

All-Hands Meeting | November 20, 2025



Institute of Agriculture & Natural Resources



IANR All Hands

- UNL Budget Proposal
- IANR Forward Together
- IANR Strategic Direction
- Operational Strategic Initiatives
- Flash Talks



Gratitude in Challenging and Uncertain Times

- Appreciate your partnership, commitment, and contributions to the important and impactful work we do together
- This year has brought significant challenges and uncertainties
- Recognize and acknowledge the weight these times carry
- Budget proposal
- Pathway forward will shape the future of our institution

Challenges do not define us – they reveal our resilience and strength



Our Strength Lies in our People – and in How We Come Together

- Invitation to be a part of *IANR Forward Together* dialogues
- Opportunity for every member of our community
- Focus on building upon a shared commitment to listening, learning, co-creating, and supporting each other



Generating Impact Throughout Nebraska FY24

IANR Overall Impact on the State of Nebraska

Economic Impact

\$849.3 million
generated statewide in
economic impact



\$258.4 million
in direct impact

\$590.9 million
in indirect/induced impact

For every **\$1** invested by the State of Nebraska in IANR's operations, **\$8.49** is returned to the Nebraska Economy.



Driving Economic Impact as Nebraska's Land-Grant

Findings reaffirm:

- What we do is of value to our learners, the industries we support, and the Nebraskans we serve
- Power of integration across our tripartite mission
- Global impact -- IANR is in the top 10% of all global institutions

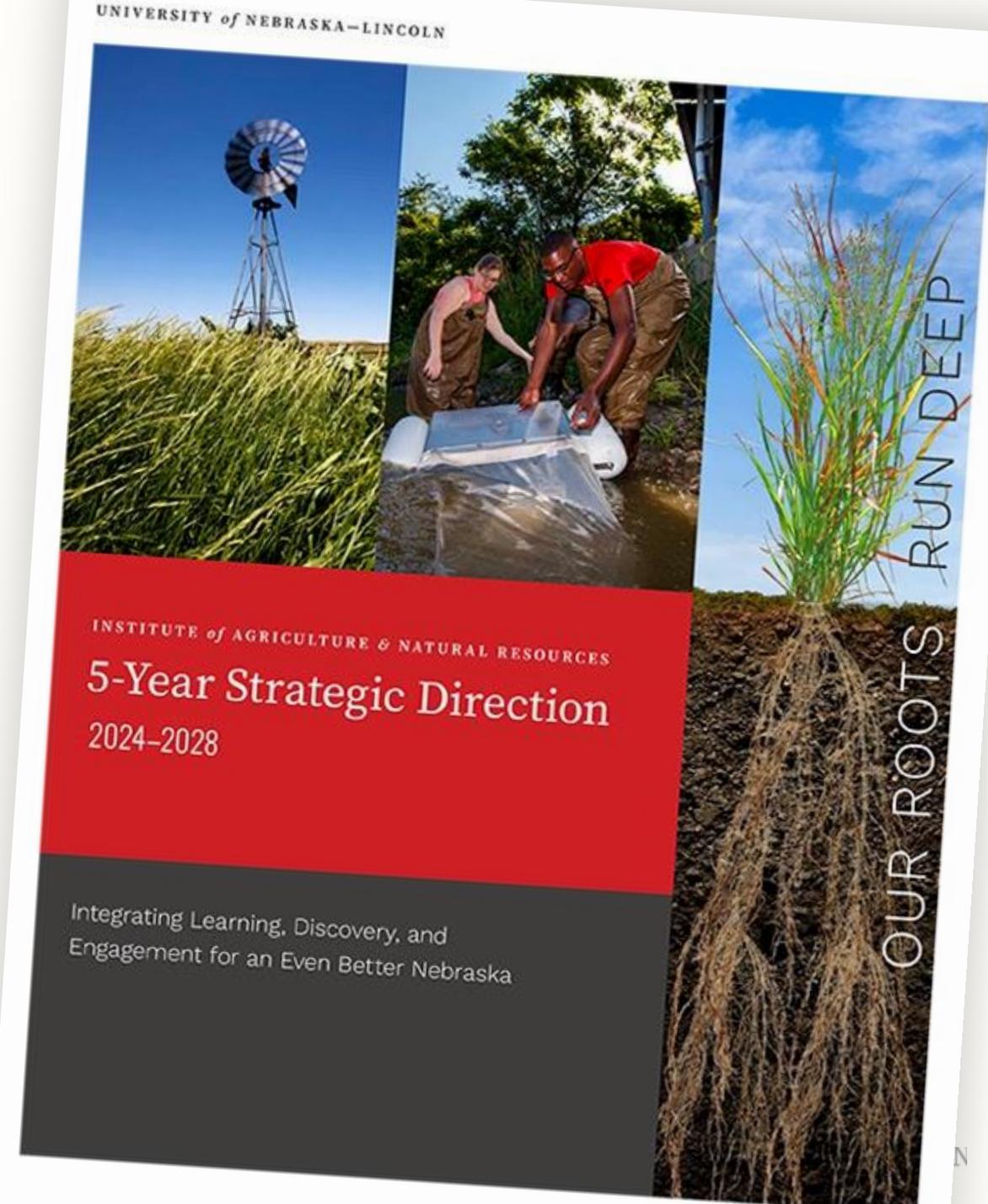
Roadmap for the Future

Strategic Direction – Defines where we are headed and why our work matters for Nebraska and beyond

