

A photograph of a farm scene. In the foreground, a green field is filled with several black and white cows. In the background, there is a tall, dark silo on the left, a long barn with a corrugated metal roof in the center, and a smaller barn on the right. There are trees and a utility pole visible behind the barns. The sky is overcast.

Access and utilization of USDA programs among Latino farmers and ranchers in Missouri and Nebraska

**Cambio de Colores 2011
Kansas City, Missouri**

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Access and utilization of USDA programs among Latinos farmers and ranchers in Missouri and Nebraska

Objectives:

- ✓ **Improve the use of USDA programs among Latino farmers and ranchers**
- ✓ **To inform on best practices for improving USDA Programs across country**
- ✓ **Create a pathway to continue access to and utilization of USDA programs**

Main USDA agencies and programs available to Latino Farmers and Ranchers



Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS)

Promote market for agricultural products



Farm Service Agency (FSA)

Provide farm loans and protect farm income and prices



Rural Development Agency (RD)

RD targets communities in need and then empowers them with financial and technical resources.



Natural Resources and Conservation Service

It efforts to help people conserve, maintain and improve our natural resources and environment.

Facts Regarding Latino Farmers and Ranchers in the United States

(2007 Census of Agriculture)

- ✓ **According to Last Census of Agriculture, in 2007, there were 82,462 Latino farmers in the United States, a 14 percent increase from 2002.**
- ✓ **Hispanic farmers and ranchers tend to be slightly younger on average than their counterparts nationwide.**
- ✓ **A higher-than-average percentage of Hispanic or Latino operators report that they've been on their present farm or ranch for 4 years or less.**
- ✓ **In 2007 there were 444 farms with Latino principal operator in MO and 166 farms with Latino Principal operator in Nebraska.**

RESEARCH RATIONALE

- ✓ **From 2002 to 2007, the number of Latino farm operations was significantly reduced. Principal Latino farm operators went from 703 to 444 in Missouri and from 295 to 166 in Nebraska (USCA 2007).**
- ✓ **Nebraska and Missouri are the only states with rapidly increasing numbers of Latinos but a declining number of Latino farmers and ranchers.**

Utilization of USDA programs by State

Program	Missouri	Nebraska
FSA (CCC loans)	0	9
NRCS (WRP)	0	32
Other farm payments	18	88
Total Latino farmers as principal operators by State	444	166

Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture 2007

CCC=Commodity Credit Corporation
WRP= Wetlands Reserve Program

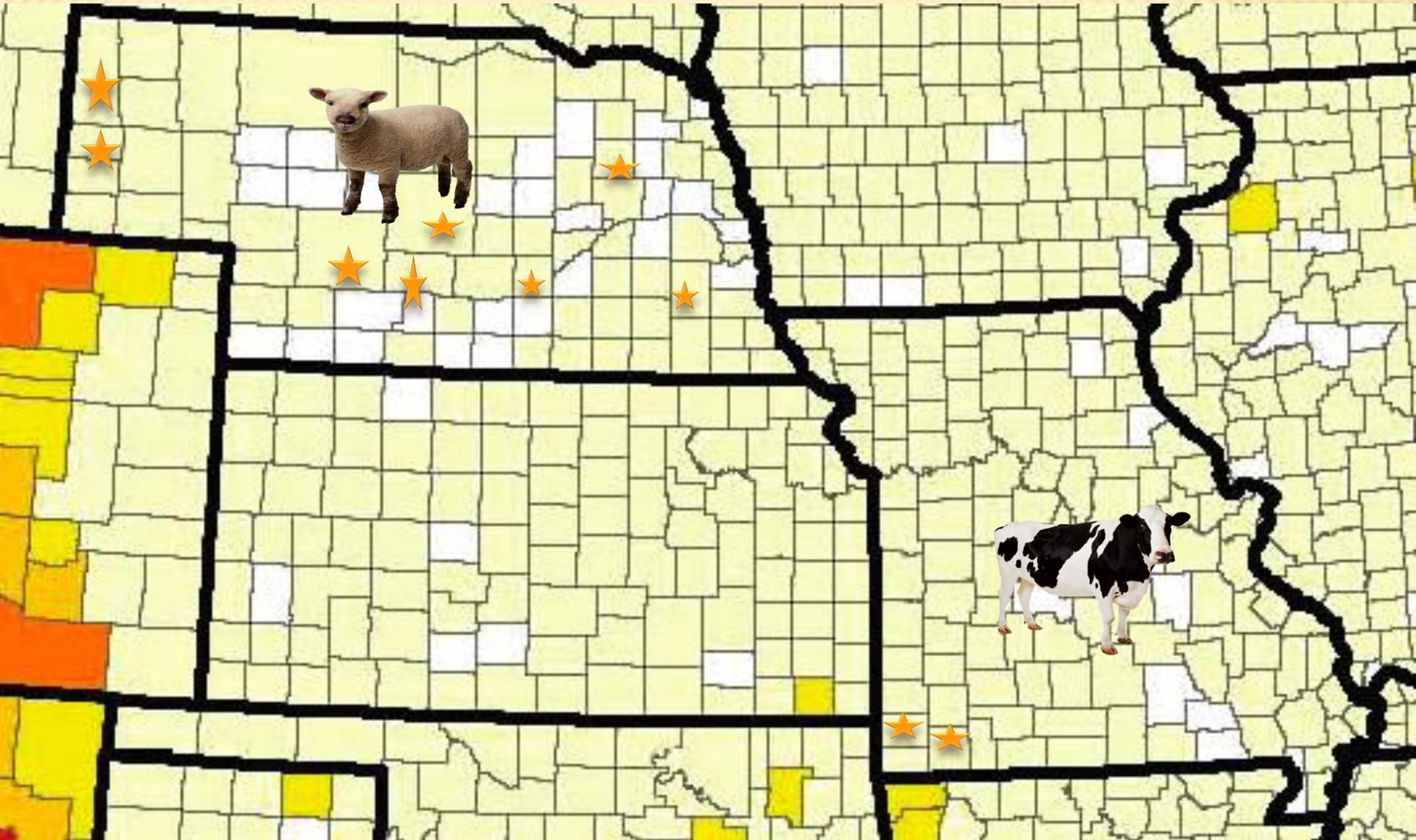
Project Activities 2011

Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify sources in MO and NE. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locate and identify Latino Farmers in counties. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interview a combined minimum number of 30 Latino farmers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data Analysis using NVivo9 software. • Content Analysis
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compare Sources of Data. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protocols and IRB approval. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transcription and translation of interviews from Spanish to English. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report/recommendations and best practices.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interview Instruments design. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interview a combined minimum number of 30 Latino farmers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data Analysis Understanding the barriers and pathways to access USDA programs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Put recommendations into action and dissemination of information.

Counties Sources of Data with Latino Farmers as Principal Operators

★ Missouri: Berry (12) and Newton (14) County

★ Nebraska: Clay (1), Custer (3), Dawson (8), Hall (3), Lancaster (6), Lincoln (7),
Madison (1) and Scotts Bluff (17).



METHODOLOGY

Data Collection

- ***Instrument development***
 - ✓ **Interview guide to Latino Farmers and Ranchers**
 - ✓ **Interview guide to USDA agents**
- ***Procedures***
 - ✓ **Finding Latino Farmers and Ranchers in Nebraska: Mainly located in 8 counties.**
 - ✓ **Finding Latino Farmers and Ranchers in Missouri: Barry and Newton Counties**

Methodology

Participants

- ✓ **Any Latino farmer or rancher, who owns or runs an operation that produces, or would normally produce and sell, \$1,000 or more of agricultural products per year.**
- ✓ **Face to face interviews to at least 30 Latino farmers combined in MO and NE.**
- ✓ **Face to face interviews with USDA Agents.**

Data Analysis

- ✓ **Interviews are tape recorded and will be transcribed in Spanish and then translated into English.**
- ✓ **Interviews will be analyzed using NVivo9 software and the Content Analysis Approach.**

Preliminary demographic findings among Latino farmers in MO and NE.

Farmer Profile	Missouri	Nebraska
Gender	All interviewees are males. Wives support farm activities.	All interviewees are males. Wives support farm activities.
Years farming in U.S.	Range between 2 to 10 years	More than 10
Age	Twelve are less than 45 years old. No one is more than 60 years old.	Most farmers interviewed in NE are older than 55 years old.
Country of origin	Mexico	Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador.
Ownership status	Three own without mortgage and twelve carry a mortgage.	Mortgage
Farm activity	Twelve farmers= livestock Two Farmers= mix livestock with horticultural products One farmer = Agriculture	Agriculture
Size of farm in sales	Range from \$2000 to \$89000	
Size in acreage	Range from 5 to 46 acres	Range from 1 acre to 100s
Have a side job?	All farmers do have a side job	Some of them

Preliminary observations in regards to barriers to utilization of USDA programs from the Latino farmers' perspective.

