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**LAND MANAGEMENT QUARTERLY**  
WEBINAR SERIES

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# Agricultural Land Management Quarterly Presenters

Archived Programs: [cap.unl.edu/landmanagement](http://cap.unl.edu/landmanagement)

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# Outline of topics, August 21, 2023

- 2023 Nebraska Farm Real Estate Survey and Report Estimates
  - Agricultural land values & cash rental rates
  - Special feature report on adjusting cash rental rates when the tenant provides a portion of the system.
- Landlord & Tenant Communication
  - Communicating crop progress on leased land
  - Terminating verbal leases and approaching deadline
- Ask an Expert
  - Review of submitted questions
  - Upcoming land management workshops and publications



# 2023 Nebraska Farm Real Estate Survey and Final Report

Presented By Jim Jansen

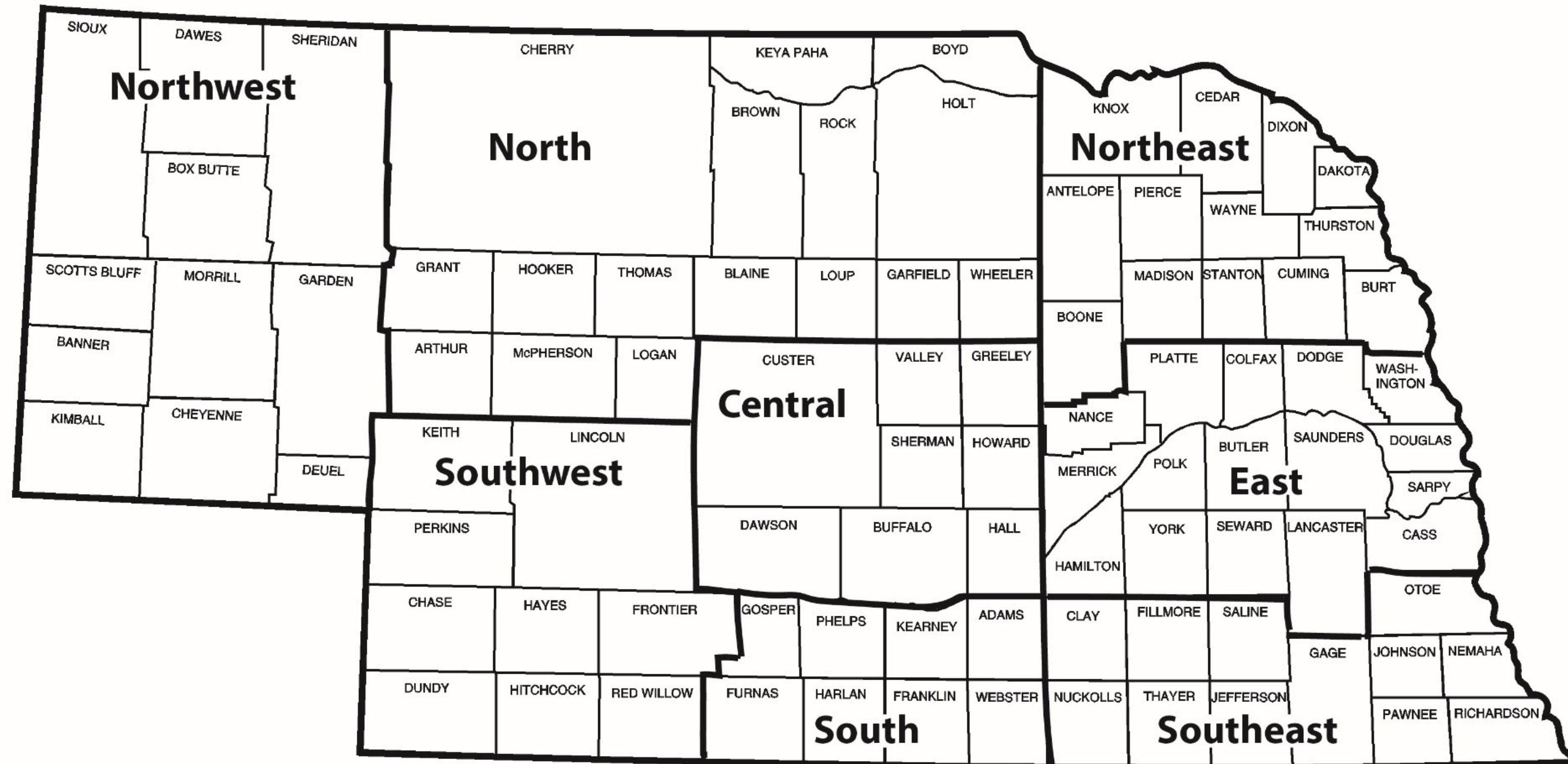


# Nebraska Farm Real Estate Survey

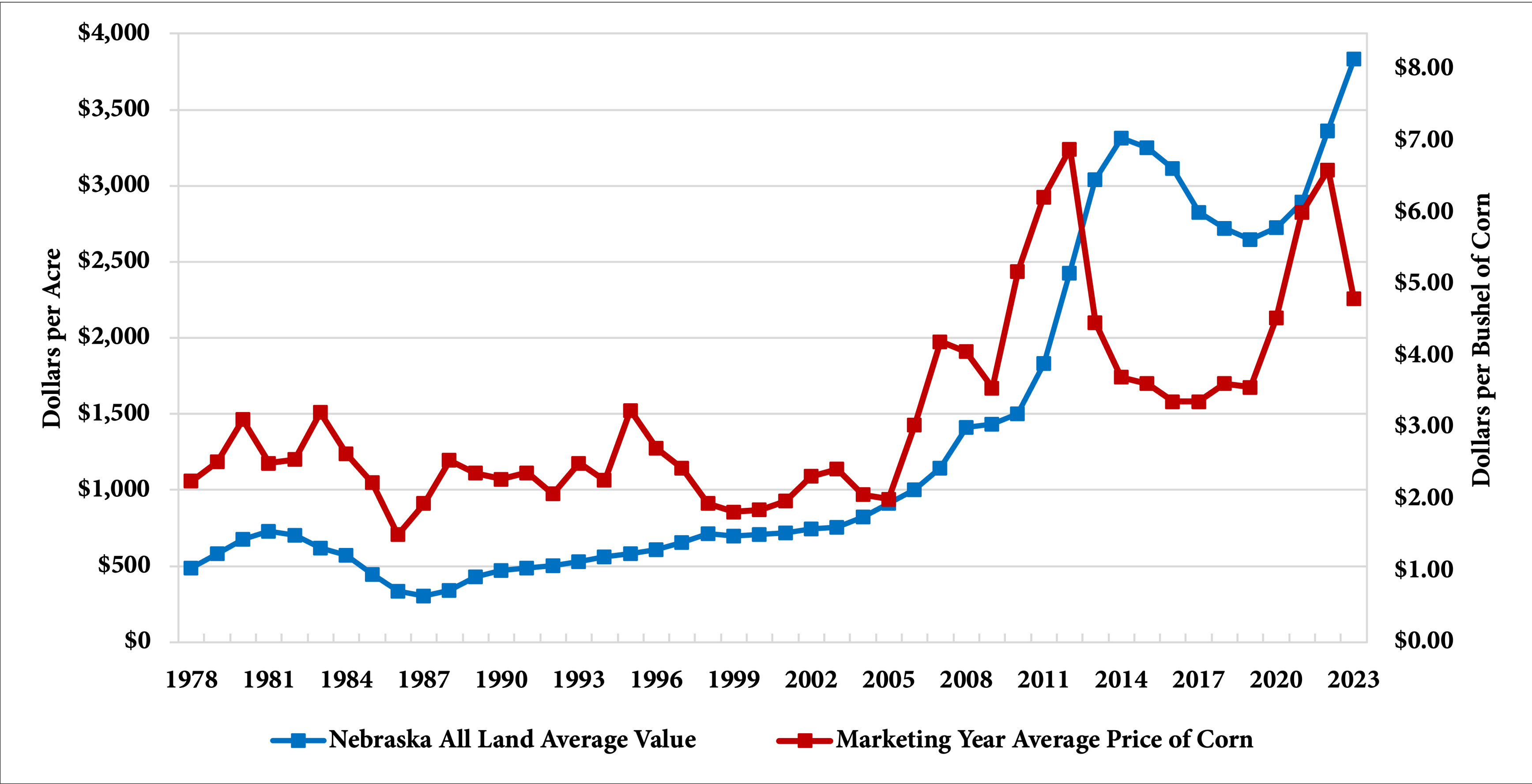
- Annual survey conducted since 1978 of Nebraska agricultural appraisers, professional farm managers, and bankers engaged in the land industry
  - Preliminary results for land values and rental rates published by mid-March.
  - Full report published in June
- Nebraska Farm Real Estate website full access to these resources:  
<https://cap.unl.edu/realestate>



# Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Districts



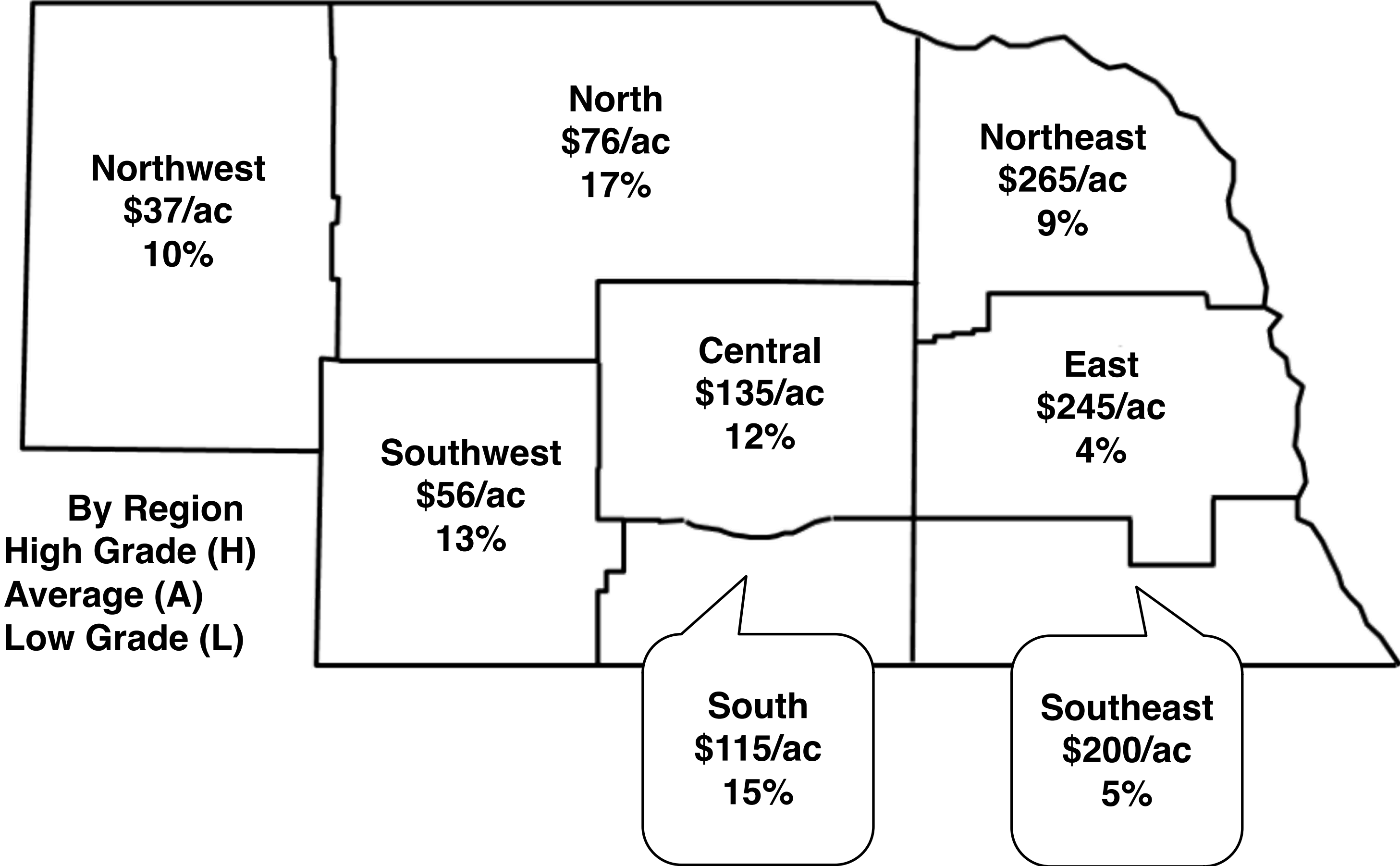
# Nebraska Average Land Value and Corn Price, 1978-2023





