



ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Entrepreneurship Week USA was celebrated February 24-March 3, 2007. President Bush encouraged "ALL [to] work together to 'start the conversation' about the importance of entrepreneurship education to the youth of our nation and the future economy of America"

An estimated 85.9 percent of all Nebraska businesses employ fewer than 20 people, with only 3.2 percent of the businesses employing 500 or more. Entrepreneurship and small business are the lifeblood of Nebraska's economy according to a recent Department of Economic Development (DED) news release.

The release highlights DED programs designed to assist small businesses and entrepreneurs. They include:

- Nebraska Advantage Act, Small Business Advantage (Tier 1)

- Nebraska Advantage Act, Rural Development Advantage
- Nebraska Advantage Act, Micro-enterprise Tax Credit Advantage (for more information on the Advantage programs, contact your DED field staff)

Additional entrepreneur programs funded through DED include:

- Building Entrepreneurial Communities Act (BECA)
- Value-Added Agriculture (VAA)
- Nebraska Microenterprise Partnership Fund (visit www.nebbiz.org for more information)
- GROW Nebraska (visit www.growneb.com for more information)
- Rural Enterprise Assistance Project (REAP). (visit www.cfra.org/reap)

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Projects funded under the Building Entrepreneurial Communities and the Agricultural Innovation and Value-Added Agriculture grants are beginning to materialize.



The impact of projects planned to date under **BECA** is over **\$550,000** while the **VAA** impact will be **\$2,125,000**. Watch for updates and success stories as the projects get underway.

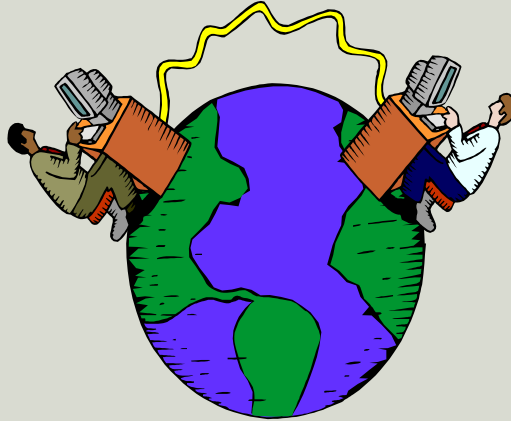
The final round of BECA grant applications is under review and we hope to have announcements soon .

Linda

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MEET THE RESOURCES



The Community Economic Development (CED) clinic is a program of the Creighton University School of Law. The Clinic is committed to encouraging economic growth and stability in Nebraska by supporting non-profit corporations, community-based organizations and micro-enterprise efforts while providing third year law student with clinical experience. Contact the clinic at 402-280-3068 to discuss their programs, services, and fees.

Check these out:

www.smallbizsurvival.com is a great resource for any small business

www.ideacafe.com another small business site

www.liveofficefreeconferencing.com—comes highly recommended as a free teleconference site. You pay the normal phone connection fees. Site also offers the ability (fee based) to record your teleconference for later sharing.

www.freeconference.com—another conference site also records teleconferences for free

Nebraska Entrepreneurship Education listserv for those interested in entrepreneurial education (K-20) can be accessed at:

<http://lists.k12.ne.us/mailman/listinfo/entre-ed>

PARTNERS AND PROGRAMS

2007 has started out with a steady flow of meetings, conferences, seminars, and partnership opportunities. RDC staff have been involved with or attended the GROW advisory committee, Partnership for Rural Nebraska, Nebraska Development Network—Panhandle Region meeting, met with several Development District executive directors, presented an overview of DED and the RDC at the Fillmore County Economic Development annual meeting, presented a session at the advanced grantwriting seminar in Valley County, continued working on the Partnership for Rural America regional seminar, attended the Market-Place and the Governor's Ag Conference. March promises to be just as busy.



LESSONS LEARNED (or to be learned)

The 19th Annual Governor's Ag Conference was held February 28-March 1, 2007 in Kearney. Here are some Nebraska Ag Facts:

- Cash receipts from farm marketings **contributed over \$11 billion** to Nebraska's economy in 2005
- Nebraska's five leading commodities for cash receipts are cattle and calves, corn, soybeans, hogs and wheat.
- **Every dollar in agricultural exports generates \$1.48 in economic activities** such as transportation, financing, warehousing, and production. Nebraska's \$2.8 billion in agricultural exports in 2005 translated into nearly \$4.2 billion in additional economic activity.
- Nebraska has 47,600 farms and ranches; the average operation consists of 960 acres average net income per farm averaged \$48,562 during the 2001-2005 period.
- **Nebraska's farms and ranches utilize 45.7 million acres—93% of the state's total land area.**
- **In 2006, Nebraska ranked third in ethanol production capacity**, with 12 operating plants having production capacity of 678 million gallons (2,566,508,726 liters). Nearly 20% of the state's corn crop was utilized in ethanol production.
- The Nebraska livestock industry accounted for 66% of the state's total agricultural cash receipts in 2005. **Nearly 55% of Nebraska farms have livestock or poultry operations.**
- **There are nearly 22 million acres of rangeland and pastureland in Nebraska—half of which are in the Sandhills.**
- Of special note: **Of every dollar spent on food in 2002, the farm value was 19 cents; 38 cents went to labor used by manufacturers, wholesalers, and retailers. The remaining 43 cents paid for marketing costs such as packaging, transportation, and advertising.**

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 VISION

The Nebraska Rural Development Commission seeks, through advocacy and action, to improve the quality of life in rural Nebraska.

RDC COMMISSIONERS

Edgar Hicks—Acting Chair	Robert Gustafson	Lance Morgan
Gayle McClure—Acting Vice Chair	Dan Hoffman	Bryce Neidig
Chuck Hassebrook	Greg Ibach	Christine Peterson
Richard Baier	John Jordison	Tim Shafer
Scot Blehm	Chuck Karpf	Sandy Scofield
Larry Cooper	Tim Kenny	Gary Warren
Ross Garwood	Senator V. Mc Donald	
Mary Gerdes	M.L. Martin	
	Marilyn Mecham	

CALENDAR CORNER

Mar 7 & 8 - Partnership for Rural Nebraska briefing—Lincoln

Mar 12-14 - Partnership for Rural America briefing—Washington, DC

Mar 21—NDN-CR regional group meeting—location TBA

Mar 21— Innovation Forum—Omaha

Mar 22— NDN-SW Regional group meeting—location TBA

Mar 22—NEVAP meeting—Lincoln

Mar 27—Mid Plains Enterprise Board—North Platte

Mar 30—Commission meeting-Grand Island

Apr 28—Office closed—Arbor Day

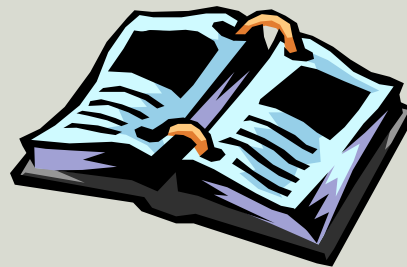
Sept 17-19—Rural Institute—Holdrege

2007 COMMISSION MEETINGS:

MARCH 30—Grand Island

JUNE 15—Curtis

SEPT 19—Holdrege



Rural Development Commission

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