Extended Visions, July/August 2005

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The Structure of Extension

The structure of the Saunders County Extension Office provides for a great deal of flexibility in an attempt to best serve the taxpayers of the county. The Extension program is composed of four broad subject matter areas: 4-H - Youth Development, Family Development, Community Development and Agriculture and Natural Resources programs. Policies and direction of the Extension programs are guided by the Saunders County Extension Board, Saunders County Board of Supervisors, Extension staff and the University of Nebraska Extension Administration. A Memorandum of Understanding and Constitution and Bylaws has been developed by the above parties.

Extension Educators Keith Glewen, Don Lewis, Connie Reimers-Hild and Sarah Browning are faculty members of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and their salaries are, therefore, not a part of the Saunders County Extension budget. Cheryl Dunbar, Office Manager, and Sharron Ankerson, Secretary, are employees of the Extension Office. The Extension budget provides resources to support the functions of the office. Keith Glewen serves as Unit Leader. The Extension Office Team works directly with the County Board of Supervisors, University of Nebraska-Lincoln and ARDC administration and Extension Board in providing Extension programs for Saunders County residents that are “Relevant, Responsive and Respected.” Nine individuals represent citizens of Saunders County on the Extension Board. Their volunteer role is to be the eyes and ears of the local Extension program. Each member represents a specific community sector or geographical area and also contributes to the overall program direction of the Extension outreach effort. The Saunders County Board of Supervisors appoints the Extension Board members to a three-year term of service. The President of the Saunders County Board of Supervisors is the chairperson of the Extension Board.

University of Nebraska Lincoln * Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources

It is the policy of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln not to discriminate on the basis of gender, age, disability, race, color, religion, marital status, veteran’s status, national ethnic origin or sexual orientation.

ARDC Director’s Comments

**ARDC Feature - Extension**

University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension is the people’s “front door” to the vast array of University of Nebraska resources. Teaching, research and extension are the three major components that represent a rich and successful 91 year history of the Land Grant University System. Today, Extension provides the technological transfer of new research findings to local citizens in more ways than ever before in history. Distance education (web, satellite, and home study-based program delivery) has made University faculty and educational programs available to citizens in their homes, at their work or via community learning centers. Extension is the vital outreach arm of the University that has made the Land Grant system a phenomenal, time-tested successful institution in the United States.

A national leader in the continuing education business once said, “Extension is the most successful change-agent organization in the history of mankind.” This sounds like a bold statement, but consider that Extension began in 1914 helping American agriculture become what it is today, the world’s premier food production system. Today, Extension leads communities into the next millennium, leveraging with the latest technology, numerous collaborative team efforts and the same researched-based, unbiased information that has been the staple product of the Extension system.

Extension has been tremendously successful at enhancing the lives of Nebraskans. Addressing the social economic and environmental issues of our communities is what extension is every day via individual consultations, workshops, clinics, on-farm research, mass media, e-mail, Internet Web sites and direct teaching. Your local Extension staff serves the Saunders County area as part of a state-wide team of Extension professionals who work and share their talents across the state to meet individual, family and community needs in an efficient and effective manner.

In this issue of *Extended Visions*, we will share with you a closer look at some of our outreach efforts. If you have questions or have an interest in participating in the many programs that our office provides, feel free to call 800-529-8030, visit our office at the ARDC or our website at www.saunders.unl.edu.
Agro-Environmental Trail Project

An Agro-Environmental Trail is under development at the ARC. The trail is located in the same section of land as the August N. Christenson Research and Education Building. The trail project is a partnership for learning about the interaction of agriculture and the natural environment in Eastern Nebraska. It is a cooperative project involving the following organizations: Audubon Nebraska, Environmental Protection Agency, Lower Platte North NRD, Lower Platte Corridor Alliance, National Park Service, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Nebraska Game & Parks Commission, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Institute of Agriculture & Natural Resources, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Agro-Environmental Trail will be a premier facility for people of all ages to learn about the natural resources and agricultural environments in eastern Nebraska. This resource will provide the setting for educators, researchers, and the public to implement projects that will increase knowledge on the interaction of agricultural, and natural environments. The Agro-Environmental Trail will be a premier facility for people of all ages to learn about the natural resources and agricultural environments in eastern Nebraska. This resource will provide the setting for educators, researchers, and the public to implement projects that will increase knowledge on the interaction of agricultural, and natural environments.

