April 2002

Extended Visions March-April 2002

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Mark Schroeder, Farm Operations Manager, at the ARDC was recently named the recipient of the 2002 Carl A. Donaldson Award for Excellence in Management. This award is given to a University of Nebraska employee who exemplifies superior organizational skills, promotes teamwork, communicates effectively, pursues professional growth and supports subordinates’ growth in professional skills. (Please see Director’s Comments article for details about the award.)

Mark manages farm operations at the ARDC. This involves marketing of grain and forages grown on the land as well as crop planning, coordinating research projects among other ARDC units, and management of the farm.

Mark Schroeder was informed of his selection for the Donaldson award via a surprise visit from Rachelle Setsodi of the 2002 UAAD Awards Committee during a meeting at the ARDC.

Beginning Computer Use for Ag Producers

The fee for the program is $10. Contact the Extension Office today to register!

By Daniel J. Duncan, ARDC Director

March/April 2002

The Good and the Bad
by Daniel J. Duncan, ARDC Director

The good and the bad. First the bad. I always want to end on a high note if possible.

The current State budget crisis is hitting home at the ARDC. Due to the current year budget reduction the Legislature enacted during the special session in November, we will be drastically reducing our sheep herd at the ARDC. With this reduction, the Animal Science Department has decided to eliminate the Sheep Unit Manger Position. Don McClure currently fills this position. Don is a long-term employee with 30 years of service to the University of Nebraska. Hopefully we will be successful in moving Don into another position at the ARDC or in Lincoln.

While this will be the most visible reduction, other reductions will occur including reductions in student summer employment and other support functions at the ARDC. Some of these reductions will cause ripple effects that will in turn lead to downsizing in other areas. Hopefully we can keep these effects to a minimum.

Now the good...we are thrilled to announce that Mark Schroeder is this year’s recipient of the Carl A. Donaldson Award for Excellence in Management. This award, given annually since 1972, is in honor of Carl A. Donaldson, a graduate of the University of Nebraska, Mr. Donaldson devoted his entire 43-year professional career to University service. In 1961, he founded the University Association for Administrative Development, which each year honors a UNL employee with this award.

The award is granted yearly on a competitive basis to a manager who:

1. Demonstrates superior planning, decision-making, and organizational skills.
2. Promotes a teamwork attitude and creates an atmosphere that encourages positive work relationships.
3. Knows when and what to delegate.
4. Communicates effectively, solves problems and resolves conflicts skillfully.
5. Displays a commitment to self-development and professional growth.
6. Supports subordinates’ personal and professional development by providing educational opportunities and fair evaluations.

Congratulations Mark...we are proud of you!!!
Meet the Farm Operations Staff...

- Allen Bahm, Ag Tech II, and his wife, Mary, live at Ashland. They have one daughter. Allen handles trucking, swathing hays and drives the bus for tours and other groups as needed. He is an active member of the Ashland Fire and Rescue Unit.

- Doug Gustafson, Supervisor, lives near Ithaca, with his wife, Janice. They have three daughters and eight grandchildren. Doug organizes the day-to-day operations of Farm Operations.

- John Kirchmann, Ag Research Tech I, and his wife, Lene live near Yutan. They have two daughters and a son. John focuses on planting and haying operations.

- Stuart Hoff, Ag Research Tech III and Irrigation Specialist, and his wife, Karla live in Lincoln. They have a son and a daughter. Stuart also serves as the Federal Excess Property Screener for the ARDC. He seeks out surplus items that other University entities have no use or need for and already that the ARDC can utilize. He also is an avid Oldsmobile fan.

- Fred Proskovec, Heavy Equipment Operator, lives near Malmo. As the heavy equipment operator, you will often see Fred maintaining the roads at the ARDC.

- Walker Luedtke, Farm Research Project Coordinator, and his wife, Kristin live near Wahoo. They have one son. Walker coordinates research projects and also oversees the Crop Diagnostic Clinics. Walker enjoys motocycling and also does crop consulting for many area farmers.

- Mark Schroeder, Manager, and his wife, Barb live in Lincoln. They have a daughter and a son. (See front page award article for details about Mark’s duties.)

- Kent Thomsen, Ag Tech II, and his wife, Sandra, live in Crete. They have two sons and two daughters. Kent takes care of vehicle maintenance for Farm Operations and assists with forage harvesting. Kent enjoys collecting farm toys and “real” International pickups.

- Rod Thorsen, Ag Research Tech I and his wife, Shelli, live in Wahoo with three sons. Rod’s main responsibilities are planting and harvesting.

- Dave Werner, Ag Research Tech I, and his wife, Jan live near Wahoo. They have three sons and a daughter. Dave does most of the spraying and harvesting. He and his family enjoy camping, gardening and outdoor activities in their spare time.

