



Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources — AT WORK FOR NEBRASKA

March 2009

From the Vice Chancellor

When I hear “by the numbers,” I think of the great-for-the-state numbers the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources provides Nebraska. Such as:

- A 2007 independent study of IANR, conducted by Battelle of Columbus, Ohio, found that for every state tax dollar invested with the Institute, there is a return of \$15. Conservatively.
- IANR scientists are some of the most-cited agricultural researchers in the world, ranking ninth among U.S. universities, and 11th among universities worldwide.
- Muscle profiling research conducted by IANR animal scientists and colleagues at the University of Florida led to new beef products, such as the flat iron steak, that added at least \$50-\$70 per head. In the past decade that has meant a minimum cumulative \$1.5 billion benefit for Nebraska’s beef producers.
- Work focused on teaching producers in the Republican River Basin to achieve nearly full yields with less water had 160 farmers, who attended field days there in 2008, valuing knowledge gained at \$3.55 million, with a potential water savings of nearly 2.2 inches.

Yes, we have great numbers. Yet numbers alone don’t tell the full story of what we do.

Numbers don’t capture the value of life skills such as responsibility, critical thinking, and confidence gained by Nebraska youth involved in our 4-H programming. (There are approximately 132,000 of those youth, one in three of all age-eligible in Nebraska, a number we’re pretty proud of, too.)

Numbers don’t capture what it means to be part of making an Omaha Superfund site safer for children at risk of lead poisoning from contaminated soil and peeling paint. Or the environmental value of keeping wastewater systems safe. Or providing training for people appointed guardians to represent their wards’ best interests.

Yet it all adds up. Your Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources is continually *at work for Nebraska*.

John Owens
NU Vice President and
Harlan Vice Chancellor, IANR



Doctor who?

Course work for a new Doctor of Plant Health professional degree for plant practitioners begins this fall. This new, holistic University of Nebraska–Lincoln plant science program will help meet the demand to detect, diagnose and manage plant health issues. Students will learn from some of the most-cited agricultural scientists in the world, while working with Nebraska’s diverse ecoregions, soils and crops through internships. DPH graduates may find careers in the seed and chemical industries, extension education and federal agencies dealing with plant biosecurity or invasive species.

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



Doctor of Plant Health

Help during tough times

A new University of Nebraska–Lincoln Web site offers a wealth of information to help Nebraskans deal with the economic crisis.

The Managing in Tough Times site, at www.toughtimes.unl.edu,



is from the university’s Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources and includes materials from a variety of sources, especially UNL Extension. At the site, visitors will find information on a number of topic areas, including money-saving ideas, family and relationships, home and food, livestock and crop production, and education and opportunities.

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

Thinking *inside* the box

UNL research is helping take the static out of shipping – it’s developed a packing peanut that stays where you want it, rather than sticking to your clothing, the carpet, the cat.



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

Newsletter Info

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And for their next trick ...

Plants can't run away from danger like animals, but they CAN adapt genetically to hostile surroundings in surprising – and rapid – ways. UNL research someday may help harness this ability to create better crops.



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

Virtual on demand

Virtual = immediate. And immediacy to important information can mean the difference between profits or losses. Through UNL Extension Web sites such as <http://beef.unl.edu> or <http://cropwatch.unl.edu>, beef and crop producers learn tips on marketing, lowering energy costs and much more. Extension Web sites also can help get the word out about pathogens in food, training Master Gardeners to help answer the public's lawn and garden questions, critiquing 4-H photos online and more.

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

Where it all began

Justin Smith Morrill Scholars have a better appreciation of higher education after spending a weekend at their name-sake's home place in Strafford, Vt. Students last fall not only learned more about the sponsor of the Morrill Act of 1862, which established land-grant universities nationwide, they dug up part of an underground aqueduct as a service project. UNL Morrill scholars explore social, public and political leadership and responsibility, and learn the importance of stewardship while building and enhancing leadership skills.

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



Greener gasoline

Corn-ethanol production is getting more energy efficient every step of the process, and it's making a difference: UNL research found that it directly emits about 51 percent less greenhouse gas than gasoline.

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



Stitches in time

Experts studying quilts from the late 1800s and first half of the 1900s are finding the story of an America struggling to adjust to the Industrial Revolution. International Quilt Study Center scientists are leading the research, funded by a grant from the Getty Foundation.

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

