**Agriculture Industry Symposium**

**Outcome:** Establish relationships between the agricultural industry and natural resource professionals to increase the awareness of conservation programs. Identify areas where production agriculture and conservation are mutually beneficial. Support opportunities for the Agriculture Industry Sector to have a better understanding of voluntary incentive-based conservation programs and be able to communicate information to producers about how conservation programs could be an economically viable option within their operations. Natural Resource Professionals understand current bottlenecks impeding producers’ ability to address natural resource concerns and collaborate about solutions.

**Objectives:**

* Foster opportunities to develop relationships between natural resource professionals and leaders in agriculture industry.
* Support professionals in creating a network to facilitate collaboration projects that can address multiple natural resource concerns through habitat, irrigation water management, nutrient management, water quality, and water quantity.
* Provide an opportunity to introduce new tools and opportunities that can help identify opportunities to collaborate (i.e. nitrogen dashboard, economics assessment, etc.).

**Agriculture Industry Symposium Agenda**

*8:30* – Registration/coffee social

*9:00* – Welcome Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations

* Economically viable working farm and ranch operations
* Voluntary Incentive Based
* Avoid regulatory mandates
* Gain understanding of different perspectives
  + Alignment of opportunity
  + Addressing bottlenecks
* Where do we go from here

*9:15* – Ice Breaker and Introductions – UNL Extension Facilitators

*10:15* – Plenary Session 1 – (30 minutes presentation 5 minutes questions) – Finding the Balance Between Ag Production and Natural Resource Conservation. Andy Little (UNL Extension)

*10:50* - Plenary Session 2 (30 minutes presentation 5 minutes questions) – Nebraska Strategic Ag Coalition – Leveraging Resources for a Sustainable and Resilient Agriculture Landscape – Alexa Davis (NE Nebraska Department of Natural Resources) and Rachael Whitehair (Nebraska Corn Board)

*11:25* - Plenary Session 3 (30 minutes presentation 5 minutes questions) – Economics of Playa Wetland Conservation Programs: A Case Study - Ron Seymore (UNL Extension) Jordan Rodriguez (NRCS)

*12:00* – Lunch

*1:00* – Conservation Roundtable – facilitated discussion.

* 40 people with 5 at each table = 8 tables.
  + Participants will be rotated between one of the tables for each of the resource concerns.
  + Use name tags and assignments.
  + Need note taker or facilitator to integrate “like table conversations for the notes and report out”
* Idea: Coffeeshop Conversations
  + 25-minutes per table for discussion
  + 5-minute debrief between questions/tables
  + 5-minute report out to the other groups
* 1:10 – 1:45 – Conversation 1 – Debrief questions, capture main ideas, move to next table/question.
* 1:50 – 2:25 – Conversation 2 – Debrief questions, capture main ideas, move to next table/question.
* 2:30 – 3:05 Conversation 3 – Debrief questions, capture main ideas, move to next table/question.

*3:10* - Closing:

*3:30* – Adjourn