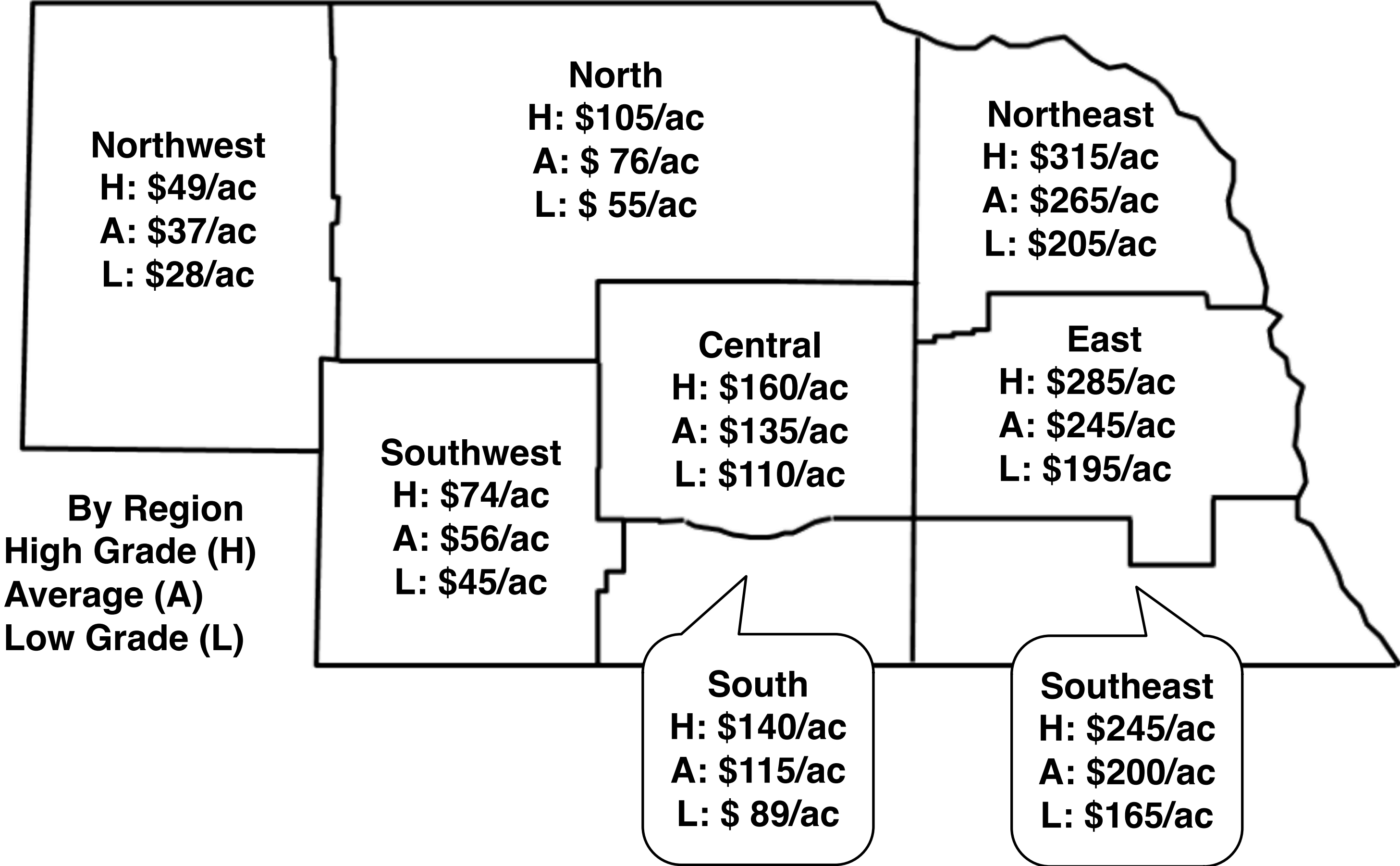
# Nebraska Dryland Cropland Rental Rates – 2023

