

Katie A. Pekarek

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Professional Experience

2015 – Present	Associate Extension Educator, Water Quality, UNL
2013-2015	Assistant Extension Educator, Water Quality, UNL
2010-2013	Assistant Extension Educator, Stormwater Management, UNL
2008-2010	Project Engineer, Water Land Air Consulting, Inc.
2008	Project Engineer, McKim & Creed
2006-2008	Graduate Research Assistant, North Carolina State University
2002-2006	Engineering Intern (EIT), Jacobson Helgoth Consulting

Education

MS, North Carolina State University, 2008.
Major: Biological and Agricultural Engineering

BS, University of Nebraska - Lincoln, 2006.
Major: Biological Systems Engineering

Honors (2015-2021)

2021	National Finalist – National Association of County Agricultural Agents Communication Award: Website
2021	Regional Winner - National Association of County Agricultural Agents Communication Award: Newsletter
2021	Regional Winner – National Association of County Agricultural Agents Communication Award: Published Photo and Caption
2020	Regional Winner – National Association of County Agricultural Agents Communication Award: Computer Generated Presentation
2020	State Winner – National Association of County Agricultural Agents Communication Award: Program Promotional Piece
2020	Regional Winner – National Association of County Agricultural Agents Communication Award: Video Presentation
2019	Regional Winner – National Association of County Agricultural Agents Communication Award: Program Promotional Piece
2019	Regional Winner – National Association of County Agricultural Agents Communication Award: Published Photo and Caption
2018	Regional Winner – National Association of County Agricultural Agents Communication Award: Program Promotional Piece
2018	Regional Winner – National Association of County Agricultural Agents Communication Award: Published Photo and Caption

- 2017 Regional Winner – National Association of County Agricultural Agents Communication Award: Program Promotional Piece
- 2017 State Winner – National Association of County Agricultural Agents Communication Award: Video Recording
- 2016 National Winner – Achievement Award, National Association of County Agricultural Agents
- 2016 State Winner – National Association of County Agricultural Agents Communication Award: Program Promotional Piece
- 2016 State Winner – National Association of County Agricultural Agents Communication Award: Published Photo and Caption
- 2016 State Winner – National Association of County Agricultural Agents Communication Award: Computer Generated Graphics
- 2016 State Winner – National Association of County Agricultural Agents Communication Award: Learning Module
- 2015 Community Landscape Award – Nebraska Statewide Arboretum
- 2015 Regional Winner - National Association of County Agricultural Agents, Bound Book Communication Award
- 2015 Educational Aids Blue Ribbon Award – American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers

Conference Presentations

Pekarek, Katie. “Nebraska Virtual Green Infrastructure Tour – Adjusting to Distance Learning” National Association of County Agricultural Agents Annual Meeting/Professional Improvement Conference. Philadelphia, PA, 2021.

Pekarek, Katie. “Enhancing Watershed Management Through Extension Partnership” National Association of County Agricultural Agents Annual Meeting/Professional Improvement Conference. Virtual, 2020.

Pekarek, Katie. “An Online Stormwater Core Curriculum (SWCC): Why and How” National Association of County Agricultural Agents Annual Meeting/Professional Improvement Conference. Chatanooga, TN, 2018.

Pekarek, Katie. Rethinking Teaching and Learning Stormwater Practices: A National Resource for Professionals. National Association of County Agricultural Agents Annual Meeting/Professional Improvement Conference. Salt Lake City, UT, 2017.

Conference Posters

Pekarek, Katie. “Stormwater Practices and Maintenance Core Curriculum (SWCC) Empowering Practitioners and Educators to Learn Stormwater Basics and Teach Other” National Association of County Agricultural Agents Annual Meeting/Professional Improvement Conference. Little Rock, AK, 2016.

Pekarek, Katie. “Stormwater Sleuth and Running Rain: Educating Youth about Stormwater Runoff and Green Infrastructure Solutions” National Association of County Agricultural Agents Annual Meeting/Professional Improvement Conference. Salt Lake City, UT, 2017.

Pekarek, Katie. “Rethinking Teaching and Learning Stormwater Practices: A National Resource for Professionals” National Association of County Agricultural Agents Annual Meeting/Professional Improvement Conference. Chattanooga, TN, 2018.

Pekarek, Katie. "Making Stormwater Runoff Run Online: Explaining Why and How Stormwater education Moves Online" National Association of County Agricultural Agents Annual Meeting/Professional Improvement Conference. Indianapolis, IN, 2019.

Pekarek, Katie. "Enhancing Watershed Management Through Extension Partnership" National Association of County Agricultural Agents Annual Meeting/Professional Improvement Conference. Virtual, 2020.

Current Grant Awards

Pekarek, K. (Principal Investigator), Rasby, R. (Investigator), Carroll, J. (Investigator), 137056, Contract, "UNL-NDEQ Water Quality Liaison", Ne Dept of Environment & Energy, State Agencies, Public Service, \$108,776.00, Awarded. (sub: October 2, 2020, start: October 1, 2017, end: September 30, 2022).

