



**Disaster Basics: Issues faced by farmers and ranchers**

Nathan Mueller, PhD CCA  
Cropping Systems Extension Educator


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**Overview of Nebraska Extension**

- "Helping Nebraskans enhance their lives through research-based education."





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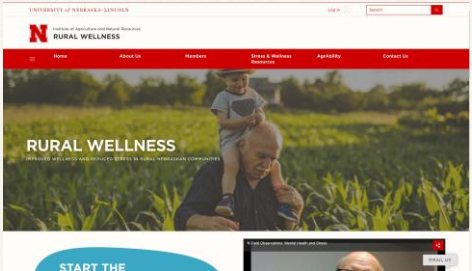

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[ruralwellness.unl.edu](http://ruralwellness.unl.edu)


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## Overview of this presentation

- Background
- Farm operations
- Immediate Issues
- Short-term recovery
- Success stories




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## Background




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## Farmer concerns in 2017



- 152 farmers responded
- Drought/heat = 56%
  - Flood/rain = 17%
  - High wind = 14%
  - Hail = 11%
  - Freeze = 2%
  - Ice/Blizzard = >1%
  - Tornado = <1%




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## My local response in 2019

- March 16-22: Ag Rep for Dodge County Emergency Operations Center (emergency hay supplies and livestock disposal support)
- March 22-31: Support agricultural donations and distribution
- April 2: USDA and Extension flood disaster relief meetings in Scribner and Fremont – 150 attended
- April 9: Growing Annual Forages After a Flood Webinar




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## Farm operations




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## Farm Operations

- Large livestock producers, acreage owners and small farms
  - Livestock mortality and recovery
  - Feed supplies
  - Alternative site for livestock
  - Roads/infrastructure
- Crop farmers
  - Large farm equipment
  - Stored grain
  - Repairing fields
  - Land value, rent, property tax
  - Roads/infrastructure




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Lee Valley, Inc.

## Immediate issues




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## Immediate Issues

- Evacuation comments
  - "I could have made one more trip"
  - Or "I did all I could to save my animals"
- Post evacuation or reentry to the farm
  - Overwhelmed with disposing of dead animals
  - Caring for animals



Courtesy of Angie Lange




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## Immediate Issues

- Donations and donors
  - Stories...
- Seeking assistance
  - Stories...
- Importance of neighbors
  - Stories...
- Media – the good and bad
  - Stories...
- Finding suitable volunteers



"Someone else needs it more than me!"




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## Producers that I worked with

- Links to media interviews with farmers that I worked with

- <https://www.agweb.com/article/nebraska-producer-rebuilding-fence-still-a-struggle-after-flood>
- <https://www.agweb.com/article/ne-producers-continue-to-rebuild-post-flood-after-losing-half-of-herd>




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Lee Valley, Inc.

## Short-term recovery




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## Short-term recovery

- Complications in getting assistance
  - USDA, FSA and NRCS
  - Nebraska Emergency Management Agency
  - Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality
  - Nebraska Department of Ag
  - Army Corp of Engineers
  - Dodge County & communities
  - University of Nebraska
  - National Guard/Law Enforcement/Fire & Rescue
- There is not help for everything
  - Private bridges and roads
  - Loss of grain
  - Repair of private ditches and levees
  - Stock piled sand




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## Success stories

- Recovery efforts and preparedness ongoing
- Hog producer...one of the most devastating successfully recovered
  - <https://www.wowt.com/content/news/Fremont-farmers-lose-hundreds-of-animals-in-flood-507375061.html>
- Many farmers were able to repair flood damaged fields and plant this spring.
- Improved communication and collaboration between agencies




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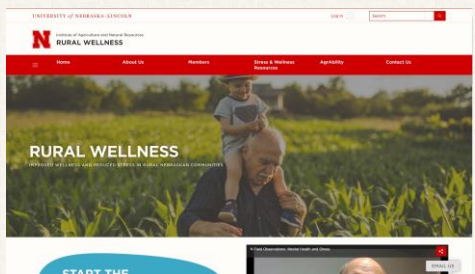
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Extension is a Division of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln operating with the Counties and the United States Department of Agriculture.

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.

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 [croptechcafe.org](http://croptechcafe.org)  
 [@croptechcafe](https://twitter.com/croptechcafe)  
 [nathan.mueller@unl.edu](mailto:nathan.mueller@unl.edu)

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Thank You!



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