**Agriculture Industry Symposium**

**Outcome:** Establish relationships between agriculture industry and natural resource professionals to increase the awareness of conservation programs. Identify areas where production agriculture and conservation are mutually beneficial. Agriculture industry have a better understanding of voluntary incentive-based conservation programs and can communicate information to producers about how conservation programs could be an economically viable option within their operations.

**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.).

**Conservation Practitioner Symposium Agenda**

*8:00* – Registration/coffee social

*8:30* – 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
  + Areas of misalignment
* Where do we go from here

*8:45* – Ice Breaker and Introductions

*9:45* – Plenary Session 1 – Andy Little (UNL Extension)

Where’s your information coming from? Research on where producers get their information.

*10:20* - Plenary Session 2 – Alexa Davis -NeDNR

Nebraska Strategic Agriculture Coalition – Conservation Programs 101

*10:55* - Plenary Session 3 - Ron Seymore (UNL Extension) Jordan Rodriguez (NRCS)

Agriculture Economics 101 – Happold project economic assessment, partner cost-share programs, conservation programs

*11:30* – Lunch

*12:30* – Conservation Roundtable – facilitated discussion.

* + 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”

*12:45 – 1:30* – Conversation 1 – Debrief questions, capture main ideas, move to next table/question.

*1:30 – 2:15* – Conversation 2 – Debrief questions, capture main ideas, move to next table/question.

*2:15 – 3:00* Conversation 3 – Debrief questions, capture main ideas, move to next table/question.

*3:10* - Closing: Where do we go from here? What will you take with you today?

*3:30* – Adjourn

Agriculture Industry Symposium questions to generate conversation – Overarching goal participants understand perceptions of the three overarching resource concerns impacting central Nebraska – Water Quality, Water Quantity, Wildlife Habitat. Discuss and highlight the alignments and misalignments to addressing resource concerns and/or producer adoption of BMP/programs.

* What is the perception from Agriculture Industry of conservation programs – water quality programs, habitat programs, water management programs?
* What is the perception from Natural Resource Professionals related to production agriculture? Is the goal to maximize outputs or income?
* Where is there alignment?
* Where is there misalignment?
* What are the potential solutions/strategies?
  + Nutrient Management
    - Planning
    - Incentives
    - Management
      * Application approaches (Sentinel Fertigation)
      * Monitoring
  + Irrigation water management
  + Crop production goals
  + Wetland/Groundwater recharge
  + Wetland restoration
  + Grassland buffers
  + Soil sampling
  + Forage production
  + Etc.

**Invitations**

Ethanol Plant

* KAAPA – Chrystal will reach out to Racheal Hoffschneider: [rhoffschneider@kaapaethanol.com](mailto:rhoffschneider@kaapaethanol.com)
* Chief – Andy will reach out to Duane Christensen
* Green Plains - Mitch Stuhr - [mitch.stuhr@gpreinc.com](mailto:mitch.stuhr@gpreinc.com)
* KAAPA – Axtell plant - Carrie

Independent agronomists

* President of Independent Crop Consultation Association – Andy

Agriculture Cooperatives – Jarod, Carrie, Dean Krull

* Aurora
* CVA
* ServiTech
* CHS
* AgriCoop

Agriculture Lenders – Andy reach out to Mel Taylor

* Nebraska Association of Farm Lenders – Andy Bishop

Seed Dealers – Brody Vorderstrasse and Dean Krull

* Syngenta
* Bayer Crop Science
* Corteva

Soil Science - Andy

* Ward Laboratory
* Platte Valley
* Midwest Research

Crop Insurance – Carrie & Andy

* Independent agents?
* State Association?
* Farm Credit ?

Pivot Dealers - Andy

* Lindsay – Brad Dunbar
* Reinke – Ken Goodall
* Valley – Darren Siekman
* T&L - ?

Farm Bureau – Andy reach out to Sherry Vinton

Nebraska Department of Agriculture – Andy reach out to Sherry Vinton

Farmers Union – Andy reach out to John Hanson 402-580-8815

Corn Board – Carrie reach out Ted Schrock/Rachael Whitehair – Brody Vorderstrasse

Soybean Board – Carrie reach out to Blake Johnson

**Conservation Audience**

* 35 Participants
  + Natural Resources Conservation Service – Assistant State Conservationists for Field Operations (10 participants) - Andy
  + Nebraska Game and Parks Commission – T.J. Walker, Jennifer Prenosil (2 participants) - Andy
  + Pheasants Forever – Nate Pflueger, Kelsi Wehrman – (2 participants) - Andy
  + Natural Resources Districts – Carrie, Jarod, Lyndon, John, Dave, Chrystal Houston, Courtney, – (10 participants) – Carrie and Brody
  + U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Steve Fairbairn - (1 participants) - Andy
  + University of Nebraska – Todd Whitney, Jenny Reece, Ron Seymore, Dean Krull, Andy Little, Agriculture economics presenter (5 participants) – Brody and Dean
  + Rainwater Basin Joint Venture (1 participants) - Andy
  + Farm Service Agency (1 participants) – Andy
  + The Nature Conservancy – Nick Arneson, Jacob Fritton (2 participant) - Andy

**Action items**

* Finalize initial presentation. Get bios and abstracts for continuing education accreditation.
* Draft email to Points of Contact
* Draft invitation email
* ~~Confirm venue.~~
* Need to identify local points of contact and note takers for each of the meetings.
* Brody needs to design webpage for sign-up forms for
* ~~Identify potential facilitators – UNL Extension~~
* ~~Need to work with Assistant State Conservationists for Field Operations to nail down dates.~~
* Review of draft Program Manual
* Participant survey to provide feedback, refine/promote solutions/improve venue