

Extension Huddle



April 17, 2025

Today's Huddle Talk

- **NACEB Continues Advocacy**
- **Extension's Role in Disasters**
- **"Down the Road" Professional Development**
- **PEARS Events Management Section**
- **Revised COI/COC Process**
- **Transition of Extension Fleet Vehicles**
- **NU Executive Memo 43: What Should I Do?**
- **Budget: Phase 1; Phase 2; Pauses**
- **Extension Talking Points**
- **Important Calendar Dates**





NACEB Continues to Advocate for NU and Extension





THANK YOU

NACEB

Nebraska Association of County Extension Boards

Nebraska Extension's Role in Disasters



*Reaching people where they are,
with the resources they need,
when they need help most.*

Soni Cochran, MS
Extension Educator, Disaster Education Coordinator



Extension Huddle. April 17, 2025

IN OUR GRIT, OUR GLORY™



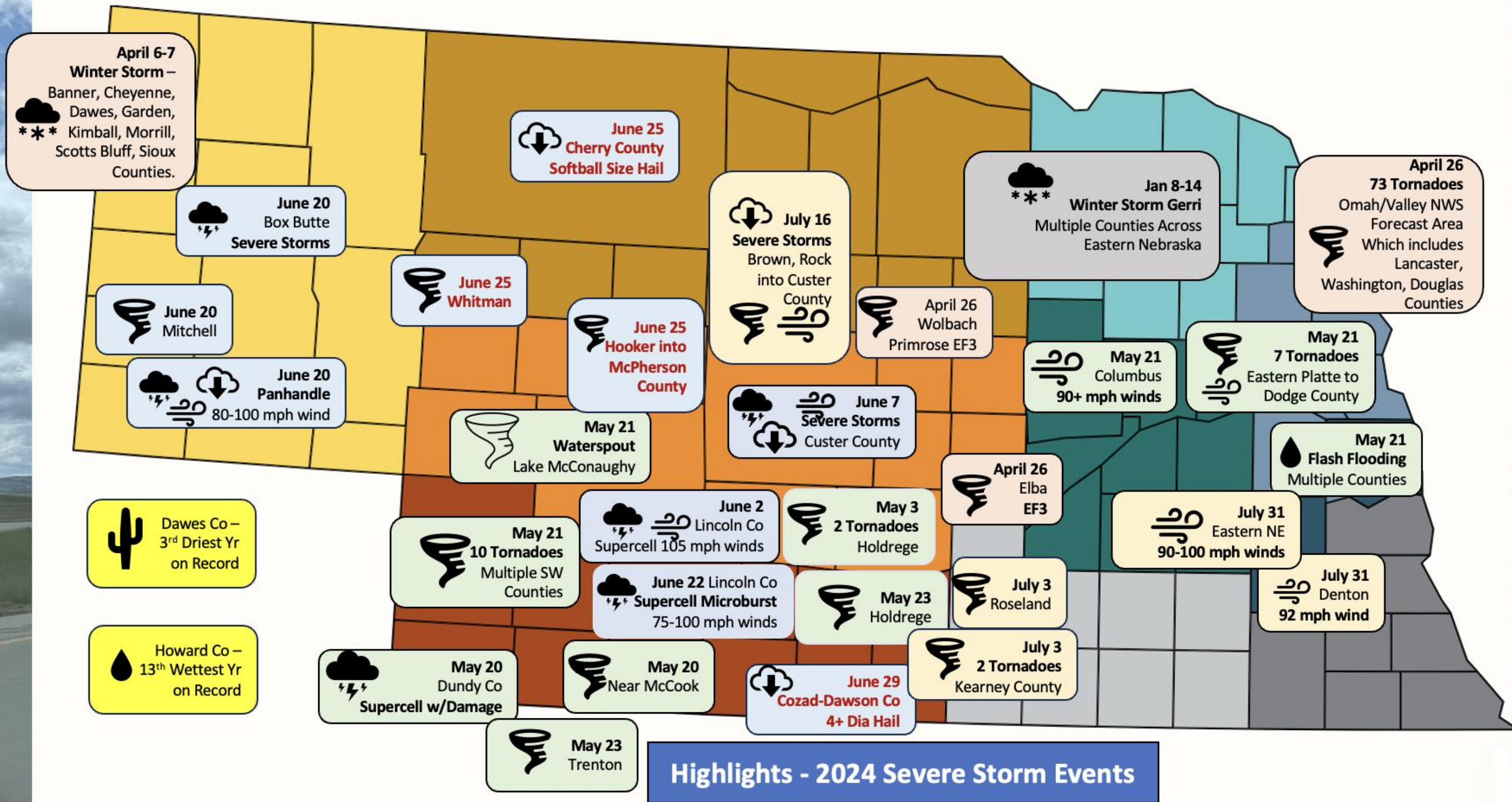
Photo: Elena Stout (@elenastout10)

