

The Rural Development Commission advocates for effective development in rural Nebraska.



## GRANT PROGRAM FUNDING EXPANDED

The Building Entrepreneurial Communities grant program received a substantial boost with LB 232, which passed with a 41-0 vote. LB 232 increased the funding available for FY' 08-09 to \$500,000 each fiscal year—doubling the amount of grant money available in the program for the next two years allowing more communities to participate.

Other significant changes include reducing the cash match from 100% to 50% for most applicants with the addition of a special category for limited resource communities that may apply for grant funding with a 25% cash match. A list of all communities and counties eligible for the 25% match will be included with the new application which should be available through our Website by mid-June.

Two new grant opportunities have been included. Establishment of community initiatives to attract new residents has been added to the list of eligible grant activities. There is also a small planning grant that can be made directly to limited resource areas for the purpose of building collaboration and developing proposals. The planning grant does not have a match requirement.

The RDC will be conducting application workshops later this summer with an anticipated grant application deadline of late summer or early fall. More information will be available as schedules are completed.

The first two-year Building Entrepreneurial Communities program resulted in 29 coalition grants receiving full or partial-funding under the \$500,000 initially appropriated.

## DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

May was another exciting month for the RDC with the final days of the Unicameral. See the lead story above for details about the BECA grant program, expanded funding, and significant program changes.

Sandi and I offered technical assistance to 49 grant participants and processed ten reimbursement requests during May. The impact of the grants is beginning to be realized.

*Linda*

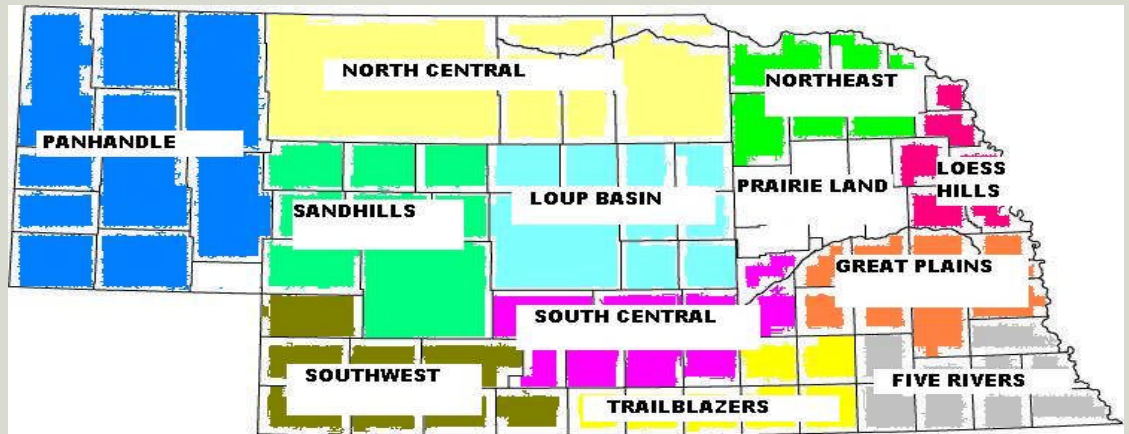


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# MEET THE RESOURCE PROVIDERS

## NEBRASKA'S RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT AREAS



Nebraska is fortunate to have Resource Conservation and Development offices serving the entire state. Contact information is:

Panhandle—Scottsbluff	308-632-1311
North Central—Bassett	402-684-3346
Northeast—Plainview	402-582-4866
Sandhills—Thedford	308-645-2621
Loup Basin—Ord	308-728-3393
Prairie Land—Albion	402-395-2621
Loess Hills—Oakland	402-582-4866
Great Plains—David City	402-367-0510
Southwest—Cambridge	308-697-3477
South Central—Doniphan	402-845-6678
Trailblazers—Red Cloud	402-746-3560
Five Rivers—Tecumseh	402-335-3347

## PARTNERS AND PROGRAMS

During May, the RDC staff attended the Nebraska Economic Developers Association conference, met with the Partnership for Rural Nebraska board and friends for a farewell lunch for Shirley Lederer (retiring editor of the *Rural News Bits*), attended the Diplomat's Business and Industry Recognition luncheon, and participated in the Nebraska Renaissance strategic planning session.

The RDC also attended the American Enterprise Organization conference in Kansas City. (See story on next page for information on guest speaker at conference.)

