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Agronomy & Horticulture Newsletter, July 16, 2012

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University of Nebraska–Lincoln
Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources
Department of Agronomy and Horticulture

Agronomy and Horticulture Newsletter

July 16, 2012

Nebraska corn reached "knee-high by the Fourth of July, but now plants are stressed from high temperatures and low moisture.

Staff Advisory Committee Makes Plans

By Diane Nolan, Chair

Our first meeting of the recreated Staff Advisory Committee (SAC) was held on June 13. The first order of business was to establish which of us would serve for three years and which for two years. After the initial terms, all newly elected representatives will serve terms of two years each. For the first year, Diane Nolan will serve as chair, Martha Rowe as vice-chair, and Cheryl Bogenrief as secretary.

Three-year terms:	Two-year terms:
Jeff Witkowski	Doug Schrader
Susan Thomas	Cheryl Bogenrief
David Scoby	Diane Nolan
Mike Livingston	Martha Rowe
Aaron Franco	

At this first meeting, several key issues were identified and several members of the committee took on specific tasks to help address these issues. Topics that were discussed included the need to step-up staff recognition efforts, the need to revise the yearly staff evaluations forms, concerns about the current Office Pros structure, the question of whether the kiosk (currently not in operation) may have outlived its usefulness, the possibility of including staff photos on the departmental web site, the potential need to have the SAC meet more often than quarterly, and the possibility of establishing a "suggestion box" on the departmental web site.

We would like to encourage all staff members to provide us with ideas for areas where we can serve you.

Mark Your Calendars!

July 16: IANR Research Travel Fund applications due to Deb Lawrence, ARD office, for the timeframe Oct. 1–Dec. 31, 2012.

July 16: Guest Seminar Speaker, Dr. Tom Gerik, director, Blackland Research & Extension Center, Texas A&M University, 150 Keim, 8:30–9:30 a.m., followed by a Meet & Greet.

July 18: UNL Turf Research Field Day, 8 a.m.–3 p.m., John Seaton Anderson Turf Center just outside Mead. Visit the website to register at: http://turf.unl.edu/.

July 28: Vineyard Field Day, George Spencer Vineyard near Gibbon, Neb., 9 a.m. Register with either Kay Miller, rdmilfam@starband.net, (308) 763-1963, or Steve Gamet, sgamet1@unl.edu, (402) 416-9763 by July 25.

July 31–Aug. 3: Registration is now open for the American Society for Horticultural Science Conference at the InterContinental Hotel in Miami, Fla. Details are at: http://www.regonline.com/builder/site/Default.aspx?EventID=1030015.

Aug. 14–15: 12th Annual Nebraska Grazing Conference, Kearney Holiday Inn. Pre-register by contacting a local UNL Extension office, or the UNL Center for Grassland Studies at grassland@unl.edu, (402) 472-4101.

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Welcome new Faculty and Staff

The UNL Department of Agronomy and Horticulture has added two new faculty members and one staff member. Please welcome faculty members Dr. Humberto Blanco and Dr. Haishun Yang, and staff member Wendy Morrissey.

Dr. Blanco (left) started July 1 as an Assistant Professor in Soil Management. He received his Ph.D. and M.S. in Soil Science from the University of Missouri, Columbia, where his major area of study was Applied Soil Physics and Soil and Water Conservation. Originally from Bolivia, Dr. Blanco earned a B.S. degree in Ag. Engineering and Soil Science from the Technical University of Oruro, Bolivia. Prior to coming to UNL, he was employed an Associate Professor in the Kansas State University Department of Agronomy. Dr. Blanco and his wife have two boys. He enjoys reading and bike riding.

Dr. Yang (right), also started working for the department on July 1. He is an Associate Professor/Crop Modeler. His previous positions were as a Crop Simulation Scientist at Monsanto from 2009–2012 and a Research Assistant Professor for our department from 2003–2008.

Dr. Yang is from Tianjin, China, and earned his Ph.D. and M.S. from Wageningen University in The Netherlands. He received his bachelor's degree in Soil Science and Plant Nutrition from the China Agricultural University. He and his wife, Lancy, have a son, Luye, who is a senior at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC). Dr. Yang enjoys handyman projects, electronics, mechanics, photography and fishing.

Wendy Morrissey (at left) joined the department and HAPPI Business Center July 9 as an Events Coordinator. She received her B.S. in Business Administration with an emphasis in marketing from UNL.

Originally from Bennet, Wendy lives in Lincoln with her husband Matt, daughter Brynn, 4, and son Brett, 1. Matt earned a degree in horticulture from UNL and currently works as a landscape designer at Campbell's Nursery. Outside work, Wendy enjoys gardening, golfing, cooking, and planning parties for friends and family.

