DRAFT REGIONAL DROUGHT MEETING AGENDA
ROUNDTABLE/WORKING GROUP SESSIONS IN CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Omaha, Nebraska
City County Building, Legislative Chambers
1819 Farnam Street
Tuesday, October 9, 2012

9:00 - 10:30am Welcome and Plenary

9:00 - 9:10am Opening Remarks
Ronnie Green, Vice Chancellor for the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln

9:10 - 9:20am Opening Remarks and Introduction
Chris Rodgers, Commissioner, Douglas County, NE
President of the National Association of Counties

9:20 - 9:30am Remarks – State Perspective
Greg Ibach, Director of Nebraska State Department of Agriculture

9:30 - 9:33am Introduction by Chris Rodgers

9:33 - 9:53am Remarks – Federal Perspective
Tom Vilsack, Secretary of the U. S. Department of Agriculture

9:53 - 9:55am Introduction by Chris Rodgers

9:55 – 10:15am Drought Overview
Mike Hayes, Director of the Drought Mitigation Center

10:15 – 10:18am Introduction by Chris Rodgers

10:18 – 10:30 Closing Remarks
Thomas Guevara, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Regional Affairs at the Economic Development Administration

10:30 – 10:45am BREAK
10:45 – 12:15pm  Animal Agriculture Industry Session

**Format:** Roundtable/working group, audience seating

**Moderators:** Dan Steinkruger, Nebraska Farm Service Agency and John Lawrence, Iowa State University Extension

**Federal Participants:**
- Bill Koontz, Small Business Administration
- Alex Amparo, Federal Emergency Management Agency
- Tom Guevara, Economic Development Administration, Department of Commerce

**Discussion questions:**
1. What are the critical issues resulting from the drought to date?
2. If the drought persists into 2013, how will those conditions impact critical issue?
3. How is the animal industry changing/adapting as a result of drought issues?
4. How will federal and state policy impact (both positively and negatively) sustainability of animal industry?

10:45 – 10:55am  Opening Remarks by Moderators on Discussion Questions

10:55 – 12:00pm  Opening Perspectives from Panelist

Kristen Hassebrook, Nebraska Cattlemen
Rick Denger, Iowa Pork Producers Association
Rod Johnson, Nebraska Dairy Association
Shane Ellis, Iowa State University
Ron Plain, University of Missouri
Rick Rasby, University of Nebraska- Lincoln Extension
Galen Erickson, University of Nebraska- Lincoln Extension
Matt Swantek, Iowa State Extension
Nadine Bishop, Nebraska Natural Resource Conservation Service

12:00 – 12:15pm  Open Session for Audience Reactions/Responses on Discussion Questions

10:45 – 12:15pm  Community and Business Session

**Format:** Roundtable/Working group, audience seating

**Moderators:** Joshua Barnes, U.S. Economic Development Administration, Department of Commerce

**Federal Participants:**
- Mark Werthmann, U.S. Economic Development Administration, Department of Commerce
- Barbara Foster, Small Business Administration
- Steve Castenar, Federal Emergency Management Agency
- Steve Eggleston, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Teresa Perez, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation
- Esmeralda Pereira, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- Josh Svaty, Economic Protection Agency
Potential Discussion Questions:

1. What is the consequence of the drought on the region’s economy?
   a. How is that affect measured?
   b. What sectors/businesses are impacted by drought?
2. What is the state of the industries in the region (growing, stable, declining)?
3. Describe the entrepreneurship environment in the community (e.g. how easy is it for business to start, get access to capital, commercialization opportunities, etc)?
4. What are the economic development assets in the region?
5. What are the other economic challenges faced by the region?
6. Are there other challenges that impact economic growth and resiliency (e.g. housing issues, crime, education challenges, access to health care, etc)?
7. Are there any public, mental, or behavioral health concerns?
8. Are there water quality or capacity challenges? If so, how have they been realized?
9. How are workforce development and economic development needs coordinated?