*Extension is a
trusted local
resource*

*Every disaster
starts and ends
at the local level*

2024: Record Year

- **275 Severe Hail Reports** (greater than 1" diameter)
 - Largest hail reported – 4.5" NNW Bellevue
- **171 Severe Wind Reports over 58 mph**
 - Strongest observed wind gust of 92 mph SW Denton on July 31
 - **July 31 windstorm resulted in largest OPPD power outage in history**
- **100+ mph straight-line wind events surveyed by NWS/NOAA**
 - Dodge County (May 24): 105 mph
 - Harrison County (May 24): 107 mph
 - Sarpy/Douglas County (July 31): 100 mph
- **583 Severe Convective Warnings issued**
 - 414 Severe Thunderstorm Warnings
 - 130 Tornado Warnings
 - 39 Flash Flood Warnings
- **73 Tornadoes in the Omaha/Valley Weather Forecast Area Weather Warning Area**
 - **Record number of tornadoes in a calendar year**
 - Prior record – 37 tornadoes (2008)
- **7 Significant Tornadoes (EF2+)**
 - Elkhorn EF-4 first EF4 tornado since 2014
- **Five Federal Disaster Declarations**
- **Numerous State Declarations** - many counties including some counties w/multiple declarations



April 6-7
Winter Storm –
Banner, Cheyenne,
Dawes, Garden,
Kimball, Morrill,
Scotts Bluff, Sioux
Counties.

June 20
Box Butte
Severe Storms

June 20
Mitchell

June 20
Panhandle
80-100 mph wind

Dawes Co –
3rd Driest Yr
on Record

Howard Co –
13th Wettest Yr
on Record

June 25
Cherry County
Softball Size Hail

June 25
Whitman

June 25
Hooker into
McPherson
County

May 21
Waterspout
Lake McConaughy

May 21
10 Tornadoes
Multiple SW
Counties

June 2
Lincoln Co
Supercell 105 mph winds

June 22 Lincoln Co
Supercell Microburst
75-100 mph winds

May 20
Dundy Co
Supercell w/Damage

May 20
Near McCook

May 23
Trenton

July 16
Brown, Rock
into Custer
County

June 7
Custer County

May 3
2 Tornadoes
Holdrege

May 23
Holdrege

June 29
Cozad-Dawson Co
4+ Dia Hail

April 26
Wolbach
Primrose EF3

April 26
Elba
EF3

July 3
Roseland

July 3
2 Tornadoes
Kearney County

Jan 8-14
Winter Storm Gerri
Multiple Counties Across
Eastern Nebraska

May 21
Columbus
90+ mph winds

July 31
Eastern NE
90-100 mph winds

May 21
Flash Flooding
Multiple Counties

May 21
7 Tornadoes
Eastern Platte to
Dodge County

July 31
Denton
92 mph wind

April 26
73 Tornadoes
Omaha/Valley NWS
Forecast Area
Which includes
Lancaster,
Washington, Douglas
Counties