## Final Report Estimates

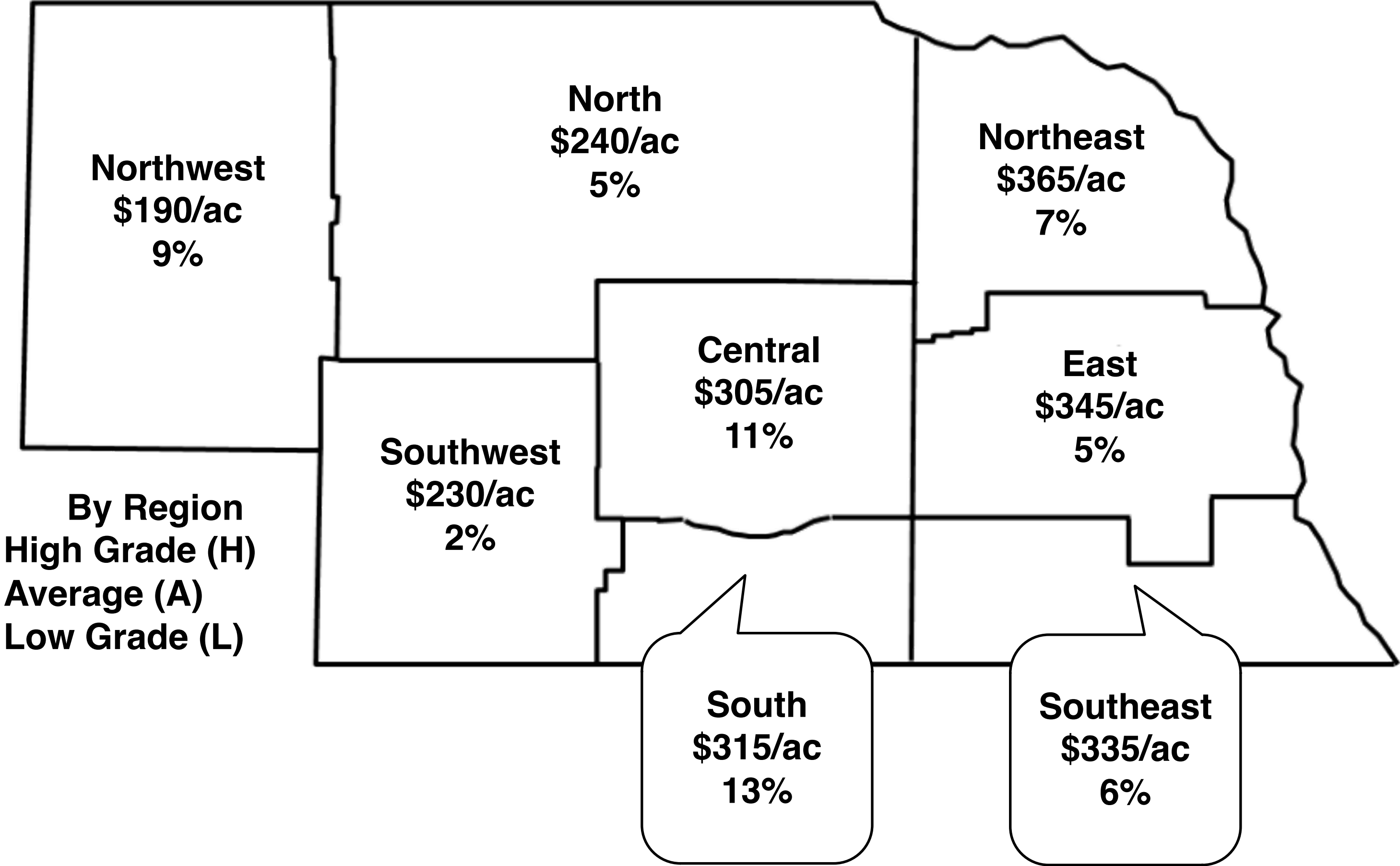


# Nebraska Dryland Cropland Rental Rates – 2023

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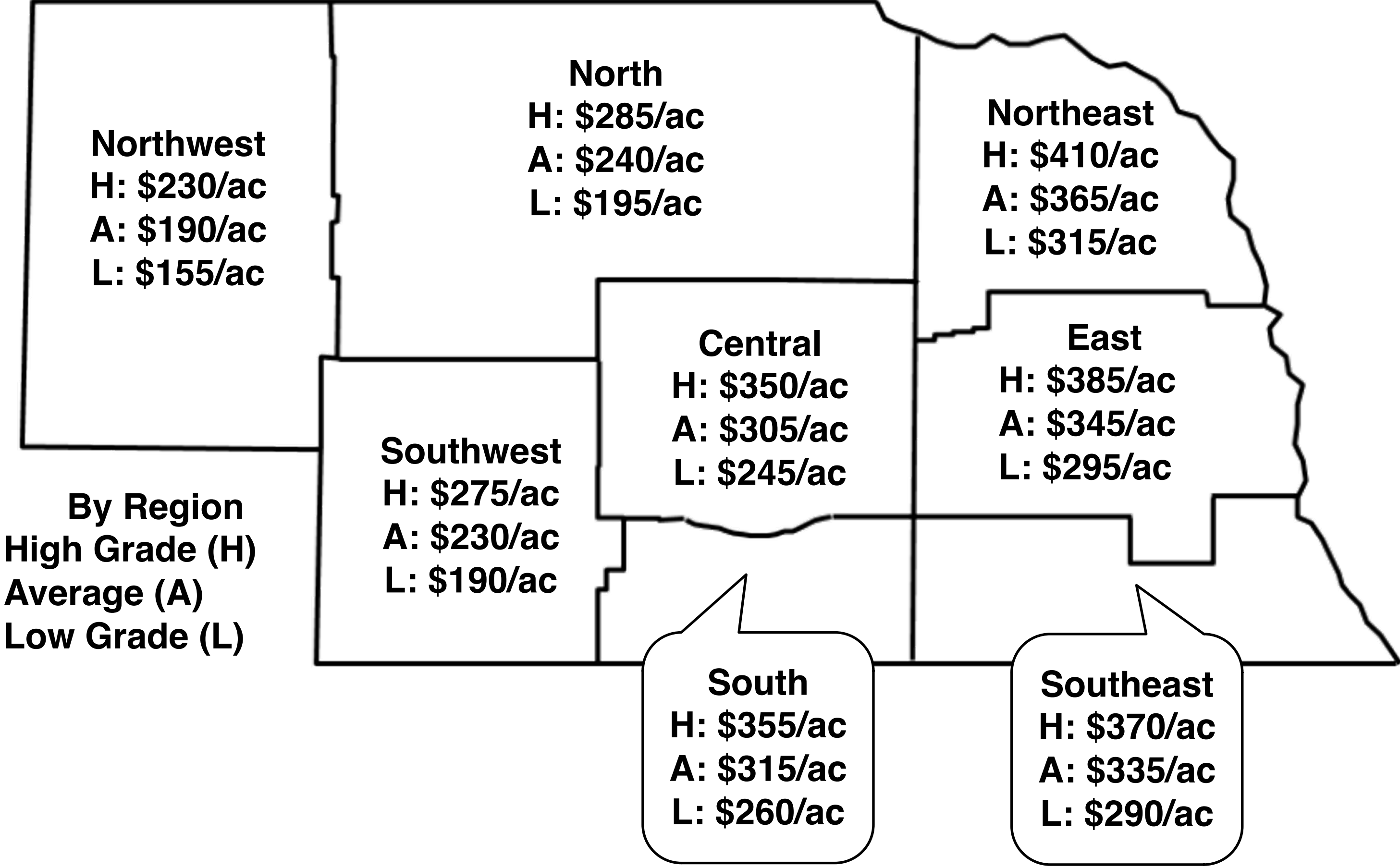


