A series of outlook and management conferences will be offered by University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension across the state in February.

The first two conferences will be Feb. 15 in Norfolk during the day and in Lincoln in the evening. Other conferences will be Feb. 16 in Grand Island, Feb. 23 in Alliance and Feb. 24 in McCook.

Each session is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., except the Lincoln meeting which will be from 4:30-9 p.m. The conferences will cover a number of key topics affecting farm management and production decisions for 2010.

This year's conferences will feature several specialists from UNL Extension and the Department of Agricultural Economics discussing the relevant outlook and management topics. In addition, Dan O'Brien, extension agricultural economist and grain marketing specialist from Kansas State University, will join the conference to share his insight on the grain market and marketing decisions for producers.

The opening morning session at each meeting will focus on the agricultural outlook, covering livestock, crops, inputs, land and policy. Specialists also will discuss analysis and decision tools that can help producers make better management decisions for 2010.

Darrell Mark, livestock marketing specialist, will present the livestock outlook and focus on market prices and risk management decisions. O'Brien and Paul Burgener, agricultural economics research analyst, will provide the crop outlook, focusing on market prices and risk management decisions.

Roger Wilson, farm management budget analyst, will cover the outlook for input costs, input decisions, and tools to manage input and crop decisions.

Extension educators Tim Lemmons and Robert Tigner will present an update on land markets,

cash rents and leasing arrangements.

Brad Lubben, public policy specialist, will discuss the policy outlook in Washington and the major policy developments that could affect agriculture in 2010.

The closing afternoon session will focus on risk management decision-making in the current volatile economic environment.

Extension educator Allan Vyhnalek will address the fundamental nature of risk in agriculture and will discuss how producers can make sound risk management decisions to protect their operations in risky times.

Lubben and Mark will discuss risk management decision-making that incorporates farm programs, marketing tools, and crop insurance products in an overall risk management strategy.

A panel of local agricultural risk management professionals will cap off the day with their perspective on risk management strategies and decisions producers can make in 2010 to be successful.

Registration cost is $25 and advance registration is necessary. Contact Lubben at (402) 472-2235 or any one of the extension educators. Conference information and a link to online registration is also available at the conference Web page at http://www.agecon.unl.edu/resource/cemoc.html.