2024 Severe Storm Events + Wildfires Reported by NEMA

Kicking off 2025

March – Winter Storm Nyla

- Governor Pillen requested a Federal Disaster Declaration on April 14
- 27 counties included: *Burt, Butler, Cass, Clay, Colfax, Cuming, Dodge, Douglas, Fillmore, Hamilton, Jefferson, Johnson, Lancaster, Nuckolls, Otoe, Platte, Polk, Saline, Sarpy, Saunders, Seward, Thayer, Thurston, Washington, Webster and York*
- Over 200,000 without power for multiple days
- Estimated damages \$64.9 million

February – Wildfires in Custer and Dawes Counties

- Governor Pillen signed a state-level disaster declaration
- 3 fires in Custer County; 1 in Dawes County



DISASTER EDUCATION

Extension's Role in Disasters



What if's

A disaster may require an "all hands-on deck" approach — leveraging the full strength of Nebraska Extension ensures a coordinated response, maximizes impact, and supports our communities when they need us most.



Be Ready, Stay Ready!

- **Review & Practice** Office Emergency Action Plans. Conduct drills regularly.
- **Stock Disaster & First Aid Kits** – Work, Home, Vehicles.
- **Continuity of Operations Planning.** Ensure Extension can function during and after disasters.
- **Connect with Local Emergency Managers.** Know where your office fits in the LEOP.
- **Collaborate with Ag Societies/Fairboards.** Discuss emergency planning for events and shared spaces. Is there a biosecurity plan for animal events?
- Engage with area **Community Organizations Active in Disasters (COADS)**
- **Grow and practice your** lifesaving skills and increase your understanding of all disaster phases.



When an Emergency or Disaster Event threatens...

- **Locate Emergency Supplies & Shelters.** Does everyone in your office know where disaster kits and safe zones are?
- **Stay Informed.** Use NOAA Weather Radio, local news/radio, sign up for local alerts.
- **Share information, updates and resources** from reliable sources on social media.
- **Follow the plan.** Use your Emergency Action Plan and listen to the instructions from first responders.
- **Event safety.** At events, work with organizers to inform participants and the public about the threat and direct people to safety. Examples county fairs, animal shows, 4-H camps, Tractor Safety Days and many more.



DISASTER EDUCATION

Extension's Role in Disasters



After the Disaster

- **Check on Colleagues.** Prioritize staff well-being and make sure everyone is safe.
- **Use Response Notes.** This quick capture form can document the event and actions taken. Report any immediate needs or concerns. Online at <https://disaster.unl.edu>.
- **Support Community Recovery.** Extension can help people access the resources they need to help them recover.
- **Collaborate & Coordinate** with local partners including COADs and other agencies supporting the community.
- **Communication & Outreach.** Offer timely resources to address community needs.

When Duty Calls; Cooperative Extension Responds

- Experiences and lessons learned from the lens of Extension personnel who are responding to the aftermath of Hurricane Helene in North Carolina.
- <https://go.unl.edu/hurricane-nc-ext>





DISASTER EDUCATION

Extension's Role in Disasters



Nebraska Extension Disaster Education Network (Nebraska EDEN):

- The Nebraska EDEN team focuses on operations.
- Acts as a **communications conduit** for Extension and partners.
- Provides **statewide situational awareness**. Connects faculty/staff with needed resources.
- **Collaborates** with Heartland EDEN (NE, MO, KS, IA) & National EDEN
- Promotes **professional development** focused on all-hazards events.
- Nebraska EDEN team members - <https://disaster.unl.edu/nebraska-eden/>



Thank you!

Here's to Blue Skies!



