

Nebraska Extension's Role in Disasters



June 20, 2023

IN OUR GRIT, OUR GLORY™



EXTENSION

Nebraska Extension's Role in Disasters



- Introduction to Hazards
- Extension's Role in Emergency / Disaster Management
- Nebraska Extension Disaster Education Network Team
- Sharing Resources
- *Nebraska EDEN Panelists:* Holli Alley, Kim Bearnese, Jamie Bright, Gary Stone

**Preparation through
education is less costly than
learning through tragedy.**

--Max Mayfield



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Nebraska Extension's Role in Disasters



- Preparedness is an organizational value and a personal value.
- It is critical to create inclusive networks to reach all Nebraskans during all phases of disasters.
- Disaster challenges are complex and along with our colleagues, communities and partner agencies, we have a shared responsibility to address them.
- We take an all-hazards approach to disaster education.



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Introduction to Hazards



- Hazards:

- Origins of disasters.
- Not all hazards result in emergency events or disasters.

- Emergencies:

- Small-scale events, localized, resolved quickly with local resources.
- Can escalate and become a disaster.

- Disasters:

- Result from hazards that disrupt the functioning of communities and societies.
- Require response and recovery resources greater than what local communities can provide.
- Disasters do not always happen quickly. They can span long periods of time. (Examples: drought, economic downturns, societal)



- Atmospheric

- Thunderstorms
- Lightning
- Hailstorms
- Tornadoes
- Windstorms
- Ice storms
- Snow storms
- Blizzards
- Cold waves
- Heat waves
- Avalanches
- Fog
- Frost

- Geological

- Earthquakes
- Volcanoes
- Tsunami
- Landslides
- Mudflows
- Sinkholes

- Hydrological

- Floods
- Droughts
- Wildfires

- Extraterrestrial

- Meteorites
- Asteroids

- Biological – Human and Animal

- Diseases
- Epidemics
- Pandemics
- Overpopulation
- Famine



- Non-Intentional

- Technological
- Hazardous Materials
- Environmental
- Industrial
- Mining
- Nuclear
- Transportation
- Structural

- Intentional

- Cyber-attacks
- Civil Disobedience
- Terrorism
- Violence – includes active threats or active killer events

What are some examples of natural or human-caused hazards that escalated to emergencies or disasters in Nebraska?



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**Emergency and
Disaster Management**

All disasters start local and end local

Disaster Management Cycle

- Ongoing - Stages can overlap

All communities are in at least one stage of this cycle at any time.

Extension has a role in all stages or phases of disaster management.



Mitigation & Planning Stage:

- Identify possible hazards and assess vulnerability
- Community Engagement, Partnership development, Education
- Develop plans and support infrastructure to reduce the impacts of disasters on people, resources, and livelihoods.
- In Nebraska, every \$1 spent on mitigation has a return of \$6 (NEMA, 2023)



Source: PennState College of Earth and Mineral Sciences



Photo by Vicki Jedlicka



Photo by Lynch Volunteer Fire



Photo by Leo Larkin



Photo by Susan Harris

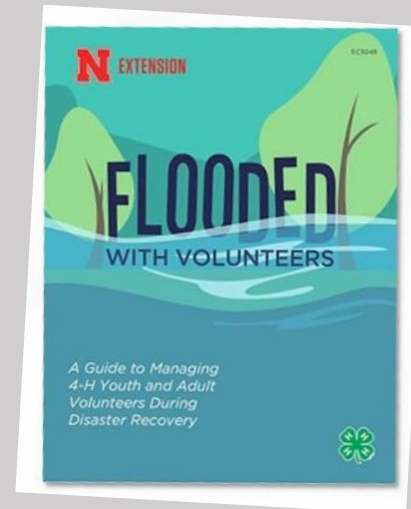


Figure 17. Volunteer Reception Center Training. Mueller, A, 2015



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Mitigation and planning processes evaluate risks from hazards and develops plans to reduce the probability of risk to people, resources, and livelihoods.

Discussion: Mitigation & Planning

- In your work, are you involved in mitigation and planning to reduce risks and vulnerabilities? How?
- How about in your community and at home? Examples.
- What are Nebraska Extension's roles in disaster mitigation and planning?

