

# Webinar

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agencies working with producers whose farmland sustained flood damage.

This year's historic flooding created millions of dollars in damages throughout the Missouri River basin, said Wilson, the Burt County, Neb., educator based in Tekamah, Neb.

"A study the Nebraska Farm Bureau had done showed the Nebraska crop losses, after crop insurance and disaster payments, came to \$41 million," he said. "That (study) was just for Nebraska, but I think they have done similar ones for other states."

The larger agriculture picture in the Husker State becomes even more staggering, Wilson said.

"The total damage (in Nebraska) was about \$189 million as it's related to farming and crop production agriculture," he said. "That doesn't include anything with levee damage, reduced soil production or disaster clean-up of roads, power lines or other property. And it doesn't include any non-agricultural losses."

Wednesday's webinar will provide a practical guide to helping producers suffering losses, Wilson said.

"If I am a farmer affected by flooding, I can look down this list (of suggestions) and say, 'This might help out with a particular problem,'" he said.

Each speaker will address three things, Wilson said. The areas include, "This applies to my farm if..." "This might help me if..." and "If I need more information, I should go to..."

Wednesday's webinar will feature a presentation by farmers Scott Olson of Tekamah, Neb., and Lyle McIntosh of Missouri Valley, Iowa. The two farmers live across the Missouri River from

each other and will share how they are preparing their fields biologically and physically.

Olson will take the webinar participants on an aerial view of the flood damage through much of the lower Missouri River basin. Olson, a private pilot, took about 3,500 photos of flood damage and posted the images on the website www.leevalley.net.

"Most of it has been north and south of our area, 40 miles north of Omaha. But Scott has gotten as far north as Gavins Point Dam (near Yankton), and he has gotten down into northern Missouri," Wilson said.

"He has pictures especially as the flooding was increasing and peaking this summer. He was generally up (in the sky) every other day, but some days consecutively and sometimes three days in a row."

Wednesday's webinar has been a group effort involving about 30 agencies in the five states, Wilson said. The event has been set up by Nebraska state conservationist Craig Derickson, he said.

The webinar organizers wanted, in one session, to provide guidance for those in need of information, Derickson said.

"Many farmers and landowners may be facing several inches of sediment and sand, scour holes and ponds, and wondering what resources are available to help them proactively address these problems and prepare for the 2012 crop season," he said. "We have assembled a lot of important information to help farmers affected by the 2011 flood move forward."

Wilson said he became involved with Wednesday's event because of his experience in leading last September's webinar on bringing flooded land back into production. That webinar, sponsored by UNL and Iowa State University, was presented for Nebraska and Iowa producers.

This week's webinar will take the next step in helping farmers prepare for the next crop season

and meet upcoming deadlines for disaster assistance, Wilson said.

"It's really important to have documentation if you do apply (for aid)," he said. "You need to take pictures, produce records and get a lot of work done."

Wednesday's presentations will include government resources and programs, points to consider when planning for the 2012 cropping season, and how to remain in compliance with farm bill programs while bringing flooded acres back to productivity.

The webinar will also cover flooding impacts on crop insurance. Other sessions will provide an overview of flood recovery programs — including levee repair, land clearing and soil restoration assistance — available from the Corps and federal agencies.

Wednesday's webinar isn't meant to cover individual situations, Wilson said. For that matter, the webinar participants will need to learn more about their local and state regulations, he said.

"We encourage anyone that had damage from the flood to attend," he said. "We're not necessarily going to cover all the nuts and bolts. There isn't time for all of it. But it will give enough of an overview that the landowner can say, 'This applies to me, and I need to check for more information on this.'"

Even the webinar presenters are learning new things in the process, Wilson said.

"I learned we have programs that I had no idea existed," he said.



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The webinars are prompting Extension groups in several states to explore more ways to co-host programming that benefits a large audience, Wilson said.

"It came to me and different cohorts across the river (in Iowa), we should put our heads together and do some general programming," he said. "Many of our issues are the same. If folks can benefit from something they hear from another state, we need to do it."

Technology could open the door to more flood-related sessions and other programs, Wilson said.

"It's amazing how the (Missouri) river can be a barrier," he said. "But after something like this (webinar), it opens the doors for other general learning programs — not just when something causes a disaster — that can benefit our clients."

Wilson believes that Wednesday's webinar will provide support for flood-harmed landowners.

"They weren't asking for this (flooding), and anything they can get to help them out, they really need that," he said.

For more information on Wednesday's webinar, as well as links to archived segments and fact sheets from the September webinar, visit: <http://flood.unl.edu/crops>. Links to the archived version of Wednesday's webinar will be available within a week at the same website.

# City

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ifies general overtime provisions; and

• adoption of language that allows for more efficient scheduling of an employee personal day.

The same changes were enacted for non-union employees.

The aforementioned new classification and step increase plan was also approved unanimously in a separate action. The plan was based on the work of a committee consisting of three union and three non-union members.

Implementation of the new system will include moving employees to their next higher step in the 20-year plan.

Based on averages, the percentage increase for the initial implementation is .63 percent, or half of one step. While the intent of the 20-year step plan is to adjust each employee a step on an annual basis until they are at their respective maximum, actual implementation will be achieved through official commission action based on collective bargaining for represented employees and review of situational factors for non-represented employees.

Also Monday, the commission:



AM 1450

**MORNING COFFEE**

**WEEKDAYS 7:40 AM MONDAY THRU FRIDAY**

*Yankton's Home Team!*

• awarded a request for \$5,000 from the Yankton Convention and Visitors Bureau to fund a convention and event funding incentives program;

• approved a final payment of \$10,660 to Maguire Iron, Inc., for the \$570,120 rehabilitation of the city's two water towers;

• held a hearing regarding a planned \$3.7 million wastewater system improvement project;

• renewed a library agreement between the city and Yankton County; and

• agreed to place three stop signs at intersections around the Menards development.



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Cooks Choice

**Thursday**

Karaoke with Papa Ray  
7-11pm  
6-7pm – Domestic Beers \$1.50  
5-7pm – Hamburger/ Pizza Burger & Fries \$5.00

**Friday**

Lasagna or Menu  
Serving 5:30-8:00

**Saturday**

Freddies Combo  
Serving from Menu 5:30-8:00

**Bingo Wed. at 7:00pm Sunday at 6:30pm**

**Happy Hour M-F 4:30-7:30**

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