

Special points of interest:

Nebraska Rural Poll releases....pg 2

Rural Institute highlights.....pg 3



# 25 X '25

The "Perseverance through Partnerships" leadership summit for National Rural Development Partners and Partners for Rural America members was held in Cheyenne, Wyoming, September 10-13.

Tracie Bentley shared timely information about the "25 x 25" program. This organization formed in the spring of 2004 with an ambitious three-phase project:

- First—create a vision,
- Second—build an energy alliance, and
- Third—construct an implementation strategy.

Their vision is:

By the year 2025, America's farms, ranches and forests will provide 25 percent of the total energy consumed in the U.S. while continuing to produce safe, abundant and affordable food, feed and fiber.

Phase Two saw them testing the vision in 2006, building an alliance and hosting a National Ag/Forestry Renewable Energy Summit in Washington, D.C.

They are now in the third phase—bringing the vision to life. To date more than 250 organizations have endorsed the program.



Governors of 14 states (including Nebraska) have added their endorsement. They had set a goal of 20 states participating in the alliance by September 1, 2006 and exceeded that when the 23rd state signed on.

The leadership of 25 x '25 says the U.S. now has the technology, capacity and leadership to offer new energy solutions and these solutions will enhance farm incomes and strengthen rural communities. If you are interested in more information check out [www.25x25.org](http://www.25x25.org).

(Information for this article was taken from the power point presented at the Cheyenne, Wy meeting September 12, 2006)

## DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

October means it is time for another RDC meeting. We hope to see you all there as we will be discussing proposed changes to the BECA and VAA grant programs..

The recent leadership seminar in Cheyenne, WY was titled "Perseverance through Partnership". It was a meeting of rural development councils from around the nation but also is a good slogan for our own RDC as we move forward with meeting the needs of rural Nebraskans.

*Linda*



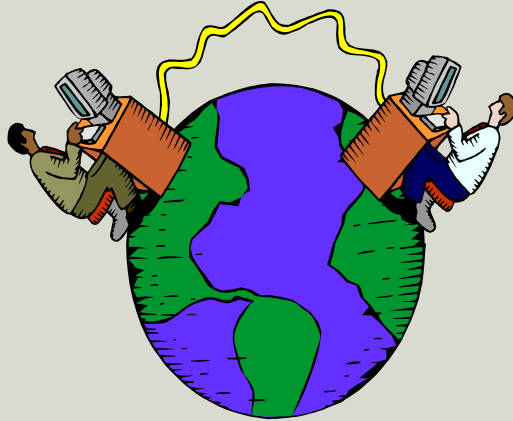
A walk to Smith Falls was part of the tour enjoyed by many of the participants of the recent Rural Institute held in Ainsworth, NE this year.

### Inside this issue:

MEET THE RESOURCES	2
PARTNERS AND PROGRAMS	2
LESSONS LEARNED	3
COMMISSION COLUMN	3
RDC MISSION	4
CALENDAR CORNER	4

# MEET THE RESOURCES

---



The 2005-2006 **Nebraska Lied Main Street** Annual Report is now available online. Check it out at [www.nebraskamainstreet.org](http://www.nebraskamainstreet.org)

A brand new way to market agritourism opportunities is being offered by KAAPA with their **Country Adventures** website. Look for a variety of adventures, or work with them to list your ranch or farm experience. Their website is going live this month [www.country-adventures.com](http://www.country-adventures.com)

Three more portions of the 2006 **Nebraska Rural Poll** are now available. One section focuses on how rural Nebraskans view their communities. It is found at <http://cari.unl.edu/ruralpoll/06community.pdf>.

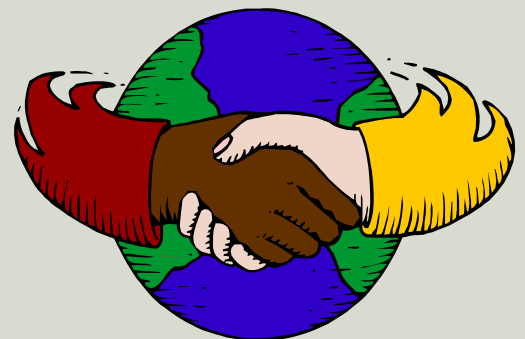
Another section focuses on how rural Nebraskans view new residents in their communities and their expectations about population growth for their community in the next decade. It is available at [http://cari.unl.edu/ruralpoll/new\\_residents.pdf](http://cari.unl.edu/ruralpoll/new_residents.pdf)

The next section focuses on rural Nebraskans' perceptions of their well-being and can be found online at <http://cari.unl.edu/ruralpoll/06wellbeing.pdf> This is the fourth section released. Next month will focus on immigration.

