

# NEBRASKA OUR BEST TO YOU

## Number of Farmers' Markets

In 2000 - 39  
In 2010 - 81

## Number of Produce Stands

In 2000 - 78  
In 2009 - 538

## Number of U-Pick Operations

In 2000 - 26  
In 2009 - 38

Information was generated from the Nebraska Department of Agriculture's "Your Guide to Nebraska Fresh Produce" brochure.

## Climate Change Linked To Mass Mexican Migration To U.S.

BY ANNA GORMAN  
McClatchy News

LOS ANGELES — Climbing temperatures are expected to raise sea levels and increase droughts, floods, heat waves and wildfires.

Now, scientists are predicting another consequence of climate change — mass migration to the United States.

Between 1.4 million and 6.7 million Mexicans could migrate to the U.S. by 2080 as climate change reduces crop yields and agricultural production in Mexico, according to a study published online this week in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. The number could amount to 10 percent of the current population of Mexicans ages 15 to 65.

"Assuming that the climate projections are correct, gradually over the next several decades heading toward the end of the century, it becomes one of the more important factors in driving Mexicans across the border, all other things being equal," said study author Michael Oppenheimer, professor of geosciences and international affairs at Princeton University.

Of course, Oppenheimer acknowledged, all things will not remain equal. Changes could occur in U.S. immigration and border policy or in Mexico's economy and its reliance on agriculture. But he said this was a simplified first step in studying the effect of global warming on migration.

"Our primary objectives were, No. 1, to give policymakers something to think about and, No. 2, to give researchers a spur to start answering some of the more complicated questions," Oppenheimer said.

Oppenheimer teamed up with two economists, Alan B. Krueger and Shuaizhang Feng, to study the connection between agricultural decline and migration. They looked at Mexican emigration, crop yield and climate data from 1995 to 2005 to make estimates about the next 70 years.

In the past, Oppenheimer said, Mexican farmers from rural areas fled to the United States when they could no longer grow their crops. If the rising temperatures dry out the land and reduce yield as expected, many more farmers could do the same.

Philip Martin, an expert in agricultural economics at the University of California, Davis, said that he hadn't read the study but that making estimates based solely on climate change was virtually impossible.

"It is just awfully hard to separate climate change from the many, many other factors that affect people's decisions whether to stay in agriculture or move," he said.

Over the last 20 years, Mexico has seen a decline in the percentage of people who live in rural areas, Martin said. But much of that is because of economic growth in the nation. "As countries get richer, people leave agriculture," he said.

Nevertheless, Martin agreed that global warming could make farming more difficult and lead to more emigration.

Douglas Massey, a sociology professor at Princeton, also agreed that climate change could lead to emigration from Mexico, but much of that will depend on labor demand in the U.S.

"Environmental change is not going to produce migrants from Mexico unless there are jobs to go to," he said in an e-mail.

According to the study, other countries and regions dependent on agriculture could also see a similar exodus. Among the areas mentioned are much of Africa, India, Bangladesh and Latin America.

# Director Ibach Encourages Nebraskans To Celebrate National Farmers' Market Week



Ibach

LINCOLN—It's hard to resist the taste of Nebraska-grown sweet corn, the juiciness of a vine ripened tomato, or the freshness of green beans plucked straight from the garden that are currently being sold at farmers' markets across the state. Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA) Director, Greg Ibach, is encouraging all Nebraskans to join him in celebrating National Farmers' Market Week in Nebraska from August 1-7.

"Our state is home to over 80 farmers' markets," said Ibach. "I encourage all Nebraskans to visit their local farmers' markets this week, and for the rest of the season, to purchase fresh, locally grown produce. Each of those purchases helps support our local economy."

The Nebraska Department of Agriculture and Lt. Governor

Rick Sheehy will commemorate National Farmers' Market Week at the Centennial Mall Garden Market, located on Centennial Mall between L and M streets in downtown Lincoln, beginning at 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 4th. Vendors will be selling locally grown produce, and several guest educators will be available to answer questions including: a Master Gardener, a registered dietitian and a representative from the Nebraska Sustainable Ag Society. There will also be live music.

