect food that can be saved. For instance, screw-topped jars or bottles of food that have come into contact with floodwaters should be thrown out, even when the jars have not been opened.

Extension is also a resource for those wanting to help flood victims, said Purcell. The Eastern Nebraska Research and Extension Center near Mead is serving as a donation location for large hay bales and fencing materials for livestock owners and managers impacted by the flood. Those wishing to obtain the donated materials should contact the Nebraska Department of Agriculture at 402-471-2341.

If you have any questions, please contact the Nebraska Extension in Otoe County office at 402-269-2301 or via email at otoe-county@unl.edu.

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