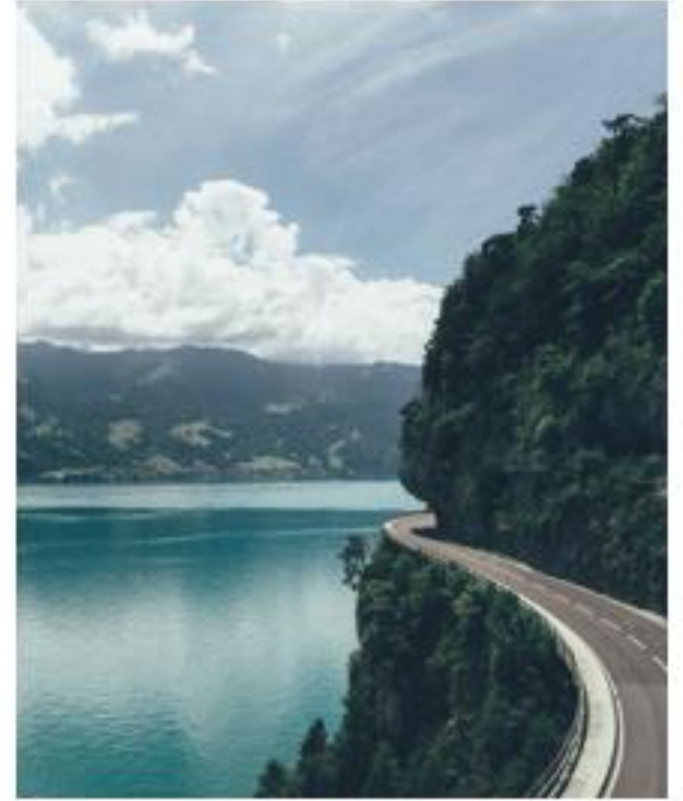
“Down the Road”



**Overcoming
Stressors &
Challenges**



**Staying Focused on
What Truly Matters**



**Thriving as an
Extension
Professional**



Road Shows





Mile Marker Mondays

A short, digestible email each week with a key insight, a quick action step, and maybe a relevant quote.



Roadside Reflections

Short video tips from me or guest leaders offering actionable strategies to help you overcome current challenges and keep progressing in your work.



Rest Stop Roundtables

Quick, 30-minute drop-in discussions that allow you to connect with your colleagues, share insights, and problem-solve together. These roundtables will provide a supportive space to reflect and learn from each other.



**Starting Soon – Until Our
Fall Road Shows**





PEÄRS

Community Event Section

Derek Beins

Registration Platform Transition

- **Cvent remaining in place through 2026**
- **PEARS Events launches System will be notified when this module is active**
 - This launch will not include SNAP-Ed
- **Payment option in PEARs Events Module is anticipated to activate in Spring 2025**





Conflict of Interest (COI) Conflict of Commitment (COC)

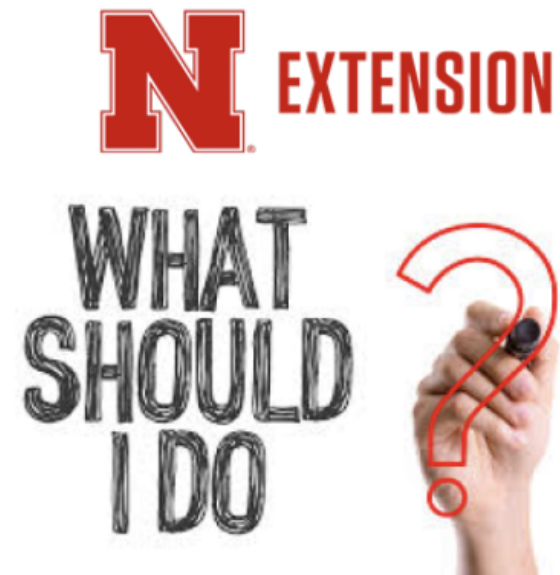
Sara Quinn & Jordan Soliz

<https://research.unl.edu/researchcompliance/policy-updates-2024-2025/>



EM 43: What should I do?

EM 43



If approached by someone claiming official status

*In accordance with **NU Executive Memorandum 43:***

1

Law enforcement needs a warrant to enter **private** spaces (including assistant/educator/ /specialist offices, classrooms, event meeting spaces, and spaces in County Extension buildings/offices, Research, Extension and Educator Centers, IANR facilities, or other programming venues where the public is not allowed to roam freely/without permission /accompanied). If the space is not open to the public, you do not have to let them enter without a warrant. If they would like to loiter in public spaces (e.g., waiting room; entry area) during regular hours that it is open, they are free to do so. But they can't look around and talk to people without a warrant/subpoena. If they want to talk to you, you don't have to talk to them without a subpoena unless they are detaining you and are reading **Miranda Rights**.