In addition, recipes, coasters, luggage tags, market listings, and business card magnets promoting the "Nebraska, Our Best to

You" logo will be distributed to consumers patronizing the market.

NDA offers "Your Guide to Nebraska Fresh Produce" as a way for people to access information about farmers' markets, roadside stands, and U-pick operations. The guide identifies locations, hours of operation, and contact information for numerous operations across the state. To obtain a copy of the guide, please call 800-422-6692, or visit [www.agr.ne.gov](http://www.agr.ne.gov).

An additional resource is also available this year to those interested in locating a local farmers' market. By visiting [www.ourbest-toyou.nebraska.gov](http://www.ourbest-toyou.nebraska.gov), visitors will be able to view an interactive map of Nebraska, highlighting farmers' markets across the state. Also highlighted (in orange), are farmers' markets

that are planning special activities for National Farmers' Market Week in Nebraska.

Nebraskans may also notice the "Nebraska, Our Best to You" logos in more locations across the state this year, including advertising in local newspapers and on signs advertising farmers' markets locations, said Ibach. The logo is used to signify Nebraska products.

"The 'Nebraska, Our Best to You' campaign began four years ago, and has gained momentum, due in large part, to a USDA specialty crop block grant that was awarded to the Nebraska Department of Agriculture," said Casey Foster, with NDA's Ag Promotion and Development Division. "Promotional materials, with the logo, have been distributed to produce growers throughout Nebraska."

## Among The Hmong: A New Farming Culture Takes Root In N.C.

BY KATHLEEN PURVIS  
McClatchy Newspapers

HICKORY, N.C. — Pahoua Xiong, wearing hip, black-framed Ray Ban glasses and girlish pink rain boots, is standing on the side of a rice paddy outside Hickory, N.C.

The rice paddy is built in four squares, tiered down the slope of a small hill on the Hmong-owned farm that Mai Kia Her runs with her extended family.

Water trickles from one square down to the next. Palm-size butterflies dart over the lush green stalks. You can't see the rice yet. The heads of grain are mostly still inside the stalks, waiting to emerge in August for harvest in September. But you can smell it, a light, warm scent like rice being toasted in a dry pan.

"Can you smell it?" Xiong calls. "It smells so good."

Yes, there is rice growing in North Carolina these days. And a lot more, a cornucopia from Southeast Asia: Bumpy bitter melons and football-sized red cucumbers, Chinese long beans and snake gourd, dark green clusters of yu choy and bok choy, lemon grass, amaranth and daikon radishes.

You can find a lot of it at local markets, where Hmong farmers stand behind tables piled with mint and Thai basil, neat stacks of green onions and piles of bright green vines, from sweet potato to Asian pumpkin.

For three years, Pahoua Xiong (pronounced pah-WHO-ah Zhong) has helped to distribute those vegetables. She translates for agricultural agents and drives visitors around on farm tours, explains American marketing to her Laotian clients, even puts Hickory's Hmong farm program on Facebook and Twitter.

Born in California to a Hmong family, she wanted to get away from farming as a kid. She went to the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill and got a psychology degree. But she got pulled back to the fields to run a program that has put Hmong refugees back onto farms and helped them spread out to farmers markets all over the Piedmont.

"Couldn't find a job," says Xiong, 26, bumping her aging van around country roads in Catawba County, N.C., last week. "Figured I'd come back and contribute to my community."

With an estimated 15,000, North Carolina is believed to have the fourth-largest Hmong population in the U.S. Most of the N.C. Hmong (pronounced "mong") live in Alexander, Burke, Caldwell and Catawba counties, with a few in Lincoln, Stanly and Gaston counties.

Why there? It's the hills, say the agriculture agents who work with them. The rolling hills of the Piedmont look like the terrain the Hmong knew in Laos. The climate is similar, too, with hot, humid summers. And there's a price factor: Small farmers can't afford land in urban areas.

Starting in 2007, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Refugee Resettlement spread 10 grants around the country to help Hmong refugees get back to the farming they knew in Laos and turn it into a way to support themselves.

