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The Heart of the Farm

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CORNHUSKER ECONOMICS

UNIVERSITY OF
Nebraska
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University of Nebraska–Lincoln Extension

Institute of Agriculture & Natural Resources
Department of Agricultural Economics
<http://www.agecon.unl.edu/Cornhuskereconomics.html>

The Heart of the Farm

Market Report	Yr Ago	4 Wks Ago	10/6/06
<u>Livestock and Products,</u>			
<u>Weekly Average</u>			
Nebraska Slaughter Steers, 35-65% Choice, Live Weight	\$88.13	\$90.79	\$90.25
Nebraska Feeder Steers, Med. & Large Frame, 550-600 lb	133.78	132.66	126.93
Nebraska Feeder Steers, Med. & Large Frame 750-800 lb	120.04	124.02	118.70
Choice Boxed Beef, 600-750 lb. Carcass	141.68	148.06	142.35
Western Corn Belt Base Hog Price Carcass, Negotiated	65.91	69.33	65.51
Feeder Pigs, National Direct 45 lbs, FOB	55.87	52.66	52.84
Pork Carcass Cutout, 185 lb. Carcass, 51-52% Lean	70.48	74.94	67.45
Slaughter Lambs, Ch. & Pr., 90-160 lbs., Shorn, Midwest	94.37	97.75	*
National Carcass Lamb Cutout, FOB	*	235.31	245.21
<u>Crops,</u>			
<u>Daily Spot Prices</u>			
Wheat, No. 1, H.W. Imperial, bu	*	4.28	4.52
Corn, No. 2, Yellow Omaha, bu	1.49	2.00	2.48
Soybeans, No. 1, Yellow Omaha, bu	5.06	4.89	5.17
Grain Sorghum, No. 2, Yellow Columbus, cwt	2.39	3.34	3.82
Oats, No. 2, Heavy Minneapolis, MN , bu	1.88	2.12	2.33
<u>Hay</u>			
Alfalfa, Large Square Bales, Good to Premium, RFV 160-185 Northeast Nebraska, ton	117.50	135.00	135.00
Alfalfa, Large Rounds, Good Platte Valley, ton	37.50	87.50	87.50
Grass Hay, Large Rounds, Good Northeast Nebraska, ton	52.50	82.50	82.50
* No market.			

The 22nd Annual Women in Agriculture Conference was held September 14-15, 2006 in Kearney, Nebraska. This year's conference theme was "The Heart of the Farm," chosen because of the vital role women play in their operations, both as a producer and a relationship builder. There were nearly 400 women in attendance from 57 Nebraska counties, four states and Australia. Over 50 percent of conference attendees were sponsored by local lenders and agribusinesses.

Julie Ann Barnhill from Prairie City, Illinois, kicked off the conference with her keynote address, "You Go Gurrfriend." She spoke about the importance of women taking the time to renew themselves and stay energized through friendships with other women. She explained that these relationships are the key to remaining sane amidst life's roller coaster ride of emotional, financial, physical and spiritual ups and downs. Julie is best known for her best-selling book, *She's Gonna Blow! Real Help for Moms Dealing with Anger*. She was a featured guest on Oprah in October of 2002. She also presented a workshop at the conference titled 'Scandalous Grace' which was attended by more than 100 women. She presented her finale during lunch on Friday with "Stretch, Woman, Stretch" a look into what it means to be a woman of acceptance and grace.

The highlight of the Thursday evening banquet was a narration by Rebecca Long Chaney of a year-long adventure overseas with her husband, Lee. The incredible journey to Australia, filled with physical and emotional challenges, led to the publication of *Bulldust in My Bra – An American Couple's Working Season in the Outback*. She spoke of their experiences working on an 880,000 acre cattle ranch in the Outback of Australia where they lived in an Aboriginal hut, had to light a fire every day for a warm shower, shoe their own horses, were often in the saddle 12 straight hours gathering feral cattle and were two hours



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from the closest town. Chaney encouraged attendees to take risks and realize life's blessings through the tale of this life-changing experience.

Friday morning's session was kicked-off by Sharon Cheney, CFO (Chief Fun Officer) of Cheney and Associates. Sharon is a registered nurse who has been speaking for the last 20 years to nurses and other groups about the need to allow more humor, laughter and play into our daily lives. She has spoken to thousands of people on topics that deal with attitude and reaction to change, stress, time usage and other challenges we each face today. Sharon is a humorist and believes that laughter, self-management and a positive attitude are absolutely essential in living the life you want to lead.

The conference offered five workshop sessions with thirty-five topics to choose from. A few of the workshop topics offered included Agricultural Lease Arrangements; Communications for All Occasions; Internet Safety for Families; Grain Marketing 101; Farming With Computers; Tax Planning; FSA Programs and Benefits; Biofuels; Farm Transition; Animal Identification; Business Plan 101; Dealing with Difficult People; Heart Health for Women; and Public Policy 101. University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension personnel and local community experts presented the workshops.

From the almost 400 women who attended this year's conference, 194 returned an overall conference evaluation. The vital role of women in their agricultural operations was illustrated in survey replies. Collectively, these women farmed a total of 244,424 acres of land, raised 80,560 head of livestock, have 4,491 years of agricultural experience and on average have dedicated 26.5 years to agriculture through their operations.

Overall those attending the conference were satisfied with the workshops and conference in general. On a scale of 1-5; 1 being no and 5 being yes; workshop content was rated 4.65 for relevance and timeliness, 4.50 as increasing knowledge, 4.36 as improving skill and ability and 4.41 as increasing confidence in using content. The overall satisfaction rating given to the conference was 4.62 on a scale of 1-5; 1 being not satisfied and 5 being satisfied.

Comments from Conference Attendees

"This was the first year I attended the conference. It was wonderful! Thanks to everyone who worked on the arrangements for the conference. It was a nice mixture of serious learning and fun, uplifting presentation."

"(This is a) good conference to support the women who are the backbone of the rural life."

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**Victoria Lipovsky in the Extension Traveling
Computer Lab (BitMobile)**

*The 23rd Women in Agriculture Conference
will be held February 21-22, 2008
at the Kearney Holiday Inn.*



Rick Rasby Leading the Animal ID Workshop