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PRAIRIE LOFT

Center for Outdoor and Agricultural Learning

With a continued shift of population from rural to urban areas throughout Nebraska and across the nation, fewer and fewer people, particularly youth, know where their food and other products come from or how they are produced. To help alleviate this gap in awareness, the Prairie Loft Center for Outdoor and Agricultural Learning has been started on the site of an old state mental hospital farm east of Hastings, NE.



manner. What was once an unsafe eyesore is now an outdoor recreation and cultural center as well as a destination for visitors.

Since fall 2007, nearly 3,500 visitors have attended workshops, events, and activities at Prairie Loft. Prairie Loft is committed to providing curriculum and facilitating programming that will teach individuals about agriculture and sustainable living and establish

Through the efforts of the Prairie Loft board and volunteers, with assistance from the South Central Nebraska RC&D council, gaping holes in the roofs of buildings have been replaced with new shingles, and abandoned agricultural waste has been disposed of in an eco-friendly



New Roof Under Construction on Prairie Loft Barn (2008)



Students Learning about Honey Production

Prairie Loft as a hub for community resources. In addition to the RC&D Council, partners include local contributors, educators from area K-12 and post-secondary schools, Scouting & 4-H groups, and numerous community volunteers.

The RC&D council adopted a Phase II project in 2009 to assist the Prairie Loft Center board, staff, and partners with development of a strategic plan. Prairie Loft was also named the Nebraska State RC&D Association Top Project for 2009.