April 2003

Extended Visions March-April 2003

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New Year Brings Change...Again!

by Daniel J. Duncan, ARDC Director

Quite often in this article I write about changes that are occurring at the ARDC...this article will be no exception. We are starting with a great deal of excitement and guarded pessimism due to potential budget cuts and issues pertaining to the Superfund Cleanup. In my last article, I mentioned that Doug Gustafson would be retiring as of March 12, 2003. Doug’s retirement set in motion several changes in responsibilities at the ARDC. We made the decision to eliminate our Research Projects Coordinator Position and merge 50% of those responsibilities with the Farm Operations Supervisor position Doug held. Walker Ludlum has assumed this new position. Walker will be managing the ARDC farming operation on a day-to-day basis as well as coordinating research projects. Since this new position basically makes up 1.5 FTE (Full-Time Equivalents), others on the Farm Staff will be asked to take on additional responsibility.

Walker, in his previous position, was also responsible for coordinating the implementation of plot designs for the Crop Management Diagnostic Clinics. This responsibility has shifted to Ben Hirschfeld. In addition, Ben will be responsible for the implementation of the other special field days and events both on and off the ARDC that are managed by Keith Glewen.

In the January/February edition of this newsletter, I announced that Jeff Noel had joined our staff as Director of the Foundation Seed Division. In this edition, I am pleased to announce that we have filled our Facility Manager position.

Dwight Hansen will join our staff on April 1 as our Facility Manager. Dwight has a B.S. in Civil Engineering and a B.S. in Agriculture from the告诉记者 Systems Engineering. He is a Registered Engineer and a licensed Municipal Water System Manager. Dwight, a resident of Ithaca, has had several business interests in Saunders County. He brings a wealth of relevant experience and expertise to this position. We are delighted that Dwight has agreed to join our team and look forward to having him on board April 1.

The ARDC...World Class?

In preparing to write this article, I reviewed some of the items I placed in the paper the last time that I wrote ARDC Administration Visions. I wanted to do these types of reviews periodically (I probably don’t do them enough) to really realize how much progress and how many changes we have made. I came to the ARDC from the Panhandle Research and Extension Center on November 11, 1991. It doesn’t seem like 11 years have gone by, but it is equally unbelievable that we have been in the Research and Education Building since April of 1995 (8 years). Time does really fly when you are having fun!!

While some of you might take that as sarcasm, it is not. I have had a lot of fun in this job and feel lucky to have had the opportunity to serve at the ARDC for the past 11 years. What this has made my tenure the most fun have been the people I have worked with. It never ceases to amaze me what faculty, staff and students working on the ARDC have accomplished. I have had a blast working with them even though at times it has been a daunting and trying task to attempt to get goals of people to coordinate activities and work in harmony. While we may not work in total harmony all the time, we have made great strides in working together to make the ARDC a World-Class Research Facility. A place where the Nebraska researchers can take pride in.

We have had a goal since I have been at the ARDC to transform the facility from a place where world-class research was conducted into a “World-Class Research Facility.” With this being our goal, one has to ask how will we measure our progress and how will we know when we have reached our goal. Well, I don’t think this is a question that can be answered objectively, but must be determined by subjective factors based on the quality of research projects conducted by the faculty and staff, the breadth and scope of these activities and many other factors. Let us take a look at some of these factors.

Quality - In a February 2001 edition of ARD News, Dean Darnell Nelson wrote about several qualitative measures of our faculty’s success in obtaining grants and contracts. While I won’t go into the details for this article, it is quite apparent that IANR Faculty are a group that are highly successful when compared to their peers. A large group of these faculty conducting research on the ARDC and the experience and talent of the staff at the ARDC, logic tells us the quality of the research and those that conducted it on the ARDC must be extremely high.

Uniqueness – In order to be “World Class,” something must be unique. In the past 11 years, we have visited many research facilities operated by Land Grant Universities and the USDA. It is quite apparent to me that IANR Research Facilities are unique within the nation. IANR’s system of locating research faculty around the state is not the norm. Many states that do have faculty located off-campus do not blend research and extension as we do in Nebraska. When coupled together, IANR’s system is unique—I would say even special. The ARDC could be labeled as unique in that it is part of a unique system. However, there are other factors that make the ARDC unique within the nation.

Most university research stations are a few hundred acres and are utilized by faculty from one or two departments. The ARDC is approximately 5,500 acres and is utilized by faculty from over 15 departments, colleges and divisions within the University of Nebraska System. We have the ability to do large-scale integrated systems research on the ARDC that is virtually impossible to do anywhere else in the nation. Our Carbon Sequestration Program utilizes three quarter sections of land, two of which are irrigated. We have the ability to dedicate land to certain experimental variables of crops, produce grain in significant quantities, keep the identity of the grain preserved, process the grain, and feed the grain. At every step in this process, we can conduct research vital to the licensing process. Most other research facilities cannot do this, especially on the scale that we can at the ARDC.

