Nebraska Extension’s

**Weather Ready Farms**

**Certification Program**

**Overview**

The Weather Ready Farms certification program is currently being designed and aims to improve or increase resilience towards the impacts of extreme weather on Nebraska’s farms. This program will recognize and reward farmers who prioritize weather-readiness and are committed to reducing the impact of extreme weather events.

**About the Program**

The Weather Ready Farms certification program will be approximately a one- or two-year program. The length of the program will be dependent on a participant’s previous and current experience implementing crop management practices related to extreme weather and climate variation.

The program will be delivered locally or regionally, with local or regional Extension faculty and staff coordinating the program and communicating with participants. Participants will apply to the program by submitting a self-assessment, which serves as a part of the application.

Throughout the certification program experience, participants will learn through face-to-face and online teachings methods.

**Certification Category**

At this time of development, there is only one category in which farmers can receive certification: Crop Production. More categories will be added in the future.
How Certification Works
There are four phases to the Weather Ready Farms Certification program.

- **Self-Assessment**: Participants complete a self-assessment to determine areas of vulnerabilities on the farm.
- **Education**: Participants attend a variety of Nebraska Extension programs and partner events, where they learn about new research and ways to implement practices on the farm. In the Crop Production category, participants learn about topics like climate literacy; management of soil, water, pests, and crops; and disaster and emergency planning and preparedness.
- **Verification**: Participants prioritize areas on the farm where they can implement new management strategies, and these practices are verified by a third-party provider.
- **Certification**: Participants who have completed phases 1-3 receive the Weather Ready Farms certification status.

Certification Benefits
We hope to be able to provide many benefits for receiving the Weather Ready Farms certification status. This could possibly include but are not limited to:

- Early access to Nebraska Extension, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and program partners’ educational resources and programs
- Certification signage for the farm and local recognition
- Insurance premium discounts or loan incentives
- Improve or increase resilience towards the impacts of extreme weather on the farm

For More Information
For more information or questions about the Weather Ready Farms certification program, contact Ashley Mueller at ashley.mueller@unl.edu or Tyler Williams at tyler.williams@unl.edu.