



Website Updates:

Year 5 Calendar

Beth Hammond's Research Abstract

CRIS Report to USDA

NICC's Project Workbook

Follow-Up of Mid Year Meeting:

Goal: A news article in February.

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NRE Partners:

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

Paula's Travel:

None Scheduled

USDA IFAFS GRANT 2001-2005

NRE Research Benefits Partners

When Beth Hammond shared hazelnuts with the NRE instructors to start plantings on the Tribal College campuses, we all became quite interested in the research she was doing with Scott Josiah for her masters degree at the University of Nebraska.

Scott Josiah indicated the hazelnut research was undertaken to relate forestry to human health to diet to natural resources, an idea taken from the needs assessment Talking Circles and follow-up discussions at the beginning of the NRE project. Tribal College personnel were interested in the University of Nebraska's work with edible landscapes using native species of nuts and fruit.

"This holistic, community approach provided a wonderful opportunity to direct and focus the research being done at UNL prior to the NRE project to more directly address these expressed needs," according to Scott. He felt the hybrid hazelnut posed the greatest opportunity among the range of potential fruit and nut plants, as the hazelnut is essentially a native plant, the nuts are a healthy food, fit well in a variety of planting arrangements ranging from orchards to agroforestry applications (addressing needs of farmers and ranchers), taste good fresh or with other foods, and can grow in most areas across the region.

Beth Hammond's particular study was to identify productive hybrid hazelnut plants suitable for commercial production. She collected data from 5,200 hybrid hazelnut shrubs from 9 acres in southeast Nebraska to check for eastern filbert blight, to identify high yielding hybrid hazelnut plants, and to characterize plant and nut features of selected high yielding plants.

Beth is finished with her investigations



Beth Hammond characterized plant and nut features of selected high yielding hazelnuts for her graduate research at the University of Nebraska. Beth provided each Tribal College with hazelnuts for planting.

and nearly finished writing her thesis regarding hazelnuts hybrids. She found no presence of eastern filbert blight in the hazelnut plantations she examined. She found three nut characteristics, average nut weight, average kernel weight and percent kernel, and two plant characteristics, plant height and plant age, to be strong predictors of hybrid hazelnut yield. Five of the hybrid hazelnut plants of the top 25 identified as high yielding are projected to have commercial quantity yields. An abstract of her work "Identifying Superior Hybrid Hazelnut Plants in Southeast Nebraska" will appear on the NRE website. Congratulations to Beth on this successful investigation and degree program.

"As a result of this project," Scott comments, "we have taken a giant leap forward in identifying superior

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NRE REPORTING

Year 5, Quarter 1 Reports are 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

Can Spring Be Far Away?

Mary is browsing through dahlia catalogs – so in case you are interested in dahlias bulbs again for this spring, please let her know!



At Sitting Bull College, cold frames were installed to demonstrate extending the growing season.



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

NRE Research Cont.

producing hybrid hazelnut plants, and have accelerated their development as a potential commercial crop for the Great Plains and Midwest." Scott and Beth see possibilities to attract necessary resources to scale up production of the superior selections and to begin programs with the Tribal Colleges to establish plantings on Indian lands across the region.

"This is a long-term investment and a bit of a risk for the Tribal Colleges, but one that is paying off now and should continue to benefit the tribal colleges and their communities for a long time," is the way Scott summarizes the impact of this research in the NRE project.



Scott Josiah, State Forester and Director, Nebraska Forest Service promotes research on edible landscapes using species of nuts and fruit native to the Midwest and upper plains.

Partner Activities

Two Dates for Your Calendars

Mid Year Meeting is March 23-24, hosted by UNL. John Witkowski, Scott Josiah, Hank Miller, Stacey Mortenson, and Mary de Baca are on the planning committee.

A Closing Event is being planned for June 15 and 16, hosted by Sitting Bull College. A committee is being formed to begin plans for this event.

University of Nebraska – Interested in Journals for you College?

Scott Josiah indicated there are several professional journals that could be made available to Tribal Colleges due to a consolidation move of the UNL School of Natural Resources. One faculty member, for example, has journals including 1) Ecology (since the 50s), Plant Physiology (since the 60s), Agronomy Journal (20 years or so), Crop Science (20-25 years), Physiologia Plantarum, and some issues of Soil Science.

