



**INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE  
AND NATURAL RESOURCES**



**NORTH PLATTE**  
Natural Resources District



**Nebraska  
Water Center**

Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute

# 2021 Nebraska Water Conference:

*“The Shape of Water in Western Nebraska”*

**AUGUST 16, 2021**

University of Nebraska Panhandle  
Research & Extension Center  
Scottsbluff, Nebraska



# Conference Schedule

## Monday | August 16

Panhandle Research and Extension Center | Scottsbluff, Nebraska

**7:30 – 8:00 a.m.**    **Bus departs hotel at 7:30 and 8:00 a.m.**

**8:30 – 9:00 a.m.**    **Welcome**

Chittaranjan Ray

Director, Nebraska Water Center (NWC)

Jeff Bradshaw

Interim Director, Panhandle Research and Extension Center, UNL

John Berge

General Manager, North Platte Natural Resources District

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**9:00 – 9:10 a.m.**    **Remarks by U.S. Representative Don Bacon** (virtual)

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**9:15 – 9:45 a.m.**    **The Value of Water in Western Nebraska**  
Jay Rempe, Senior Economist, Nebraska Farm Bureau

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**9:45 – 10:15 a.m.**    **Break and Poster Viewing**

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**10:15 – 11:15 a.m.**    **What Lies Beneath: Managing Surface and Groundwater in the North Platte River**  
Moderator:  
Aaron Thompson, Nebraska Kansas Area Manager, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
  
Dennis Strauch, General Manager, Pathfinder Irrigation District  
John Berge, General Manager, North Platte Natural Resources District

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**11:15 – 12:15 p.m.**    **Above the Law: Panhandle Legal Perspectives on Water and Agriculture**  
Anthony Schutz, Associate Professor of Law, UNL (virtual)  
Steve Smith, Attorney, Simmons Olsen

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**12:15 – 1:15 p.m.**    **Lunch and Poster Viewing**

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**1:15 – 2:15 p.m.**    **The Shape of Things to Come: Western Nebraska Water Modeling**  
Thad Kuntz, Principal Hydrogeologist, Adaptive Resources, Inc.  
JP T aylor, Hydrologist, USGS Nebraska Water Science Center

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**2:15 – 2:30 p.m.**    **Break and Poster Viewing**

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### **2:45 – 4:15 p.m. Field of Schemes: Using Research to Improve Ag Water Management**

Moderator:

Jessica Groskopf, Assistant Extension Educator, Panhandle Research and Extension Center, UNL

Jessica Corman, Limnologist/Aquatic Ecologist, School of Natural Resources, UNL

Bijesh Maharjan, Soil and Nutrient Management Specialist, Panhandle Research and Extension Center, UNL

Xin Qiao, Water and Irrigation Management Specialist, Panhandle Research and Extension Center, UNL

Carlos Urrea, Dry Edible Bean Breeding Specialist, Panhandle Research and Extension Center, UNL

Dipak Santra, Alternative Crops Breeding Specialist, Panhandle Research and Extension Center, UNL

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### **4:15 – 4:45 p.m. Concluding Remarks**

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### **4:30 – 5:15 p.m. Bus departs to hotel at 4:30 and 5:15 p.m.**

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### **6:00 – 6:45 p.m. Bus departs hotel to Legacy at 6:00 and 6:45 p.m.**

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### **6:15 p.m. Dinner Reception, Legacy of the Plains Museum (2930 Old Oregon Trail, Gering, NE)**

Live music by the Austin Sailors Quintet

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### **8:30 – 9:15 p.m. Bus departs Legacy to hotel at 8:30 and 9:15 p.m.**

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