

# Conference Registration

Please call Karen DeBoer, Extension Educator (308) 254-4455, email [kdeboer1@unl.edu](mailto:kdeboer1@unl.edu) or mail this form to pre-register by December 8. Space is limited.

**Registration fee: \$35 per person**  
**Please make checks payable to:**  
**“University of Nebraska-Lincoln”**

Name

Address

City

State

Zip Code

Telephone

Email

Mail registration form and payment to:  
Nebraska Extension-Cheyenne County  
PO Box 356  
Sidney, NE 69162

**Space is limited. Register early to reserve your spot.**  
**(Refunds will not be given after December 11)**

## Directions to Conference Western Nebraska Community College

### Directions from Interstate 80 – Sidney Exit 59

- ◆ Turn north onto 17 J to stop light
- ◆ Turn left (west) onto Old Post Road, 19A
- ◆ Continue approximately 2.5 miles to stop light
- ◆ Turn right (northwest) onto 11th Ave. Stay in right lane
- ◆ At “Y” go to the right onto Fort Sidney Road
- ◆ Continue approximately 2 miles north to College Drive
- ◆ Turn right (east) and WNCC is located on your right

### A Joint Conference of:

- Nebraska Extension
- Organic Crop Improvement Association (OCIA) NE Chapter No. 2
- Nebraska Sustainable Agricultural Society



OCIA NE Chapter No. 2

Extension is a Division of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln cooperating with the Counties and the United States Department of Agriculture.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension educational programs abide with the nondiscrimination policies of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the United States Department of Agriculture.



## Western Nebraska Sustainable Ag Crops and Livestock Conference



**December 16, 2017**

**“Ideas to Grow With”**

Western Nebraska Community College  
371 College Drive  
Sidney, NE  
8:45 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

# Conference Topics

**8:45 a.m. Registration**

**9:30 a.m. Keynote Presentation**

## “Good Bug, Bad Bug: Can we grow the former while we decrease the later?”

Jeff Bradshaw, Extension Entomologist, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Scottsbluff, NE



Roughly 90% of the known insect species on the planet have some beneficial role. Yet in the "built environment" (e.g., schools, homes, and agriculture) we spend an inordinate amount of time and expense on the remaining 10%. Sustainability attempts to take the long view on people, planet, and profits. Therefore, in terms of sustainability in agriculture, our focus should be on the role that beneficial insects could have in improving yield while reducing inputs and input costs. Dr. Bradshaw will discuss his current research on beneficial insects in confection sunflower, dry edible beans, and dryland wheat. Additionally, the successes (improved yield and reduced input costs) and challenges will be discussed.

**10:30 a.m. Break**

**10:45 a.m.**  
**(Please choose one workshop to attend)**

## Workshop 1: “Is Organic Farming for You?”

Martin Kleinschmit, Hartington, NE, has been certified “organic” since 1993. In addition to managing his 380-acre farm, he designed and managed several organic education programs, giving farmers and ranchers the information needed to make informed decisions about organic production. Topics to be discussed include: organic requirements for certification, what to do during the transition



period, the USDA Organic Transition Incentive Program through EQIP, the economic and environmental benefits of organic farming, and the hurdles to certification.

## Workshop 2: “Annual Forage Mixtures (a.k.a. Cover Crops) for Beef Cattle”, Karla Jenkins, UNL, Cow/Calf Specialist, Scottsbluff, NE



This presentation focuses on growing annual forage mixtures in western Nebraska and how that differs from eastern Nebraska. It will also address the economics of grazing mixtures as well as projected gains.

**12:00 p.m. Lunch**  
Catered by Outlaws Catering, Gurley

## 1:00 p.m. “Nebraska Sustainable Ag Research & Education Program”, Gary Lesoing, UNL, SARE Coordinator & Extension Educator

**1:30 p.m.**  
**(Please choose one workshop to attend)**

## Workshop 3: “The Rewards & Challenges of Farming Organically”, Sara Fehringer, OCIA Chapter 2, Dennis Demmel, Organic Farmer

Interested in organic farming? This presentation will review the process of organic certification.



## Workshop 4: “Gardening for Profit”

Panel of producers who raise produce for Farmers’ Markets.



**2:30 p.m. Break**

**2:45 p.m.**  
**(Please choose one workshop to attend)**

## Workshop 5: “Key Business Considerations of a New Agricultural Enterprise”, Jessica Groskopf, UNL, Regional Extension Economist, Scottsbluff, NE.



Starting a new agricultural enterprise entails more than just knowing how to produce the desired good. This presentation will discuss the business considerations of a new enterprise including initial investment, cash flow, insurance, government programs, and more.

## Workshop 6: “The Basics of PV Solar”, Martin Kleinschmit

Having worked in the renewable energy field since 1980, Martin Kleinschmit built his own 9,000 watt PV system in 2009. Once satisfied with its output, he started his own solar business: MarLin Wind & Solar LLC. Issues in this presentation include: how solar Photo Voltaic (PV) panels work, what you need to know about net-metering, cost breakdown on a PV system, examples of solar systems, sizing your system to fit your needs, and more information sources. They do residential, commercial and agricultural (pivots).



**4:00 p.m. Program Evaluation and Adjour**