What should I do?



1. Law enforcement needs a warrant to enter private spaces (private spaces include employee offices, classrooms, event meeting spaces (indoor or outdoor), and areas in County Extension buildings/offices where the public is not allowed to roam without permission or being accompanied. If the space is not open to the public, you do not have to allow entry without a warrant. If they would like to loiter in public spaces (e.g., waiting room; entry area) during regular hours when the building is open or outside of the building, they may do so, but they do not have the right to look around and talk to people without a warrant/subpoena.

2. If ICE/law enforcement shows up with a warrant or alleges that they have one, call the local Police Department and Office of General Counsel (Bren Chambers: 402-472-1201/402-450-6014).

What should I do?

3. *If ICE/law enforcement shows up with a warrant or alleges that they have one, call the local Police Department and Office of General Counsel* (Bren Chambers: 402-472-1201/402-450-6014).
4. *If they do not have a subpoena, you are not obligated to talk to them/share information with them or submit to an interview (unless they are detaining you and reading the Miranda Rights).*
5. *If ICE/law enforcement shows up, inform Charlie Stoltenow (charles.stoltenow@unl.edu), **Dave Varner**(dave.varner@unl.edu) **and** **Rich Bischoff** (rbischoff2@unl.edu) .*



Know Your Rights (English and Spanish versions)

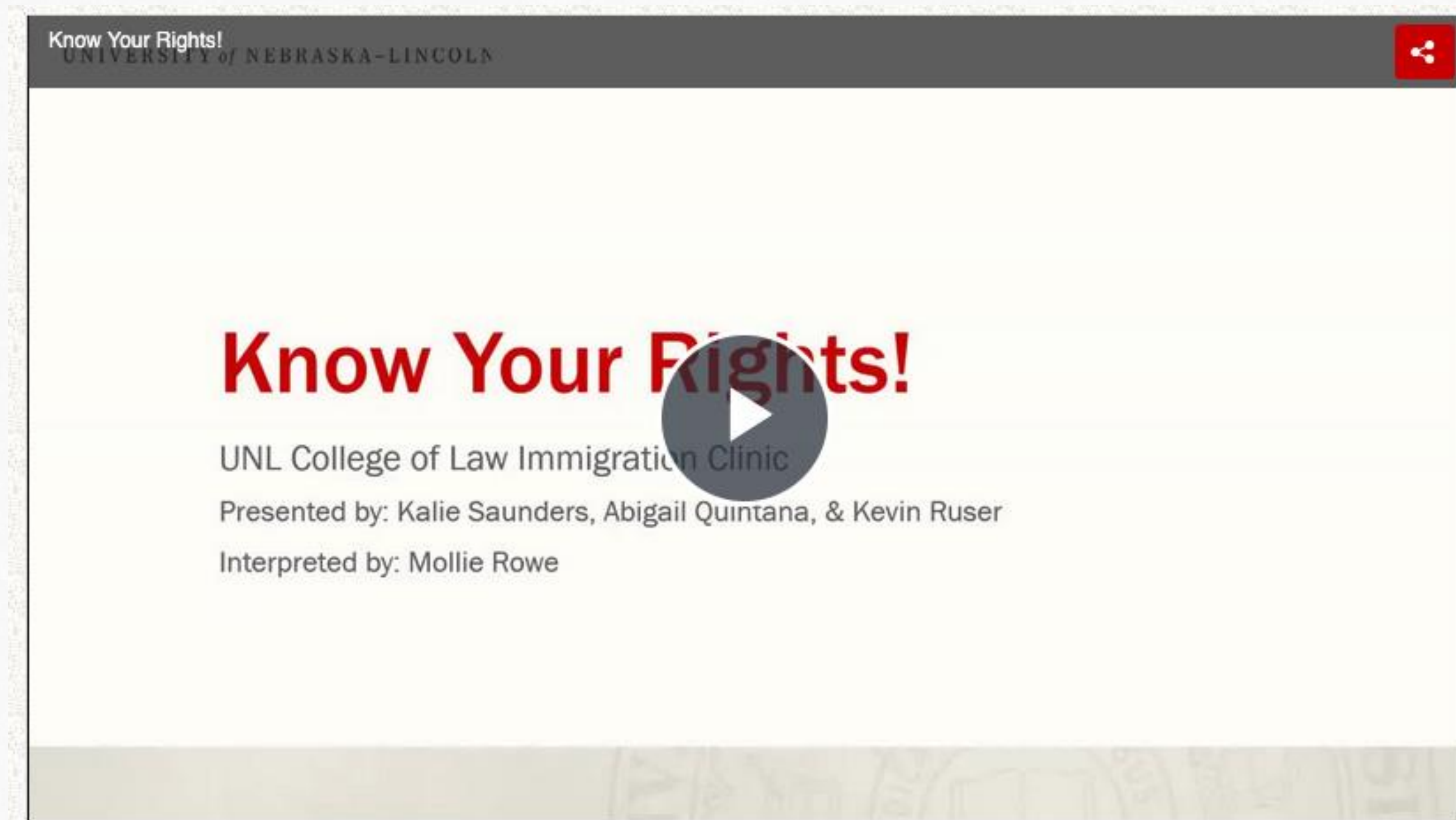
UNL College of Law Immigration Clinic Website