Using a \$395,000, three-year grant, North Carolina A&T University in Greensboro teamed up with Hickory's United Hmong Association to form HRAPP — Hmong Rural Agricultural Partnership Program. Starting with 12 fami-

lies, it has grown to 34 farms. Lara Worden, an agriculture extension agent based in Gaston County, has taught growers schools for HRAPP, focusing on how to set up tables and sell at farmers markets.

"Before we started this program, most of them were not familiar with selling directly to consumers or using farmers markets," she says. "Everything they grew, they consumed on their own. Before we started with them three years ago, there were only one or two going to farmers markets. We're now up to 13 families. That's a big jump."

It's actually bigger than that, says Lincoln County Extension director Kevin Starr. Since so many Hmong farmers live in extended families, those 13 can account for even more farm stands.

## YOUR VIEWS

### CAP AND TRADE: Extraordinarily Bad Legislation

BY SENATOR BEN NELSON

Cap and trade legislation is off the agenda for this summer and that's good news for Nebraskans. I have been fighting against this legislation because it would harm Nebraska's economy, and was prepared to take the extraordinary measure, for me, of voting against even bringing it up for debate. That's how bad it is.

**Cap and Trade Bad Legislation**  
I do not support cap and trade legislation as currently written. It is one of those issues that must be stopped before it does irreparable harm to states like Nebraska.

Cap and trade is essentially a tax on carbon that is emitted from a variety of sources, including coal-fired power plants that provide most of the electricity we use in Nebraska. I oppose it because if it were to pass it would significantly increase the utility rates in Nebraska which would damage our economy. That would mean much higher electricity bills for homeowners, for businesses and for farmers who depend on reasonable electricity rates for irrigation.

The bills would spike because Nebraska is a 100 percent public power state that cannot spread costs of cap and trade policies onto investors. Only Nebraska electricity ratepayers would pay.

**Cap and Trade Would Hurt Nebraska**

At this point, it's difficult to see how the cap and trade system could be fixed. I am skeptical that putting a "cap" on greenhouse gas emissions and

then having a system for power plants and others to "trade" allowances for emissions they produce—a kind of permit to emit—will work without adversely impacting Nebraska and other states that are in a similar position.

At a time when we just passed legislation to rein in the recklessness on Wall Street we should not create another system that has the potential for abuse by creating a massive trading system that involves the trading of permits on pollution, with the potential for secondary and derivative markets.

**Broad Energy Legislation Needed**

I do support working on broad energy legislation promoting renewable fuels, wind power, nuclear power, natural gas, and domestic oil, which could include setting reasonable targets for CO2 emissions reductions, and incentives to help America reach those cleaner air goals.

Obviously, in the wake of the oil spill, energy legislation should reexamine how to develop our oil resources, but with an understanding that our economy is still dependant on oil and gas and moving away from energy development here will only deepen our dependence on foreign sources of energy.

With the U.S. economy struggling to recover from a major recession, now is not the time to pursue legislation that would raise electricity rates in Nebraska and many other states, thus putting America at a competitive disadvantage with other countries and damaging the U.S. economy.

### CAP AND TRADE: Habitability Of Earth At Stake

BY JOHN K. HANSEN

Pres. Nebraska Farmers Union

I find it strange that both Nebraska Senators oppose a cap-and-trade regulatory approach that:

- Would set aside the current Supreme Court mandated EPA inclusion of carbon emissions into the Clean Air Act responsibilities that would use inflexible benchmark periods tied to inflexible particulate levels that would be the worst case economic scenario for Nebraska's largest single industry, production agriculture, not to mention the manufacturing and electrical generation sectors. Remember, when the Senate fails to pass climate change legislation similar to the House of Representatives, they allow the EPA approach to proceed.

- Has already been successfully tried in the U.S. in the early 1990's to reduce acid rain pollution from hydrogen sulfide. Air particulates were reduced far ahead of schedule with far below projected costs.

- Is based on real market forces that create real market opportunities based on reducing carbon emissions while transitioning to ag based renewable energy sources.