## PARTNERS AND PROGRAMS

---

September found the RDC partnering with the National Rural Development Partnership and the Partners for Rural America, the Nebraska Rural Institute, the Partners for Rural Nebraska, the Nebraska Economic Developers Association and working with other agencies and volunteers on the grant reviews for the current cycle.



# LESSONS LEARNED (or to be learned)

## RURAL INSTITUTE FEATURES AUSTRALIAN PRESENTERS

Margaret Alston from Charles Sturt University in Australia spoke about social changes in Australia's rural areas. Her focus was on the economic as well as the social cost of the extreme drought being suffered by Australia.

Peter Kenyon returned to Nebraska once again to share stories of best practices in rural development from both Nebraska and Australia. Peter has formed an organization called the "Bank of I.D.E.A.S" (Initiatives for the Development of Enterprising Action and Strategies) and spoke extensively about his first hand experiences in rural community building. He opened his presentation with a quote from William Jennings Bryan, "Destiny is not a matter of



Peter Kenyon from his website.

chance: it is a matter of choice. It is not a thing to be waited for; it is a thing to be achieved." Peter's website is [www.bankofideas.com.au](http://www.bankofideas.com.au)

Other presenters spoke about doing business in rural Nebraska, the economic impact of Wal-Mart on county growth, improving retail markets, and topics focusing on youth.

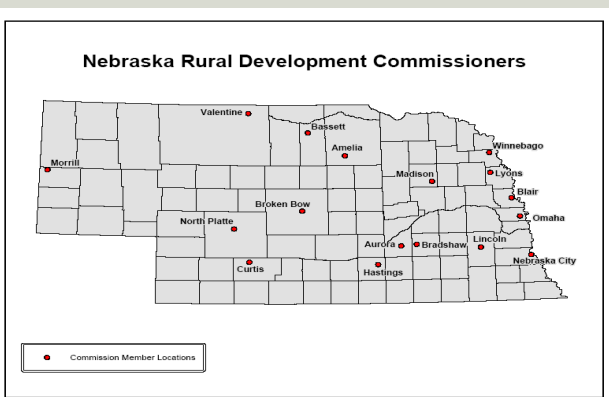
Additionally, there were two bus tours: one focusing on agri-tourism and rural areas, the other focusing on economic vitality. Both tours had a Sandhills and Outback flavor.

While the Institute was in session, several local schools had students participating in podcasting sessions.



Rural barn that is county gathering site featured on the agri-tourism tour

## COMMISSION CORNER



This map shows the distribution of the current Rural Development Commissioners. New representatives are from Valentine, Morrill, and Curtis.

The application form for those interested in becoming commissioners is found on our web page [www.ruralnebraska.info](http://www.ruralnebraska.info).



Remember if you have represented the RDC or have been highlighted at some public function, please share the information with the commission.

# RDC VISION

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

# RDC MISSION

The Nebraska Rural Development Commission is a voice for rural Nebraska communities in the creation of laws, policies, and other initiatives that affect their economic, civic, and social conditions, and foster cooperation and understanding among all agencies and organizations, public and private.

The duties of the Commission are to:

- Focus attention on and increase awareness of opportunities and needs of rural Nebraskans
- 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

# CALENDAR CORNER

**October 4-6:** Nebraska Economic Developers Association Fall conference, South Sioux City

**October 18-19:** Nebraska Travel Conference  
North Platte

**October 19:** RDC Executive Committee

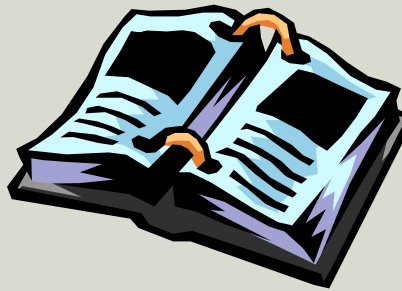
**October 25:** NPPD community briefing

**October 29:** Daylight savings time ends

**November 2:** NCIP Conference—Kearney

**November 8:** Partnership for Rural Nebraska

**COMMISSION MEETING: Hastings  
October 11**



## Rural Development Commission

402 East State Farm Rd  
PO Box 310  
North Platte, NE 69101

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

Our new web address is official—look for us at:

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