<https://law.unl.edu/immigration-clinic/>

Learn about your rights with our recorded Know Your Rights presentation! This presentation provides guidance on understanding and asserting your legal rights, including how to handle encounters with law enforcement or immigration officials. The presentation covers key topics such as your rights at home, in the workplace, and in public. It covers your right to remain silent, your rights if arrested, and it offers practical steps to safeguard yourself and your loved ones in the event of your detention or deportation. Whether you want to stay informed or share this knowledge with your community, this resource is a tool for empowerment and preparedness.



Know Your Rights





Transition of Extension Fleet Vehicles to Counties

Transition of Extension Fleet Vehicles

- **Initially, 34 vehicles; Now 17**
- **Many retired due to maintenance or safety issues.**
- **Counties will have the opportunity to retain vehicles but also assume insurance, repairs, maintenance, and safety inspections.**
- **Vehicles may also be returned to Extension administration.**
- **Vehicles may be available for transfer to other counties or REECs**
- **The official transition date is July 1.**





Budget

- **Phase 1**
- **Phase 2**
- **Pauses**
- **Q & A**





Extension Talking Points

SPIT

Extension Talking Points

- ❑ President Gold has been clear that "all options are on the table" concerning potential NU budget cuts and reallocations. The extension administration is operating under this guidance. This is a dynamic situation.
- ❑ Uncertainty exists concerning county, state, federal, and grant funding. The extension administration is adopting an "offensive" approach and has begun strategic discussions and scenario planning. Although no action has been finalized, we are in the process of developing our offensive playbook.





- ❑ Extension's current budget reduction mandates are being addressed by indefinitely pausing some open positions. We are strategically evaluating which positions to pause.
- ❑ Our work remains the same: We must continue impactful programming and cultivate intentional relationships with Nebraskans. How are we creating value in the lives of our learners?
- ❑ Clients worried about the ongoing funding uncertainty for the NU System and Nebraska Extension should communicate their concerns to local, state, and federal decision-makers.



Extension Road Shows '25

November 11 – 24, 2025

Details regarding dates
and locations coming soon





Extension Road Shows – Dates/Locations

- **November 13 – Scotts Bluff/PREEC**
- **November 14 – North Platte/WCREEC**
- **November 17 – Grand Island/College Park**
- **November 18 – Concord/Haskell Ag Lab**
- **November 21 – Lincoln/Nebraska East Union**
- **November 24 – Lancaster Conference Center**

Important Calendar Dates

Nebraska Legislative Session

- January 8 – June 18

Extension Huddle

- June 12

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Thank you!



EXTENSION



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