Community Resource Development and Leadership

Connie Reimers-Hild, the newest member of the Saunders County Extension team, will be focusing on the areas of community resource development and leadership. She will also be working extensively with youth and 4-H programs.

At this point in time, Connie is focusing on learning more about what types of planning and visioning adult programming in the community to determine what the “right” programming is for Saunders County. She can develop and deliver programming to fulfill those needs. Connie is extremely interested in delivering innovative, useful programming that helps Saunders County fulfill their needs and helps individuals and organizations succeed in the 21st Century.

Connie believes that the “right” programming in the areas of community resource development and leadership are important to developing successful individuals, organizations and communities. Some of the ideas that have already been discussed included: entrepreneurship, workforce development, career coaching, leadership training, leadership academies and retreats, internship and job-shadowing experiences and programming that gives youth and adults the chance to work together. However, she needs more help from people and organizations in the community to determine what the “right” programming is for Saunders County. Specifically, Connie could use any information that has been gathered through evaluations or needs assessments that are completed by individuals or organizations in the past.

Sharon Ankersen and Cheryl Dunbar tend to many details that lead to successful Extension programs.

Behind the Scenes - Program Planning and Management

UNL Extension in Saunders County is in constant motion whether it is planning a program for youth or adult, attending to the immediate needs of a present program or the final tasks of filing a completed program. The working calendar for the Educators and the building calendar of the ARC will be filled with programs associated with Extension.

Most programs start with an idea, a few meetings - in our case, an extension plan and the regional correspondence is exchanged, dates are planned, brochures and letters are designed, mailing lists are assembled, news articles or advertising are written, details arranged for the comfort of the invited, . . . all of this activity before the actual event takes place.

This office keeps an extensive database of around 10,000 people and their associations with programs. Updating addresses, registering for programs, printing details such as name badges and reports takes a lot of time. This is only the tip of the iceberg for what goes on in this area. To keep the office running smoothly the office support staff must be constantly monitored and replenished, but costs must be kept in control. The Saunders County budget or program budget, every program has costs and all the costs need to be tracked. Reporting the finances of a program is not always possible, as some programs take lots of manpower but little material expenses are involved.

Building Leaders for a Stronger Future

Andy Labenz is serving as an intern this summer working for UNL Extension at the office extension in Saunders County. Andy will be a senior at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln this fall and is majoring in Business Administration. He grew up on a family farm near Newman Grove and was very active in his FFA program. He has been recognized as a STAR Chapter Farmer and received his Associates Degree after two years. From there he transferred to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln where he currently resides. Andy’s goal this summer is to learn about the Extension programs offered through Saunders County and how they benefit the community and state. He will also take an in-depth look at the many roles and responsibilities of Extension educators and how they contribute to Saunders County. Currently, he is in the process of organizing and planning summer Extension programs for 4-H youth. Andy will also have an active role at the Saunders County Fair and hopes to meet everyone there!

Health and Living

UNL Extension encourages Nebraskans to adopt healthful practices and attitudes that impact both their mind and body. Extension also teaches how proper nutrition and a healthy lifestyle can improve quality of life. One educational program designed to help teach Nebraskans about the importance of staying healthy and controlling diabetes is the “Control your Diabetes” for life series. Rebecca Versch, an Extension Educator from Washington County, has been facilitating the “Living with Diabetes” series that is currently being offered via a two-way interactive distance education facility at Wahoo High School. The third session of this three-part program will be held at the Wahoo High School on November 7, 2005 and will begin at 5:00 PM. The deadline to pre-register for this session is November 4, 2005. If you would like to register for the program in November or if you need any additional information, please call (402)624-8030 or e-mail localunl@unl.edu.