Sympathy Extended to Dave Lambe

Sincerest condolences are expressed to David Lambe whose father, Robert Lambe, 90, of Grand Island, died July 4, 2012. A celebration of life service will be held at a later date. Memorials may be sent to St. Leo's Catholic Church in Grand Island or the Alzheimer's Association. To send a card or note, please contact the department's main office for Dave's mailing address.

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Aug. 20: UNL Fall Semester begins.

Sept. 3: Labor Day, Office closed and no classes scheduled.

Oct. 4: CASNR Career Fair, Nebraska East Union, 10 a.m.–3 p.m. This is part of a 3-day Career Fair Oct. 2–4, 2012.

Oct. 15–16: UNL Fall Break. No classes but offices are open.

Oct. 21–25: ASA, CSSA, SSSA Annual Meetings, Cincinnati, Ohio. Registration runs June 19–Sept. 12. Details are at: https://www.acsmeetings.org/.

Nov. 22–25: Thanksgiving Break.

Dec. 16: Graduation.

Dec. 24, 2012–Jan. 2, 2013: UNL Holiday Closedown, Offices closed.

In the News

Richard Sutton was recently featured in the news for his work with using native grasses, mostly from the Sandhills, atop Parkhous, an apartment and parking garage complex at 13th & O Streets, Lincoln.

See the article at http://journalstar.com/news/local/parkhaus-green-roof-part-of-unl-professor-s-research/article_661abdfe-9928-5ae3-b745-c0e474f8574e.html.

Newsletter Details

The Agronomy and Horticulture newsletter is published twice a month. To submit announcements or events, contact Kathy Schindler, kschindler1@unl.edu, 402-472-1508.

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News from the HAPPI Business Center

We are always working to make the Travel reimbursement process as smooth as possible given the current Nebraska travel laws. Therefore, HAPPI will now be entering pre-trip Travel Authorization forms (TAs) electronically into SAP to improve the reimbursement request process after trips. Please continue to fill out the TA form as usual and HAPPI will enter the TA into SAP. Please remember the University requires TAs to be turned in a minimum of two weeks prior to travel. We currently have about 50 percent compliance regarding this policy.

Entering the TA into SAP will affect you in one small way: after the TA has been entered, you will receive an email requesting you to review and approve. The email is very similar to vacation leave requests. You can either click your approval or return for changes if something is incorrect.

If you have any questions about the travel authorization process, please feel free to contact a HAPPI staff member.

– Ben Lennander, 402-472-6238, blennander2@unl.edu

Transition to eShop Continues at UNL

eShop is the new electronic web-based procurement and purchasing system at the University of Nebraska. Employees who purchase supplies and products should make the transition to eShop since many university-specific websites and purchasing through Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) were turned off on July 13. All new catalog purchases should now be sent through eSHOP. For more information about eShop and to get training, contact Ben Lennander or Valerie Swartz in the HAPPI Business Center.

New Directory helps Faculty ID Collaborators

UNL faculty members have a new tool to help them identify potential research collaborators within or beyond the University of Nebraska system. "Research Nebraska," populated by Elsevier, is a web-based directory that enables users to search nationally for research collaborators and scientific experts. The directory also includes profiles of selected faculty at each NU campus. The directory is online at http://go.unl.edu/m5j, or for more information, contact Noah Clayton, nclayton3@unl.edu, 402-472-8031.

Public Health Agencies Require New Form

Beginning Aug. 24, 2012, all key personnel on a Public Health Service (PHS) grant application are required to have an interest reporting form on file with UNL's Research Compliance Services prior to submitting the grant application. In addition, new conflict of interest training is required. Training may be completed at http://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/coi/tutorial2011/fcoi.htm. Completion certificates should be emailed to Becky Freeman at bfreeman2@unl.edu, and are valid for four years.

Graduate Student Information

Please make arrangements to meet with Dr. Roch Gaussoin, department head, for an exit interview. To make an appointment, contact Charlene Wendt at 402-472-1555. At the exit interview, please submit a bound and electronic copy of your thesis or dissertation. For more information, and to obtain the exit interview form, see the email from Marlene Busse on July 12 or visit the website at: agronomy.unl.edu/graduate1.

Let Office Pros Know about Special Events

Last week, there were two different groups using rooms in our buildings and none of us were aware of the activities. Because we often get questions asking about the groups, speakers, and tours, please let the department secretaries know about these events so we can better serve visitors, students, and guests when they ask us about these activities.

Sapphire Moves to Firefly

SAPPHIRE has moved from a stand-alone website to a separate tab in Firefly. SAPPHIRE contains business forms, reference guides and training links for UNL employees.

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