# Nebraska Center Pivot Cropland Rental Rates – 2023 Final Report Estimates



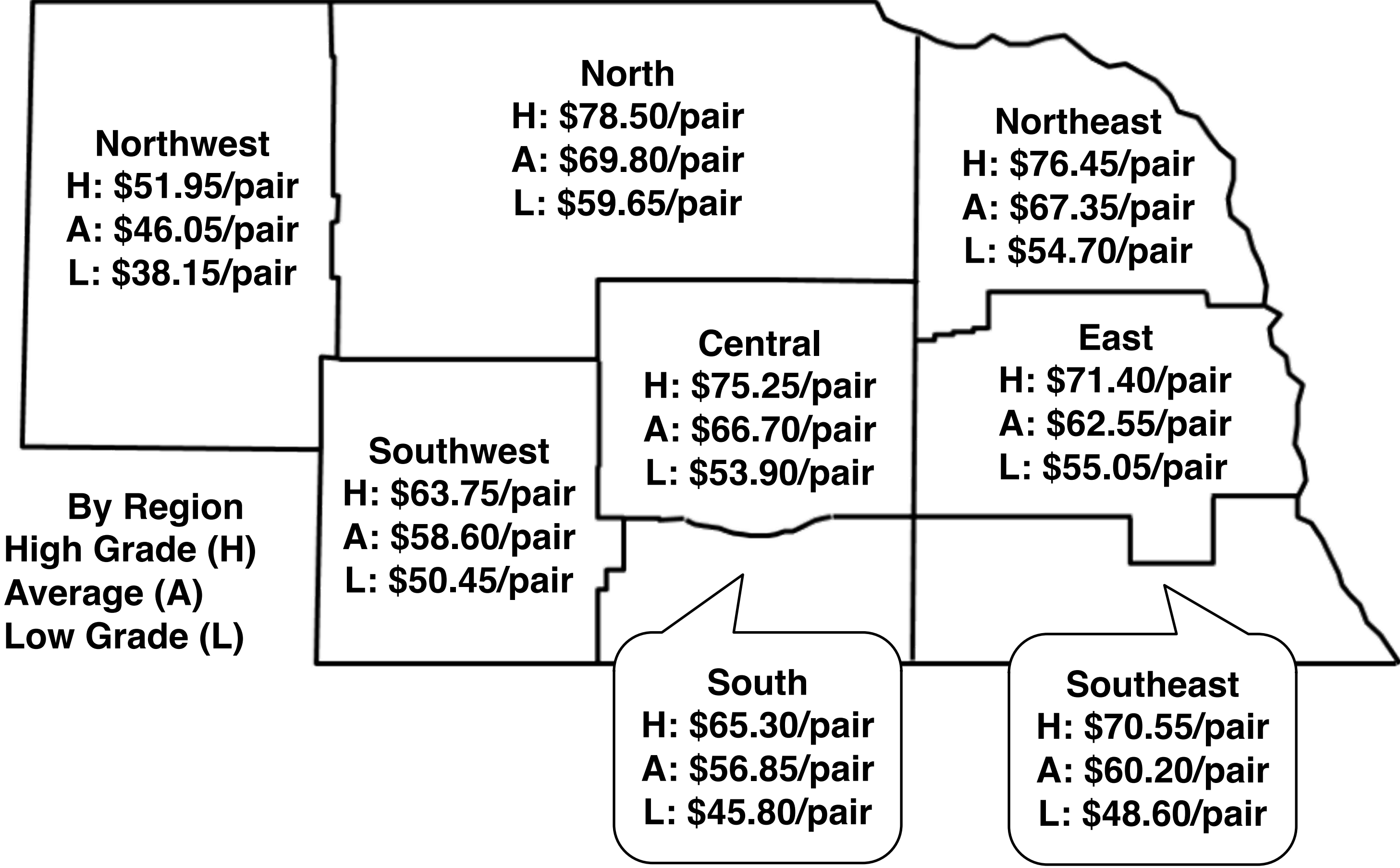
# Nebraska Center Pivot Cropland Rental Rates – 2023

