

UNL Extension: Acreage Insights

Acreage eNews-April 2013

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Beginning Farmer and Rancher Workshops Scheduled for April

By [Gary Lesoing](#), UNL Extension Agriculture Educator and Nebraska SARE Coordinator

With funding from the USDA Beginning Farmer and Rancher Grant Program, the Center for Rural Affairs, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension and the Nebraska Sustainable Agriculture Society are sponsoring four beginning farmer and rancher workshops in southeast Nebraska.

Mob Grazing and Grass-fed Beef

April 4th, 9:00 -3:00 – UNL Agricultural Research and Development Center, 1071 County Road G Ithaca, NE 68033

In the first workshop, Ralph Tate will discuss how mob grazing is incorporated into his farm near Fairbury and Paul Rohrbaugh, from Pawnee Pride Meats in Pawnee County will explain production and marketing strategies with his grass-fed beef operation. Angie Miller, attorney with LegalAid of Nebraska, will discuss leasing pastures to conclude the morning program. After lunch Dave Welsch will lead the session on beginning business planning on the farm.

Participants will learn about basic business principles, i.e. net worth, cash flow, income profit and loss statements and how these can be important business tools in a mob grazing and grass-fed beef operation.

Vegetable/Fruit Production

There will also be three workshops that focus on the beginning farmer and vegetable/fruit production. At these workshops successful produce growers will discuss their operations and the various production and marketing strategies they use on their farms. Similar to the previously mentioned workshops, beginning business planning principles will be discussed and explained how they can be used in a vegetable/fruit farm.

April 8th, 10:00 -3:00 – UNL Extension in Lancaster County, 444 Cherrycreek Road Suite A Lincoln, NE 68528

Alex McKiernan from Robinette Farms will describe their vegetable production farm and how they market through a CSA, off their farm and at farmers markets. After lunch Dave Welsch will conduct a program on beginning business planning for a produce farm.

April 12th, 10:00 – 3:00 - UNL Agricultural Research and Development Center, 1071 County Road G Ithaca, NE 68033

Kevin and Charuth Loth will discuss their organic vegetable/flower operation at Shadowbrook Farm and how they produce both in high tunnels and in the field. They will describe their different marketing strategies of selling off the farm, through a CSA, at several farmers markets, and wholesale to different outlets. After lunch, Dave Welsch will conduct his program on beginning business planning for a produce farm.

April 16th, 10:00 – 3:00 - UNL Extension in Douglas Sarpy Counties 8015 W. Center Road
Omaha, NE 68124-3175

Ryan Pekarek from Pekarek Produce will explain his family's vegetable operation and the marketing options they practice. Ryan and his wife Katie produce a variety of vegetables on their farm. They also utilize a high tunnel and grow much of their produce in the field. They market their produce off the farm, at farmers markets, wholesale to grocery stores and to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln through the Buy-Fresh-Local Program. Following lunch Dave Welsch will lead a session in beginning business planning for the produce farmer.

All of these workshops are free and include: refreshments, lunch, some resources as part of the workshops and an opportunity to purchase resources at a reduced rate. Pre-registration at least 3 days before each workshop is required so we can plan accordingly for lunch and handouts.

To register call Gary Lesoing at University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension in Nemaha County at (402) 274-4755.