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Extended Visions January-February 2003

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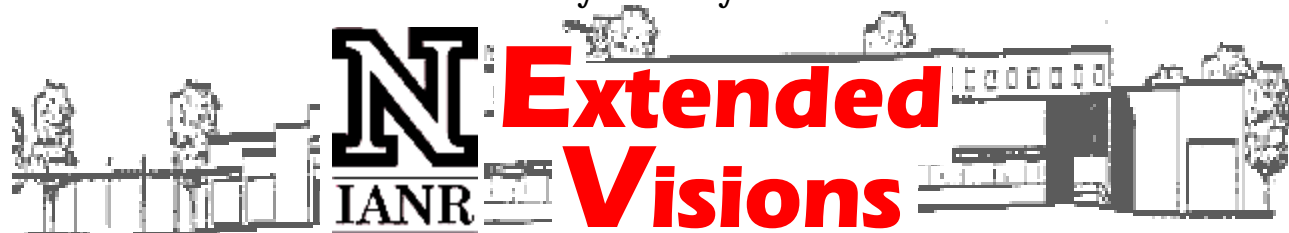


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January/February 2003



A publication of the University of Nebraska Agricultural Research & Development Center
and University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension in Saunders County

Vol. 7, No. 1

ARDC Director's Comments

New Year Brings Change...Again!

by Daniel J. Duncan, ARDC Director

ARDC. On January 2, 2003, **Jeff Noel** joined us as the **6th Director of the Foundation Seed Division**. Jeff is a graduate of Western Kentucky University where he graduated Cum Laude. He has several years' experience in the seed industry, as well as a farming background. When you are at the Research and Education Building, please stop by, introduce yourself to Jeff and welcome him to the ARDC!

I am saddened to tell you that **Doug Gustafson** will be retiring in 2003. Doug's last day at the ARDC will be January 31, 2003.

However, I am delighted for Doug and Janice, as I know they will have more time to enjoy their grandchildren. (Doug tells me spending time with them is a big reason he is retiring.)

Doug has been employed at the ARDC for approximately 39 years...almost as long as the ARDC has been in existence! He started working at the Feedlot and then transferred to the Farm Operations staff, becoming the Farm Operations Supervisor. Doug was on my first management team at the ARDC and is the sole remaining member of this original team. He is the person we looked to tie the past and the future together...bridging a gap that so often can turn into a cavern without the temperance only time can nurture. We will miss a lot of things that Doug brings to the ARDC, but more than anything we will miss his time-tempered experience. I want to take this opportunity to personally thank Doug for his dependability, loyalty and wise counsel over the years. Doug, you will be missed. Have a great retirement!

As of press time, we have not set a date for Doug's retirement dinner. If you are interested in attending, please contact the ARDC office at 624-8000. □

Happy New Year to everyone! I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season filled with family, friends, and good will.

Change is coming in January to the

ARDC
FEATURE



NEBRASKA FORESTRY FIRE SHOP

Providing Assistance to Rural Fire Districts...and More!

Information provided by Lew Sieber, Nebraska Forestry Fire Shop Superintendent

You may recall that contaminated soil was incinerated by the Army Corps of Engineers in 1997 at the ARDC as part of the Superfund cleanup project. When the project was completed, a building and concrete pad were left behind. As a result, the Nebraska Forest Service Fire Equipment Shop came to ARDC from Lincoln's Air Park West where they had been for 30 years. The shop is a component of the Fire Control Section of the Nebraska Forest Service (NFS). This section conducts service programs (by statutory mandate) aimed at wildland fire prevention and control. These programs support the state's 476 rural fire districts, which are the predominant fire suppression resource in Nebraska. To better understand how the Fire Equipment Shop fits into the overall scheme of things, it might be useful to take a look at some of the other fire-related programs of the NFS.

The Fire Prevention Program is carried on at both state and local levels. On the state level, the NFS maintains the Nebraska Fire Danger Warning system, a cooperative effort with the National Weather Service. There is also the Smokey Bear Program which coordinates hundreds of Smokey visits each year to classrooms and outdoor events all across Nebraska. At the local level, the NFS Fire Control Section helps local fire departments organize and maintain year-round fire prevention programs in their communities. These programs working together are proving to be effective at keeping Nebraska's wildfire problem in check.