## Final Report Estimates

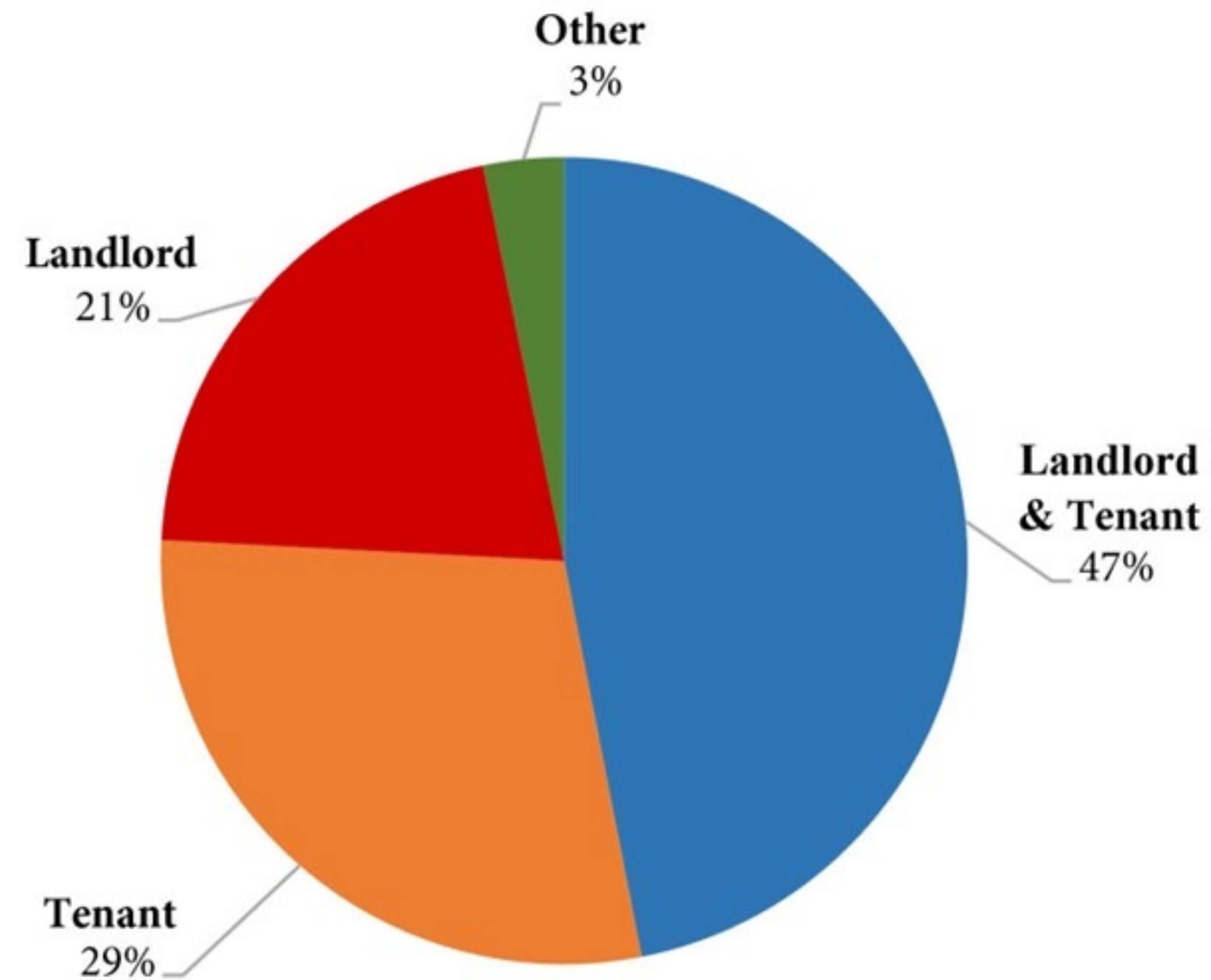


# Nebraska Cow-Calf Pair Monthly Rental Rates – 2023

## Final Report Estimates

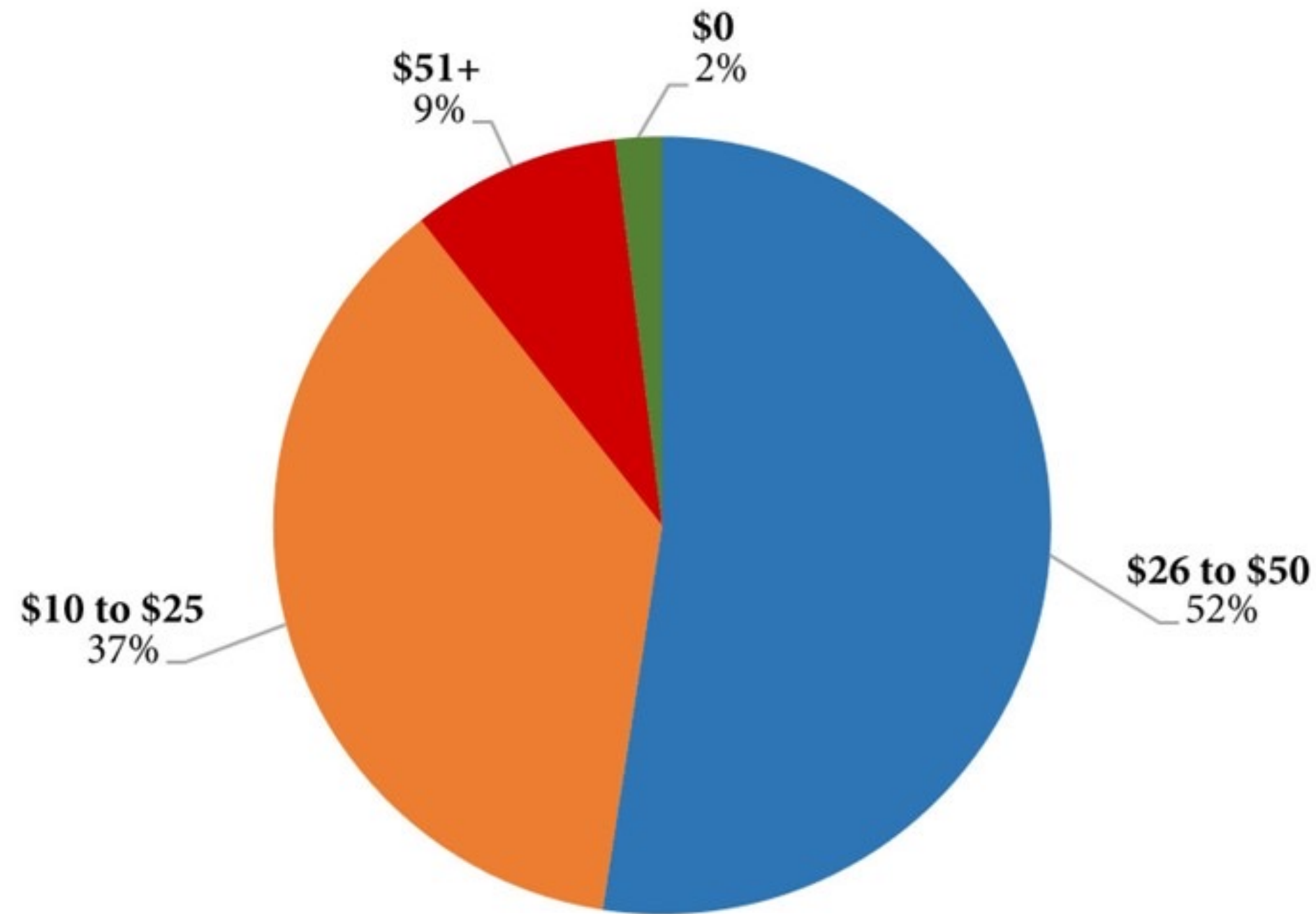


# Entity Responsible for Maintaining Irrigation System as Part of Cash Lease in Nebraska



Source: Nebraska Farm Real Estate Market Development Survey, 2023.

# Discount on Cash Rent per Acre When Tenant Owns Pivot for Irrigation System in Nebraska



Source: Nebraska Farm Real Estate Market Development Survey, 2023.

