

A Feb. 12 symposium at the Quality Inn and Suites Sandhills Convention Center in North Platte will provide education and initiate a conversation on the appropriate siting of wind energy farms in Nebraska.

Sponsored by the Sandhills Task Force, "Siting of Wind Energy in Nebraska" will begin at 9 a.m. CT and conclude by 3 p.m. Co-sponsors include University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension, Nebraska Cattlemen, Nebraska Grazing Land Coalition, Western Nebraska Bank and the Nature Conservancy.

The one-day symposium will provide information in a balanced pro and con format, representing various viewpoints important to landowners, rural communities and Nebraska's natural resources.

The symposium is open to the public and will give an overview of wind energy development in Nebraska, implications of wind energy development for natural resources and implications of wind energy for people.

Landowners, farmers and ranchers, community public policy and business leaders are encouraged to attend.

Presentations/topics include:

Balancing Economic Development and our Natural Resources; Wind Energy 101, which will cover equipment used and wind turbine installation considerations; Wind Energy Development Plans in Nebraska; Implications for Wildlife; Nebraska's Mitigation Process for Wind Development.

There will also be a panel discussion of landowner and local community perspectives led by UNL Extension Dean and Director Chuck Hibberd.

Registration is \$15 by Feb. 5. After Feb. 5 through the day of the symposium, registration is \$25. Walk-ins will be accepted. To register, visit go.unl.edu/windenergyconference.

For more information, contact UNL Extension at 402-472-2966.