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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Nebraska Wind Power 2010 Conference Brings In Experts On Wind Ownership Options for Landowners**

(LINCOLN) – The agenda has been finalized and speakers announced for the Wind Power 2010 Conference to be held in Kearney at the new Younes Conference Centre November 9-10. This year's conference will include three separate tracks, 27 sessions and presentations, 71 wind expert speakers who will provide the latest information on a wide range of wind related topics, and over 40 commercial and non-profit wind based exhibitors. The agenda and the Conference program are available on the Nebraska Energy Office website at: <http://www.neo.ne.gov/renew/wind-working-group/2010conference/register.htm>

“The three tracks and 27 sessions allow us to provide much more detailed information to various segments of the wind development community,” said John Hansen, Nebraska Farmers Union President and Wind Working Group Co-Chair. “We have five tracks that are specific to people interested in small wind, five tracks geared towards farmers, ranchers, and landowners, three tracks geared towards education, training, and green job careers, and sixteen tracks that are of general interest to anyone interested in wind development. This year's expanding program lets us both generalize and specialize at the same conference.”

The five sessions geared towards landowners brings in national experts on the opportunities and different approaches for community wind, state experts on wind contracts, landowner associations, and environmental and wildlife considerations for wind projects. “If you are a farmer, rancher, or landowner interested in wind energy, this conference has a lot to offer. We have tried to provide the kind of wind information that rural people want based on the 80 wind information meetings we have held across the state so far this year, and last year's conference evaluations” said John Hansen.

The five small wind sessions brings in national experts to address small wind siting and turbine selection considerations, state experts on net metering, planning and zoning considerations, and a roundtable panel discussion on what is needed to move small wind forward in Nebraska.

The three wind education training and wind related studies sessions will feature presentations from the University of Nebraska, Northeast Community College, Southeast Community College, Western Community College, and Chadron State College, the Carpenters Union and International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. There will be a session on the “Wind For Schools” program that already has 20 Nebraska school systems using small wind turbines to enhance their wind related curriculums. Dan McGuire, the Nebraska Wind for Schools Facilitator and Wind Working Group Co-Chair said, “It is really exciting to see the positive response Nebraska education institutions have made to meet the growing need for wind based career training and studies. There really is a lot of wind education and training going on in Nebraska education. We have expanded the number of subsidized scholarships for students and teachers to one hundred this year so we hope more students can attend,” he said.

Hansen reported there are 375 participants pre-registered for the two day event. “Thanks to the much larger venue at the new Younes Conference Centre in Kearney, we have room for more participants. The three hotels on site, Holiday Inn, Hampton Inn, and Wingate Inn are already booked full, but the Holiday Inn Express has been added as an overflow hotel at the same conference rates.” The Holiday Inn Express is located at 508 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue South. Their phone is: 308-234-8100.

The event is sponsored by the NE Wind Working Group (NWWG), a state and federal partnership funded by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory and the U.S. Department of Energy's Wind Powering America to help develop the state's wind resources. The NWWG has three Co-Chairs: Senator Cap Dierks of Ewing, Dan McGuire, National Renewable Energy Laboratory/Department of Energy's Nebraska Wind for Schools Facilitator, and John Hansen, Nebraska Farmers Union President.

Conference registration fees are \$75 per person and \$45 for students. Walk in registration will be available. Registration fees include meals.

For online conference registration and detailed agenda information:

Nebraska Energy Office: <http://www.neo.ne.gov/renew/wind-working-group/2010conference/register.htm>

Nebraska Farmers Union: <http://www.nebraskafarmersunion.org>

For Hotel Reservations: Holiday In Express: 308-234-8100