Another important interaction the NFS has with local fire departments involves planning. Working together with local fire department officials, the NFS helps build a fire protection master plan for communities requesting this service. Changes in taxation and budgeting are having an impact on rural fire districts. This service helps fire departments, staffed by volunteers, stay positioned to meet the fire protection challenges of the future. Also in the planning arena, the NFS works with the State's Mutual Aid Districts.

Mutual Aid Districts are made up of several rural fire districts from a locale who have formally agreed to assist one another in large scale emergencies where the demand for resources might exceed what is available in a single fire district. The NFS was instrumental in the formation of many of these districts and now assembles Mutual Aid Resource Directories for requesting districts.

Firefighter training is another service provided by the NFS. Classroom training and field demonstrations are conducted by NFS all across the state at Mutual Aid District meetings, State Fire School and local fire department meetings. Wildland fire suppression training is also offered in a cooperative program with the State Fire Marshal's Training Division.

Cost-share assistance has provided hundreds of thousands of dollars to Nebraska fire departments through the Volunteer Fire Assistance program



This view of the fire shop facilities (captured from the real time "America's Farm" video camera mounted on a water tower at the ARDC) shows the numerous vehicles that are worked on and/or renovated at the shop.

EARN & LEARN!

...EARN CCA CREDITS

...EARN EXTRA INCOME

Today's agri-marketplace dictates staying ahead of the game. But how do you keep up with all the new and changing technologies, products and practices?

The *Integrated Crop Management Winter Programs* provide a dynamic opportunity to gain continuing education credits, professional development, and in some cases, college credit. The training is up-to-date and specifically designed to give agribusiness professionals the necessary knowledge, expertise and confidence to fulfill the requirements of their employment.

You can sign up for these courses even if you don't need CCA or college credit. They provide excellent, useful information.

Each course provides intensive and detailed instruction. Courses are taught by University and industry specialists.

Please note fees and locations for each program. Early registration is recommended. **PLEASE NOTE YOU CAN RECEIVE DISCOUNTED RATES FOR EARLY REGISTRATION.** Fees for one and two-day workshops include lunch, refreshment breaks, parking, and resource materials. Registration fees do not include the cost of your lodging. Please call or e-mail for registration information on the college credit courses.

Times are subject to change. A confirmation letter,

EARN AND LEARN - Continued on P. 3

NFS PROVIDING ASSISTANCE - Continued on P. 2

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In This Issue...

- * Acreage Owner Expo
- * **ARDC FEATURE** -
Nebraska Forestry Fire Shop
- Learn more about the staff that keep things rolling at the NFS...
- Providing Assistance to Rural Fire Districts...and More!
- * Calendar of Events
- * **DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS**
- New Year Brings Change...Again!
- Earn & Learn! Earn CCA Credits, Earn Extra Income
- * Upcoming 4-H Programs
- Leaders' Training Banquet
- Market Beef Weigh-In
- * Magnet School Updates
- Corn Processing at Blair
- * Master Gardener Training
- * Soybean Day & Machinery Expo Provides Overview of Year & Insight for 2003
- * Upcoming Horticulture Programs
- * Upcoming Educational Opportunities
- Nitrogen Management Training
- NSFGPP Update Meeting
- Private Pesticide Applicator Training
- NE No-Till Conference

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NFS PROVIDING ASSISTANCE - Continued from Page 1

administered by the NFS. This program has helped Nebraska fire departments purchase much needed fire fighting equipment, communications equipment, self-contained breathing apparatus and protective clothing.

Aerial applicators and Ag spraying operations are common in a state like Nebraska. The Aerial Fire Suppression program of the NFS utilizes cooperating aerial applicators to fly over wildfires when local ground forces become inadequate to suppress large, fast moving wildfires. Several great saves have been recorded down through the years by these pilots. The largest wildfire in Nebraska's history (78,000 acres near Mullen and Thedford) was kept from doing even more damage because of the aerial fire suppression effort. Wildland fire retardant has been strategically located around the state by the NFS to insure its availability when a large wildfire breaks out. This is a cooperative program organized by the NFS with the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency, several other state agencies, and over 50 aerial applicators from all across Nebraska.