Long-Term Carbon Sequestration Project

You may have noticed two unusual center pivots at the ARDC changing their looks this past year. They are part of a new study to evaluate the impact of crop systems in Nebraska on global climate warming. In 2000, the ARDC was asked if land base was available to develop a working lab to study greenhouse gas emissions and soil storage of the gases. The researchers needed three quarter sections of land to study three crop systems common in Nebraska - an irrigated continuous corn system, an irrigated corn/soybean rotation, and one dryland corn/soybean rotation. The question was what impact each of these systems would have on the carbon dioxide, nitrogen oxide, and methane gases in our atmosphere. All of these gases tend to capture and retain the heat generated from solar radiation and are suspected causes of global climate warming. Due to the land base use and diversity, the ARDC was able to accommodate the request and the researchers were able to proceed to obtain funding to implement the account budget. “Mark is an innovative manager, a remarkable professional, and a notable contributor to the UNL community. As a manager, Mark is gutsy enough to think ‘outside the box.’ Managing farmland is quite challenging; Mark handles this obligation with tremendous skill and pride!” ARDC Director Dan Duncan stated.

Mark is responsible for overall management of farm operations on 3,500-acres at the ARDC, a job that requires much coordination, planning and timing among a variety of individuals. Nominators consistently remarked on his superior planning, decision-making and coordination skills and his attention to details. His people skills are superb — employees work with him, not for him and he is seen as a coach, mentor and supporter. He is constantly searching for new ways to do his job better and has adapted technology and computers to enhance all aspects of farm operations. He approaches the ARDC farming operation as if it were his own family farm, trying to get the best return for the taxpayers’ investment. His expertise is such that he is a frequent guest lecturer in classes on farm management, irrigation and precision agriculture.

You can learn about other ARDC and Extension staff awards at http://ardc.unl.edu/awards.htm.

Learn - right in the comfort of your own home!

Livestock Waste Regulation Home Study Course

Confused by the regulatory process for livestock waste facilities in Nebraska? If you are, consider participating in a new home study course. Keith Glewen, NU Extension Educator, says the four-lesson course is designed for both livestock producers who might be affected by the regulations, and the general public, both of whom often don’t understand the current Nebraska regulatory process.

The course includes lessons on the history of livestock waste facility regulation in Nebraska, who is regulated, the permit process and operating requirements for permitted facilities. In Lesson 1, participants will learn the difference about Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) permits, Federal EPA NPDES permits, and proposed changes to the federal permit process. The description of animal units and the inspection process by NDEQ is the highlight of Lesson 2. Lesson 3 focuses on the NDEQ permit process, including application fees, expected time lines, and required information in an application. The final lesson focuses on the record keeping requirements for approved permits.

The course will be mailed to participants, and each lesson has a quiz. Upon completion of the four-lesson course and quizzes, enrollees will earn a certificate of completion. To enroll in the course, send $10 to University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension and with note stating you would like to enroll in the livestock waste regulation home study course. Contact the Extension Office to register.

For Prospective Students...

You probably heard the new radio ads for go.unl.edu. Why not check it out? This new web site offers information for students interested in attending UNL’s College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources and for their parents, too. You’ll read and hear about opportunities firsthand from current students, learn about our majors and get other information.
Back into the atmosphere.

Previous years.

Future crop years, the farm equipment will always track exactly over the same rows of season. Rows are meticulously laid out to exactly miss the towers and IMZ installed includes one preplant and two applications through the center pivot during the growing season. Carbon is released into the atmosphere from the soil, another greenhouse gas - nitrogen oxide is emitted. Thus, there is a need to be capture). Yet not too much - where carbon is released into the atmosphere from the soil, another greenhouse gas - nitrogen oxide is emitted. Thus, there is a need to be maximized biomass production (carbon capture).

Variability between the two fields. Nitrogen fertilizer has a substantial impact on the crops. All field operations are planned well in advance and carried out on a timely basis. Last year, the two irrigated quarter sections were planted in two days to minimize variability between the two fields. Nitrogen fertilizer has a substantial impact on the crops. All field operations are planned well in advance and carried out on a timely basis. Last year, the two irrigated quarter sections were planted in two days to minimize variability between the two fields. Nitrogen fertilizer has a substantial impact on the crops.

Fertilizer application involves three at reduced rates to best match the crops’ needs. That includes one preplant and two applications through the center pivot during the growing season. Rows are meticulously laid out to exactly miss the towers and IMZ installed ground equipment. There can be no dead spots around the research equipment. In future crop years, the farm equipment will always track exactly over the same rows of previous years.

No till cropping system is used to maximize the ability of the soil to sequester, or hold, the carbon captured by the crop. Tillage actually releases stored carbon stored back into the atmosphere.

Detailed records are kept of every entry into the field, including fuel use. Farming operations contribute to CO2 and N2O emissions from burning of fossil fuels to irrigate and run farm equipment. Exact input records for fertilizer, seed, crop protection chemicals, irrigation, and yield are reported. Yield monitors on the combine document the yield in various parts of the field. All of this information will ultimately be looked at to determine the overall change in the carbon balance equation. Even a carbon component that goes in, as well as out, of the farm system must be determined.

