This program is sponsored by:

**COOPERATIVE EXTENSION**

This conference will focus on emerging income opportunities for agricultural producers and rural residents. This practically-oriented event will feature regional and nationally known speakers who will share their extensive down-to-earth knowledge of many alternative enterprises.

### Saturday, February 5, 2005, cont.

9:30a NSAS Silent Auction Begins

10:00 **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**
  A. Profitability is Essential to Sustainability. Kit Pharo, Pharo Cattle Co.
  B. Developing Local Food Systems for Nebraska. Panel; Mark Hutchinson, Brad Zumwalt, UNL Food Processing Center, and Robert Waldrop-Oklahoma Food Coop.
  C. Recreational Liability in Nebraska & Neighboring States. David Aiken, UNL

11:30 **LUNCH, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AWARDS**

1:00 **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**
  B. Spice Up Your Life With Herbs. Pat Mettler, Herbalist. Omaha, NE
  C. Ecotourism: What It Is & What It Can Do For You! Thomas Tabor, NE Dept. of Tourism and Travel

2:30 **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**
  A. Fencing Options for Critter Control. Scott Neil, Premier 1 Supplies. Washington, IA
  B. The Food/Health Connection - A Testimony. Dr. Richard Franssen, M.D., Glenville, NE
  C. Creating a Successful AgriTourism Business: Mary Ridder, Ridder Ranch, Callaway, NE

4:00 **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**
  A. The Organic Garden is the Foundation of the Organic Farm. Dr. Tom Thomas, Gardener & FVO Inspector
  B. Wine Trail Tourism in Nebraska. Carol Ringenberg, UNL
  C. Aquaculture: Switching From Swine to Swimmers. Jeff Schelkopf, Brenda Olena, and Dave Claridge

4:30 **SILENT AUCTION ENDS!**
**Friday, February 4, 2005**

8:00a  **REGISTRATION, COFFEE & ROLLS**

9:15  **KEYNOTE PRESENTATION: Faces of Sustainable Agriculture.** Jerry Dewitt, Iowa State University

10:15  **NSAS SILENT AUCTION BEGINS**

10:15  **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

A.  **From Production to Profit in Ranching.** Kit Pharo, Pharo Cattle Co.

B.  **Protecting Your Alternative Agriculture Enterprise: From Crop Insurance to Preserving Farm Payments.** Pat Molacek, FSA

C.  **Onions: A Specialty Crop With Excellent Markets.** Jim Hruskoci, UNL

11:15  **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

A.  **Genetics for Sustainability.** Kit Pharo, Pharo Cattle Co.

B.  **Financing Non-Traditional Crops Via Traditional Methods: A Banker’s View.** Jack Mansfield & Andi Moseman, Cedar Rapids State Bank


12:15  **LUNCH**

1:00  **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

A.  **What Constitutes Grassfed?** Panel Discussion, Terry Gompert- Moderator

B.  **Grant Programs That Support Alternative Agricultural Enterprises.** Panel Discussion; Deb Yocum- USDA-SARE, Jim Crandall- Center for Applied Rural Innovation, Mike Holton- Center for Rural Affairs

C.  **Using On-Farm Research to Evaluate Profitability.** Gary Zoubek and Dave Varner, UNL

2:00  **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

A.  **Fundamentals of Organic Farming & Gardening.** Dr. Tom Thomas, President-Nebraska Sustainable Agriculture Society, Orleans, NE

B.  **Working With Government Inspectors and Labeling.** George Hanson, USDA

C.  **How to Write a SARE Producer Grant.** James Peterson, UNL Cooperative Extension

3:30  **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

A.  **The Premier Story and Fencing That Works.** Scott Neil, Washington, IA

B.  **Latest on Organic Certification.** Panel Discussion; Sam Welch- OneCert, Tom Thomas- Farm Verified Organic, Amy Griner- Organic Crop Improvement Association (OCIA)

**Saturday, February 5, 2005**

8:00a  **REGISTRATION, COFFEE & ROLLS**

9:00  **NSAS Annual Report, Updates & Elections**

5:00  **DAY 1 SILENT AUCTION ENDS!**

6:00  **Reception**

7:00  **All Nebraska Sustainable Banquet Speaker- Robert Waldrop, President-Oklahoma Food Coop. Increasing Accessibility of Locally Grown Food Through the Oklahoma Food Coop.**

There is an additional $25 fee for the banquet.

*If you wish to attend the banquet, please note your choice on the registration form and add the additional fee to your payment.*

*Your registration fee includes 2 lunches, break, and an information packet.*

*Following the banquet, classrooms will be reserved for interaction with today’s speakers and attendees, and a musical “jam session” for conference participants. Bring your voice, your instruments, and some songs, and join the crowd for an evening of fun!*

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### Registration

**The Rural Advantage**

**February 4-5, 2005**

Interstate Holiday Inn, Grand Island, NE

- **Two Day Workshop** $55 $____
  (before January 28, 2005)
- **Two Day Workshop** $70 $____
  (after January 28, 2005)
- **Day 1 Only Fee** $30 $____
- **Day 2 Only Fee** $30 $____
- **Optional Wine & Cheese Tasting** $25 $____
- **NSAS Annual Membership** (discounted from $35) $25 $____
  (payable to the University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension)

**Send registration (payable to the University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension) to:**

2345 Nebraska Avenue, York, NE 68467. Please keep a copy for your records.