# Discount on Cash Rent per Acre When Tenant Owns Power Unit for Irrigation System in Nebraska

Power Unit	Discount per Acre			
	\$0	\$1 to \$9	\$10 to \$20	\$20+
----- Percent of Respondents -----				
System Type				
Diesel Engine	15	28	45	12
Propane or Natural Gas Engine	21	37	33	9
Electrical Motor	18	31	35	16

Source: Nebraska Farm Real Estate Market Development Survey, 2023.



# Landlord & Tenant Communication

Presented by Allan Vyhnalek



# Good Communication for Agricultural Leases

- Time to be “checking out” the crop or grazing land
  - Tenant should consider taking the landlord out to visit the rented property
- Time to be discussing issues about the rented property
  - Consider different methods for addressing the challenges
    - What strategies might be available to incentivize the other party to help remediate an issue
      - Look for weed control, disease, or insect damage
      - Consider soil conservation practices for the future
      - If irrigating, what equipment needs are there?



# Things to Observe on a Farm Visit

- Conditions to note and discuss on rented properties
  - Cropland
    - Uneven plant stand may indicate wet spots in fields
    - Weed issues with resistance and disease/insect pressure
    - Maturity of plants
  - Grazing land
    - Forage height and condition of plants
    - Overall weed pressure
    - Noxious weeds or brush



# Verbal Leases and Approaching Deadlines

- Strongly encourage to terminate all verbal leases (handshake or oral agreement) and change to a written contract
- State of Nebraska requirements for terminating a verbal lease
  - Prior to **September 1, 2023**, notification required to terminate a verbal lease for the 2024 growing year
    - Notification must be given six months prior to March 1, 2024
      - Cropland leases require a six-month termination notice, or the contract will automatically renew
      - Pasture leases are typically for five months and may not require a six-month termination notice



# Value of a Written Lease

- Written leases carry a higher value over a verbal lease
  - Protects the rights of both parties under the contract
    - Specific duties and rights of each party spelled out in the contract
- Documents lease terms for unforeseen events
  - An unforeseen passing of older landlords or tenants may require another party to step in and manage the estate
    - An absentee third party may not have current knowledge or experience in the agricultural industry



# Great Time to Review Leases

- Things to be considering:
  - Reviewing conservation practices
  - Non-cropland weed control
  - Timing of leasing payment
  - When is your lease termination notice date?
  - Look over all other provisions



# When Should A Lease Be Renegotiated?

- Maybe this is done at the same time every year
  - Avoids confusion and mistrust issues
- Does not have to be by September 1 (verbal lease termination deadline)
- No specific recommendation – just encouraging good communications
  - Tenants may desire renegotiating a lease early on to provide more certainty for securing crop inputs



# AgLease101.org – Free PDF Leases

Ag Lease 101

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## Ag Lease 101

**Ag Lease 101** helps both land owners and land operators learn about alternative lease arrangements and includes sample written lease agreements for several alternatives. Ag Lease 101 was created by and is maintained by the North Central Farm Management Extension Committee.












# AgLease101.org – Free PDF Leases

Lease Publications

## Lease Publications

-  **Fixed and Flexible Cash Rental Arrangements for Your Farm**  
(NCFMEC-01)
-  **Crop Share Rental Arrangements For Your Farm**  
(NCFMEC-02)
-  **Pasture Rental Arrangements For Your Farm**  
(NCFMEC-03)
-  **Rental Agreements For Farm Buildings and Livestock Facilities**  
(NCFMEC-04)
-  **Purchasing and Leasing Farm Equipment**  
(NCFMEC-05)
-  **Beef Cow Rental Arrangements For Your Farm**  
(NCFMEC-06)
-  **Farm Building Rental Rate Survey**  
(NCFMEC-07)

## Lease Forms

-  **Cash Farm Lease**  
(NCFMEC-01A)
-  **Crop Share Farm Lease Cash Farm Lease Cash Farm Lease**  
(NCFMEC-02A)
-  **Pasture Lease**  
(NCFMEC-03A)
-  **Farm Building or Livestock Facility Lease**  
(NCFMEC-04A)
-  **Farm Machinery Lease for Non-commercial Transactions**  
(NCFMEC-05A)
-  **Livestock Rental Lease**  
(NCFMEC-06A)

