

**Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA) State Report - University of Nebraska–Lincoln**

October 1, 2005 – September 30, 2006

RREA education programs in Nebraska help forest land and rangeland owners manage and use the forest and range resources in ways that sustain the resource and provide optimum economic value. The RREA dollars are coupled with over \$100,000 of state funding supporting faculty time and with at least \$15,000 in registration fees to achieve the impact noted below. The RREA dollars allow Nebraska Forest Service and the School of Natural Resources to directly support 0.7 FTE of forestry education programming in Nebraska.

- The 2006 Wild Fruit & Nut Jam featured 22 Nebraska vendors and drew approximately 1,500 attendees. This event stimulated rural economic development by promoting Nebraska's growing specialty forest product industry and fostering business-to-business contacts among participating vendors.
  - *"Quite possibly this is one of Nebraska's best events-low key and family-oriented," 2006 Wild Fruit & Nut Jam attendee.*
- The 2006 Tree Care Workshops held annually at six locations across the state drew more than 300 green industry professionals. Because these attendees work closely with communities and citizens across the state, the knowledge gained through these day-long workshops translates into safer, healthier, more sustainable urban forest resources across Nebraska.
- The Nebraska Ranch Practicum is a "hands-on" learning experience designed to emphasize a "systems" approach to livestock and rangeland resource management. The curriculum integrates animal, rangeland management and economic considerations to improve the ability of participants to make management decisions and monitor progress toward their goals. Ranchers in the past year's program influenced decisions on 204,300 acres of upland range, meadows, seeded hayland and cropland and 21,900 head of cows and yearlings estimated the value of the program to their operation at \$15.73 per head. The average cow herd size per producer was 721 head resulting in a total benefit of \$11,341 per operation.
  - *"The practicum not only offered a wealth of information but also made the point to look at the whole system – your system to take what we learned and apply it to our own operation" – Ranch Practicum Participant*
- RREA funds were used to support drought management education programs that assisted managers in developing grazing management plans and plans to aid rangeland recovery after drought benefit the future productivity of the rangeland and help reduce the financial impact of drought. Ranchers estimated the value of the program was \$18.33 per head of cattle or a total value of over \$4,700 per producer.
- The July 16, 2006 fire in Valentine, Nebr. burned 3,100 acres and destroyed 10 homes. The Nebraska Forest Service provided informational packets and participated in public meetings to help landowners manage fire-ravaged forest lands.



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