This is a unique collection of journals, and Scott indicates it is likely that other faculty will also have journals available. If interested – contact Scott directly at sjosiah2@unl.edu or 402-472-2964.

Iowa State University

Tim Nichols, SDSU and Jeanne Spaur (ne Ballanger), and Scott Josiah (by phone) joined Paula Teig in presenting the Agricultural Education and Studies department seminar on January 25 at ISU. Describing the NRE project from an 1862 perspective, each commented on qualities that have lead to building trust and understanding among the 4 Tribal Colleges and 4 state universities. Paula stressed servant leadership and the importance of community in working with Tribal Colleges and Tim illustrated a model for understanding state university and Tribal College collaboration. Scott related project activities as the vehicles to establishing trust and relationships. Jeanne, having spent the summer at SGU with her 3 daughters, described her experience in becoming and being a good relative and a good friend in the Lakota tradition. Questions from the audience included how grants could focus on building and "measuring" relationships rather than "flashy" changes in practices. The audience was interested to learn about the Prairie PhD program at SDSU.

CRIS Report

Each year our NRE project files a Current Research Information System (CRIS) report with CSREES/USDA. The report describes progress, cites publications, and identifies impact. The report for January through December, 2005 highlights benefits of institutional capacity and in outreach to communities by the 1994 institutions and their 1862 partners. The report can be seen on the project website, <http://ifafsnrep.ag.iastate.edu/>.

NRE is a part of the Initiative for Future Agricultural and Food Systems (IFAFS) program legislated by Congress and authorized by the secretary of agriculture to establish research, extension and education competitive grants program to address critical emerging agricultural issues. Funding was awarded only in 2000 and 2001 for this program. IFAFS abstracts and CRIS reports, including our NRE grant, can be seen at http://www.csrees.usda.gov/about/offices/compprogs_ifafs.html.

Project Workbook Development Underway

The groundwork has been laid and production is currently underway of the project workbook DVDs. Led by Jason Decker and Melissa Nasers, this project creates a historical record of the NRE projects at the tribal college partner institutions. It may also serve as a tool for recruitment and retention as well as to provide documentation and project sustainability when applying for funding opportunities.

Nebraska Indian Community College was selected as the initial site to develop the prototype DVD. Hank, Jim, Quinten, Jason, and Melissa collaborated in identifying the format and which information NICC wished to have in their workbook. The ability to have a common navigational format opens the door for each tribal institution to design the workbook to reflect their uniqueness and what the projects have meant to the college and community. NICC's Project Workbook can be seen at <http://ifafsnrep.ag.iastate.edu/projectworks.htm>.

Hopefully each tribal partner has received a copy of the DVD along with a letter of introduction from Jason and Melissa. Please start searching through your pictures, presentations, posters, and anything else that you have created and begin organizing them into the areas identified in the DVD. You have the opportunity to continually update your DVD until September 13, 2006. At that point, a number of copies will be burned. Each of the 8 partner institutions will receive a copy of all the DVDs. In addition, the electronic template will be sent to each institutions so that contents may be updated past the end of the grant.

Hank Miller, NICC, says, "The project workbook enables us to tell our story in several different ways. We intend to use the workbook as a way to document our story and increase awareness of our program and projects." Hank congratulates and thanks Jason, Melissa, Paula and all involved for a wonderful job and feels the workbooks will help NICC in recruiting prospective students and increase involvement from the community.



Hank Miller, NICC

If you have questions regarding the development, please contact Jason, Melissa, or Paula.

First Friday Monthly Conference Call

February 3 from 1:30 to 2:30 will be the next Phone Conference. The discussion will focus on water quality research proposals, tree planting ceremonies, and the March 23-24 mid-year meeting. Please respond to Mary mmdb@iastate.edu regarding your participation and she will send call-in instructions.

The January 20 conference call was well attended! With respect to the water quality proposals, the RFP is expected anytime, 1862 schools are identifying interested faculty and 1994 schools are working on descriptions of the water resources on reservation lands. Partners will identify their specific focus while agreeing on a central core issue. Meetings will be planned as soon as the RFP is announced.