[State of Nebraska Flood Hazard Mitigation Plan \(July 2022\)](#)

[State Hazard Mitigation Program – NEMA](#)

[UNL College of Architecture: Hazard Mitigation Planning](#)

Preparedness Stage:

- Actions taken prior to a disaster
- Training, Exercises, Gathering Resources, Kits
- Provide information and tools relevant and accessible to all residents using a whole community approach



Source: PennState College of Earth and Mineral Sciences

2022 Nebraska Extension Disaster Preparedness Challenge

Clay County Extension and Clay County Courthouse

111 W Fairfield Street

Clay Center, NE 68933

Location: Clay County Courthouse, Downtown Clay Center, Nebraska

Disaster Kit Coordinator: Holli Alley; Clay County Extension Office

holli.alley@unl.edu

402-762-3644

Coordinating Team:

Holli Alley, Clay County Extension 4-H Associate and member of the Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN)

Cara Felber, Clay County Extension Office Manager

Tim Lewis; Clay County Emergency Manager, Head of Courthouse Safety Committee

Barb Barnett; Clay County Zoning Office; member of Courthouse Safety Committee



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Safety and wellbeing depends on level of preparedness and planning.

Discussion: Preparedness

- In your work, are you involved in preparedness actions so you are ready to respond to an emergency or disaster? How?
- How about in your community and at home? Share some examples?
- What is Nebraska Extension's role in community preparedness? What does that look like?

H.  .P.E. CHALLENGE

Response Stage:

- Immediate actions before, during, and after an emergency event/disaster to reduce threats and suffering
- Evacuations, sheltering— Mass Care
- Search and Rescue
- Short-Term Immediate Needs



Source: PennState College of Earth and Mineral Sciences







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Response activities occur in the wake of a disaster. Actions focus on identifying and assisting survivors and stabilizing the overall disaster situation (PennState, n.d.)

Discussion: Response

- In your work, are you involved in emergency or disaster response? If so, how? (could be internal or external)
- What should Nebraska Extension's role be in disaster response?

Recovery Stage:

- Restoring lives by rebuilding areas impacted by the disaster.
 - Debris Management
 - Bringing back essential services
 - Food, water, temporary housing
 - Donations and volunteer management
 - Economic assistance
- Phases - May take months to years.



Source: PennState College of Earth and Mineral Sciences





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Disaster response actions restore human and environmental systems and require long-term commitment through collaboration, coordination, communication and cooperation.

Discussion: Recovery

- In your work, are you currently (or have you been) involved in disaster recovery? What are some examples?
- How can lessons learned in preparedness, response, and recovery be used for mitigation and planning?



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**Nebraska Extension Disaster
Education Network Team**