Luck, J. (Principal Investigator), Pekarek, K. (Investigator), Thompson, L. (Investigator), Thompson, L. (Investigator), 139938, Grant, "NDEE Cover Crop Project", Ne Dept of Environment & Energy, State Agencies, Research, \$452,540.00, Awarded. (sub: May 13, 2021, start: June 3, 2021, end: August 31, 2022).

Carroll, J. (Principal Investigator), Pekarek, K. (Investigator), Bell, J. (Investigator) Contract, "Sourcewater Protection Educator Agreement", Ne Dept of Environment & Energy, State Agencies, Public Service, \$141,545.00, Awarded. (start: October 1, 2021, end: September 30, 2024).

Gilmore, T. (Principal Investigator), Pekarek, K. (Investigator), Pennisi, L. (Investigator), Ingram, E. (Investigator), Korus, J. (Investigator), McCullough, C. (Investigator), 140685, Grant, "Watershed Science Ed Collaboration", Ne Environmental Trust, State Agencies, Public Service, \$78,601.00, Awarded. (start: April 8, 2021, end: June 30, 2022).

Iqbal, J. (Principal Investigator), Snow, D. (Investigator), Nogueira-Rodriguez, L. (Investigator), Thompson, L. (Investigator), Pekarek, K. (Investigator), 134908, Grant, "City of Waverly & LPSNRD Matching Funds", City of Waverly, Local & Area, Public Service, \$10,000.00, Awarded. (sub: July 8, 2020, start: June 12, 2020, end: June 30, 2021).

Gilmore, T. (Principal Investigator), Pekarek, K. (Investigator), Taylor, M. (Investigator), Pennisi, L. (Investigator), Ingram, E. (Investigator), Korus, J. (Investigator), 135873, Grant, "Watershed Science Ed Collaboration", Ne Environmental Trust, State Agencies, Public Service, \$71,751.00, Awarded. (start: April 1, 2020, end: June 30, 2021).

Previous Grant Awards

Pekarek, K., Grant, "prioritized e-learning project with Extension Academic Technology support", University of Minnesota, State Agencies, Awarded. 2017-2018.

Pekarek, K. (Principal Investigator), Rasby, R. (Investigator), Carroll, J. (Investigator), 110454, Contract, "UNL-NDEQ Water Quality Liaison", Ne Dept Environmental Quality, State Agencies, Public Service, \$159,163.00, Awarded. (sub: August 16, 2017, start: October 1, 2017, end: September 30, 2020).

Gilmore, T. (Principal Investigator), Pekarek, K. (Investigator), Taylor, M. (Investigator), Pennisi, L. (Investigator), Ingram, E. (Investigator), Korus, J. (Investigator), 126294, Grant, "Watershed Science Ed Collaboration", Ne Environmental Trust, State Agencies, Public Service, \$74,852.00, Awarded. (start: May 3, 2019, end: June 30, 2020).

Gilmore, T., Pekarek, K., Grant, "Project ID 48321: Delivery of Watershed Science Education to Decision Makers A Multi-Agency Collaboration", Nebraska Environmental Trust, Other Agencies, Extension/Engagement, \$495,275.00, Awarded. (sub: 2018, start: May 2019).

Pekarek, K. (Principal Investigator), 110334, Grant, "Online Stormwater Core Course", North Central Region Water Network, Associations/Foundations, Public Service, \$7,000.00, Awarded. (sub: July 14, 2017, start: August 21, 2017, end: August 24, 2018).

Pekarek, K. (Principal Investigator), Feehan, K. (Investigator), 95244, Grant, "Stormwater Sleuth Rain to Drain", Nebraska Academy of Sciences, Associations/Foundations, Public Service, \$3,000.00, Awarded. (sub: October 4, 2016, start: December 10, 2016, end: December 10, 2017).

Pekarek, K., Feehan, K., Grant, "Stormwater Sleuth Demonstrates Rain to Drain Educator Training and Resource Kit Distribution", Nebraska Academy of Science, Other Agencies, Public Service, \$3,000.00, Awarded, No. (sub: October 4, 2016, start: February 1, 2017).

VanDeWalle, B., Thompson, L., Luck, J., Woldt, W., Pekarek, K., Burr, C., Zoubek, G., Irmak, S., Nygren, A., Mueller, N., Exstrom, E., Timmerman, A., Rees, J., Kreifels, M., Grant, "Connecting Industry Partners & Extension with Nebraska Agricultural Education", Nebraska Extension Dean's Office, Universities, \$10,000.00, Awarded. (start: 2014, end: 2015).

Declined Grants

Proctor, C. (Principal Investigator), Sandall, L. (Investigator), Snow, D. (Investigator), Pekarek, K. (Investigator), Maharjan, B. (Investigator), Koehler-Cole, K. (Investigator), Basche, A. (Investigator), 136818, Grant, "Nebraska Soil Health Summary", Ne Environmental Trust, State Agencies, Instruction/Training, Submitted. (sub: September 4, 2020).

