

Special points of interest:

National leaders converge in Cheyenne—pg 3

Senator Stuhr is honored—pg 3



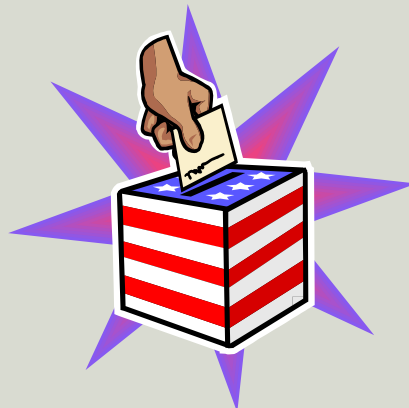
ELECTION TIME DRAWS NEAR

Election day is just around the corner, and many parts of the state will be welcoming returning state senators or introducing new representatives due to the term limits.

As part of this process, the Rural Development Commission will be meeting with all returning senators and senatorial candidates in the near future to share the RDC vision and workplan.

Two programs being administered by the RDC are having an impact on Nebraska, and especially on the rural communities and businesses. Those are the Building Entrepreneurial Community (BECA) grant program and the Agricultural Innovation and Value-Added Agriculture grant program.

The Building Entrepreneurial Communities grant program has funded several multi-community projects aimed at improving the business climate for small businesses and entrepreneurs. Some of the grant recipients have a strong youth entrepreneurship component in their programs. Like any new program, this one needs time for the communities to build those coalitions and identify common needs. One grant round was completed earlier this year and another round is currently under review.



Round One of the Agricultural Innovation and Value-Added Agriculture program did indeed highlight the creativity and innovation in Nebraska’s ag community. With the ink still drying on the contracts from the first round and the second round under review, producers and partners are thinking of new projects for future funding opportunities. New processing, new uses, and even the creation of new products are some of the highlights of the grant recipients.

DIRECTOR’S COMMENTS

September—back to school (and back to winter coats). With the second round of Building Entrepreneurial Communities and the Agricultural Innovation and Value Added Ag grants due for review, the Commission is once again busy reading and evaluating some of the best ideas for rural sustainability.

It was interesting to attend the recent Corn Growers annual meeting and hear that the first ethanol gas in Nebraska was available in 1933. Wonder what took the world so long to find out?

Linda



Nebraska is known for a “can-do” attitude. Where else would an empty field, a passion for windmills, and a rural population combine to enjoy three major music festivals a year?

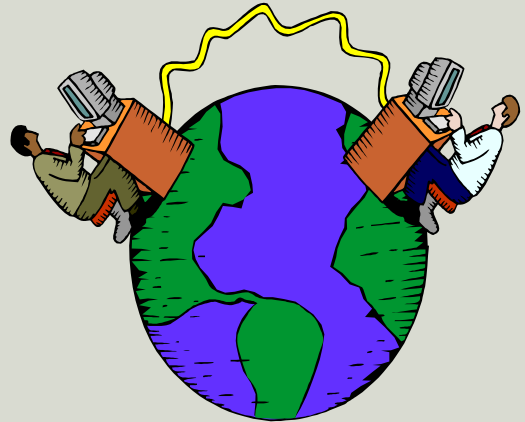
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MEET THE RESOURCES

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DO YOU HAVE BUSINESS ASSISTANCE QUESTIONS?

Check the Department of Economic Development website for the “Business and Entrepreneur’s Toolkit”. This page is filled with links to other resources and is an easy to use format. Look at www.neded.org or if you prefer the human touch, call Steve Williams at 402-471-3782.

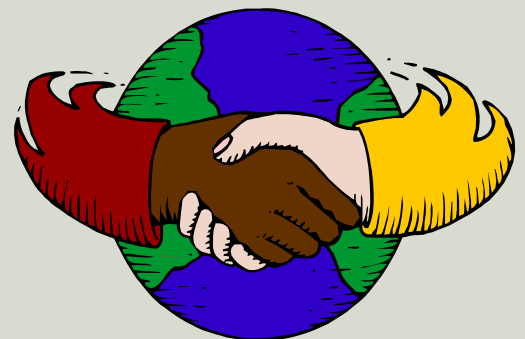


WHERE YOU LIVE CAN AFFECT HOW LONG YOU LIVE... look at this interesting article about the eight American regions and the life expectancy. Nebraska and Middle America come out near the top. You can view the story at <http://www.cnn.com/2006/HEALTH/09/12/american.longevity.ap/index.html>

DO YOU WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT PODCASTING? Contact Connie Hancock, UNL Extension Educator, at chancock1@unl.edu to find out about the courses being offered and how podcasting can be another media choice for your community or project.

PARTNERS AND PROGRAMS

Continuing work with the GROW Nebraska Advisory Board, participating in the National Rural Development Partnership Leadership Seminar Planning Committee, the Partnership for Rural America Board Meeting, the Partnership for Rural America Leadership Fall Conference Education Committee meeting, continuing to assist with the Partnership for Rural Nebraska and attending their day-long retreat filled the calendar for August.



LESSONS LEARNED (or to be learned)

NRDP LEADERSHIP MEETING

“Perseverance Through Partnerships” was the title of the NRDP Leadership meeting September 10-12 in Cheyenne, Wyoming. National Rural Development Partners and the Partners for Rural America from 27 states participated in the leadership training and networking.



A room full of ideas and friends.



Edgar and wife, Anna, join other NRDP participants for a tour and dinner at Chugwater, WY during the recent leadership meeting

With the recent changes at the federal offices of USDA-Rural Development, some of the conversation centered on how we (the NRDP and PRA) interface with USDA-RD and the staffing limitations. The group also processed through a strategic planning session to help set the work agenda for the PRA and suggestions for the NRDP.

RURAL INSTITUTE TO MEET IN AINSWORTH

The 2006 Rural Institute will feature keynote speaker and Australian Peter Kenyon, Bank of I.D.E.A.S. This year's institute will also offer sessions on creative bio-businesses, business transition, increasing rural retail markets, youth entrepreneurship, and other community and economic development issues.

COMMISSION CORNER



2006 Yorkfest King Herb Heiden and Queen Elaine Stuhr were crowned on September 8, 2006

Senator (and Commissioner) Elaine Stuhr was honored for her years of service when she was recently crowned Queen of Yorkfest in York, NE. Listed among her honors are 2002 Woman of the Year for WIFE, 2003 Distinguished Service Award from Nebraska Educational Service Units, and the 1998 Family and Community Service Award from the College of Human Resources and Family Sciences at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Stuhr and her husband of 50 years, Boyd, have two daughters, a son, and six grandchildren.

CONGRATULATIONS!



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

September 4—Holiday

September 10-13— NRDP meeting—
Cheyenne

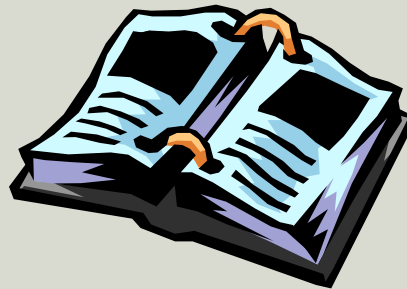
September 14—Department of Economic
Development briefing --Kearney

September 19-21-Ainsworth—Rural Institute

September 26—Fed Reserve forum—Kearney

October 4-6-NEDA conference, So. Sioux City

**COMMISSION MEETING: Hastings
October 11**



Rural Development Commission

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