



Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources — AT WORK FOR NEBRASKA

December 2008

From the Vice Chancellor

It's December, and in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (CASNR) in the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources (IANR) — as well as throughout all of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln — that means we'll be saying goodbye to some students this month as they graduate and move on with their lives.

Those of us in IANR will attend the Salute to Graduates CASNR hosts the Friday before commencement and watch with pride as these young people walk across our stage. It will be a crowded room, filled with students' proud families, friends, and members of the IANR community.

Our Salute to Graduates celebration gives each CASNR student some well-deserved recognition. There, we hear short pieces the students have written about their college years and their plans for the future.

CASNR is a student-centered college, and it shows. In the way our faculty and staff know our students; in the way our students return after graduation to share the good news of their career advancements, their marriages, their families.

Sometimes we are deeply honored to find, 20 years later or so, they send their children to us for their college education.

It is my very great pleasure to tell you that this fall we saw CASNR undergraduate enrollments increase 12.9 percent. For the fourth year in a row, we've seen CASNR enrollment increase; for the second year in a row, CASNR led all of UNL in undergrad enrollment increases.

This is wonderful news. It shows the importance of programs related to agriculture and natural resources as our students prepare for exciting careers in these areas.

Our thanks to everyone who has helped spread the word of the value of a CASNR education. Educating Nebraska's future leaders is one of the many ways we in the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources are at work for Nebraska.

John Owens
NU Vice President and
Harlan Vice Chancellor, IANR



Growing on you

Increases in the quality of students, and for the fourth consecutive year, increases in enrollments in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, are good news for Nebraska. New degree programs such as forensic science, plus greater



recruiting efforts, mean more CASNR students will have more opportunities for successful careers. Fall 2008 semester enrollment was 1,642, a 187-student

increase from a year ago. And for the second consecutive year, CASNR's incoming freshman class had the highest ACT score ever for the college, which at 25.47, is higher than the overall UNL average.

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

Gut check



A new UNL research initiative aims to unlock mysteries of the gastrointestinal tract and help produce supplements to improve health. The

work plays to IANR's strengths by linking food-science and production-agriculture expertise.

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

The 'other' other white meat

Some consumers are looking to sink their forks into a different kind of pork, and Nebraska producers are learning how to serve these niche markets by raising animals in alternative ways, or by focusing on specific breeds.



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

East meets West



An agreement signed in August between IANR and Korea University in Seoul means doors are open to faculty exchanges, joint research projects and study abroad opportunities for students. The Korean university is developing graduate studies in science and technology to lead its biotechnology efforts. The agreement creates opportunities to link IANR's outstanding scientists with other outstanding scientists around the world.

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

New road for students

Student ideas traveled from East Campus to the Sandhills to help enhance the new Sandhills Journey Scenic Byway Interpretive Center at Broken Bow. Led by a College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources assistant professor, students developed a center master plan, marketing proposal, exhibit suggestions, signage, kids' activities and other ideas

to help increase tourism along Nebraska



Forecasting forecasts' effectiveness

A tool called Think About It, developed by an IANR climatologist, can help agricultural producers better interpret and use scientific weather predictions for precipitation, temperature, humidity, wind, evapotranspiration rates and more in crop management. This "additional tool in the tool chest" at <http://driftwood.unl.edu/farmsmart/> is even more important in light of increasing energy costs and the curbing of irrigation in many places.

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

Highway 2. The new interpretive center is expected to officially open in spring 2009.

For more information: atworkfornebraskanewsletter.unl.edu/#Highway2

Combating high inputs

High input costs are expected to continue to affect livestock and crop producers in 2009. Extension is providing some helpful resources online to help them through the economic challenges.

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




Nuts and volts

Nebraska 4-H is emerging as a national leader in science education, thanks to a nearly \$2.5 million grant from the National Science Foundation that will take its robotics and GPS/GIS curriculum national.

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




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