- Has already been successfully modeled in the United States with the Chicago Climate Exchange using the latest scientifically based, independent third party verified agricultural practices that sequester carbon while rewarding farmers and ranchers for practicing sound

conservation practices that also build soil structure while reducing both wind and water erosion.

- Nebraska farmers and ranchers have already willingly volunteered to utilize, making Nebraska the largest Chicago Climate Exchange utilizing state in the nation for agricultural carbon sequestration with over 3.1 million acres amounting only 6.4% of the eligible land.

- Would provide Nebraska farmers with a new renewable energy based market opportunity by sequestering carbon. For example, comparing 2008 carbon prices at \$4.72 / ton versus current 2010 prices of carbon at \$0.15 / ton, thanks to Senate inaction of climate change legislation, they have already cost Nebraska farmers and ranchers \$18 million in lost income. That amount of income is equal to Nebraska landowners getting paid \$4,000 per MW for wind energy to get Nebraska up from the current 1% of electricity coming from wind energy to 20%, and then exporting an equal amount out of state!

- Allows business to slowly transition from dirty carbon burning fuels to clean burning renewable fuels by utilizing market forces over time in a gradual fashion.

- Reduces carbon emissions and reducing the human impact on climate change.

- Would end the built-in subsidies to the coal and oil interests by allowing them to continue to NOT pay for the societal, economic, and environmental costs of their carbon emissions.

- Would level the economic playing field between the finite and dwindling oil and coal based carbon emitting fuels of the past and the renewable emerging clean burning energy sources of the future including wind, solar, biodiesel, corn and cellulosic ethanol, all of which Nebraska has in abundance and all of which would economically benefit our state, agriculture in particular.

Both Nebraska Senators say they oppose EPA including carbon emissions into enforcement of Clean Air Act authority, yet both pursue a public policy course that insures it. Both Senators have yet to propose a better solution to the problem of carbon emissions. Both Senators claim to be pro life and conservative. From my perspective, both are neither.

Pro life and conservative people do not bet the future of human life on earth that the overwhelming majority of scientific data and opinion are wrong about the relationship between earth temperatures and the amount of carbon in the atmosphere. When in doubt, especially during times of crisis, conservative people act with an abundance of caution. It is the moral and political responsibility of our elected officials to lead, especially in times of crisis. Words of justification will not offset the lack of appropriate and timely action on this issue that decides the future habitability of the planet earth. Yes, it is even more important than the next opinion poll or the next election.

## IRON

From Page 1B

matically bumps the price up. If no one outbids the bidder, but the bidder still has a way to go until you meet the maximum bid, the bidder will only be charged what he or she last bid.

Stock explained this works just like a live auction.

"Sometimes you don't have to bid as high to get it bought," he said. The Web site sells items as high as \$200,000 and as low as \$100.

The process to begin buying or selling on bigiron.com is simple, Stock added. For buyers, go to bigiron.com to sign up, log in and register a bidder number.

For sellers, go to bigiron.com and click on "I want to be a seller." Potential sellers can also call (800) 937-3558 and ask to speak with a territory manager. The same toll free number will also direct buyers and sellers to customer service representatives for help with the sign-up process.

The next auction will take place on Wednesday, Aug. 11.

"America is the only country that went from barbarism to decadence without civilization in between."  
OSCAR WILDE



## A Great Online Education

That won't cost your future!

www.csc.edu/online • 800-600-4099

**Steamway**  
CLEANING & RESTORATION



Bruce Tittel  
Certified Master Restorer and Textile Cleaner

**"THE AREA'S LARGEST CLEANING & RESTORATION COMPANY"**

- Carpets
- Upholstery
- Duct Cleaning
- Water Restoration

- Fire Restoration
- Mold Testing & Remediation
- Tile & Grout Cleaning

**WATER • SMOKE • FIRE FREE ESTIMATES**  
(ask for details)

**IICRC CERTIFIED FIRM**

**Satisfaction Guaranteed**

Mitchell 996-6921	Yankton 665-5700	Chamberlain 734-0733
Vermillion 624-4666	Huron 352-5252	Sioux Falls 334-1991

**Toll Free 1-800-529-2450**  
[www.steamwaycleaning.com](http://www.steamwaycleaning.com)