

## 2012 Nebraska Rural Poll listening sessions in Sidney

Each year since 1996, the Center for Applied Rural Innovation (CARI) has conducted the Nebraska Rural Poll, a mail survey sent to a sample of Nebraskans living in the nonmetropolitan counties to determine their challenges and concerns. In the survey, core questions are included each year that over time provide insight about the trends and changes occurring in rural Nebraska. In addition, we include new questions in the survey each year to address issues currently facing rural Nebraskans. In the past, we included questions addressing the following topics: taxes, the environment, affordable housing, rural development strategies, large-scale pork production facilities, school finance, the future of rural Nebraska, county office consolidation, cost of living, charitable giving, federal farm policy, successful rural communities, perceptions of rural Nebraska, regional cooperation, personal safety, health care, water issues, community service, housing, alternative energy sources, immigration, retirement, energy, climate change, current economic climate, self employment, care giving, agriculture and food, technology and animal welfare.

Preparation is taking place to develop the questionnaire for the 2012 Rural Poll. We invite you to help us determine what new questions should be included this year. What issues do you see in rural Nebraska that needs to be addressed?

The listening session will take place December 16th from 10:00 a.m. MT to 11:00 a.m. CT. If you are unable to attend any of these meetings or participate via a conference call, you may ask someone else to attend or call in your place. If possible, please take a few minutes and send us some issues that come to mind right now. These suggestions will serve as the starting point for our discussions.

***The meeting on December 16 at 10:00 a.m. MT*** will be held at TE in Sidney located at 1 Greenwood Road.

For those of you unable to attend the meetings in person, a bridge number has been set up for all the meetings. At the scheduled meeting time, call (800) 562-1577 (a toll-free number). If you try to access the call too early, you may get a recording. Don't worry, just try again. Sometimes the access number is activated only a couple of minutes prior to the scheduled time of the call. If you are the **first caller** to gain access you will not hear anything, please continue to stay on the line. **If you are the first person to dial into the bridge and you hang up, the bridge will disconnect. At least one person must remain on the line to keep the bridge open.** The conference begins when the first two calls reach the conference bridge.

If you have any other questions, please call Becky at (402) 329-6251 or you can e-mail her at the above address. We appreciate you taking the time to help us in this matter. With your input, we hope the survey will continue to address important issues affecting rural Nebraska.

Sincerely,

Becky Vogt  
Randy Cantrell

Cheryl Burkhart-Kriesel  
Brad Lubben