Proctor, C. (Principal Investigator), Little, A. (Investigator), Powers, C. (Investigator), Pekarek, K. (Investigator), Thompson, L. (Investigator), Shulski, M. (Investigator), Jasa, P. (Investigator), Banerjee, S. (Investigator), Mieno, T. (Investigator), Hibbeler, T. (Investigator), Forsberg, M. (Investigator), Farrell, M. (Investigator), Qi, Y. (Investigator), 135227, Grant, "Precision Conservation Technologies", Dept of Agriculture-NRCS, Federal, Research, Submitted. (sub: May 29, 2020).

Proctor, C. (Principal Investigator), Blanco, H. (Investigator), Iqbal, J. (Investigator), Kruger, G. (Investigator), Ruis, S. (Investigator), Koehler-Cole, K. (Investigator), Pekarek, K. (Investigator), Glewen, K. (Investigator), Milander, J. (Investigator), 133966, Grant, "Cropping System for Environ Quality&Prod", Dept of Agriculture-NIFA, Federal, Research, Submitted. (sub: April 16, 2020).

Pekarek, K. (Principal Investigator), Skipton, S. (Co-Principal Investigator), Stoner, N. (Co-Principal Investigator), Timmerman, A. (Co-Principal Investigator), Grant, "Project ID 29152: Youth Water Education: Building Informed and Empowered Nebraskans", Nebraska Environmental Trust, Other Agencies, Research, \$88,272.00, Submitted, No. (sub: August 31, 2014, start: July 1, 2015, end: June 30, 2018).

Pekarek, K. (Co-Principal Investigator), VanDeWalle, B. (Co-Principal Investigator), Grant, "Project ID 29187: Nebraska High School Interactive Water Education Project", Nebraska Environmental Trust, Other Agencies, Instruction/Training, \$258,000.00, Submitted, No. (sub: August 31, 2014, start: July 1, 2015, end: June 30, 2018).

Pekarek, K., Burr, C., Grant, "Project ID 29215: Cover Crop Outreach and Demonstration for Water Quality and Soil Health", Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality, State Agencies, Research, \$277,875.00, Submitted, No. (sub: August 31, 2014, start: July 1, 2015).

Pekarek, K., Snow, D., Schmidt, A., Bartelt-Hunt, S. L., Li, X., Grant, "Optimizing Watershed Manure Management for Water Quality Protection Under Climate Change", Dept of Agriculture-NIFA, Federal, Research, \$659,445.00, Declined, No. (expsub: May 1, 2014, sub: April 30, 2017).

Pekarek, K. (Principal Investigator), Franti, T. (Investigator), 90496, Grant, "Water Quality for CCAs in Watershed", Environmental Protection Agency, Federal, Public Service, Declined. (sub: December 14, 2015).

Timmerman, A. (Principal Investigator), Pekarek, K. (Investigator), Stoner, N. (Investigator), Forbes, C. (Investigator), Fech, J. (Investigator), Dam, K. (Investigator), Stuhr, T. (Investigator), VanDeWalle, B. (Investigator), 88556, Grant, "Youth Water Education", North Central Region Water Network, Associations/Foundations, Public Service, Declined. (sub: August 14, 2015).

Published Scholarship (2015-2021)

Gilmore, T., Korus, J., Pennisi, L., Martin, D. L., Pekarek, K. (2019). Needs Assessment: Watershed Science for Water-Resources Directors. Needs Assessment: Watershed Science for Water-Resources Directors. *Journal of Extension*. **Status:** Resubmitted
Primary association: Extension/Engagement/Outreach

Shelton, D., Rodie, S., Feehan, K., Franti, T., Pekarek, K., Holm, B. (2015). Integrating Extension, Teaching, and Research for Stormwater Management Education. *Universities Council on Water Resources Journal of Contemporary Water Research & Education*, 10.

Woldt, W., Pekarek, K. (2015). Vulnerable Landscapes & Water Resources: A Curriculum. (pp. 73). Lincoln, NE: Watersheds, Water Wells and Wastewater. Dept of Biological Systems Engineering, Nebraska Extension. **Status:** Published
Primary association: Extension/Engagement/Outreach

Other Scholarly Products

Service	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Water Website Leader	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Master Conservationist Award – Natural Resources Districts and Omaha World Herald	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
SNR Seminar Series Committee		X	X	X	X	X	X
SNR Community Engagement						X	X
Nebraska Cooperative Extension Association Board Member				X	X	X	
Nebraska Ag Section of National Association of County Agricultural Agents – Elect/President/Past					X	X	X
Husker Harvest Days – Water Issues Team Leader						x	X
University of Nebraska State-wide Extension Educator Promotion Committee						X	
Master Conservationist Award Chairperson	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
NDEE 319 Grant Reviewer	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Nebraska Floodplain and Stormwater Management Association Board Member	X	X	X	X		X	

Water Website Articles

NDEE-Related Section