10:45 - 10:55am Opening Remarks by the Moderator

10:55 – 11:10am State and Community Perspective
Jon Farris, South Dakota Governor’s Drought Task Force and Response Team

11:10- 11:20am County Perspective
Don Larson, National Association of Counties

11:20 – 11:30am Community Perspective
Mark Lauritsen, The United Food and Commercial Workers International Union

11:30 – 11:40am Business Perspective
Jeff Wilmes, Kaup Feed and Fertilizer (Member of the Nebraska Agribusiness Association)

11:40 – 11:55am Financial Climate
Mark Jensen, Farm Credit Services of America

11:55 – 12:15pm Moderated Discussion

12:15 to 1:30 pm Lunch Break (Box Lunches)
1:30-3:00 pm  Cropping Industry Session

**Format:** Roundtable/working group, audience seating
**Moderator:** John Whitaker, Iowa FSA Executive Director and Rick Koelsch, UNL Extension Associate Dean
**Federal Participants:**
Bill Koontz, Small Business Administration
Alex Amparo, Federal Emergency Management Agency
Tom Guevara, Economic Development Administration, Department of Commerce
Craig Derickson, Nebraska Natural Resource Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture

**Discussion questions:**
5. What are the critical issues resulting from the drought to date?
6. If the drought persists into 2013, how will those conditions impact critical issue?
7. How is the animal industry changing/adapting as a result of drought issues?
8. How will federal and state policy impact (both positively and negatively) sustainability of animal industry?

1:30 – 1:40pm  Opening Remarks by Moderators on Discussion Questions

1:40 – 2:45pm  Opening Perspectives from Panelist (3-5 min presentation)
Scott Merritt, Nebraska Corn Growers Association
Carol Balvanz, Iowa Soybean Association
Justin Gilpin, Kansas Wheat Producers
Brad Lubbenm, University of Nebraska- Lincoln
Roger Elmore, Iowa State Extension
Tamra Jackson, University of Nebraska- Lincoln Extension
Jasper Fanning, Upper Republican Natural Resource District
Steve Gaul, Nebraska Department Natural Resources
Jackie McClaskey, Kansas Department of Agriculture

2:45 – 3:00pm  Open Session for Audience Reactions/Responses on Discussion Questions

1:30-3:00 pm  Community Impact and Planning

**Format:** Roundtable/Working group, audience seating
**Moderator:** Joshua Barnes, U.S. Economic Development Administration, Department of Commerce
**Federal Participants:**
Maxine Moul, Nebraska Rural Development, U.S. Department of Agriculture
Kevin Shields, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation
Earl Redrick, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Laura Howard, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Josh Svaty, Economic Protection Agency
**Potential Discussion Questions:**

1. Describe the broader business environment in the region?
2. Do businesses have challenges accessing capital?
   a. Are there any non-traditional lenders that service the community (e.g. RLF, CDFI, Angel Investors, etc)?
   b. What are the challenges?
3. What are the community’s most promising opportunities for economic growth?
4. What are the community’s most promising “catalysts” for economic growth?
5. What are the current plans for drought recovery?
6. What are the needs for implementing drought recovery plans? Barriers? Opportunities?
7. What are your top three take-aways for the team?

**Schedule:**

1:30 – 1:40pm  **Opening Remarks by the Moderator**

1:40 – 2:00pm  **County Perspective**  
Doris Karloff, National Association of Counties (Saunders County, Nebraska) and Melvyn Houser, National Association of County (Pottawattamie County)

2:00 – 2:10pm  **Ground and Surface Water Challenges**  
Randy Hellbusch, Nebraska Rural Water Association

2:10 – 2:20pm  **Community Planning**  
Tye Parson Northwest Missouri Regional Council of Governments

2:20 – 3:00pm  **Moderated Discussion**

3:00 – 3:15 pm  **Break to Reconvene for Closing Plenary**

3:30 to 4:30pm  **Closing Plenary**

3:30 – 3:40pm  **Remarks**  
Colleen Callahan, U.S. Department of Agriculture

3:40 – 4:00pm  **Moderators Report Out**

4:00 – 4:15pm  **Existing Resources**  
Kim Cassel, Extension Specialist for the Extension Disaster Education Network

4:15 – 4:30pm  **Closing Comments**  
Charles Hibberd, Dean and Director of the University of Nebraska Lincoln Extension