



USDA IFAFS GRANT 2001-2005

**Website Updates:**

*Year 5 Calendar*

*Year 5 Quarterly Reports*

*NICC's Project Workbook*

**Follow-Up of Mid Year Meeting:**

*Goal: A news article in March, April, or May*

**Highlights:**

*Mid-Year Meeting – 1*

*First Friday Call - 1*

*Partner News – 2*

**NRE Partners:**

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

**Paula's Travel:**

*None Scheduled*

## We Have a Story to Tell Theme of Mid-Year Meeting

How have you been telling your colleagues, your college or university, and your community about your activities and accomplishments of the NRE Project? How will we tell the many stories in the final report and celebrate what has been done? How will we sustain projects and partnerships after the NRE project ends? These questions are the focus of the mid-year meeting March 23 and 24 hosted by University of Nebraska.

Come prepared not only to report on your year 5 activities (with a handout) but also to report your plans for sharing your stories in your communities – whether it be through NRE project notebooks, weekly radio programs, community field days, or news articles in the local papers.

Come anticipating future joint proposals that provide the opportunity to partner again. Each year the Tribal College Research Grants come up for funding in early December and various other funding opportunities will arise. At the mid-year meeting we will have a chance participate in a proposal workshop and to hear about 3 projects – the Water Quality proposal being prepared, the Sage Research that is underway, and the Hazelnut Research that has been completed.

Come full of suggestions for planning the NRE Closing Event scheduled for June 15 and 16 hosted by Sitting Bull College. We will begin as “a committee of the whole” to



*The Arbor Day Farm Lied Lodge and Conference Center*

generate ideas for the kind of event we envision and then break into smaller groups to assume some of the responsibilities for planning the event. A Mid-Year Meeting Agenda is located on the project website <http://ifafsnrep.ag.iastate.edu/>.

The Arbor Day Farm Lied Lodge and Conference Center, the mid-year conference site, is located at 2700 Sylvan Road, Nebraska City, Nebraska. Located on the 260 acre estate of the founder of Arbor Day, the facility was built to increase outreach to environmental and conservation groups. For more about the facility and directions, check <http://www.liedlodge.com/>.

### First Friday Monthly Conference Call

April 7 from 1:30 to 2:30 will be the next Phone Conference. The discussion will focus on, tree planting ceremonies and the NRE closing event. Please respond to Mary [mmdb@iastate.edu](mailto:mmdb@iastate.edu) regarding your participation and she will send call-in instructions.

## NRE REPORTING

Year 5, Quarter 1 Reports were due Feb. 1. Please also submit past due reports.

Hold these Dates  
March 23-24: Mid-Yr Meeting, UNL  
June 15-16: Closing Event, SBC



Talking Circle participants at SGU indicated their interest in the university's outreach to elementary and high school students and to natural resources specialist working with the Tribe.

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

18 CURTISS, IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY  
PHONE: 515-294-8574  
FAX: 515-294-5334  
E-MAIL: [mmmdb@iastate.edu](mailto: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](mailto:Jason_Decker@hotmail.com)

## Partner Activities

### Talking Circles Highlight Accomplishments and Hopes

"We did have a garden down here and the kids worked it and they had a lot of pride. I'd like to see cultural preservation and revitalization through Native foods, like corn, bison, wildlife and native plants of all kinds – all that contribute to overall well being of our community members." These are quotes from Nebraska Indian Community College-Santee participants in the Talking Circles last summer. Peppered throughout the NICC transcripts is evidence of the cultural interest and involvement the community had with the community garden, prairie restoration, tree planting, and other projects conducted through the NRE grant at both Santee and Macy.

Talking Circles were used at the beginning of the NRE project as a needs assessment, and programs were initiated to meet some of those needs. Near the end of the NRE project, Talking Circles were used to elicit responses regarding the capacity building, community outreach, and cultural relevance of the NRE activities.

Capacity building activities included recruitment of students. At Sinte Gleska University, for example, one participant related to recruitment efforts by stating "We need to go after kids at a younger age, before they get to high school or college. We have to change the mentality early in order to have good success." Participants acknowledged the Lakota Horse Project did reach elementary school children and also stated further activities are needed to enthruse youngsters about their culture and their education.

Student involvement was evident as a part of capacity building and community outreach programs. A Talking Circle participant at Fort Berthold Community College summarized, "I'm a past student at Fort Berthold Community College, I had a chance to work on all these projects you have been talking about. I probably

### University of Nebraska – Interested in Journals for you College?

Contact Scott Josiah if you are interested in obtaining a unique collection of professional journals pertaining to natural resources for your college/department at [sjosiah2@unl.edu](mailto:sjosiah2@unl.edu) or 402-472-1467.



*NICC Talking Circle at Macy included compliments for the community garden project and desire to produce a supply of dried Indian corn.*

planted about half of all the trees that have been planted. I learned a lot from working with this grant. It was fun. I presented a poster at AIHEC showing some of the things I had done on this grant."

Community outreach involved activities to extend Natural Resources Education beyond the college classrooms. At Sitting Bull College, a Talking Circle participant spoke of Linda Hugelen's weekly radio program, "The radio station – everyone has it on. I loved the program with the tribal tourism director, on migration of birds. Tribal tourism and the interactions with the natural resources education program were really powerful and very well integrated. It would be sad if this program didn't evolve into another level, I think we're ready for it."

A preliminary report is being prepared for the Mid-Year Meeting and some of the findings will be reported in the NRE Final Report publication. Transcripts of the Talking Circles will be made available to the NRE instructors to be used to benefit the college and communities.