Through a cooperative program with the USDA Forest Service, NFS is eligible to use Federal Excess Personal Property (FEPP) for fire fighting. Well over a thousand FEPP Vehicles have been placed in Nebraska fire departments through the years. The value of these vehicles amounts to hundreds of thousands of dollars. The NFS is the caretaker of this federal property. In addition to screening it, retrieving it, inventorying it, using it, and maintaining it; when no longer serviceable, the FEPP is disposed of in accordance with federal regulations. Proceeds of this property go back to the federal treasury.

It is for these FEPP vehicles that NFS operates its Fire Equipment Shop. These vehicles, once declared excess to federal needs, become available at Army, Air Force or other federal installations around the country. It's often necessary to make some long trips with the company vehicles to retrieve them. Once they arrive at the shop, mechanics assess their condition and begin repair work. Each vehicle is brought up to standards and equipped with more safety devices before it is offered to a rural fire district. Then the fire district and fire departments can equip the vehicle for fire fighting. This usually involves at least the addition of tank, pump and hose. While at the district, the vehicle may be brought in to the Fire Equipment Shop for repairs or maintenance. If the repairs can be done locally, they will ship out the appropriate parts. If requested, they can pick up the equipment with the company semi, do the repair work at the shop, then haul it back to the department. The capabilities of these vehicles are perfect for off-road use and can be obtained for a fraction of the cost to buy a comparable chassis. With a combined total of 73 years of military maintenance experience, this shop can handle any job. □

Learn more about the staff that keep things rolling at the NFS....

**ARDC
FEATURE**



NEBRASKA FORESTRY FIRE SHOP

As described in the previous article, the crew at the Nebraska Forestry Fire Shop provide a variety of services. Many of the employees are also currently or previously served in the National Guard and Army. Learn more about the employees below.

Lew Sieber, Mechanic III, is the Nebraska Forestry Fire Shop Superintendent. Lew oversees the daily operation of the shop and trucks. He and his wife, Karen, live in Lincoln with 5 of the 6 kids still at home. He is very active with Boy Scouts and is a 21-year member of the Nebraska Guard.

Lance Anderson, Mechanic III, lives in Lincoln with his wife, Trisha, and daughter. In his spare time, Lance works on a drag race car and hopes to set some track records soon. Lance also has 4 years active Army experience and 1 year in the National Guard.

Joe Liberator, Mechanic III, lives in Omaha with his wife Marian. They have 1 daughter and 1 granddaughter. Joe spends much of his free time doing various remodeling projects around the house. Joe is retired from the Army Reserve with 23 years service.

Mike Penn, Mechanic III, lives in Lincoln with his wife, April. They have 3 children with 1 still at home. Mike is a full-time technician for the National Guard and works part-time for the Nebraska Forest Service. His hobbies include fishing and Nebraska Football. Mike is a 27-year member of the National Guard.

Jim Catsinas, Mechanic III, lives outside of Waverly with his wife, Ramona, and their 4 children. Jim farms 1,000 acres and works for the Forest Service in the off-season. His family is his hobby and he graduated from UNL in 1977 with a degree in Mechanized Agriculture. □



The NFS crew is shown working on equipment in the upper photos. In this group picture from the left are: Jim Catsinas, Lance Anderson, Lew Sieber, Mike Penn, and Joe Liberator.

Soy Day & Machinery Expo Provides Overview of Year and Insight for 2003

The Nebraska Soybean Day and Machinery Expo provided soybean growers with information for enhanced profits, yields and practices. The annual expo was held at the Saunders County Fairgrounds in Wahoo in December with 271 in attendance. Presenters included NU researchers and specialists, Nebraska Soybean Board representatives, soybean growers and private industry representatives. The program was sponsored by Cooperative Extension in NU's Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, the Nebraska Soybean Board, Saunders County Soybean Growers Organization, and private industry representatives. □



EARN & LEARN - Continued from P. 1

exact times, map, and other pertinent details will be sent to all who register by early registration dates.

For more information, call NU Cooperative Extension at (402)624-8030 or e-mail cdunbar2@unl.edu, or see us the web at <http://ardc.unl.edu/2003ICMWP.htm>.

