

Conversations Conferences



on Nebraska
Environment
and Sustainability

Land: Questions to Explore

Questions to Trigger Exploration and Learning

- Nebraska has abundant productive land with over 90% of its land area in private hands. As populations grow in urban areas how restrictive should laws be to limit the conversion of agricultural land to urban uses? Should it be a high priority for the state to devote tax money to acquiring more land for public recreation? Should more zoning be required and if so how would you convince the public it is important?

- There are inevitable tradeoffs between environmental and economic benefits when it comes to making choices about land use. How should the level of risk be evaluated for any proposed development that will affect land use and related resources?

What is an acceptable level of risk? An example to illustrate this question:

- The recent debate about the natural gas pipeline which is proposed to run across the Sandhills of Nebraska raises questions about land use and the potential for contamination of land and water in the event of an accident.
- What regulatory questions about land use do you anticipate, may be justified, in the next twenty years to address land use in Nebraska?

Questions to Trigger Ideas for Change, New Action

- How sustainable are land practices in various parts of Nebraska (think about the regions with which you are familiar.)
- Are there opportunities to expand use of sustainable land practices? Examples?

Background Reference Questions

- Let's assume climate change and climate variability may reduce the current level of productivity of land in various areas across the globe, how might this trend impact Nebraska's economy, land ownership and land use?
- What educational opportunities can we encourage/initiate that would serve to inform everyday citizens, including children and youth, as well as professional service providers about sustainable land use in cities, towns and agricultural areas in Nebraska?