



USDA IFAFS GRANT 2001-2005

Website Updates:

Mid-Year Reports Online
Target action steps on web

Follow-Up of Mid Year Meeting:

Are you recording your activities with photos?
Preparing articles to submit for publication?

Highlights:

- Talking Circles – 1
- Video Magazine - 1
- Partner News – 2
- Where in the World - 2
- First Friday Call - 2

NRE Partners:

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

Paula's Travel:

June 27 – SBC
June 28 - FBCC

Assessment of Progress Highlighted by Talking Circles

"I know you are doing a really good job in this area ...to really promote the natural resources program." That was one of the statements expressed Nebraska Indian Community College in early June. NICC conducted Talking Circles at both the Macy and Santee campuses as a part of the overall NRE project evaluation. One of the questions to which participants responded was "What impact have the NRE projects had on the college or community? A participant remarked "the college has actually opened up some things for me...some goal setting for myself...and some awareness, especially of the waterways."

The many suggestions confirmed that local elders, board members, students, and community members who participated hoped to see a natural resources program continue at NICC beyond the life of the NRE project.

Sinte Gleska University also conducted a Talking Circle in early June. In response to the question "What do you hope to see in the university's natural resources



Shelly Avery, Harold Crawford, and John Witkowski listen at the Talking Circle at NICC at Santee in June.

program in the future," several participants suggested establishing closer ties with the local elementary and secondary schools to encourage students to study science.

Sitting Bull College and Fort Berthold Community College will conduct this phase of project evaluation through Talking Circles at a later time. Written transcriptions of the Talking Circle audio tapes will be sent to each of the 8 partner institutions for reference in planning for the final year of the project and for future natural resources programs.

NRE selected for Partner Video Magazine

The NRE project has been selected by the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) as the subject of a Partners Video. Several video magazines have been produced by CSREES to highlight the programs and accomplishments, many through USDA grants, between CSREES and Land Grant Universities. The videos feature areas of teaching, research, and extension.

The NRE project will be episode number 15 in the series. Episode 5 features Tribal Colleges; other features include water quality, sustainable forestry, and the 4-H

Centennial. All the videos can be viewed at <http://www.csrees.usda.gov/newsroom/partners/partners.html>.

Patrick Holian, CSREES, will visit NICC and SGU the week of July 25 and SBC and FBCC the week August 8 for video shooting. Holian was recently recognized with a Telly Award which honors outstanding local, regional, and cable television commercials and programs, as well as the finest video and film productions.

NRE REPORTING

Year 4, Quarter 3 reports were due Aug 1. Please also submit past due reports.



The Talking Circle at SGU was followed by a delicious bison stew and meeting of SGU and ISU personnel.



Thank You, Ruth Short Bull, for your excellent leadership as the NRE instructor at FBCC and best wishes in your future endeavors.

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

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

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

Partner Activities

Nebraska Indian Community College

Melissa Nasers, student in Agricultural Education at ISU, experienced a 3 week internship at NICC in June. She helped with the community garden project and also helped to organize "workbooks" for Hank on his computer. She prepared posters for the college and flyers of events and activities taking place. She also shared some of her impressions from the ISU Study Abroad to China which she participated in during the month of May.

Ruth Short Bull Leaves FBCC

A special thank you to Ruth Short Bull, as she is leaving FBCC as NRE instructor. Ruth implemented numerous community outreach activities through NRE, taught classes at the college, and represented FBCC and NRE at state, regional, and national events. Most of all, Ruth shared an appreciation and consideration of native ways and a joy of life to all NRE personnel of the 8 institution partners. We appreciate Ruth, her work and accomplishments, and wish her well for all the days to come.

Iowa State University, South Dakota State University, North Dakota State University, and University of Nebraska

Community Development Master's Program Online

The North Central Regional Center for Rural Development (NCRCRD) has announced the new Community Development On-line Master's Degree Program. Two three-credit courses will be offered this fall: Community and Natural Resource Management, and Introduction to Native Communities. All 4 NRE partner universities are approved to offer these courses.

More: <http://www.ncrcrd.iastate.edu/distancedegree/index.htm>.
Contact: Susan Fey, 4-6250 or <mailto:msusanfey@iastate.edu>.

Where in the World?

During May and June, NRE personnel had international experiences – so we bring you a small sketch from Ghana (Mary de Baca) and from United Arab Emirates (Subodh Singh)! In future issues, look for news from Bolivia (Hank Miller) and India (Subodh Singh)!



Mary de Baca records soil test field data on a three week study abroad tour in Ghana with ISU and Alabama A&M students in May.

Ghana is located in West Africa very near the equator. The capital, Accra, and two other seaports are the sites of shipping out gold, cocoa, and lumber while importing wheat and industrial goods. Much of the area is humid and tropical, with small agriculture holdings, producing corn (2 crops a year), bananas, plantains, cassava, peanuts, coconuts, palm oil, mangos, papaya, and the like. In the northern savannahs there is ample grazing for cattle. Ghana has the largest man-made lake in the world with hydroelectric plants that produce power for most of the country, but which also displaced many people living in the area and changed the ecosystem. Find out more about Ghana at <http://www.ghanaweb.com/>.

Subodh Singh, enroute to India, spent a week in United Arab Emirates (UAE) in June. Located on the Arabian Gulf by Saudi Arabia, the UAE is rich with oil and gas but has very poor drinking water. Highways have extensive lighting from Abu-Dhabi, the capitol, to Dubai, over 90 miles. Close to the silent desert, wind towers and camels, the city of Dbai is becoming an international marketing hub with huge stores, malls, and five star hotels. Some hotels are designed in two wings, one for life time occupants (ruling sheikhs, for example) and the other for tourists where per day rent ranges from \$1,000-\$2,000. More information can be viewed at <http://www.uae.org.ae/>.

First Friday Monthly Conference Calls

Please respond to Mary (mmmdb@iastate.edu) if you will or will not be available for an August 5 conference call.