Those who register one week in advance of programs will receive the discounted rate. Fees include lunch, refreshment breaks, workshop materials and instruction manual. For those earning academic credit, UNL tuition and fees apply, but there is often a price break on the workshops. All times are Central Standard Time unless otherwise noted. *Topics, dates, times, locations, and fees follow:*

Understanding Genetic Improvement in Crops

February 5, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., College Park, Grand Island, \$80/\$90. Topics include genetic principles of crop improvement, how varieties are developed and released, theories of heterosis and hybrid vigor, where the purity in pure lines and uniformity in hybrids come from and common breeding techniques in self-pollinated crops (wheat and soybeans) and in cross-pollinated crops (corn and alfalfa). This course is intended for people interested in genetic manipulation of plants that feed, clothe and shelter humanity. It is not intended to be an intensive course, but will provide useful information on how plant breeders develop new varieties and hybrids. The intended audience includes those involved in the seed industry and related fields (pesticide applicators, crop advisors, amateur plant breeders, etc.) who want to understand more about crop development. *Six Crop Management CCA Credits have been applied for.*

Soil and Crop Ecology – **February 6**, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., ARDC near Mead, \$80/\$90. Topics include the role of the eight micro and macro soil organisms in the mineralization and maintenance of soil fertility; how these micro and macroorganisms form an ecological food web that has a dramatic effect on soil fertility and soil structure; the benefits of cover crops for conserving crop nutrients, improving and maintaining soil structure and preventing water and wind erosion; soil quality testing and how this testing translates science into practice and the value of crop and soil ecology in developing a soil fertility program. Statewide educators, researchers and farm operators with little or no knowledge about soil and crop ecology are the primary target audience. *Five total CCA Credits have been applied for (3 Soil Fertility and 2 Soil & Water Management).*

Manure Utilization Planner for Technical Services Providers (TSP's): Education Program in Support of MUP Certification

– **February 7**, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Seward County Extension Office, Seward, NE and **February 24**, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. CST, NU West Central Res. & Ext. Center, North Platte, \$95/\$120. Topics include skills specific to manure utilization planner certification, as well as software tools and workbooks to facilitate the development of the manure utilization component of a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan. This class is limited to 40 participants and is supported in part by the Nebraska Environmental Trust. *Eight total CCA Credits have been applied for (2 Soil & Water Management and 6 Fertility/Nutrient Management).*

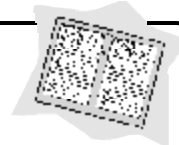
Advanced Weed Identification and Biology – March 4, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Agricultural Research and Development Center, near Mead, \$80/\$90. Topics include identification of grasses and broadleaf weeds found in Nebraska, biology and impact of weeds, unique characteristics in grasses and broadleaf weeds and biology and morphology of weeds to simplify identification. *Five CCA Credits in Pest Management have been applied for.*

Integrated Weed Management – **March 7**, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Ag Center, Holdrege, \$100/\$110, college credit available. Topics include importance of weed biology and ecology, critical period of weed control-pros and cons, weed thresholds, why weed shifts occur, saving money and environment with biologically effective doses, benefits and concerns with herbicide tolerant crops, and Integrated Weed Management basic rules of thumb. *Five CCA Credits in Pest Management have been applied for. One college credit is also available with additional distance ed assignments.*

Precision Agriculture Workshop – **March 14**, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.; **March 15**, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., UNL East Campus, Lincoln, \$160/\$180. This workshop could serve as a substitute for Farm-Level Mapping with GIS/GPS Technology. This workshop includes hands-on training related to key aspects of data collection and processing related to precision agriculture. The workshop will introduce participants to basic challenges everyone involved in precision agriculture must go through including dealing with different sources of georeferenced data, software packages and tools. Statewide educators and researchers with little or no precision agriculture knowledge are the primary target audience. Topics include GPS principles and how to use a handheld receiver, cost-free geospatial data available through the Internet, principle components of a yield monitoring system (use AgLeader display), conventional and perspective soil mapping techniques, combining various data sources in a farm-level GIS package (AGIS or Farm Works), principle data processing techniques (map comparison, query, etc.), popular data mining approaches, and development of prescription maps for variable rate application of agricultural inputs. *Twelve CCA Credits have been applied for (9 Soil and Water Management and 3 Fertility/Nutrient Management).*

Last year, participants estimated the value of the ICMWP workshops at an additional \$3.71 per acre.