Pillars – The foundational areas that support and organize what we do

Strategic Aims – Focused priorities that turn vision into impact

Designed to provide flexibility and opportunities for co-creating at every level





Research and Innovation

- Partner with you to continue future-facing momentum
 - **World class science** – elevate NE competitiveness
 - **Industry alignment and Federal/State partnerships**
 - **Measurable public value** – communicate impact with clarity and purpose
- Leader in responsive agriculture, bioeconomy, sustainability, human health
- Statewide engine for economic growth - research assets into technology
- Bring IANR, producers, industry, federal agencies into collaborative network
- Next gen - precision & digital ag, AI, fintech, efficiency, environmental stewardship, supply chain resilience, innovative leaders, workforce, communities



Extension and Engagement

Playing Offense

- Livestock Systems Program Area Strategic Planning
- IANR Commodity Board Interface Initiative
- Fred and Pamela Buffet Cancer Center (FPBCC)
- College of Pharmacy
- College of Law
- EXCITE (UNMC, MN, MO, KS/NE)
- Rural Prosperity Nebraska (RPN)/Nebraska Business Development Center (NBDC/UNO)
- All Things Nebraska (ATN)
- Engaging with research, Extension translation, engagement, evaluation
- ***Irresistibly relevant!***



Teaching and Learning

“Cultivating education innovation that empowers learners to become bold thinkers, compassionate leaders, and change-makers prepared to impact Nebraska and beyond.”

Early College & Career Pathways: delivering hands-on, FEWS-based STEM learning, industry engagement, and career exploration

Enrollment Momentum: Applications/admits are up—reflecting the strong efforts of our recruiting teams, faculty, and staff.

Student Success Framework: Roadmap to strengthen retention and graduation and support degree completion for all CASNR students.

Online Education Initiative: Targeted investments supporting faculty innovation, redesign of online programs, and development of new workforce-aligned online offerings.



College of Education and Human Sciences

- Focus on organizational health = Leadership and support structure
- MOU with IANR = Relationship clarity and commitment
- Reinvestment of online course fees = Increased faculty professional development funds
- Health and Wellbeing = Exploring relationships with UNMC and Nebraska Extension



University of Nebraska Odyssey

Mission and Vision | 5 Pillars | 16 Strategic Priorities

Operational Strategic Initiatives (OSIs):

- Charge to campuses
- UNL phased approach; broader engagement in future years
- Quarterly reporting through VisionSync
- 25 OSIs submitted for IANR

Aspirational Metrics

- Metrics – NU System, UNL, IANR
- Metrics track progress, they don't define our purpose

Flash Talks

Digital Agriculture OSI

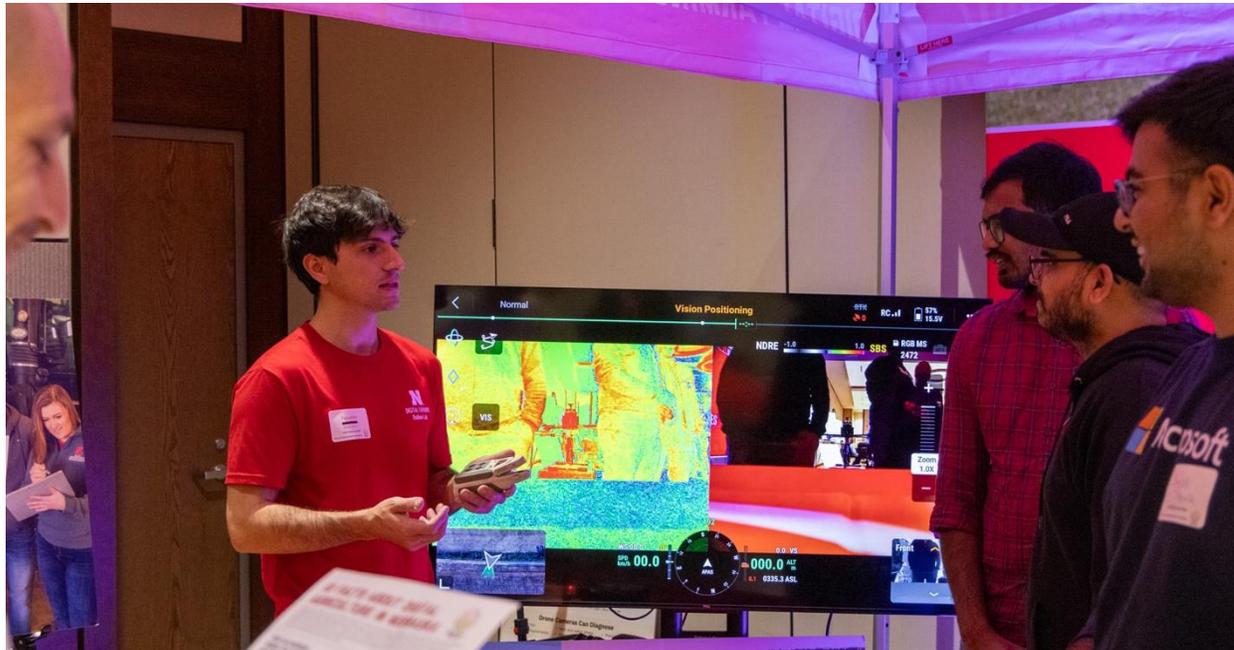


NEBRASKA
DIGITAL AGRICULTURE

- **Create the Digital Ag Hub** as a central platform for innovation & collaboration
- **Develop Living Labs and Testbeds** to trial technologies in real-world systems
- **Advance Data Infrastructure and Analytics** for real-time insights and predictive modeling
- **Grow the Workforce** through K–12 to graduate-level digital ag education
- **Foster Public-Private Ecosystems** to co-create and scale technologies
- **Measure Impact** for continuous improvement

Visioning Committee

- Guillermo Balboa
- Santosh Pitla
- Joe Luck
- Dan Uden
- Taro Mieno



Event 2: Monday Dec. 8

9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Nebraska East Union, Great Plains Room A

<https://digitalag.unl.edu/>

REGISTER BY NOV. 24



Engagement





Community-based Conservation

What if agriculture, rural communities, and migratory birds didn't compete—but thrived together?