The RDC continues to be a participant in the Nebraska Value Added Providers (NEVAP) committee, the Partnership for Rural Nebraska Board, the GROW Advisory Committee, and the Partnership for Rural America Board.



# LESSONS LEARNED (OR TO BE LEARNED)



A surprise speaker at the recent American Enterprise Organization (AEO) conference in Kansas City was Dr. Muhammad Yunus, Nobel Peace Prize recipient for 2006, and founder of the Grameen Bank in Bangladesh.

According to Dr. Yunus' Nobel acceptance speech, 94 percent of the world income goes to 40 percent of the population while 60 percent of people live on only six percent of world income. Half of the world population lives on two dollars a day and over one billion people live on less than one dollar a day.

Dr. Yunus shared that the Grameen Bank program is now 30 years old. In addition to providing loans to nearly seven million people for entrepreneurship and housing, the Grameen Bank began making scholarships as an extension of its programming to break the cycle of illiteracy. Children from homes of illiterate parents have gone on to become doctors, engineers, college teachers and other professionals. There are even several who have earned PhD's.

An emphasis of Dr. Yunus' presentation to AEO was the idea of two types of business. The first, and most widely recognized, is the profit-maximizing business. Dr. Yunus and the Grameen Bank concentrate on the second type, known as social business. He illustrated this by describing a project between the Grameen Bank and the Dannon Company that is building yogurt plants in Bangladesh to produce a special enriched yogurt that will be readily available to improve nutrition in children, especially in poorer countries where inadequate nutrition is common place. As the yogurt plants are built and become profitable, all of the profit is turned to building the next plant. The results are that jobs are created by the new plants in both the construction phase and the ongoing plant operation, children receive better nutrition, social needs are met by families who have healthier children, and Dannon does not take any profit from this social enterprise. Investors may receive their original investment at a specified time, but agree not to take any dividend or profit.

## COMMISSION CORNER

### **RDC Committees and Chairs:**

**Executive:** Edgar Hicks

**Legislative:** John Jordison

**Rural Recognition:** Chuck Karpf

**Marketing:** Tim Shafer

**Ease of Financing:** Tim Kenny



# RDC MISSION

The Rural Development Commission advocates for effective development in rural Nebraska.

# RDC COMMISSIONERS

Edgar Hicks—Acting Chair  
Gayle McClure—Acting Vice  
Chair

Chuck Hassebrook  
Richard Baier  
Scot Blehm  
Larry Cooper  
Ross Garwood  
Mary Gerdes

Robert Gustafson  
Dan Hoffman  
Greg Ibach  
John Jordison  
Chuck Karpf  
Tim Kenny  
Senator V. McDonald  
M.L. Martin  
Marilyn Mecham

Lance Morgan  
Bryce Neidig  
Christine Peterson  
Tim Shafer  
Sandy Scofield  
Gary Warren

New member:  
Karl Elmshaeuser

# CALENDAR CORNER

**June 5-8**—Energizing Entrepreneurship—  
Nebraska City

**June 16-21**—CDS and NRDP conference—  
Appleton, Wisconsin

**July 19**—DED briefing—Bridgeport

**Sept 9-12**—PRA meeting—Idaho

**Sept 17-19**—Rural Institute—Holdrege

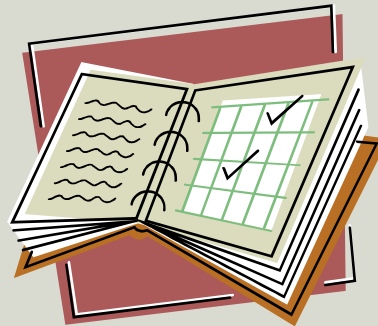
**Sept 19**—RDC meeting—Holdrege

**Sept 26**—EDA Symposium—Kansas City

## 2007 COMMISSION MEETINGS:

**JUNE 15**—Kearney (*being re-scheduled*)

**SEPT 19**—Holdrege



## Rural Development Commission

402 East State Farm Road  
P.O. Box 310  
North Platte, NE 69101

308-749-2291 (phone)  
308-749-2223 (fax)  
Linda.Fettig@ded.ne.gov

Sandra.Kaskie@ded.ne.gov  
308-535-8018 (phone)  
308-535-8019 (fax)

[www.ruralnebraska.info](http://www.ruralnebraska.info)