



Website Updates:

- Year 5 Calendar*
- Year 5 Quarterly Reports*
- Mid-Year Reports*
- NICC's Project Workbook*

Follow-Up of Mid Year Meeting:

Goal: A news article in May.

Highlights:

- Closing Event – 1*
- Story to Tell –1, 2*
- Video Magazine - 2*
- Partner News- 3*
- First Friday Call – 3*

NRE Partners:

- FBCC**
- ISU**
- NICC**
- NDSU**
- SBC**
- SGU**
- SDSU**
- UNL**

Paula's Travel:

None Scheduled

USDA IFAFS GRANT 2001-2005

Sitting Bull College to Host NRE Closing Event

Sitting Bull College will host the June 29-July 1 NRE Closing Event. The event is to celebrate the accomplishments of the five year Natural Resources Education project, recognize the contributions made by individuals and partners, and acknowledge the impact made in the partner institutions and the tribal college communities.

Invited are all those working, or who have worked directly with the NRE project at each of the 8 institutions, the advisory committee, and college and USDA personnel.

The program will start on Thursday evening, June 29 with an Inipi Ceremony (sweat ceremony), a time for acknowledging the wonders of our environment, appreciating friendships and accomplishments, being grateful and hopeful for youth and communities we have served.

The Friday, June 30 morning program will include poster presentations by the 8 partner institutions of the NRE projects conducted during the 5 year program, presentation of Tribal College Notebooks,

Careers in Natural Resources DVDs, viewing the USDA Partners Magazine featuring the NRE project, and distribution of the final report publication.

The Friday afternoon program will include a tour of the new Sitting Bull College campus and points of interest on the Standing Rock Reservation. The Friday evening event will be a traditional meal banquet.

The Saturday morning, July 1 program will be a Wopila Ceremony, a time for college and personal thank you to those who have made a difference through the NRE Project.

Lodging will be at the Prairie Knights Casino. Call 1-800-425-8277 extension 7704 before June 5 to make your reservation. Mention that you are part of the Natural Resources Education group with Sitting Bull College. Check www.prairieknights.com regarding accommodations at the casino.

We Have a Story to Tell

The mid-year meeting, hosted March 23 and 24 by the University of Nebraska, offered many opportunities for sharing with each other as well as exploring options for telling our story in our communities and beyond.

John Witkowski and Scott Josiah, UNL hosts, provided a virtual tour of the UNL School of Natural Resources and discussed trends affecting careers in natural resources and environmental sciences. Among the trends in Nebraska, and elsewhere on the plains, is the declining



Participants at Mid-Year Meeting at Lied Lodge and Conference Center

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NRE REPORTING

Year 5, Quarter 2 Reports are due May 1. Please also submit past due reports.

Hold these Dates

June 29- July 1: Closing Event, SBC



Mid-Year Meeting participants visited the Lewis and Clark Visitors Center overlooking the Missouri River



N. Scott Momaday narrates NRE Video

Send your news for the next newsletter to Mary M. de Baca

18 CURTISS, IOWA
STATE UNIVERSTIY
PHONE: 515-294-8574
FAX: 515 294 5334
E-MAIL:
mmmdb@iastate.edu

NRE on the Web
<http://ifafsnrp.ag.iastate.edu/>

Submit project workbook and photos for the web to Jason at Jason_Decker@hotmail.com

Story to Tell Cont.

country population, increasing Hispanic population, population growth near interstates, declining farm income, increasing landowner interest in wildlife, increasing risk of fire catastrophe, serious threats to certain tree species, and need to replace aging windbreaks.

All those attending were urged to share their stories in their communities, through news articles in local papers, radio programs reaching local audiences, and particularly in their own college/universities. The NRE project notebooks being developed for each Tribal College contain rich material from which to demonstrate involvement as well as use for recruitment. The USDA video, due out May 1 and the NRE final report publication will provide other avenues for "telling our stories."

One topic of the mid-year meeting was seeking opportunities to partner again after the NRE project ends. Harold Crawford discussed the USDA request for Water Quality proposals. As a result of discussions, those collaborating are Iowa State University, Sinte Gleska University, Nebraska Indian Community College, South Dakota State University, and the US Geological Survey. The proposal was submitted to USDA before the April 11 deadline.

CSREES Partner Video Magazine Soon to Be Released Excerpt from CSREES Updated (Newsletter) - April 19, 2006

The next edition of CSREES's Partners Video Magazine (Number 15) travels to the Great Plains and discovers groundbreaking bison research that promises to deliver selenium-rich meat, community gardens reconnecting residents to traditional plants, a Juneberry project re-establishing this time-honored tribal favorite, and a prairie outreach program mixing local youth and horses.

These four projects are CSREES-funded efforts of the Natural Resources and Education (NRE) program now in its fifth and final year. It is a unique collaboration between four tribal colleges (Fort Berthold Community College, Nebraska Indian Community College, Sitting Bull College, and Sinte Gleska University) and four 1862



Scott Josiah explains yellow and red stems of dogwood are marketable as ornamentals.

Participants at the mid-year meeting suggested dates to consider for the NRE Closing Event and generated ideas for the kind of event we envision. A NRE Closing Event agenda is located on the project website <http://ifafsnrep.ag.iastate.edu/>.