Calendar of Events



JANUARY

8	Administration Team Meeting	9:30-11 am
8	Ag Risk Management Meeting	8:30-4 pm
6	Safety Committee Meeting	1-2 pm
8	Unit Managers Meeting	1-3 pm
9	Precision Ag Tour	11-3 pm
9	Market Journal	8-9 pm
13	Extension Board Meeting	7:30-9:30 pm
14	NSFGPP Consultations	8-4:30 pm
15	NSFGPP Consultations	8-4:30 pm
15	EHS Training	12-4:30 pm
16	NSFGPP Consultations	8-4:30 pm
16	Post Holiday Party/Health Fair	11-2 pm
17	Saunders County Health System	8-4pm
17	Animal Science Luncheon/Gallup Mtg.	11-3 pm
21	NSFGPP Consultations	8-4:30 pm
22	Great Plains RC & D	9:30-12 noon
22	4-H Leaders Banquet	5-9pm
23	Nitrogen Management Training	7-9pm
24	Nitrogen Management Training	9-3 pm
28	NSFGPP Consultations	8-4:30 pm
30	Private Pesticide Training	7-9pm
31	Private Pesticide Training	1-4 pm

FEBRUARY

1	Perennials for Nebraska - Part III	9-11 am
5	Administration Team Meeting	9:30-11am
6	ICM Winter Program	8-5 pm
8	Shrubs for Nebraska	9-11 am
8	Private Pesticide Training	9-11am
10	Safety Committee Meeting	1-2 noon
10	NSFGPP Consultations	8-4:30 pm
11	ICM Winter Program-Crop Ecology	8-5 pm
12	Unit Managers Meeting	1-3 pm
13	Nebraska No-Till Conference	8-5 pm
13	Market Journal	8-9pm
15	Trees for Nebraska	9-11 am
21	NSFGPP Consultations	8-4:30 pm
21	Saunders County Health System	8-4pm
22	Horticulture Training	9-12 noon
22	ARDC Auction. Watch for details in sale bills & ads!	
24	NSFGPP Consultations	8-4:30 pm
25	Rural Fire Districts Satellite Program	7-10 pm
26	Quicken Workshop	9-4 pm

MARCH

4	ICM-Advanced Weed Identification	8-5 pm
5	Administration Team Meeting	9:30-11am
6	NSFGPP Annual Meeting	9-5 pm
7	Chemigation Training	9-1:30 pm
10	Safety Committee Meeting	1-2 pm
12	Unit Managers Meeting	1-3 pm
13	State Dairy Association Conference	8-5 pm
13	Market Journal	8-9 pm
18	Clover College Learn Fair	6:30-9 pm
19	ICMWP - Crop Scout Training	8-5 pm
29	Acreage Owners Expo	8-4pm

Crop Scout Training for Pest Managers-

March 19, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., ARDC near Mead, \$80/\$90. Topics include growth staging of corn and soybean plants, recognizing fertilizer deficiencies, identification of major pests in corn and soybeans, understand economic thresholds of insects, how to handle soybean cyst nematode, and weed and disease identification and management. *A total of 5.5 CCA Credits have been applied for (4 Pest Management, 1 Crop Management and 5 Fertility/Nutrient Management).* □

Looking for ag-based courses that offer college credit? Please check out the website <http://ardc.unl.edu/CMWC.htm> Some listings offer college credit.

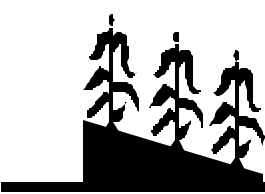
Upcoming Educational Opportunities

NSFGPP Update Meeting

Area producers are invited to attend the Nebraska Soybean and Feed Grains Profitability Project (NSFGPP) meeting on **Thursday, March 6th**, at the ARDC Research and Education Building. Obtain valuable crop production-related information from on-farm research projects conducted on area farms. The program is free to NSFGPP members. There is a \$10 fee for non-members to attend this program. □

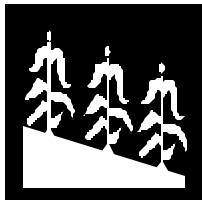
Nitrogen Management Training

All producers using fertilizer in the LPN-NRD must attend nitrogen certification at least once every four years. Nitrogen management training will be held at the ARDC Research and Education Building on the following dates:
Thursday, January 23, 7:00 p.m.
Friday, January 24, 9:00 p.m.
Friday, January 24, 1:00 p.m.