**CENTRAL FLYWAY
RESILIENCE
COLLABORATIVE**





UNL Center for Plant Science Innovation Operational Strategic Initiative

Enhancing collaboration to drive UNL innovation in crop improvement from lab-to-field-to-application.

Q1: Coordinate with ORI for quarterly compilation of large grant opportunity postings and communication of this information to faculty

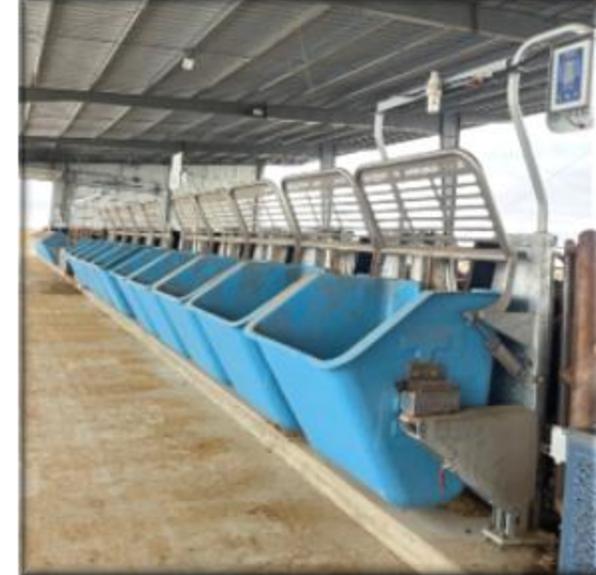
Q2: Organize & integrate grant idea sharing among the UNL Plant Science Community

Q3: Reconvene large Community meeting to synthesize ideas and strategize for upcoming grant opportunities

Q4: Develop the framework and team for one or more large grant proposals for available or emerging funding opportunities that advance agricultural innovation and the bioeconomy

Klosterman Feedlot Innovation Center

- At ENREEC
 - Housing systems
 - Technology applications
 - Biosensors
 - Individual mgmt.
 - Automation
 - Animal welfare and health
 - Environmental impact
 - Commercial scale
 - Complement to beef systems
- Jim MacDonald
 - Jessica Sperber
 - Keara O'Reilly
 - Ruth Wiowode
 - Jessie Morrill
 - Yijie Xiong
 - Rick Stowell
 - Santosh Pitla
 - Samodha Fernando
 - Doug Zalesky



Klopfenstein
Feeding
Technology
Center

Grasslands are the most underfunded, undervalued and least conserved of the world's major vegetation types

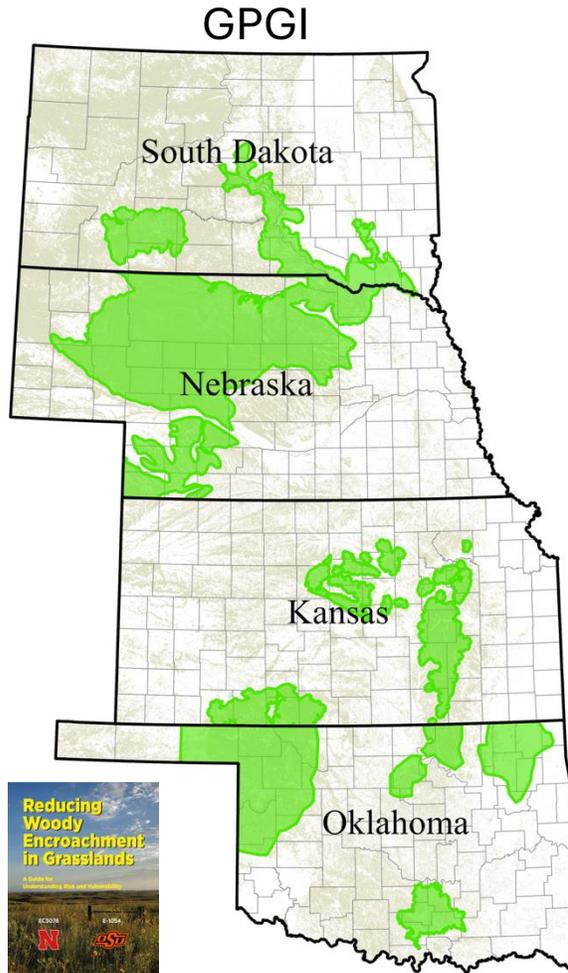
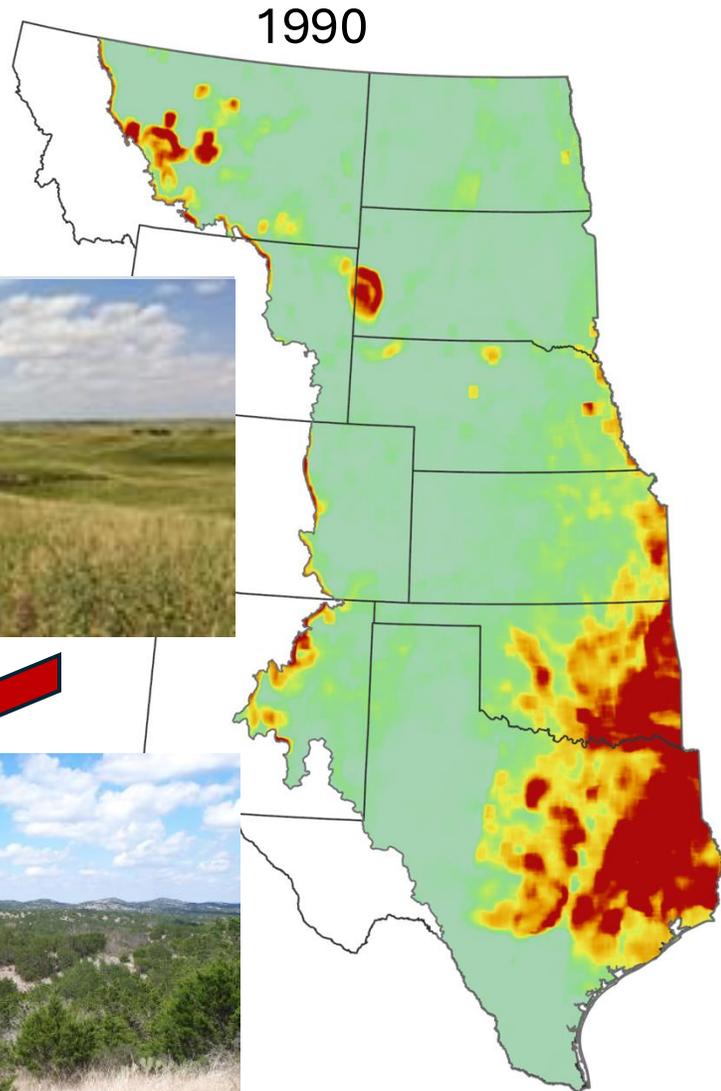
Resource Concern



