



## High Plains Ranch Practicum

### University of Wyoming Cooperative Extension

The High Plains Ranch Practicum School introduced in-depth ranch management strategies to 22 producer participants in Nebraska and Wyoming. The program, consisting of eight full days of instruction delivered over a period of six months, included sessions on writing business and livestock marketing plans, range and livestock price insurance and detailed individual consulting on calculating unit cost of production. Site visits for each individual producer were conducted both during and after the program to assist them in gathering, interpreting, and applying the information.

As a result of this innovative practicum school, 21 producers met all the requirements for the class and completed both the unit cost of production exercise and the business planning exercise. Additionally, results showed an overall impact that influenced over 117 people, which included the management and decision-making for 7,800 beef cattle, and 170,000 acres of native range, planted pasture and hay land.

Results of a survey given one year after the project revealed that participants gained knowledge that would account for, on average, an increased net return of \$25 per head of cattle managed. The total net estimated impact for producer participants was \$195,000.



**“After participating in the program and completing an economic analysis, we have made some real changes to our operation. We’ve found that for the cost of wintering calves we can sell them in the fall and increase our profits by an average of \$100,000 depending on the year and market. In addition, we have added a new enterprise to the business, keeping all of our heifers and selling some of them as bred heifers the following season. This brings in an additional \$75,000 on average and has significantly increased our bottom line.”- Cattle Producer**





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United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

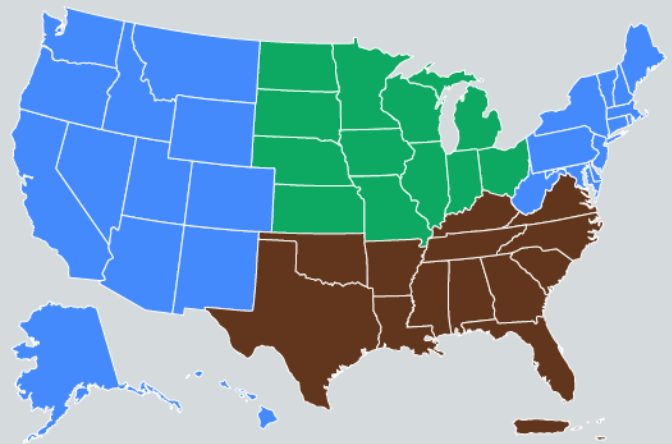
National Institute  
of Food and  
Agriculture

**“Educating America’s farmers and ranchers  
to manage the unique risks of producing food  
for the world’s table.”**

**Extension Risk Management Education (ERME)** is delivered through four regional centers that provide grant funding and leadership within their regions.

Projects are producer-focused, results-based and encourage public-private partnerships. Funded projects must identify targeted results that will help producers manage risk and then describe how the project will measure those results.

Extension Risk Management Education has funded innovative programs that have generated tangible results for producers in every state. ERME is committed to funding results, providing transparent accountability, and encouraging collaboration. View the accomplishments of all funded projects on our website.  
<http://ExtensionRME.org>



**ERME Regional Centers**



**NORTH CENTRAL  
EXTENSION  
RISK MANAGEMENT  
EDUCATION**

University of Nebraska  
Dept. of Agricultural Economics  
303 Filley Hall  
Lincoln, NE  
68583-0922

(402) 472-1742  
NCERME.org



**NORTHEAST  
EXTENSION  
RISK MANAGEMENT  
EDUCATION**

University of Delaware  
Dept. of Applied Economics  
and Statistics  
112 Townsend Hall  
Newark, DE  
19716-2130

(302) 831-6540  
NERME.org



**SOUTHERN  
EXTENSION  
RISK MANAGEMENT  
EDUCATION**

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Little Rock, AR  
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(501) 671-2165  
SRMEC.uark.edu



**WESTERN  
EXTENSION  
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222 N. Havana St.  
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