The ultimate goal of the project is to determine what practices and how much greenhouse gas our crops can capture. Perhaps farmers may be paid somesay for the recycling and storage of carbon dioxide. The project will help quantify this process so our decision-makers can come up with fair and reasonable environmental policies.

The Nebraska Seed Improvement Conference held in Kearney this January, the NU Foundation Seed Division was recognized for 52 years of membership in the Crop Improvement Organization 2002 Integrated Crop Management Winter Programs are wrapping up. The workshops provide a dynamic opportunity to gain continuing education credits and helpful knowledge. The educational training is up-to-date and specifically designed to furnish agribusiness professionals with the necessary knowledge, expertise and confidence to fulfill the requirements of their employment. The final two courses are listed on the back page. The courses provide intensive and detailed instruction. Courses are taught by University and industry specialists. Please note fees and locations for each program. Early registration is recommended. Fees for workshops include lunch, refreshment breaks, and resource materials. Registration fees do not include the cost of your lodging.

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 in 2002. Extension provides the educational program, while the state ag department is responsible for certification. The training costs $10 per person. This year’s program includes information on spray booms, drift reduction nozzles, herbicide mixing, sprayer cleanup, time of day for best Roundup applications, protective pesticide clothing and equipment, gray leaf spot and an update on pesticide laws and regulations. Pesticide storage security will be a special emphasis. The Final Private Pesticide Applicator Training will be offered at the ARDC Research and Education Building on Monday, April 1 at 9 a.m.
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Last Chance to Register: Cont. from Page 3

Weed Identification

March 7, 2002  9 am - 4 pm CST
NU West Central Res. & Ext. Center, North Platte, NE

- Hands-on identification of grasses and broadleaf weeds found in Nebraska fields
- Understand the biology of weeds and how it impacts you
- Use hands-on techniques to learn how to identify difficult characteristics in grasses and broadleaf weeds

Instructors: Brady Kappler, NU Extension Educator; Aaron Waltz, Graduate Student, NU Agronomy & Horticulture Department

Crop Scout Training for Pest Managers

March 12, 2002  9 am - 4 pm CST
NU Ag Research & Development Center, Near Mead, NE

- 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
- Weed and disease identification and management

Instructors: Dr. Dale Foweraker, Agronomist, Delmar Consulting; Keith Glewen, NU Extension Educator; Dr. Barb Ogg, NU Extension Educator; Brady Kappler, NU Extension Educator

Extension Web Site Offers Programs for Community Presentations

A new University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension Web site offers eight programs for community presentations. Topics cover grief, family issues, leadership, health and fitness. The site, Community Programs, is located at http://communityprograms.unl.edu. The site contains materials that can be printed and used by community leaders to present programs to club meetings, civic groups or professional organizations. Each program includes a teaching outline for the facilitator and a handout for participants.

Parenting
- When a Loved One or Dear Friend Dies:
  - Understanding the psychological and social aspects of grief after a death and learning effective ways of enduring loss and growing positively.
- Positive Communication in Families:
  - Basics of telemedicine’s current uses and related future issues for providers and consumers.
- When a Loved One or Dear Friend Dies:
  - Understanding psychological and social aspects of grief after a death and learning effective ways of enduring loss and growing positively.
- Servant Leadership:
  - Supporting people who choose to serve first and lead as a way of expanding service to individuals.
- Telemedicine:
  - The Future is Here: Basics of telemedicine’s current uses and related future issues for providers and consumers.

Grief
- Long Term Care:
  - Assessing the needs of individuals and communities that are faced with raising their grandchildren.
- Telemedicine:
  - The Future is Here: Basics of telemedicine’s current uses and related future issues for providers and consumers.
- Servant Leadership:
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Health
- Building personal fitness by making small changes in daily activities.
- Mentoring, youth empowerment, unified community/networking and collaborating, youth centers and community service.

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Ward copies of program materials also are available at the Extension Office.

No-Till Program Attracts Nearly 200 Producers

A recent program focusing on no-till practices brought in nearly 200 attendees from across the state. The program featured Jim Kinsella of Illinois who discussed his practices and successes with no-till and Paul Jasa, NU Extension Engineer. The free program was sponsored by NU Cooperative Extension, the Nebraska Soybean Board, USDA-NRCS and the LPN-NRD.

If you’ve attended and learned from past MARKET JOURNAL programs, check out the web site to see what is coming up: http://marketjournal.unl.edu/

This issue of Extended Visions was produced and edited by Deloris Pittman, Marketing & Promotions Manager. Extended Visions is published bimonthly by the University of Nebraska ARDC & NU Cooperative Extension in Saunders County, 1071 County Road G, Room 4, Ithaca, Nebraska, 68033-2234.

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Farm Operations articles and information provided by Mark Shnita, Farm Operations Manager.