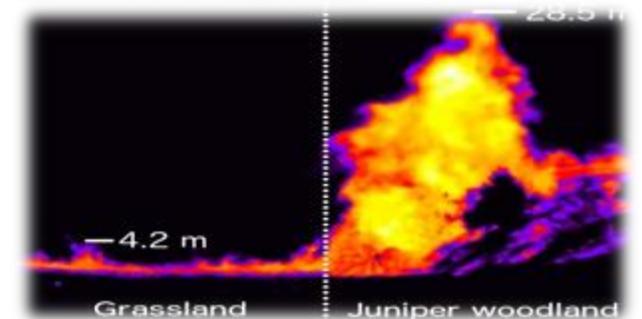
Action



Outcomes

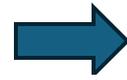


- Great Plains Grassland Initiative (Phase 1 Implementation)
- Grasslands (Phase 1 Technical Guidance; Future GPGI Candidates)



Grasslands are the most underfunded, undervalued and least conserved of the world's major vegetation types

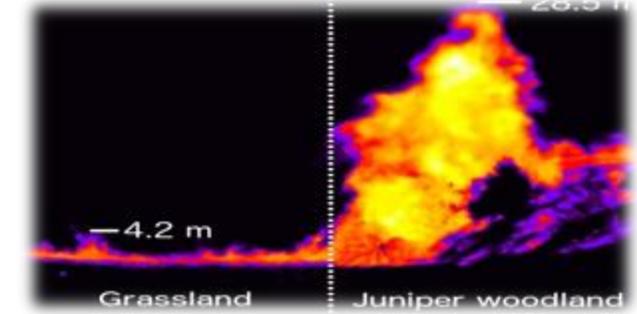
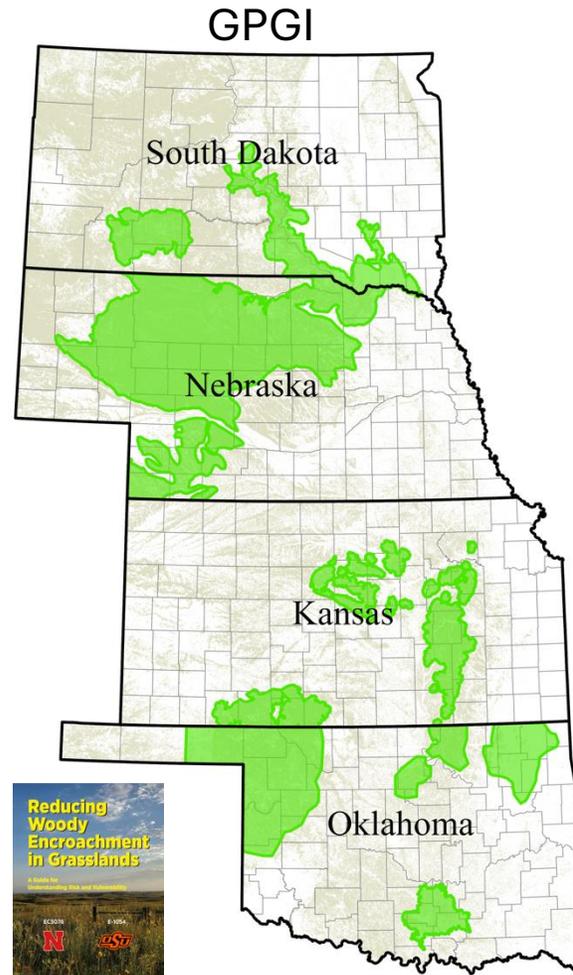
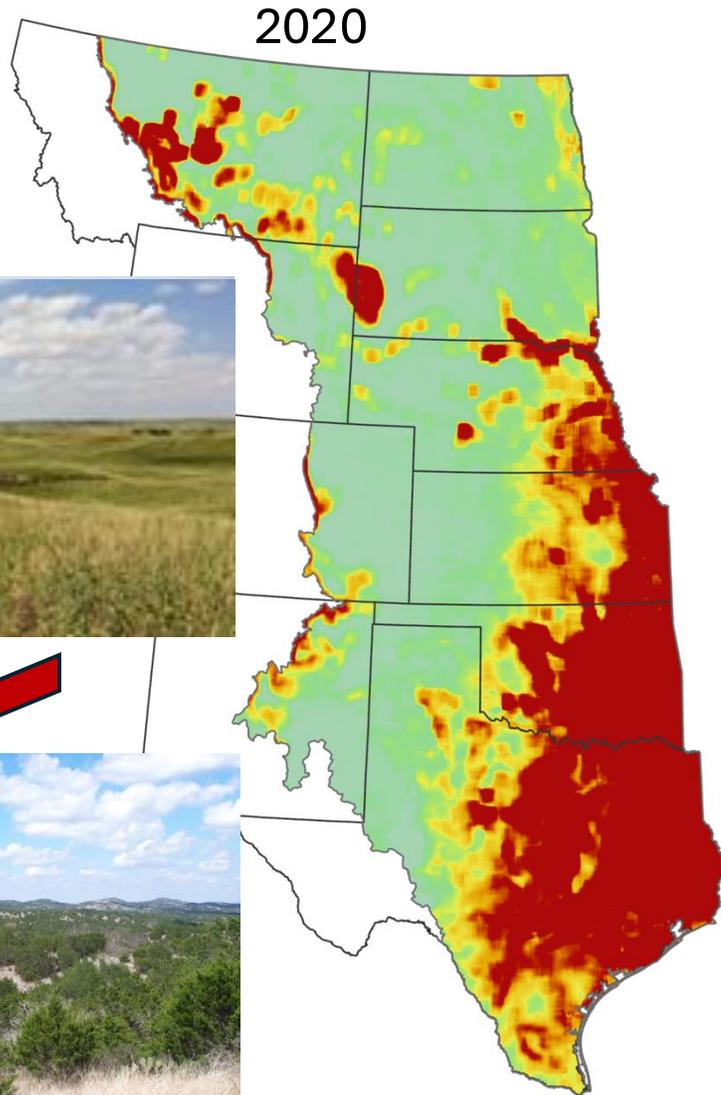
Resource Concern