Facilities and Other Resources - In order to be “World Class,” facilities and resources must also be superior to other similar research facilities. I believe the Research and Education Building on the ARDC to be one of the most functional buildings of its kind in the nation and guarded pessimism due to potential budget cuts and issues pertaining to the Superfund Cleanup. In my last article, I mentioned that Doug Gustafson would be retiring as of March 12, 2003. Doug’s retirement set in motion several changes in responsibilities at the ARDC. We made the decision to eliminate our Research Projects Coordinator Position and merge 50% of those responsibilities with the Farm Operations Supervisor position Doug held. Walker Ludlum has assumed this new position. Walker will be managing the ARDC farming operation on a day-to-day basis as well as coordinating research projects. Since this new position basically makes up 1.5 FTE (Full-Time Equivalents), others on the Farm Staff will be asked to take on additional responsibility.

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Behind the Scenes

by Delores Pittman, Marketing & Promotions Manager and Ruby Urban, Administrative & Computer Operations Manager

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Leading the Way

With over 9,500 acres filled with research, crops, animals, employees, buildings, roads, and various infrastructure components - the ARDC is plethora of activity. It takes forethought, organization and leadership to keep a research center this size up and running - today and looking towards the future.

Daniel Duncan is the ARDC Director. He is responsible for providing leadership and directing operations involving facilities, roads, infrastructure, non-research related cropping activities, and educational and outreach activities on the ARDC. He develops long-range plans for improving infrastructure and operations of the ARDC. Dan facilitates research support activities for multi-department programs. He also provides leadership for the development and operations of the Barta Brothers Ranch, as well as for the Foundation Seed Division.

Dan began his University career as Research Operations Manager at the Panhandle Research and Extension Center in Scottsbluff 1987 and has been with the ARDC since 1991. Dan has a Master of Science Degree in Agricultural Economics (Agri-Business) and Bachelor's degrees in Animal Science and Agronomy - all from UNL. He is a LEAD VII Fellow, recipient of the UNL's Carl Donaldson Award in 1997 and has served as President of the University Association for Administrative Development. He and his wife, Paula, live in Lincoln. Dan is a Husker Track Official for Throws and Weight and Measures. He and his wife enjoy traveling in their spare time.

Taking Care of Business

Mamie Cihal, Cheryl Sherry and Ruby Urban have a major role in the administrative support and financial management activities on the ARDC. Members of the Assist Business Center, they work together with IANR staff on Lincoln's East Campus from Agricultural Hall, Communications and Information Technology (CIT), and the Southeast Research and Extension Center (SREC) to perform a variety of accounting, human resource and grant-related functions.

The development of Business Centers on the IANR Campus is a partnership on the campus to several factors including budgetary issues facing the University, limited financial and human resources, and the University of Nebraska-wide Administrative Systems Project. The implementation of the sophisticated SAP management software. SAP allows the University to operate one business system for financial management, budgeting, human resource and payroll functions. Personnel in the Business Centers focus on becoming specialized in one of these areas.

The ARDC's specialization is in the area of financial management. Cheryl is responsible for establishing policies and purchasing along with data entry into SAP. Because of the large volume of transactions generated by the Assist Business Center, she focuses on handling ARDC and Southeast Research and Extension Center transactions. Approximately 65 accounts consisting of state, receiving, auxiliary, and grant funds with budgets totaling over $79 million are currently handled through the ARDC office.

Mamie is responsible for ledger reconciliation and also vendor and ledger account file maintenance. She also provides clerical support for the Crop Management and Diagnostic Clinics.

Both Cheryl and Mamie may be found handling the receptionist and switchboard duties in the Research and Education Building. They share this responsibility on a rotating basis with Sharon Ankersen and Cheryl Dunbar from the Saunders County Research and Demonstration Center. Ruby Urban is the Administrative and Computer Operations Manager and has worked for the ARDC about 10-1/2 years. Ruby and her husband, Ray, Jr., live on a farm near Malmo. She received her B.S. degree in Business Administration from UNL in 2000. She also recently received the NUI Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources (IANR) Outstanding Employee Award for January/February 2003. Ruby enjoys helping her husband with their livestock/grain operation. In her spare time, she...
enjoys reading, flower gardening and being with friends.
Cheryl Sheary is a Clerk Assistant III at the ARDC. She started at the ARDC in 1996. She lives on acreage near Wahoo. Cheryl received the NU Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources (IANR) Outstanding Employee Award for October 2000.
Mammie Cihal is a part-time Clerical Assistant II at the ARDC. She also does part-time office work for the Agronomy Department at the ARDC. Mammie started with the ARDC in 1996 and is a graduate of Prague High School. She and her husband, Dan, live near Valparaiso. They have two daughters and a son whose activities keep Mammie busy when she is not at work.