Thank you to John Witkowski and Scott Josiah, University of Nebraska hosts for selecting the excellent site for the meeting at the Arbor Day Farm Lied Lodge and Conference Center. Thanks also to other members of the committee, Stacy Mortenson, Hank Miller, and Mary de Baca, for a successful mid-year meeting.

land-grant universities (Iowa State, Nebraska, North Dakota State, and South Dakota State).

The Partners episode, Tribal Natural Resources, will be available in May. Native American N. Scott Momaday, a Pulitzer Prize-winning author and national Public Broadcasting System narrator, narrates the half-hour video. Free DVD copies will be available on the CSREES Newsroom beginning May 1.

You can view sketches of Partners 15 efforts on this USDA web site:

<http://www.usda.gov/agency/oc/bmtc/vdnews.htm>

Partner Activities

University of Nebraska

Beth Hammond reported on the hazelnut research she completed for her degree program, all the more interesting as the hybrid varieties screened for weight, size, shell thickness, nut shape and other characteristics were located at the Arbor Day Farm, site of the mid-year meeting. Tests are underway for eastern filbert blight resistance in partnership with Rutgers University. Oil yields from top plants were higher than oil produced by soybeans. The UNL hybrid hazelnut field trials include expanding the planting in 2006-2007, working with UNL crop breeders to re-orient research programs to genetic improvement work with hazelnuts and developing a husking machine for hazelnuts.

Iowa State University

Harold Crawford coordinated grant writing and submitted "Tribal College 1994-1862 University Integrated Water Quality Partnership Project" proposal to USDA/CSREES on April 8, with partners ISU, SGU, NICC, SDSU, and US Geological Survey. The overall goals are to 1) determine what leads to measurable behavior change by stakeholders on selected watershed areas, 2) contribute to the improvement of water quality within the watershed areas, 3) address water quality issues in agricultural, rural and urban areas, and 4) follow a partnership management plan that builds upon the trust, culture, and relationships previously learned. The Little White River watershed on and off Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota and the Bazile Creek area on the Santee Reservation are the two areas to be studied.

South Dakota State University



Wendy Hayes

Chris Zdorovtsov purchased and distributed plant markers to tribal college partners for their interpretive trails. She has helped NICC develop their community garden planting schedule, garden layout, natural methods of insect deterrents, and marketing strategies. Chris will present 3 workshops on gardening at NICC and assist with individual garden plots. Chris has worked with Barb Ostorn and the ISU horticulture students at ISU on seeding schedules and with ISU will join NICC for planting the gardens. SDSU plans to plant 12 Juneberries at McCory Gardens in the native plant area to commemorate the NRE project. Wendy Hayes, SDSU Extension specialist located at Sinte Gleska University, has equipped four trunks with backpacks, goggles, envirosopes and other educational materials for use with youth in or out of school. Over 200 youngsters have used the trunks which offer hands-on objects to improve knowledge of range and soil, water quality and aquatics, wildlife, and a portable star lab.

Sitting Bull College

Linda Hugelen brought new courses to SBC including naked eye star knowledge, online introduction to range plant identification, online weather studies, range management and agribusiness. Linda promotes garden and tree planting, native grass lawns, recycling, and conservation and use of native plants and animals. She has had good comments from the weekly radio programs, and has made natural resources presentations to the local tribal districts and for career days. Most of the equipment needed for certified water testing lab at SBC has been installed, needed are certified people to staff the laboratory.

North Dakota State University

The bison research project is continuing, reported Kevin Sedivec at the mid-year meeting. The analysis for selenium in the meat is planned for bison slaughtered at Sinte Gleska and at Fort Berthold.

Sinte Gleska University

Bedding plants are ready at Sinte Gleska University greenhouse in anticipation of spring planting. The horse therapy and after school programs were planned for early April. A new program at SGU ranch is working with the juvenile justice system of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe to provide clinics and mentorship programs for youth in that system.

Fort Berthold Community College

One of the ways FBCC plans to "tell the NRE story" is by inviting the public to the opening ceremony of the new Culture Center Nature Park/Honor the Elders project in the summer where they will highlight all that the NRE has provided for the school and the community. They have recently planted over 200 trees and plan on planting the Honor the Elders Tree Memorials, honoring the three tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation, the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara at the Culture Center Nature Park.

Nebraska Indian Community College

"Healthy Holistic Walk with Nature," Forestry and Ecology are courses being taught by Hank Miller at NICC, with positive student participation and enthusiasm. Plans for community programs include adding 36 acres to native prairie, planting woody florals, fruit and nut trees plus hardwoods for riparian buffers at both Macy and Santee sites. Woody florals, nut trees and fruit trees are being planted to promote economic development and healthy food sources. The community garden at Santee is to be planted the first week in May with collaboration from Chris Zdorovtsov, SDSU and Barb Osborn, ISU. NICC has submitted several proposals in hopes of funding that fit into development and expansion of the natural resources program. Hank hopes to complete his research and graduate from the Prairie PhD program this summer.

First Friday Monthly Conference Call

May 5 from 1:30 to 2:30 will be the next Phone Conference. The discussion will focus on dates for tree planting ceremonies and the NRE closing event. Please respond to Mary mmdb@iastate.edu regarding your participation and she will send call-in instructions.