Action



Outcomes



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A Self-Paced, Online Curriculum for Exploring Careers in the Meat Processing Industry

Enrollment Open August 18-25 GO.UNL.EDU/PRIME-EDUCATION Course Begins August 27

N EXTENSION National Institute of Food and Agriculture
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

OVERVIEW

- SELF-PACED ONLINE TRAINING
- COMPLETE OVERVIEW OF FUNDAMENTALS
- OVER 120 ENROLLED PARTICIPANTS
 - FALL 2025

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- PROMOTION OF INDUSTRY/RECRUITMENT
- FASTER ON-BOARDING OF EMPLOYEES
- INCREASED RETENTION OF EMPLOYEES



United States
Department of
Agriculture

National Institute
of Food and
Agriculture



Starting a Business? Looking for Help? Try Nebraska Extension!

RPN Extension educators across the state have the capacity to help small business owners

EDUCATION

Our educators offer **educational programs** and **workshops** that develop industry-specific skills, designed to meet the unique needs of your entrepreneurial community.

We **train entrepreneurs** in essential business basics such as business mapping, marketing, bookkeeping, and tax fundamentals at our **UNL Business School**.



BUSINESS COUNSELING

We **assist** entrepreneurs from the very beginning with startups, including business registrations, permits, licenses, and local, state, and national procedures.



CONNECTIONS AND NETWORKING

We foster local and state **collaborations** with chambers of commerce, city agencies, and other organizations to support entrepreneurs.

We offer **networking opportunities**:

- Coffee Tables, referrals
- Mentorship programs
- Business Tours
- **Small Business Conferences** held simultaneously at different locations.



