



Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources — AT WORK FOR NEBRASKA

June 2008

From the Vice Chancellor

We graduated 147 students from the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln in May.

We watched the happiness and anticipation on the faces of graduates who, having crossed that commencement stage, are stepping with enthusiasm into their chosen careers.

We watched the joy on the faces of parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters, other relatives, and friends who support these graduates on their life journey, and vigorously applauded this significant achievement in our graduates' lives.

It makes the heart glad. We wish them all the very best.

Historically, about 70 percent of CASNR graduates take their first job out of college in Nebraska. That's a real brain gain for our state.

And while we're talking important numbers — I'm pleased to report to you that CASNR led all UNL colleges in increased undergraduate enrollment this past school year.

In fall 2007, CASNR showed its largest enrollment increase in the last three decades. Enrollment rose 11.7 percent — 152 students above the previous year. Spring semester 2008, CASNR led with an 11.5 percent increase — 143 students.

A CASNR education prepares students for a variety of careers. While studying with us, they have opportunities to work right alongside researchers who are leaders in their field, gain mentors and build friendships that last a lifetime, be involved in community work, and build leadership skills.

Teaching, research, and extension education are the three legs of the land-grant university stool, and are closely intertwined in IANR. Our Agricultural Research Division discovers new knowledge that is taught in our CASNR classrooms and laboratories, and throughout Nebraska through UNL Extension, so our constituents immediately can put new knowledge to work in their lives.

In these important ways, we are at work for Nebraska.

John Owens
NU Vice President and
Harlan Vice Chancellor, IANR



It's a dirty job — but UNL's doing it

UNL researchers are helping develop new ways to remove groundwater contamination at the former Nebraska Ordnance Plant near Mead. The key is pumping into specially drilled holes sodium permanganate, which converts contaminants into carbon dioxide and water.



For more information, atworkfornebraskanewsletter.unl.edu/#ordnance

Hello, muddah, hello faddah ...

... Here we are at ... Up, Up and Away Camp? This definitely is NOT your parents' 4-H camp. New options this summer appeal to nocturnal adventurers and would-be aviators and detectives.



For more information, atworkfornebraskanewsletter.unl.edu/#4Hcamps

The name says it all

With a name like Nebraskans for Nebraska, members of the organization can only be helpful. The consortium of College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources stakeholder groups helps recruit students to the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, support UNL Extension and overall raise awareness about the university. Nebraskans for Nebraska members especially serve as local contacts in describing the wealth of academic opportunities for prospective students.

For more information, atworkfornebraskanewsletter.unl.edu/#NebforNeb

Switch, in time, saves to refine

It would cost farmers an average of \$60 per ton to produce switchgrass for cellulosic ethanol, UNL research shows. Switchgrass is considered a promising biomass crop for the future.



For more information, atworkfornebraskanewsletter.unl.edu/#switchgrasscosts

Beefing up knowledge

A UNL Extension beef home study course that was piloted 15 years ago now has enrollments of more than 5,600 from 40 states and several countries. Growing calf management, beef business, cow herd nutrition, cattle on rangelands and



feeding corn coproducts supplement the original Beef Cow Basics

course, first offered in 1993.

Participants, who range from cow herd veterinarians to prospective cow owners, have saved an estimated \$15 per head, or \$9 million collectively, since the program began.

For more information, atworkfornebraskanewsletter.unl.edu/#beefbasics

Big sky benefits

Looking for less congestion in a natural environment? Then look to the Nebraska Panhandle. That's one message from UNL Extension in conjunction with western Nebraska economic development efforts. Extension



'Sweet Joanne' is one tough lady

A UNL horticulturist whose 'Husker Red' penstemon already is one of the gardening world's most popular plants has developed a new member of the species. 'Sweet Joanne' features dark pink flowers and shiny green foliage. And it's tough as nails, even in the forbidding climate of the Great Plains.



For more information, atworkfornebraskanewsletter.unl.edu/#sweetjoanne

queried new residents through a survey and focus groups to determine why they moved to the Panhandle and whether they think they will stay. Attracting and keeping residents is important to maintain community vitality, which includes good schools, infrastructure and public safety.

For more information, atworkfornebraskanewsletter.unl.edu/#panhandle

Helping diabetics live well

It's a fact: people are getting heavier and exercising less — a mix resulting in higher rates of diabetes. UNL Extension's Control Diabetes for Life education, offered in more than 28 locations, teaches people how they can live with the disease and control it through diet, exercise and prescribed medication. More than



ARS photo

7 percent of Nebraskans now have diabetes, compared with 5 percent a few years ago.

For more information, atworkfornebraskanewsletter.unl.edu/#diabetes

Conversations anytime!

IANR community members discuss ways IANR's research, teaching and extension education add to Nebraska's economic and social well-being in IANR Conversations, on the Web at atworkfornebraska.unl.edu (click on IANR Conversations).

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