

Practicum offers info on cropping systems, beef production

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The West Central Cropping System and Beef Production Practicum developed by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's West Central Research and Extension Center will help producers maximize crop and beef production profitability.

The hands-on program, consisting of seven, one-day sessions starting in March and concluding in December, will give producers with farming and beef production enterprises knowledge, tools and experiences necessary to improve long-term profitability through environmentally sustainable practices, said Randy Saner, UNL Extension educator in Lincoln and McPherson counties.

Registration is \$350. Space is limited. All educational materials and meals are included. Dates and locations include: March 21 in North Platte, March 22 in Brule, May 23 in North Platte, June 20 in North Platte, July 17 in North Platte, Aug. 22 in Brule and Dec. 12 in Brule.

The practicum will focus on the integration of crop and beef production, treating them as equally important parts of the same overall business, Saner said.

Economic consequences of management decisions will be a major part of the program, and university research will serve as the curriculum's core.

Topics include: integrating crop and beef production, economic and financial planning tools, crop nutrient management, beef cattle production and management, irrigated and dryland cropping systems, crop residue and grazing management, farm estate planning and transfer, integrated pest management, water resources and management. UNL College credit, CEU and CCA credits available upon request.

Former participant's comments:

"Last session I saved \$4,500 since I sprayed grasshoppers early. Last year I let them get too big and it cost \$5000."

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“This session I found out I was putting Nitrogen on the corn too late for optimum condition which might be costing \$4000, but I won’t make the mistake again.”

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