The National Drought Mitigation Center: Celebrating 30 Years of Services

Mark Svoboda, PhD

Director and Professor

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

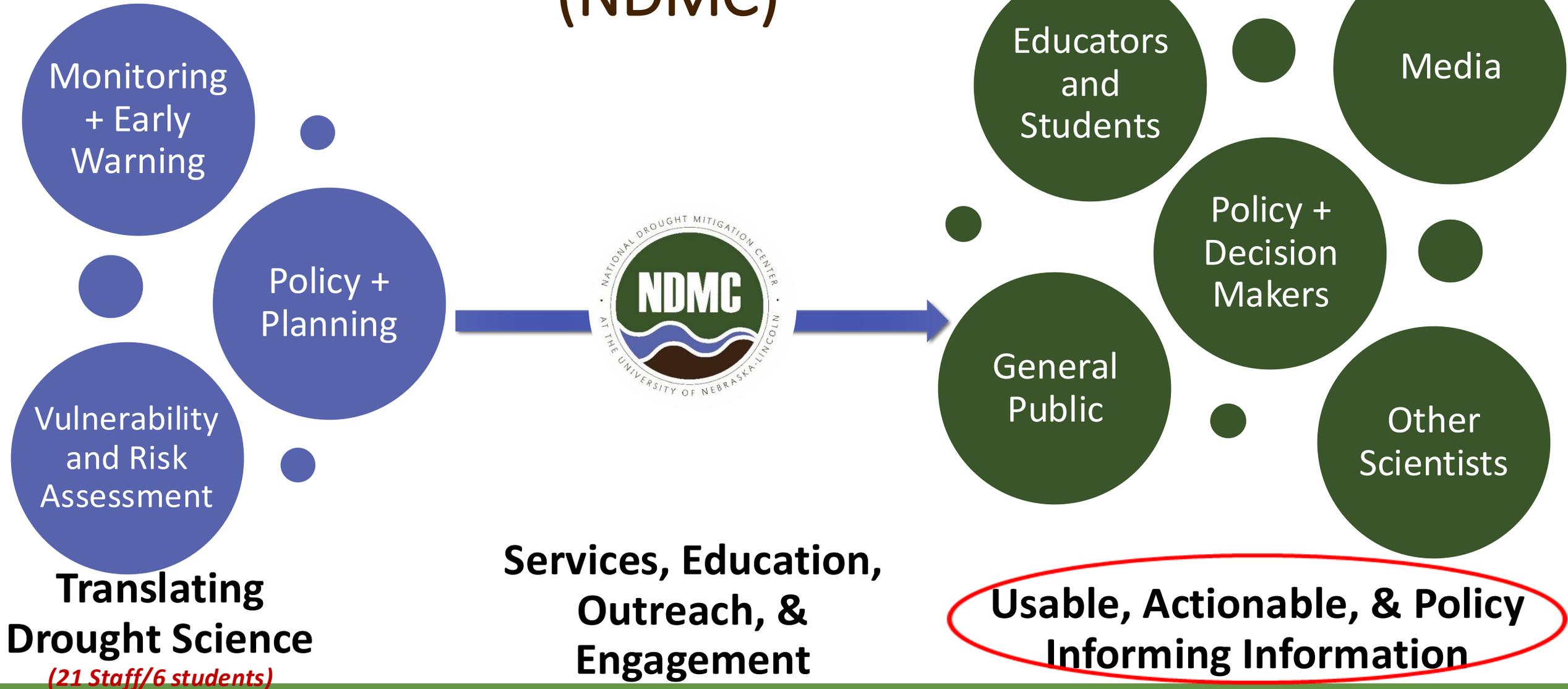


NATIONAL DROUGHT
MITIGATION CENTER
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA

IANR All Hands Meeting

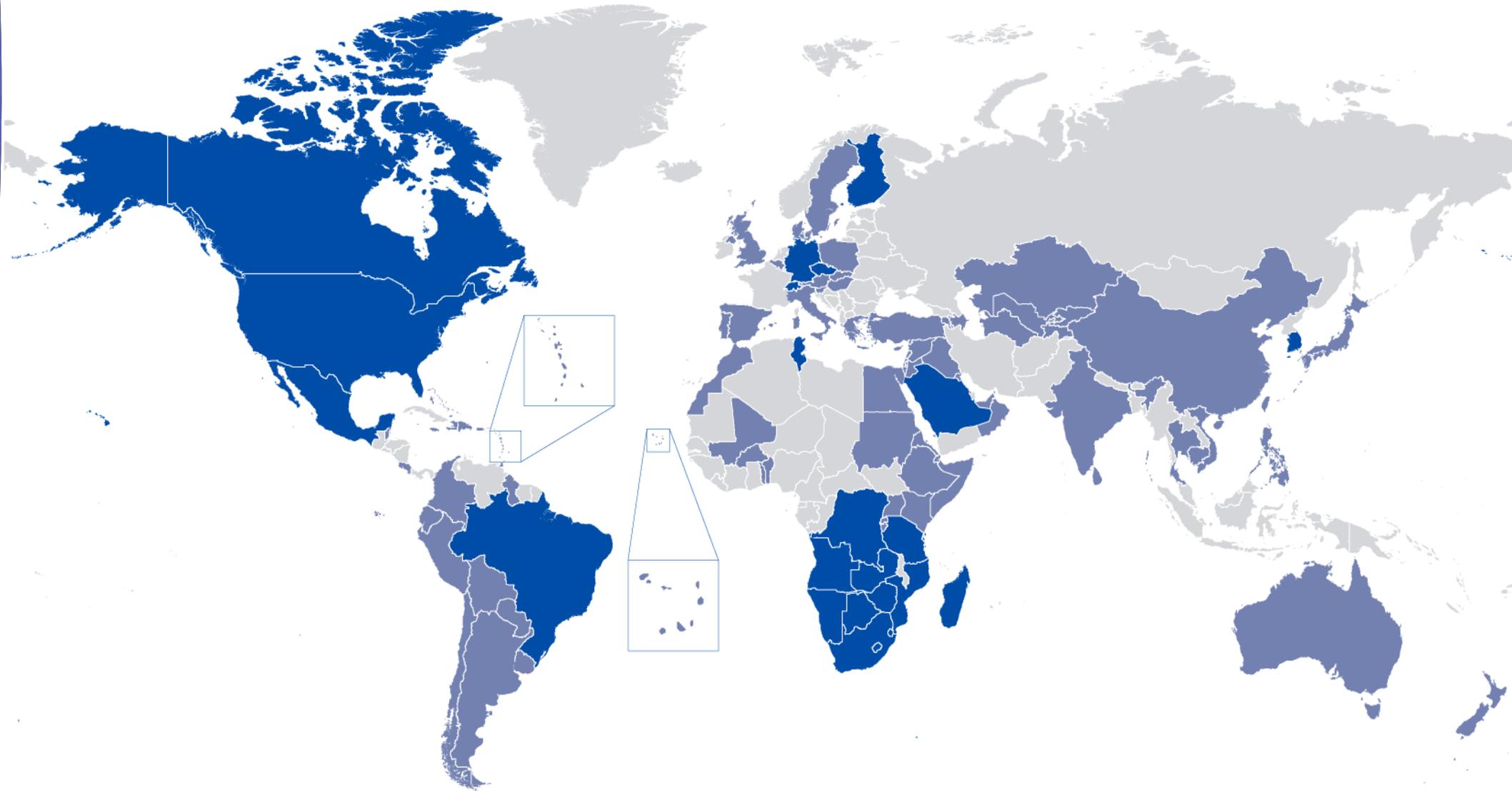
November 20, 2025

National Drought Mitigation Center (NDMC)