Private Pesticide Applicator Training

Certification as a private applicator allows farmers to purchase and use restricted use pesticides in their farming operations. Private pesticide applicators with expiring certification and those seeking first-time certification will need to attend certification training sessions in 2003. Extension provides the educational program, while the state ag department is responsible for certification. The training costs \$10 per person. Private Pesticide Applicator Training will be offered at the ARDC Research and Education Building on the following dates:



Thursday, January 30, 7:00 p.m.
Friday, January 31, 1:00 p.m.
Saturday, February 8, 9:00 a.m.
Tuesday, April 1, 9:00 a.m.

Nebraska No-Till Conference

Plan on attending the Nebraska No-till Conference on **Thursday, February 13**, at the ARDC. Featured speakers include Dwayne Beck of South Dakota State University and Paul Jasa, UNL Extension Engineer. Mark your calendar today and watch for more details! □



REMINDER

Upcoming 4-H Dates...

Have you registered for the 4-H Leaders' Training Banquet?

If you haven't registered for the 4-H Leaders' Training Banquet, do so TODAY!!!! It will be held on Wednesday, January 22nd, at the Saunders County Extension Office located at the ARDC Research and Education Building. Registration begins at 6:15 p.m. with the meal starting at 6:30 p.m. As always, the evening will feature a scrumptious dinner and sparkling conversation. There will also be discussion on Quality Assurance, Quiz Bowl/Judging Teams, State Fair Changes, and tractor/atv testing. This is a good time to interact with other leaders and learn new ideas. **All 4-H leaders and volunteers are welcome to attend, but you need to sign up by January 15 so that we can make adequate preparations.** □

Market Beef Weigh -In - January 25

The first 4-H Market Beef weigh-in will be on Saturday, January 25th, at the Wahoo Sale Barn from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Your animals do not need to be broke to lead at this time. □



Acreage Owner Expo

at the ARDC Building, **Saturday, March 29th**, registration 8:30 a.m. with programs from 9a.m. - 4 p.m. This year's theme is 'Helping Acreage Owners Manage Their Rural Living Environment.' More information including costs and program topics will be coming soon. *Watch for details!* □

Upcoming Horticulture Programs

A series of programs will give participants a better understanding of the many excellent perennial and woody plants that thrive in Nebraska's landscapes, despite the extremes of our region's climate. There is no charge for these programs, which will be held at the Saunders County Extension Office, and they are open to the public. To register, call the Saunders County Extension Office at 624- 8030. □

- Saturday February 1, 9-11 a.m.**
Saturday February 8, 9-11 a.m.
Saturday February 15, 9-11 a.m.
- Perennials for Nebraska- Part II**
Shrubs for Nebraska
Trees for Nebraska



Master Gardener Training

Master Gardener training will be held on **Wednesdays, January 22-March 19**, from 9 a.m.- 4 p.m. at the Dodge County Cooperative Extension Office. The cost to attend the basic 40 hours of training is \$150. This includes most training materials and the *Master Gardener* handbook, an extremely useful reference book. In exchange for training, participants are required to volunteer one hour of service for each hour of training received, but many people give even more. Half of the required 40 hours must be spent on the phone panel answering Nebraskans' horticulture questions. The remaining 20 hours can be used planting or maintain designated public gardens, making horticulture presentations to civic and garden clubs, and helping with special events like UNL's Landscape Connections. Many volunteer projects are available and every gardener is welcome. No matter how "green" you are, we'll find a volunteer activity to suit you! □



M.E.A.D. Making Education in Agriculture Different

Magnet School UPDATES....

Corn Processing Tour at Blair

Mead High School and Laurel-Concord students and teachers recently had the opportunity to take a study tour to the Cargill Plant at Blair, Nebraska.

Cargill personnel talked to the group about corn processing and the use of biotechnology in producing the many products. Some of the product made at the plant include ethanol, lysine, corn syrup, gluten feed used for animal feed, lactic acid and corn starch used in the production of plastics.

The group used surgical masks and lab coats when they toured the biotechnology labs and saw how microorganisms were used to produce the many products at the plant. The tour guides also emphasized team building, problem-solving and communication skills used to develop an effective production team at the Blair plant.

Mead participants included Mark Schueler (science teacher), Brandon Wolfe, Brendan Murray, and Eric Deerson. Laurel Concord participants included Curt Friedel (science teacher), Emily Gubbels, Kassidy Neuhaufen, Jon Vanderheiden, John Kneifl, and Michael Jacobsen. □

