



RDC Connection

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WORKSHOPS HELP BUILD CAPACITY



Many entities have taken advantage of the colder winter weather to offer capacity building workshops like this one sponsored by the Loup Basin RC&D. Participants learned the basics of grantwriting skills and also heard from specific funding agencies about different

programs available. The RDC was one of the presenters at this workshop and also at the recent Farm Bureau conference. We shared a booth with the Department of Economic Development and participated in the Governor's Ag Conference and MarketPlace. Several of the younger participants at MarketPlace were on scholarships provided to students by BECA grant recipients.

Director's Comments

The clocks got turned ahead and spring has officially arrived. The RDC has been busy preparing for the next round of BECA applications due May 9th. We also have been working with the legislature to effect some changes to the BECA program

which will be available in the August round, and the next Value-Added Ag round which will be due in October. Check the website www.ruralnebraska.info for applications and information. Linda

RURAL DEVELOPMENT**COMMISSIONERS:****Executive Committee:**

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REDEFINING "RURAL"

According to information found at the Economic Research Service of the USDA, the official U.S. Census Bureau defines rural areas as those that comprise open country and settlements with fewer than 2,500 residents. However, they have reclassified some areas and developed a terminology of "urban clusters". A town of 2,000 people with an adjacent densely settled suburb of 800 would be designated as an urban cluster with a population of 2,800 thus eliminating the community of 2,000 from being considered rural for government purposes.

Conversely, the Bureau now identifies rural parts of incorporated towns whose city limits are very broad and include some thinly settled territory. If a town of 5,000 people has 500 residents living in a thinly settled area, the 500 are classified as rural and the urban population is adjusted to be 4,500. This allows portions of larger communities to be classified as rural for some government programs.

The introduction of urban clusters, along with adjustments to the criteria defining urbanized areas, caused considerable shifts in rural geography and population. The Bureau estimates that a net of about 5 million people have been added to the urban population by the new definitions. Without the rule changes, rural areas likely would have increased by around 2 million people between 1990 and 2000. Instead the rural population declined from 62 to 59 millions.

Check out the full article at www.ers.usda.gov/Briefing/Rurality/WhatIsRural

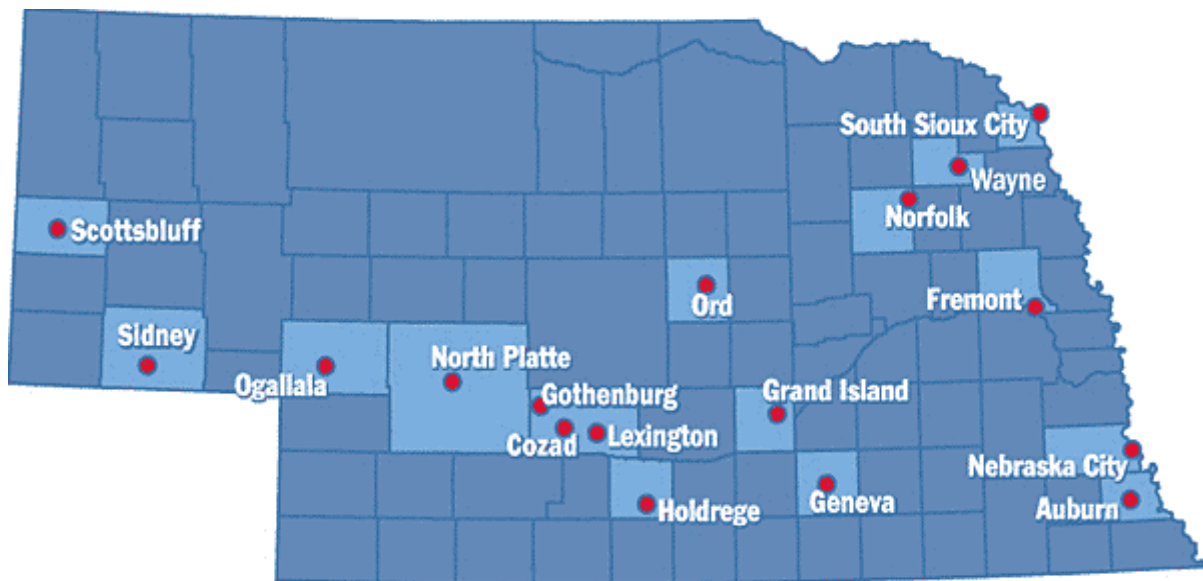
ANOTHER IMPORTANT NUMBER 2-1-1

According to the Older Nebraskan's Voice, a 2-1-1 telephone network has been established in parts of Nebraska to give consumers a single source for information about community and human services.

By dialing 2-1-1, consumers can access information about food banks, shelters, rent and utility assistance, physical and mental health problems, employment, and support for older Americans and persons with disabilities.

The network is available 24 hours a day.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CERTIFIED COMMUNITIES



There are currently 17 Nebraska Communities certified, exemplifying economic development readiness.

AUBURN www.auburn.ne.gov

NORFOLK www.ci.norfolk.ne.us

COZAD www.cozadnebraska.net

NORTH PLATTE www.grownorthplatte.org

FREMONT www.fremont.ne.gov

OGALLALA www.ogallala-ne.gov

GENEVA www.ci.geneva.ne.us

ORD www.ordneusa.com

GOTHENBURG www.ci.gothenburg.ne.us

SCOTTSBLUFF www.scottsbluff.org

GRAND ISLAND www.grand-island.com

SIDNEY www.cityofsidney.org

HOLDREGE www.holdrege.org

SOUTH SIOUX www.southsiouxcity.org

LEXINGTON www.ci.lexington.ne.us

WAYNE www.waynene.com

NEBRASKA CITY www.rivercountryedc.org

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE COMMUNITIES WHO HAVE QUALIFIED!!

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We're on the Web:
www.ruralnebraska.info



The Rural Development Commission advocates for effect development in rural Nebraska

COMMISSION DUTIES:

According to the statutes, the duties of the RDC are:

- Focus attention on and increase awareness of opportunities and needs of rural Nebraska
- Strengthen community sustainability and growth in rural Nebraska through increased community-based wealth creation, expanded economic opportunity and improved quality of life
- Stimulate rural development innovation and foster information transfer to, from, and within rural Nebraska
- Ensure that rural Nebraskans are afforded the opportunity to determine rural Nebraska's development agenda
- Foster community-based development initiatives through multi-community partnerships

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

APRIL 4—RDC meeting in Curtis

April 18—GROW product evaluation in Minden

April 25—Arbor Day (office closed)

May 9—(noon CDT) BECA

APPLICATIONS DUE

May 26—Memorial Day (office closed)

**August 15—(noon CDT) BECA
Applications Due**

**October 3—(noon CDT) VAA
Applications Due**

