

August 24, 2018

NEBRASKA EXTENSION'S 2020 PLAN

For those not familiar, Nebraska Extension is a public-funded, non-formal educational system linking the land-grant University and county government. It is believed to be the largest adult and youth out-of-school non-formal educational organization in the world. The three partners in programming are USDA, the state land-grant institution and the county government.

Extension has changed a lot since I began my career in the early 80's. There used to be an "Ag Agent" in almost every county across Nebraska. Today, to better serve everyone, Nebraska Extension has become more diverse and organized Extension Educators into Accountability Regions. Each Educator has a group of counties where they are expected to connect with clientele in their focus area as well as businesses, organizations and communities to provide a strong linkage to Extension programs, products and services.

Our statewide directory and maps can be found at: <https://epd.unl.edu> At the bottom of this website there are tabs where you can see how our expertise is aligned across county lines in the eight focus areas. The focus areas are: 1) 4-H Youth Development; 2) Agricultural Economics; 3) Beef Systems; 4) Community Environment; 5) Community Vitality; 6) Food, Nutrition, Health & NEP Program; 7) Cropping and Water Systems; and 8) The Learning Child.

Resident at the Saline County Extension Office, I am involved in crops and water education in Gage, Jefferson and Saline County. Also resident in Saline is Leanne Manning, focusing on how to parent, teach and care for children during early childhood development with Nebraska Extension research-based strategies and resources, or short, "The Learning Child".

The reason why I am writing this news column about our current structure is citizens no longer need to apologize for contacting educators in other counties for information that they need! If it's in the area of Beef, then contact Kristen Ulmer whose office is at the Eastern Nebraska Extension and Research Center near Ithaca in Saunders County. She serves 15 counties in Southeast Nebraska. Her contact information is Kristen Ulmer, Extension Educator, Beef Systems at 402-624-8030 or kristen.ulmer@unl.edu

Agricultural business, farm accounting and taxes, farm leases and agricultural economics related questions can be directed to Austin Duerfeldt whose resident office is at the Kimmel facility in Nebraska City. He serves a large area in Southeast Nebraska, including Gage, Jefferson and Saline Counties and can be contacted at 402-873-3166 or aduerfeldt2@unl.edu.

So what does Community Environment mean? It's about creating resource-and energy-efficient rural and urban landscapes, protecting and managing water resources, properly managing insect and wildlife pests, and more. Examples might be questions on emerald ash borer, bagworms, pest issues around the home and landscape, solving bed bug and cockroach infestation issues, pesticide safety around the home and acreage and teaching master gardener classes. Nicole Stoner is resident in Gage County and covers education on these kind of issues in Gage, Jefferson and Saline County and in eight other counties. Nicole can be reached at the Gage County Extension office at 402-223-1384 or nstoner2@unl.edu



I didn't get the entire eight focus areas covered in this news column but I'm sure you have the idea by now about accountability regions plus your local Extension Office knows all about it. How we are solving the transportation issues is not very formal at this time, but with grant dollars and cross county Extension staff participation, it tends to cover that issue. For more information, contact your local Extension Office.

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