(based on field notes and direct observation)

Observation of Barriers	Missouri	Nebraska
Knowledge and Information regarding USDA services	Very bad	Bad to good
Understanding of USDA programs	Very bad	Bad
Keeping track of transactions and expenses of farm activities	Bad	Bad
Language	Bad to good	Bad to good
Risk aversion	Bad to good	Bad to good
Cultural heritage behind farm methods	(high farming heritage)	(high farming heritage)
Willingness to be connected to a formal institution or avoiding institutional attachment	Bad to good	Bad to good
Age influence	Very good (young farmers)	Bad
Get physical illness	Very Bad	Very Bad

Observation goes from "very bad," "bad," "good," "very good," to "excellent."

Preliminary observations in regards to attributes to utilization of USDA programs From Latino Farmers perspective

(based on field notes and direct observation)

Observation	Missouri	Nebraska
Motivation to utilize USDA programs	Excellent	Excellent
Motivation to stay in farming	Excellent	Very good
Plans to grow farming and become full-time farmers	Excellent	
Attitude about receiving help	Good to very good	
Increase of social engagement	Good to very good	

Observation goes from “very bad,” “bad,” “good,” “very good,” to “excellent.”

Preliminary observations in regards to attributes to utilization of USDA programs from the agents' perspective

(based on field notes from meetings and direct observation)

Observation	Missouri	Nebraska
Diversity of programs	Very good	Very good
Motivation to support Latino farmers	Very good	Very good
Offices near farmers	Excellent	Excellent
Information in Spanish at agency office	Good	Good

Observation goes from “very bad,” “bad,” “good,” “very good,” to “excellent.”

Preliminary observations in regards to barriers to utilization of USDA programs from the agents' perspective (based on field notes from meetings and direct observation)

Observation	Missouri	Nebraska
Language communication	Bad	Bad
Farming experience required to receive support	Very bad	Very bad
Dissemination of alternative programs to farmers	Bad	Bad
Outreach activities in Spanish	Very bad	Very bad
Current programs targeting current Latino farmers' needs	Very bad	Very bad
Observation goes from "very bad," "bad," "good," "very good," to "excellent."		

What we have observed so far...



Latino immigrants who have farmed in their country of origin are moving from big cities to rural areas to pursue farming activities. This is observed mainly in Barry county, MO, where most farmers have moved from metropolitan areas such as Chicago and Dallas. It happened over the last 10 years.



This phenomenon is highly influenced by the meat packing industry and immigration policies that have attracted well-documented Latino workers who are able to own land.



Farming under the influence of a cultural heritage in farming. These farmers want to produce in their own ways. They are unaware of formal institutional support available from the state.

What we have observed so far...



Surprisingly, the AG Census misses many small ethnic farmers. There is a gap between the capacity of the Latino farmers and ranchers to participate in agency programs and the accessibility of the programs themselves. There is a need to bridge some of these gaps so that farmers can more easily access the programs available that could help them to be successful.



There is a lot of enthusiasm for farming amongst the Latino community that we want to support and cultivate.

To be continued

Do you have questions?



- ✘ **Access and utilization of USDA programs among Latinos farmers and ranchers in Missouri and Nebraska**

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- ✘ **Abstract**

- ✘ The US census of Agriculture reported that from 2002 to 2007, the number of Latino farm operations was significantly reduced. Principal Latino farm operators went from 703 to 444 in Missouri and from 295 to 166 in Nebraska. Nebraska and Missouri are the only states with rapidly increasing numbers of Latinos but a declining number of Latino farmers and ranchers. This research project will explore the issues affecting the decline in the number of Latino farmers and ranchers in these two states. Part of the drop in the number of Missouri operators might be due in part to their lack of utilization of USDA programs. A large number of Latino farmers in Nebraska have used USDA programs while few in Missouri participate. Interviews will be conducted of the Latino farmers and ranchers in each state to better understand the factors that are affecting their ability to do business in these two states and to learn more the support systems and resources they access in the process of developing their businesses. In addition, interviews will be conducted with USDA Rural Development, FSA, NRCS, and other agencies and resource organizations farmers utilize, to identify the kinds of programs are available Latino farmers and identify the barriers facing resource people as they try to conduct outreach to the Latino farmers and ranchers. Analysis of the interviews will help us understand 1) why a large number of Latino farm operators stopped farming, 2) identify resources that may provide support to Latino farmers and ranchers, 3) track the path of Latino farmers and ranchers in Nebraska who were able to access and use USDA programs and 4) develop strategies that will connect Latino farmers and ranchers to the resources that can help them grow their farming enterprises.

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- ✘ **Key words:** Latino farmers and ranchers, USDA Programs, US Census 2007, path, access and use.