Getting the Word Out
How did you hear about that program you attended at the ARDC? Did you read in the newsletter, the newspaper or hear about it on the radio? Did you get a brochure in the mail? Maybe you even read about it on the web.

As Marketing and Promotions Manager, Deloris Pittman’s prepares marketing efforts for Cooperative Extension, the ARDC and the Foundation Seed Division. This involves developing promotional materials, web sites, news releases, evaluation reports, and other pieces and seeing them through from initial inception to arriving in your hands.
Dependent on the request and co-worker’s schedules, Deloris also either plans and conducts or simply assists with tours. She is a member of the Ag Awareness Coalition that provides an ag education festival for 800-1,000 students each fall. She also spearheads or assists with special event planning and coordinates building use plans with groups throughout the year.
Deloris has been with the ARDC since 1996. She worked at the Research and Education Building for over four years and began working from an office in Lincoln in 2001. Deloris received the NU Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources’ (IANR) Outstanding Employee Award for May/June 2002. She has a Bachelor of Science Degree in journalism with an Advertising Degree from UNL. She and her husband, Daren, live in Lincoln.

Changes with the Seasons
While most employees’ jobs change somewhat throughout the year, one ARDC employee’s job changes significantly with the seasons. Ben Richards is an Ag Enviornment Technician III at the ARDC. Ben’s job takes on a very different feel depending on the time of the year. In the spring and summer, he plays an integral role in plot preparation and various details pertaining to the Crop Management Diagnostic Clinics at the ARDC and Soybean Management Field Days that are held at various sites across Nebraska. Ben can also be found assisting program presenters with the multimedia technology equipment utilized at the Research and Education Building in the winter months. In the fall, Ben assists with the Foundation Seed Division’s grain harvest. Ben also assists with the prawn research project throughout the year. Ben started with the ARDC in 2001. He has an Agribusiness Associate Degree from Southeast Community College - Beatrice. He was recently married and he and his wife, Carolyn, live in Lincoln.

Who Do We Serve?
by Deloris Pittman, Marketing & Promotions Manager
Changes are you’ve probably attended at least one program or meeting at the ARDC. Research undoubtedly plays a vital role to the livelihood of the ARDC, but equally important is the dissemination of research-based education and information to the public.
When someone visits the ARDC Research and Education Building for the first time, we often are asked, “What do you use this building for?” The answer is...many, many, many different activities, programs, conferences, workshops and meetings.
Programming efforts were enhanced with the relocation of the Saunders County Cooperative Extension offices to the ARDC in 1995. The move enabled the ARDC and Extension the opportunity to share resources and manpower to a certain degree. As a result, in the last 8 years programs have blossomed to meet the needs of not only local residents, but also statewide citizens and beyond the boundaries of our state.
It’s difficult to describe the “typical” visitor at the ARDC because the wide variety of programs offered on-site attracts diverse audiences. What follows is a sampling of training opportunities and meetings that have taken place at the ARDC in the last year. And this list doesn’t even cover everything.

Producing, agribusiness and other ag organizations obtain valuable education and information via programs such as the Risk Management Conference, Beginning Computer Use in Agriculture workshop, Crop Management & Diagnostic Clinics, Crop Production Field Day, Farm Bill workshops, Integrated Crop Management Winter Programs, Livestock Association Twilight Tour, Market Journal satellite conferences, Nebraska Feed Grains Protein Quality Agreements, Irrigation update, Nebraska No-Till Conference, Nitrogen Management, Pesticide and Chemigation training, Quality Assurance training, Quicken workshops, and Research...
record-keeping experience is necessary. However, participants should have a basic familiarity with using a computer and typing on a computer keyboard. Fees include $40 for one person at a computer or $45 for two people at one computer. The registration fee includes meals and a set of handouts.

