



# Newsletter

## Nebraska Sustainable Agriculture Society

Summer 1995

Number 51

### Mentor Program Nears Completion of Second Year

The Sustainable Agriculture Mentor Program will reach the end of its second year this August. NSAS has requested that the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program extend this project a third year, through August 1996.

The Mentor Program offers farmers, ranchers, gardeners and others a unique opportunity to learn about sustainable agriculture through one-on-one assistance. The statewide program matches beginning or transitional producers with experienced producers who assist them in implementing sustainable agriculture practices.

According to Mentor Program coordinator Tim Powell, "change is not easy, but transition can be less frightening if a person who has mastered a skill can teach you, and then coach you through your first steps."

During its first two years, the Mentor Program helped a number of producers learn new skills. Participants have shown particularly strong interest in learning about intensively-managed grazing. Stories of mentors' accomplishments have been featured in *Nebraska Farmer* magazine and the *Norfolk Daily News*.

Mentors' areas of expertise include rotational grazing, sustainable cropping systems, alternative and organic crops, low-capital swine production, and Holistic Resources Management. A list of current mentors and their expertise accompanies this article.

NSAS is looking for program participants and experienced mentors. Mentors are reimbursed for the time and expense they put into the program. If you are interested in working with any of our current mentors, or if you would like to share your skills as a mentor, please contact the NSAS office.

#### Mentors and their Areas of Expertise

Mentor	Location	Expertise
Jim Bender Dennis Demmel	Weeping Water Grant	Organic crops and livestock Diversified crop rotation, substituting legumes for summer fallow
Ron Ellermeier Mike Grant David Hansen Gerald Henzler Mike Herman Tom Higgins Arnold Jones Ben Jones	Glenvil Crawford Anselmo Wee Town Aurora Valentine Verdigre Edgar	Diversified crop rotation, HRM Livestock Diversified crop rotation, sheep Rotational grazing Crop rotations, OCIA certification HRM, Cattle Rotational grazing Diversified crop rotation, OCIA certification, value-added marketing
Tom Larson	St. Edward	Strip cropping, ridge till, rotational grazing
Wyman McCain Ron Miller Bryce Ritz Warren Sahs Joel and Jim Starr Tom Tomas Dave Welsch Gary Young	Crofton Scottsbluff Comstock Lincoln Hastings Orleans Milford McLean	Low-capital swine Diversified crop rotation Diversified crop rotation, livestock Organic crops Composting, cover crops Organic gardening Crop rotations, low-capital poultry Rotational grazing, non-chemical pest control

#### In This Issue:

Midsummer Gardening,  
p. 2

Summer Farm Tours,  
pgs. 2-3, 6

Western Nebraska News,  
p. 4

Nebraska IMPACT  
Project, p. 4-5

Poetry, p. 7

Calendar, p. 8