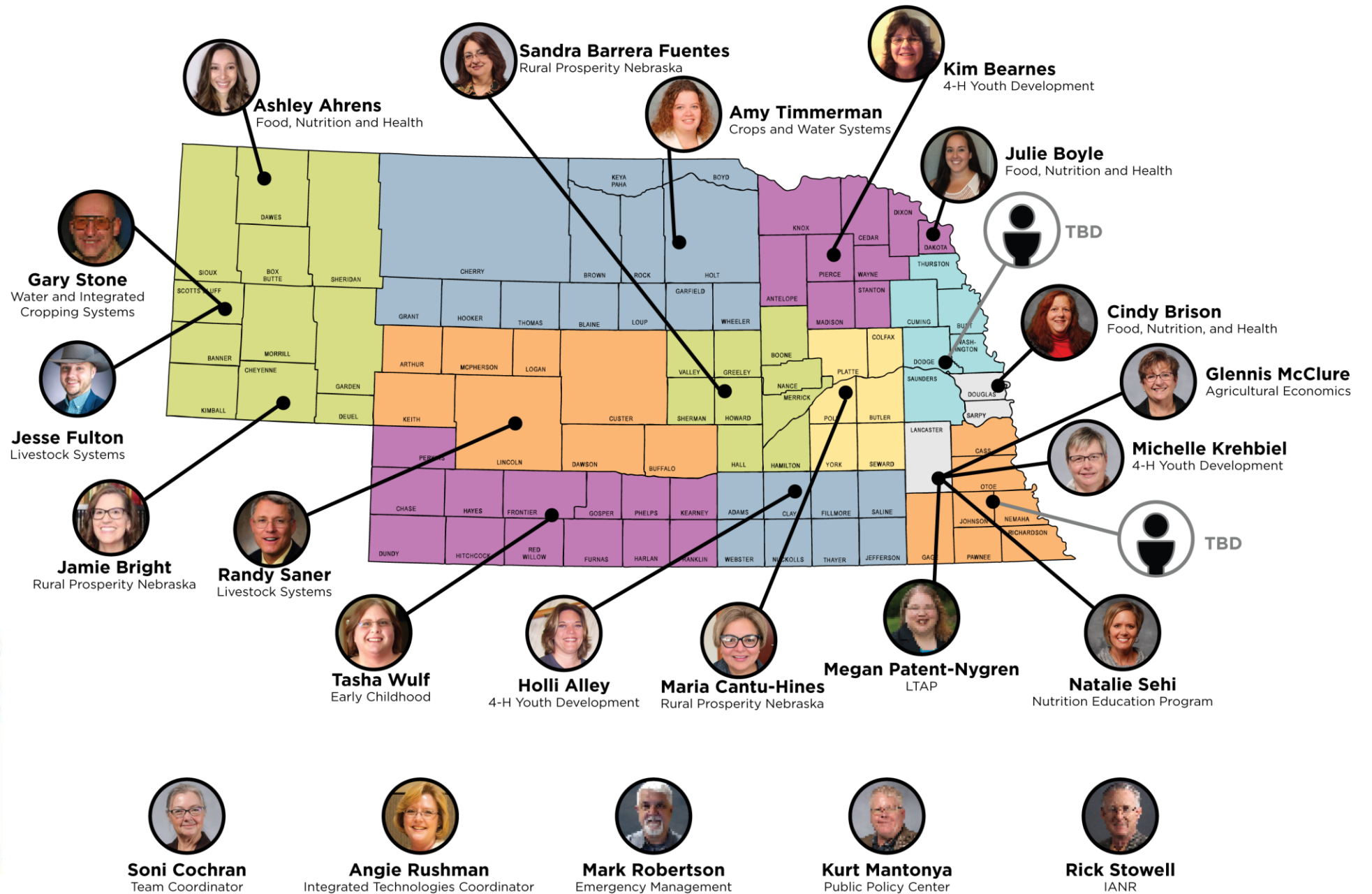


Nebraska Extension Disaster Education Network Team (Nebraska EDEN):

- *Primary Disaster Education Functions:*
Professional Development | Communications | Resource Management
- Facilitates and promotes focused professional development for Extension faculty, staff, and specialists.
- Communications conduit for Nebraska Extension and partners during all phases of emergency/ disaster management.
- Provides statewide situational awareness connecting faculty, staff, and specialists with resources to address current and emerging needs.

Nebraska Extension Disaster Education Network Team (Nebraska EDEN):

- Collaborates with Extension professionals, Extension leadership, NU system, emergency management, and partner organizations to address emerging issues.
- Regional and National Networks:
 - Heartland EDEN (Nebraska, Missouri, Kansas, Iowa)
 - National EDEN - <https://extensiondisaster.net>
 - EDEN Delegates: Sandra Fuentes Barrera, Kim Bearnese, Soni Cochran (POC), Michelle Krehbiel (EDEN Executive Committee), Kurt Mantonya, Megan Patent-Nygren, Shannon Sand, Randy Saner, Rick Stowell, Amy Timmerman.





EMERGENCY PREPARED

  **2023**  

Features: External Resources | Internal Resources – Employee Portal

<https://disaster.unl.edu>



DISASTER EDUCATION



About Us

Individuals & Families

Home, Health and
Safety

Businesses &
Communities

Agriculture

Hazards

[Nebraska](#) › [IANR](#) › [Nebraska Extension](#) › [Disaster Education](#)

HELPING NEBRASKANS WHEN THEY NEED IT MOST

Disaster Education

ON THIS SITE, YOU'LL FIND INFORMATION AND RESOURCES TO HELP YOU, YOUR FAMILY, AND COMMUNITY PREPARE FOR, AND RECOVER FROM, DISASTERS. WE ARE READY TO HELP YOU FIND THE ANSWERS YOU NEED.

