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Addressing the Training Needs of Hispanic and Limited Resource Beginning Farmers in Nebraska

Ingrid Kirst, Executive Director
Community Crops

www.communitycrops.org

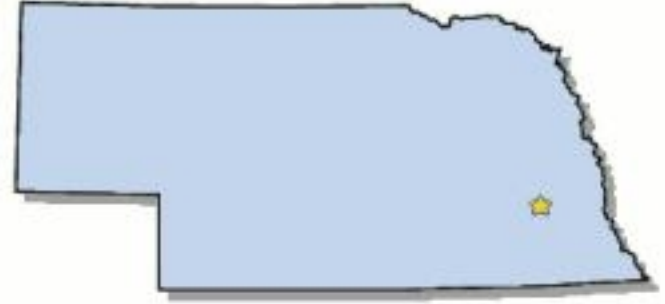
Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development
Program Award No 2015-70017-22858



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Project Audience



- Who are you aiming to help?
 - Beginning farmers in the state of Nebraska who are Hispanic and limited-resource farmers and ranchers
 - Sustainable agricultural methods, diversified vegetables and small livestock production
 - Primary focus is farmers starting up and in first few years



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Partners/Collaborators

- Collaboration between Community Crops and Center for Rural Affairs
 - Ingrid Kirst, Community Crops ED and Project Manager
 - Kirstin Bailey, Growing Farmers Program Manager
 - Kathie Starkweather, Center for Rural Affairs, Director, Farm and Community Program



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Community Crops



- Non-profit since 2003, empowering people to grow food
- Based in Lincoln, Nebraska
- Community gardens
- Youth gardens
- Incubator farm
- CSA
- Gardening and cooking classes



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Center for Rural Affairs



- Non-profit since 1973 that has worked on behalf of family farms and rural communities for forty years.
- Based in Lyons, Nebraska, population 851
- Experience with beginning farmers, with a focus on rural, Hispanic and women farmers



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Key Approaches



- 12 week beginning farmer course in at least two languages and held at least two sites
- Followed up by hands on training and farm tours
- Incubator farm
- Social media peer network across state for beginning farmers
- Technical assistance



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Overall Target Outcome

By the end of this project, we will achieve these outcomes:

1. 150 Hispanic and limited resource beginners will develop business and financial skills
2. 100 farmers will develop enterprise plans suitable for FSA loan applications
3. 25 limited resource farmers will start successful farm businesses on Community Crops incubator site
5. 15 Hispanic farmers will start successful farm businesses



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What do you have to share?

- 10 years of experience managing an incubator farm site
- Strong staff background in sustainable farming
- Existing curriculum and class schedule





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2015 Workshop Series



- 31 people at one site, 14 at other
- Met weekly on Saturdays separately
- Met together for four farm tours and special presentations
- Technical assistance provided
- Good interpretation key



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What do you hope to learn from other projects?

- Seeing others' curriculum and resources, especially business planning and budgeting
- Managing farmer expectations





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