Global Footprint:

Building partnerships and addressing “all things drought” across Nebraska and beyond...



Past/Prior efforts w/: World Bank, FAO, UNCCD, USDA-FAS, IDMP + USAID

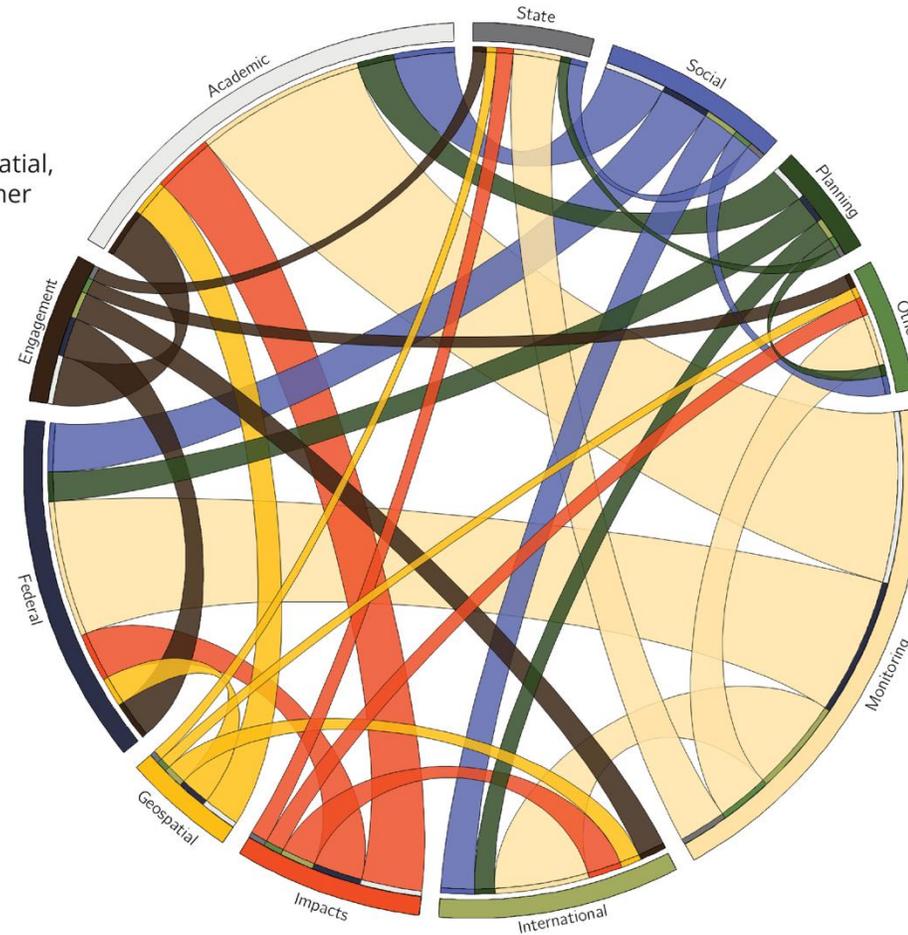
COLLABORATION

- ✓ **IANR Strategic Priority (SP) 5: Building a top tier research identity:** state/national/global drought leader
- ✓ **Odyssey To Extraordinary (O2E): Extraordinary Research & Creative Activity**
- ✓ **IANR SP 7: External Collaborative Growth and Alignment:** engaging private sector, NGO's, state, tribal, federal, international
- ✓ **O2E: Extraordinary Partnerships & Engagement**

NDMC Partners

NDMC's program areas, Monitoring, Geospatial, Social Science, Planning, and Impacts, partner with organizations across the country and around the world.

36	Academic
29	Federal
20	International
11	Tribal, Nonprofit, and Private
10	State



UNL-NDMC is the operational home of the USDM!

