



COFFEESHOP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These informal discussions will occur on Friday morning at the Rural Futures Conference. Grab a cup of coffee and join a discussion!

ROUND 1 - PICK 1

1. How do we invest in rural communities before and after a natural disaster to make them more resilient?
Nancy Beers, Albert Lea, MN
2. What are the top three things young families/people look for when moving back to a rural community? (i.e. internet speed, housing, school systems, daycare, transportation, etc.)
Larry Berger, Lincoln, NE & Homer Buell, Bassett, NE
3. How can transdisciplinary, inter-institutional research teams support rural communities as they address issues such as poverty, housing, access to health care, and minority health disparities?
Kim Gocchi-Carrasco, Lincoln, NE
4. How do we collaborate to keep students enrolled in higher education?
Sheri Grotrian-Ryan and Kyle Ryan, Peru, NE
5. How can we sustain economic success in tribal communities?
Kurt Mantonya, Lincoln, NE
6. How does higher education expose rural students to diverse career opportunities?
Gregory Koll, Dallas, TX
7. From a business standpoint, what technologies and policy changes can help address both the digital and geographic divide in Nebraska?
Jeff Leanna, Scottsbluff, NE
8. Broadband's Future: Where will we be in 10 years?
Charlotte Narjes on behalf of the Nebraska Broadband Initiative, Lincoln, NE
9. How can rural communities be supportive of locally raised specialty products?
Toni Rasmussen, Albion, NE
10. What can local community groups do to update their work, activities, and leadership structure to better engage millennial leaders?
Karl Shaddock, Lincoln, NE
11. What civic-minded technology/app needs to be created to improve vitality in rural communities?
Kenneth Sherin, Mitchell, SD
12. What can rural hospitals do to "keep-up" or draw the younger generations to use their services?
Becky Ries, Ord, NE
13. How can people who care for and about the land work together to feed the world without sacrificing the environment we depend on?
Amanda Breitbach, Lincoln, NE

Round 2 Continued on Back...

ROUND 2 - PICK 1

1. How does your community get high speed broadband into every home, school, and business?
Randall Bretz, Lincoln, NE
2. How can we utilize current property vacancies and create new opportunities such as: rural recycling, incubator startups, and workforce expansions?
Byron Brogan, Madison, NE
3. Is your rural community prepared for a zombie apocalypse? How can we think creatively about public policy that impacts out-migration, sustainability, and community viability?
Ryan Broker, Lincoln, NE
4. How does energy development change the economic landscape and community development dynamics of rural agriculturally-dependent communities?
Felix Fernando, Fargo, ND
5. How can the next generation of agricultural leaders build their capabilities to enhance the future of rural communities?
Gary Hein, Lincoln, NE
6. How do we maintain and develop 'hope' to create brighter futures for small towns?
Randy Lukasiewicz, Omaha, NE
7. How can we use innovative methods to learn from and connect emerging leaders over the next ten years?
David Milavetz, Minneapolis, MN
8. What types (topics and methods) of social science research would most help rural communities address their key challenges?
Lisa Pytlik Zillig, Lincoln, NE
9. How can distance education help strengthen rural communities?
Laura Wiese, Lincoln, NE
10. What are the barriers for rural start-up businesses and how do we address these?
Brian Willet, Lincoln, NE
11. Why do rural people and places matter?
Preston Peterson, Loup City, NE
12. How can the University of Nebraska Medical Center's recently enhanced presence in Kearney address health-related issues in greater Nebraska?
Gregory Karst, Omaha, NE
13. Rural economic development incentives: What programs and tools are being used and what works?
Travis Haggard, Ogallala, NE