**UPCOMING PROGRAMS** - Continued from P. 1

**WHO DO WE SERVE? cont.**

**Symposiums:**
- Alternative ag, acreage and horticulture-related programs also attract visitors to the ARDC. Some of this year’s programs have included: "Acreage Owners Expo, Backyard-conference," Direct Marketing Grass-Fed Beef workshop, Turf Field Day, Woody Floral Harvesting and Processing, Field Day, Vegetable and Fruit Growers program and various horticulture programs. And grocers and restaurateurs attended an information sharing session on prawn production in Nebraska.
- Family and youth programs also abound at the ARDC. The following is a sampling: Clover College Farm Fair, 4-H Speech Contest, 4-H Shooting Sports, Leading with Character, Mead High School projects, TeamMates, Child Abuse Symposium, PAK 10 Livestock Quiz Bowl and Skillathon, Science Camp, AIM Orientation, Character Counts, and 4-H Leaders Training and Banquet. The ARDC also plays host to the fall Ag Awareness Festival attracting 900-1,000 urban fourth-graders.
- Various touring groups also take advantage of learning on-site at the ARDC - whether they be youth, adults, college students, international or businesses. Here are some of our recent visitors: Omaha Christian Academy, Saint Paul United Methodist youth (Lincoln), 4-H tours, Farmers National Research Tour, Central States Seed Conference tour, York County Economic Development Corporation Prairie Tour 1 tour, as well as groups from the Ukraine, France, Panama, and Russia.
- The ARDC is a unique conference facility due to its location. The center is a relatively short distance from both Lincoln and Omaha. Yet, it is removed from distractions that often disrupt meetings and conferences in metro locations – such as participants leaving during a lunch break and returning late. A benefit of not having any eating establishments or shopping centers nearby is that conference-goers will network with other participants over an on-site lunch and return to the remainder of the program on time.
- This is one of the reasons many meeting coordinators have expressed that the ARDC is an ideal place for their needs. A sampling of organizations not named yet in this article that utilize the Research and Education Building include: Nebraska Federal Credit Union, Saunders County Health Systems, State Dairy Association, Saunders County Pork Producers, Saunders County Soybean Growers, County Election Training Women in Ag Focus Group, Eastern Library System Annual Meeting, Mead Public High School, Great Plains R C & D, and Wahoo Public School PSAT testing.
- The lion’s share of the programs are hosted by various University departments, primarily Cooperative Extension. However, many are joint efforts with commodity groups, government agencies, agricultural businesses, and others.
- With so many educational programs being coordinated and research projects taking place at the ARDC, the Research and Education Building is also used for planning and management meetings by N.U. departments and committees. Some of those include ARDC Unit Manager and administrative teams, Southeast Cooperative Extension District, and 4-H Professional Improvement Day. The ARDC also has hosted events, such as N.U. President-Smith’s Annual Media Picnic and a LEAD dinner meeting.

**Horticulture Pathways:**

For more information, call 402-624-8000 or 1-800-529-8030.

Learn more about the ARDC at [http://ardc.unl.edu](http://ardc.unl.edu).

**April 3, 8:00 a.m.** — **5:30 p.m.**

**Pesticide Applicator Training**

Contact pesticidal applicator training operators and apply restricted use pesticides in their farming operations. Private pesticide applicators with expiring certification and those seeking first-time certification will attend a recertification training session in 2003. Extension provides the educational program, while the state ag department is responsible for certification. The training costs $30 per person.

**April 1, 9:00 a.m.**

**Public Speaking Contest**

Interested in public speaking? Join in the fun! This competition will feature individuals who have completed a public speaking course or seminar. Registration is due March 17. For more information, call 402-624-8000 or 1-800-529-8030.

**March 29, 7:00 a.m. — 2:00 p.m.**

**TEAMMATES SPRING CONFERENCE**

This conference, which focuses on activities and guest speakers for specific classroom topics within the curriculum. The following are the Magnet pathways that were expanded this year with the newest classes listed below:

**Crop Production, Floral Design, Landscape Design, Entomology (UNL college credit course)**

**Animal Science - Companion Animals, Wildlife Management, Food Science - Food Product Development**

**Magnet School Workshops**

**New Year, New Choices**

N.E.A.D. (Making Education in Agriculture Different)

**by Jenny Kodick, Mead Public School**

It seems unbelievable that the school year is already half way over! In this Magnet Newsletter, I would like to introduce you to some new classes that students had the opportunity to enroll in this school year at Mead High School. The curriculum for these six classes were written this summer in conjunction with area businesses, UNL and community college faculty, and a host of other experts in the area. Having the chance to work with people outside of the school system is very beneficial. They help to lend a hand in making a seamless education path for secondary transitions and implementation. This year’s classes written were:

- **Horticulture Pathway:**
  - Crop Production, Floral Design, Landscape Design, Entomology (UNL college credit course)
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**UPCOMING PROGRAMS** - Continued from P. 1

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