Economic uncertainty and marketplace instability has increased risk for agricultural producers. A University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension program, Husker Ag SMARTS, can help producers understand this risk and improve business skills.

Husker Ag SMARTS, offered in Scottsbluff and Seward, is a six-day business management program that will enable participants to strengthen management abilities, increase responsiveness to business challenges and help build technical skills, said Jessica Jones, extension educator in Johnson County and member of the Husker Ag SMARTS planning committee.

“The program will help participants increase their ag SMARTS by gaining knowledge, understanding and practice of important topics in business and management risk,” she said.

Topics include goal setting, business and marketing strategic planning, financial competency, personnel management and succession planning.

The intensive event will include interactive discussion, case study analysis, computer-based simulations, hands-on training and practice, and discussions with other successful individuals in the industry who use these skills and concepts, Jones said.

The program is offered in two locations in the state and consists of three, two-day work sessions. Each program is limited to 20 participants at each location. Dates and locations for the sessions include:

Scottsbluff—Nov. 17, Nov. 18, Dec. 8, Dec. 9, Jan. 17 and Jan. 18.

Seward—Dec. 15, Dec. 16, Jan. 10, Jan. 11, Feb. 7 and Feb. 8.

Registration is $600 if registered before Oct. 15. It is $650 after Oct. 15. All educational materials, meals and breaks are included. Participants are responsible for lodging and travel expenses.

To register, a $100 deposit must be submitted when registering and the balance will be due at the end of the first session. For more information and a registration form, visit http://johnson.unl.edu/web/johnson/agsmarts.