



Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources — AT WORK FOR NEBRASKA

September 2009

From the Vice Chancellor

The Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources is at work for Nebraska all across our state, with four strategically located Research and Extension Centers and 83 associated county extension offices serving all 93 Nebraska counties.

Ours is such an agriculturally, topographically, and environmentally diverse state. Differences in climate between Lincoln and Scottsbluff are as great as from Lincoln to the East Coast. I always find that amazing! Different growing conditions and different soils affect what's grown where and how.

Our West Central Research and Extension Center at North Platte has served Nebraskans more than 100 years. The oldest of our centers, it is known for its work in beef production systems; cropping systems with limited irrigation; and horticulture focusing on native ornamentals.

Next year our Panhandle Research and Extension Center celebrates 100 years of service to our state. It's known for its work with Panhandle crops (dry edible beans and sugar beets are notable examples); alternative energy crops; and high elevation systems work in crops and livestock.

Our Northeast Research and Extension Center, with headquarters at Norfolk and the Haskell Agricultural Laboratory near Concord, is known for its work in integrated pest management; environmental impact of livestock production; and organic and sustainable agriculture.

In the next several months our Southeast Research and Extension Center, currently on UNL's East Campus, will move its headquarters to our Agricultural Research and Development Center near Mead. One of the unique areas the Southeast Center works in is the rural/urban interface, including acreages and small farms. Value-added agriculture, entrepreneurship, crop diagnostics, and irrigation are other strengths.

Our Research and Extension Centers and their county offices contribute to our state's economy and quality of life, providing terrific education not only in agriculture and natural resources, but also for youth, families, and communities.

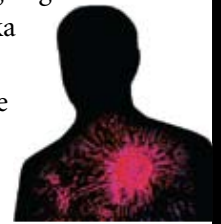
They're great examples of how IANR is at work for Nebraska.

John Owens
NU Vice President and
Harlan Vice Chancellor, IANR



Down on the pharm

Someday individuals may get their own, personal nutritional guidelines aimed at fending off diseases to which they're especially susceptible. UNL scientists are on the cutting edge of this research with the Nebraska Gateway for Nutrigenomics. Ultimately, they hope to translate their findings into new ag products that meet these specialized nutritional needs.



For more information: atworkfornebraskanewsletter.unl.edu/#pharm



Beefing up knowledge

A four-year Nebraska Beef Industry Scholars program in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources is helping prepare today's students to be tomorrow's beef leaders. Student scholars gain insights into Nebraska's beef industry, which ranks second nationally, and network with industry leaders. The scholars program is part of Nebraska's Beef Education Excellence for the Future initiative.

For more information: atworkfornebraskanewsletter.unl.edu/#beefscholars

Bean counting

In the Panhandle, a breeding specialist is immersing himself in hundreds of dry edible bean seeds in search of varieties that will thrive in the region, as well as a cultivar that can be harvested early to beat the first frost.



For more information: atworkfornebraskanewsletter.unl.edu/#beans

Newsletter Info

The University of Nebraska–Lincoln Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources At Work for Nebraska Newsletter is published quarterly by the Communications and Information Technology unit at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln under the auspices of the NU Vice President and Harlan Vice Chancellor, IANR.

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Please send subscription requests to: Editor, At Work for Nebraska Newsletter, 108 Agricultural Communications Building, P.O. Box 830918, University of Nebraska–Lincoln, Lincoln, NE 68583-0918.

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Lincoln, NE 68583-0918

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Bolstering agrosecurity

One in four businesses impacted by disaster does not recover, according to the federal government. To ensure Nebraska's No. 1 industry, agriculture, stays in business in the event of a disaster, UNL Extension coordinated a preparedness pilot conference to introduce a national plan to strengthen community agrosecurity. The plan is tailored for Nebraska and includes a call tree of responders and resources for emergency managers and county officials.

For more information: atworkfornebraskanewsletter.unl.edu/#agrosecurity



Aye, Robot

Middle-schoolers go to camp to learn to build and program robots as part of a Nebraska 4-H

Farm bill intricacies

Parts of the 2008 farm bill relating to agricultural price supports, safety nets and disaster assistance are complicated. UNL Extension specialists and educators helped Nebraska producers and others better understand various signup scenarios related to farm bill benefits. That's important to help producer livelihoods and Nebraska's economy, and to help make the best decisions related to natural resources conservation, rural businesses, bioenergy and more.

For more information: atworkfornebraskanewsletter.unl.edu/#farmbill



national project that aims to boost education in science, technology, engineering and math.

For more information: atworkfornebraskanewsletter.unl.edu/#4-Hrobots

Healthier farms

UNL has developed a new tool to help producers take into account the ecological impact of what they do. The Healthy Farm Index seeks a balance between making a profit and nurturing the environment.

For more information: atworkfornebraskanewsletter.unl.edu/#healthyfarms

Learning for leaders

Elected county officials are learning more about effective leadership and communications, managing conflict and trends in county government as part of the Nebraska Association of County Officials Institute of Excellence. UNL Extension developed the yearlong program at NACO's request. First offered to county supervisors and commissioners, the program next will be open to all elected and appointed county officials.

For more information: atworkfornebraskanewsletter.unl.edu/#NACO