



Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources — AT WORK FOR NEBRASKA

March 2008

From the Vice Chancellor

In 1862 Congress passed and President Abraham Lincoln signed the Morrill Act, bringing land-grant universities into being. The “*leading object*” of these universities, the Act stated, “*shall be, without excluding other scientific and classical studies, and including military tactics, to teach such branches of learning as are related to agriculture and the mechanic arts, in such manner as the legislatures of the States may respectively prescribe, in order to promote the liberal and practical education of the industrial classes in the several pursuits and professions in life.*”

In 1887 the Hatch Act established agricultural experiment stations in connection with the colleges provided for by the Morrill Act, and in 1914 the Smith-Lever Act established extension, “*to aid in diffusing among the people of the United States useful and practical information on subjects relating to agriculture, home economics, and rural energy, and to encourage the application of the same ...*”

Today in the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, teaching, research, and extension education are the three legs of our land-grant university mission. Just as with a three-legged stool, all three must be strong if the stool is to remain upright, solid, and of value. All three are so closely entwined in IANR that what raises one raises all, and what diminishes one, diminishes all.

Our College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (CASNR) provides students knowledge and insights for successful careers and lives. Our Agricultural Research Division scientists work hard to provide the new knowledge necessary to help meet Nebraskans’ needs and provide for Nebraska’s successful future. UNL Extension carries that new knowledge all across the state, helping youth, individuals, and communities put it to work to better their lives.

Last year an independent study* told us IANR provides Nebraska a 15-to-1 return on every state tax dollar invested with us. Through teaching, research, and extension education, we **are** at work for Nebraska.

John Owens
NU Vice President and
Harlan Vice Chancellor, IANR



A sheepskin — and 100 cows

Graduates of the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture (NCTA) at Curtis now can graduate with not only an education, but a 100-cow herd to boot. The “100 Beef Cow Ownership Advantage” gives graduates low-interest loans to purchase cattle, as well as guidance in becoming rural entrepreneurs. USDA’s Farm Service Agency is making loans available at 5 percent interest to participating students, who will



aim to develop a business plan and become partners in a farm or ranch operation, taking

their own cattle with them. NCTA graduates will then be equipped to obtain future loans, using their cattle as collateral.

For more information: atworkfornebraskanewsletter.unl.edu/#100cows

Via spreadsheet, graze anatomy

A UNL spreadsheet allows farmers and ranchers to make better decisions about cattle grazing corn stalks. It estimates the number of animals that can be supported on a given field of corn stalks with a specific yield and also evaluates the cost to transport the livestock and check their care and conditions.

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

Soybeans can wait

UNL scientists recommend delaying soybean irrigation until early pod formation in July, relying on stored soil moisture and early-season rainfalls. This approach still can produce high yields while cutting water use. UNL scientists have tested the approach on University plots the last two growing seasons and plan to further test it on some Nebraska farmers’ fields this year.



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

*No state tax funds were used in financing this study.

4-H, virtually

Young Nebraskans from across the state soon will be able to participate in 4-H via the Internet. The new virtual approach combines science with



technology to expand upon the traditional goals of clubs.

For more information: atworkfornebraskanewsletter.unl.edu/#virtual4-H

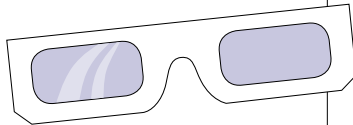
Oilseeds meet needs

Oilseed crops offer producers a way to diversify and get through tough times with other crops. Extension is helping educate farmers about their ins and outs.

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

Nothing one dimensional about it

“Creature from the Black Lagoon” it’s not. The 3-D technology being used by a UNL animal science professor offers his students a whole new look at beef, from the inside out. His three-dimensional video specifically showcases bone and muscle structure.



For more information: atworkfornebraskanewsletter.unl.edu/#3-Dbeef

This grass really is greener

Switchgrass grown for biofuel production produced more than five times the energy needed to grow, harvest and process it into cellulosic ethanol, according to estimates from a large on-farm study by UNL researchers.

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



Preparing for a pest

The emerald ash borer is an exotic, but deadly, beetle that could kill all of Nebraska’s estimated 2.2 million ash trees in towns, cities and conservation plantings across the state. With the help of a \$1 million U.S. Forestry Service grant, the Nebraska Forest Service, in partnership with state forestry agencies in Kansas, South Dakota and North Dakota, is leading a unique regional initiative to prepare for the beetle’s arrival.

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

Coping with divorce

Divorce often hardest hits children, who may need help to understand, cope, and avoid feeling responsible.

UNL Extension’s Parents Forever and Kids Talk About Divorce classes, previ-



ously taken voluntarily or as ordered by judges, have helped approximately 3,250 parents and 900 children since 1999. These classes

helped forge a new statewide Nebraska law that went into effect in January. It requires divorcing parents with children under age 18 to participate in a program such as Parents Forever to learn how to be better parents and help their children cope in a stressful environment. “After the dust settles, we still have to be good parents,” said one lawmaker.

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

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