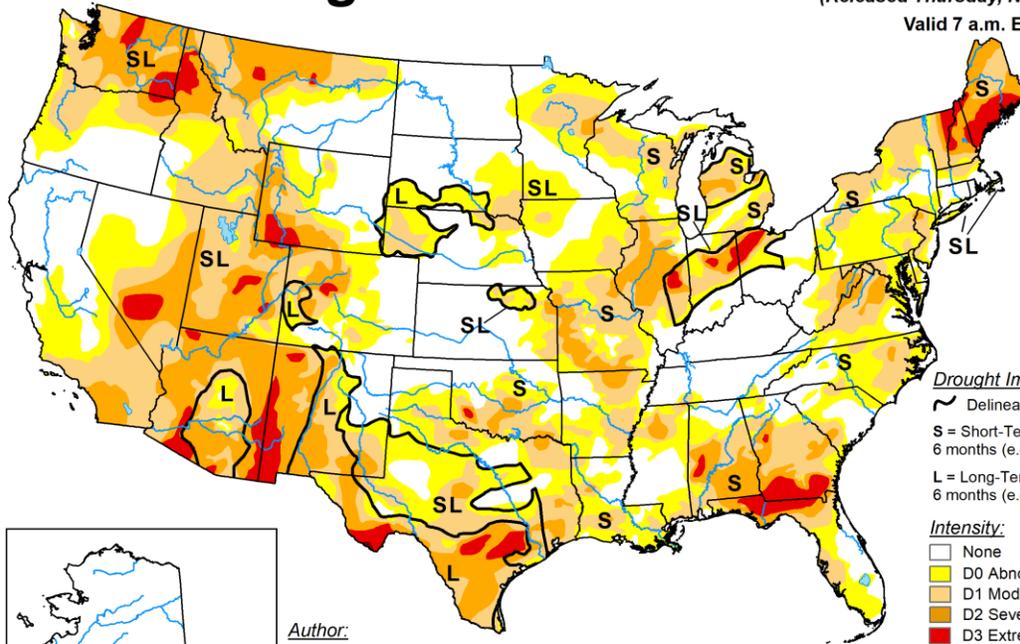
- ✓ Policy
- ✓ Farm Bill
- ✓ Others
- ✓ Comms
- ✓ Media
- ✓ Public
- ✓ Producers



U.S. Drought Monitor

November 11, 2025
(Released Thursday, Nov. 13, 2025)

Valid 7 a.m. EST

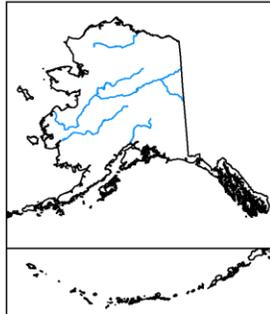


Drought Impact Types:

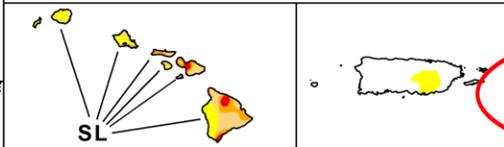
- Delineates dominant impacts
- S = Short-Term, typically less than 6 months (e.g. agriculture, grasslands)
- L = Long-Term, typically greater than 6 months (e.g. hydrology, ecology)

Intensity:

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought



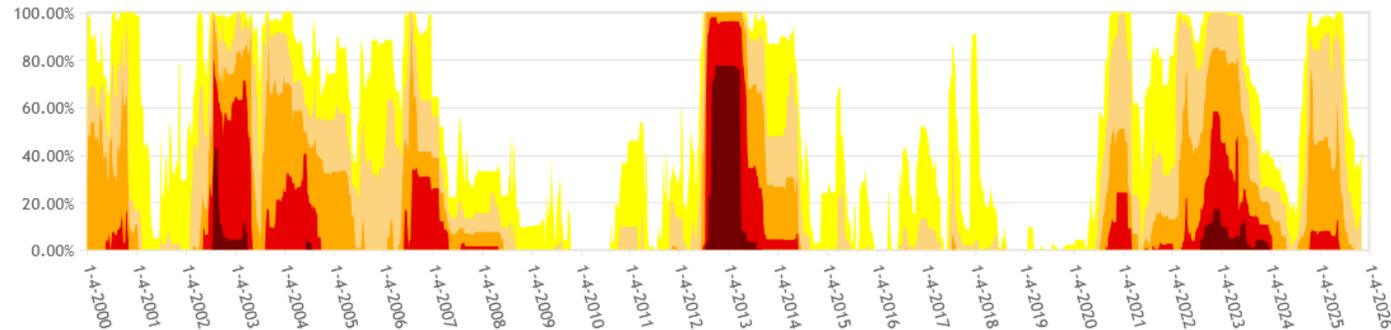
Author:
Curtis Riganti
National Drought Mitigation Center



The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>



Nebraska Percent Area in U.S. Drought Monitor Categories



From the U.S. Drought Monitor website, <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/DmData/TimeSeries.aspx>, 11-17-2025



USDA Assistance Triggered by the U.S. Drought Monitor

\$29.18 billion

Total USDA drought relief, Jan. 2003-Feb. 2025

\$25.2 million

Average weekly assistance triggered by the USDM

Totals Per Program

\$12.97 billion

Livestock Forage Disaster (LFP) Program

\$12 billion

Emergency Commodity Assistance Program (ECAP)

\$4.09 billion

Emergency Relief Program (ERP)

\$72 million

Nonfat Dry Milk Program

\$50 million

Livestock Assistance Grant Program



The U.S. Drought Monitor is produced through a partnership between the National Drought Mitigation Center at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the USDA and NOAA.



NATIONAL DROUGHT MITIGATION CENTER

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA



[DROUGHT.UNL.EDU](https://drought.unl.edu)



[@droughtcenter](https://twitter.com/droughtcenter)



ndmc@unl.edu



[National Drought Mitigation Center](https://www.facebook.com/NationalDroughtMitigationCenter)



[thedroughtcenter](https://www.instagram.com/thedroughtcenter)



[DroughtCenter](https://www.youtube.com/DroughtCenter)

Connect with us online!



Allison Walbrecht
Class of '26





On Your Radar

- Invitation to join *IANR Forward Together* dialogues
- IANR Operational Strategic Initiatives (OSIs)
- Questions, feedback, and ideas collected through an online portal



Closing Thoughts

- Thank you for your partnership, commitment, and contributions to the important and impactful work we do
- Challenges do not define us – they reveal our resilience and strength
- Together, we will continue to embrace opportunities and address challenges with resilience, purpose, and determination