Nebraska women will celebrate 25 years of empowering women in the agriculture industry Feb. 25-26 at the Kearney Holiday Inn.

The theme for this year's University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension Women in Agriculture conference is "Celebrating Our Heritage, Exploring Our Future."

Nebraska women will find dozens of workshops, "funshops" and networking to help them cultivate their dreams and learn new information to harvest profits, said Megan Voss, Women in Ag coordinator.

The two-day conference begins Feb. 25 with 9 a.m. registration followed by a 10 a.m. welcome and keynote speaker Michele Payne-Knoper.

One of two keynote speakers, Payne-Knoper, a professional speaker, consultant, agriculture expert and author, will inspire participants to celebrate their unique role, what's special about rural America and share that celebration with others.

On Feb. 26, keynote speaker Yvonne Hollenbeck will address participants. Hollenbeck is an award-winning cowgirl poet who, along with her husband, Glen, raise Angus beef cattle and quarter horses.

Participants will be able to choose from more than 30 workshops spread out over five sessions throughout the two-day conference. Topics range from resources for business growth, estate planning and being an advocate for agriculture to computer and software information, how to be a better communicator and stress control.

Evening "funshops" are one-hour, optional sessions offered with a goal of networking and fun.

Early bird registration of $90 per person is due by Feb. 12. After Feb. 12, the fee is $100. The fee includes workshop materials, registration, breaks, lunch and dinner on Feb. 25 and breakfast and lunch on Feb. 26.

To register or for more information about the conference, including a complete list of workshop and speaker bios, conference sponsors, booths and lodging information, visit the Women in Ag Web site at http://wia.unl.edu and click on WIA Conference in the left column or call (800) 535-3456, fax (402) 472-0776 or mail Women In Agriculture, UNL Agricultural Economics, 304 Filley Hall, Lincoln, NE 68583-0922.

Five scholarships to cover the registration fee are available for full-time, UNL College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources students, and 10 scholarships to cover half the registration fee are available for non-CASNR students.

All student scholarship recipients are responsible for their own travel, hotel and any additional expenses. Applications also can be found on the Women in Ag Web site. Applications are due Feb. 3.