Fillable PDF Forms

# Ask an Expert

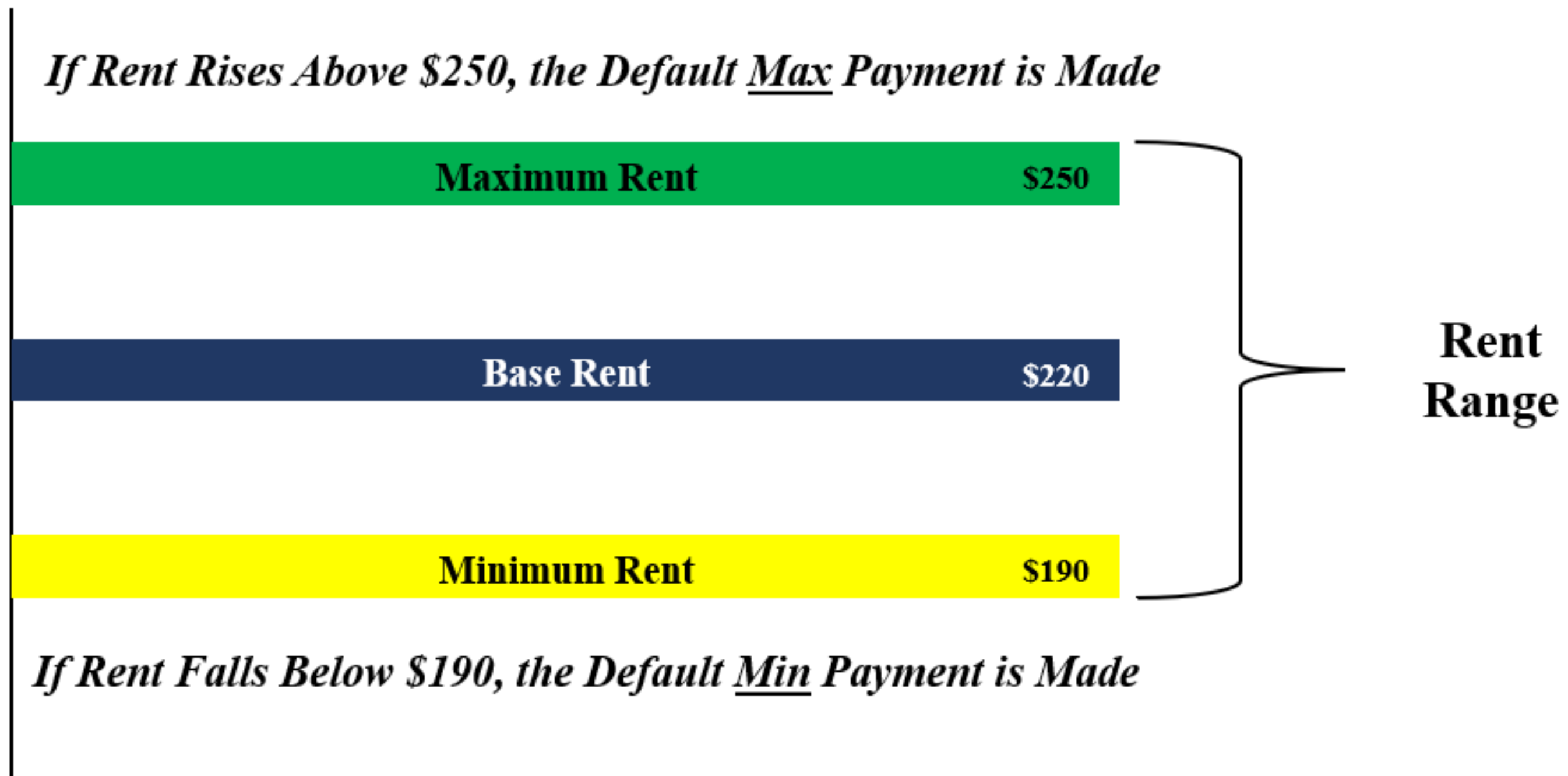
Presented by Jim Jansen & Allan Vyhnalek



# Land Management Questions

**Question:** How should a flexible cash lease be arranged (adjusted) with a rise or fall in grain prices?

**Answer:** A flex lease can account for changes in grain prices, crop yield, or revenue



# Flexible Crop Lease

- Flexible lease where corn prices decrease and increase

Farm Base Rent	
Rental Rate	\$220/ac.
5-yr Farm APH	150 bu.
Planting Time Price Guarantee	\$5.90/bu.
Harvesting-Time Price Increase	
Actual Harvest Time Price Guarantee	\$6.35/bu.
Difference (\$6.35/bu. - \$5.90/bu.)	\$0.45/bu.
Percent Change $\frac{[\$6.35/\text{bu.} - \$5.90/\text{bu.}]}{[\$5.90/\text{bu.}]} \times 100$	7.6 %
Final Rent	
Rental Rate	\$220/ac.
Percent Increase in Rent (\$220 x 7.6%)	\$17/ac.
Final Rent	\$237/ac.

Farm Base Rent	
Rental Rate	\$220/ac.
5-yr Farm APH	150 bu.
Planting Time Price Guarantee	\$5.90/bu.
Harvesting-Time Price Decrease	
Actual Harvest Time Price Guarantee	\$5.45/bu.
Difference (\$5.45/bu. - \$5.90/bu.)	-\$0.45/bu.
Percent Change $\frac{[\$5.45/\text{bu.} - \$5.90/\text{bu.}]}{[\$5.90/\text{bu.}]} \times 100$	-7.6 %
Final Rent	
Rental Rate	\$220/ac.
Percent Decrease in Rent (\$220 x -7.6%)	-\$17/ac.
Final Rent	\$203/ac.



# Land Management Questions

## Question: What provisions need to be in a verbal lease termination letter?

- **Answer:** Proper termination letters need to have the appropriate information for the parties and rented property. Things to include in a termination letter might include:
  - Date
  - Name and address of landlord and tenant
  - Legal description of property
  - Terms stating the termination of the lease
  - Removal of personal property by “xx” date (usually by end of lease)
- Consider consulting an attorney who may send out a termination letter for a nominal fee
- Send via Certified Mail with return receipt



# Land Management Questions

**Question: If the ground will be sold and the current lease ends on February 29, 2024 - does notification need to be given to the tenant on lease termination?**

- **Answer:** Professional courtesy should be shown to the other party any time major changes are made to the ownership of land
  - Notifying sooner rather than later important so the tenant may make adjustments
  - What does the lease contain related to termination?
    - Written lease – does the lease end or contain a rollover clause?
    - Verbal lease requires termination prior to September 1, 2023
  - Any existing lease not terminated (or ended) will rollover to the new owner!



# Land Management Questions

- **Question:** Online participants may now submit their questions.
- **Answer:** Review of questions and answers will be based upon remaining time available.





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# Nebraska Agriculture Land Studies Fund

- **Interested in helping support the Nebraska Farm Real Estate Survey & Report?**
- Please consider donating to help cover future expenses.

## **Donate Directly**

<https://go.unl.edu/landfund>



# Upcoming Landlord & Tenant Cash Rent Meetings

- **Aug. 23 in Weeping Water:** 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.,  
Dodge County Ext. Office, 402-267-2205.
- **Aug. 24 in Columbus:** 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.,  
Pinnacle Bank, 402-563-4901. Lunch included.
- **Sept. 6 in Omaha:** 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.,  
Douglas-Sarpy County Ext. Office, 402-444-7804.



# Upcoming Webinar: Mon. Nov. 20, 2023, at 12:00 PM CST

## Topics:

- USDA Land Management Highlights
  - 2023 county-level cash rental rate estimates
  - ARC & PLC Farm Program Payments
- Landlord & Tenant Communication
  - Harvest season reports and closing out the lease
  - Considerations for leases in 2024
- Ask an Expert
  - Review of submitted questions and from meeting participants
  - Upcoming land management workshops and publications



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