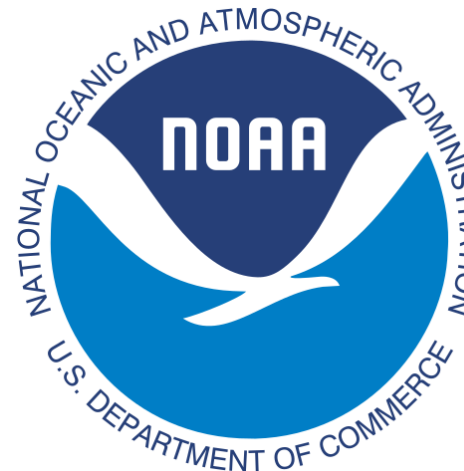
NOAA/NWS Local Weather Support Forecast Service – **It's Free!**

- Consider for outdoor events where weather could be a factor.
- Service includes forecasting potential lightning, precipitation, winds, severe storms and more

Keep everyone safe:

Being proactive and having a plan(s) is better than reacting to the situation.

- 4-H camps, meetings and activities
- Fairs and other outdoor events like plot tours, field days, livestock tours
- Husker Harvest Days*
- Concerts, Rodeos*



- Contact the **Warning Coordination Meteorologist (WCM)** at your local NWS office.
- **WCM** will provide a web link to a request form for you to complete.
- Plan ahead. Give forecasters time to plan and provide the forecast.



NWS offices and contacts:

Map: <https://www.weather.gov/srh/nwsoffices>

- Goodland, KS: ryan.husted@noaa.gov
- North Platte, NE: shawn.jacobs@noaa.gov
- Hastings, NE: michael.moritz@noaa.gov
- Omaha, NE: brian.e.smith@noaa.gov
- Sioux Falls, NE: peter.rogers@noaa.gov
- Topeka/Manhattan, KS: chad.omitt@noaa.gov
- NWS Cheyenne, WY: jared.allen@noaa.gov

Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT)

- Nebraska Citizen Corps volunteer program.
- Nationally supported, locally implemented
- Consistent approach to volunteer training and management
- Professional responders can rely on CERT teams following a disaster.
- Local CERT teams may be available to support local events (water stations)

CERT volunteers learn basic disaster response skills:

- Team organization
- Disaster medical operations
- Fire safety
- Light search and rescue



Before, during, and after disasters...

- CERT teams check on neighbors
- Distribute information to the community
- Support Emergency Operations Centers (EOC)
- Manage traffic and crowds.
- CERT teams are trained and organized to assist their families, neighbors, co-workers, and community.

- [CERT Home | Ready.gov \(fema.gov\)](#)
- To learn more about CERT serving Nebraska communities or to schedule a training, contact: Josh Yox, josh.yox@nebraska.gov





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Cooperation
Communication
Coordination
Collaboration
and Appreciation



"Grand Father with his grandson" by All Reverse Mortgage is licensed under CC BY-NC-SA 2.0.

- Extension faculty, staff and specialists are trusted resources living and working in communities across the state.
- Extension has a role in every phase of emergency / disaster management.
- A disaster event impacts every program area and each of us, professionally and personally.
- Prepare to be there for all Nebraskans, including our colleagues and our families, when they need us most.



Lancaster County Extension Tornado Drill. Photo by: Jenny DeBuhr

- ✓ Identify risks and invest in preparedness actions.
- ✓ Mitigate, plan and prepare for all-hazards emergencies and disasters.
- ✓ Introduce yourself to your local emergency manager during blue skies and discuss how your local office can support efforts in all phases of disasters.
- ✓ Gain knowledge, learn skills, and take action. Participate in professional development (H.O.P.E. Challenge), take a Stop the Bleed or CPR/First Aid Course.

Strengthen relationships with community partners and stakeholders

“Nebraska Extension was integral to the flood response and will continue to be a partner in long-term recovery, which could extend years into the future...”

Chris Schroeder, NEMA, Community Outreach Unit
Supervisor & Voluntary Agency Liaison
March 30, 2022, Nebraska Today

Please complete this short survey - We appreciate your feedback!



<https://go.unl.edu/ne-ext-role-webinar>

Thank you!

Soni Cochran, Extension Educator, Disaster Education Coordinator

email: scochran2@unl.edu | phone 308-432-3373 | <https://disaster.unl.edu>