About the People...

Sharon Ankersen is very familiar with many components of 4-H and is well-known in the community for her involvement with the program. She has worked as the 4-H secretary after graduation - (1996). She kept records, works with the 4-H leaders and members, and helps at the fair. Sharon lives near Colon and has three daughters and one son and five grandchildren. In her spare time, she enjoys riding horses and raising pullets.

Cheryl Dunbar serves as the Office Manager and is responsible for financial management and processing, database management, and general organization of office functions. She has served in this role since 1995. Learn more about what Cheryl does in the Behind the Scenes article. Cheryl is persistent in her Associate of Accounting Degree from NCE School of Commerce, Omaha. She and her husband, Kevin make their home in Wahoo have three sons and one grandson. Cheryl enjoys going to her sons’ athletic, academic and artistic events, as well as attending Nebraska baseball games and relaxing at the family cabin.

Connie Reimers-Hild is the newest Extension Educator in Saunders County. She started in May 2005. Half of her time will be spent working in the areas of Youth and 4-H, the rest of her time will be dedicated to adult programming in the areas of leadership and community development.

About the People... Cont. on P. 3

Ag & Natural Resources

The American Farmer produces enough food to feed himself or herself and 128 other people for an entire year. And it requires about forty days of your income to pay for the food we need during the course of the year. The American consumer is the envy of the world. Yet, collectively, we - as citizens of this country - get the most for our food dollars.

The foundation to food production is the American farmer. This doesn’t suggest that the farmer is the only source of food for your family, but that the American farmer has been one of the great success stories of all mankind. Standing at the side of the American and Saunders County farmer has been the University of Nebraska – Lincoln Extension. The Land Grant system has been viewed by many as a very successful change agent. All of the agriculture and natural resource educators at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and other Land Grant Universities work for each of fifty states around the country. We have partnered closely with county and the federal government in the last 91 years to bring this information to the farmers and their families.

Participation in most Extension programs is voluntary and can be obtained by many different avenues. However, in recent years, Extension has conducted programs that are required for farm operators and industry personnel as a result of regulatory requirements as dictated by the EPA, Nebraska Game & Parks Commission, University of Nebraska Agriculture and Natural Resources Districts.

Learn more about Extension in Saunders County at www.saunders.unl.edu

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About Extension... Cont. on P. 3

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Educators conduct, develop and teach county, regional, and state-wide programs. In other instances, they work with University of Nebraska Specialists, Educators and other faculty members to provide these educational experiences. The list below represents pro-actively educational services that many county residents request in response to a need from clientele. Other services are also provided to the agricultural and natural resources community. These services are in the shape of consultations with farm operators and industry professionals on specific problems facing their operation or business.

With the relocation of the Extension Office to the ARDC in 1995, our role as Extension Educators broadened. With the world-class resources available to work with, many of the programs that developed reach out to all Nebraskans. This provides some unique educational opportunities for Saunders County farm owners and landowners. Hopefully, you’ll agree, “Extension is a change agent organization.”

Here are some of the agriculture and natural resources programs conducted: Ag Awareness, Endings, Chemical Storage Training for farm operators, No-till Conference, Financial Management Training Courses, Crop Management & Diagnostic Clinics, Field Sport Training Workshop, Grain Marketing Workshops, Crop Management Winter Programs, Nebraska Soybean & Feed Grains Profitability On-Farm Research Project, Nebraska Day & Machinery Expo, Solution Days, Soybean Cyst Nematode and Rust Twilight Tour, Nitrogen Management Training for local farm operators, Pesticide Container Collection, Precise Pesticide Training, Private Pesticide Training for farm operators, Soybean Management Field Days, Triumph of Agriculture Farm Show Soybean Rust Educational display, Duck Creek Watershed Conservation Programs,


Saunders County Soybean Growers Organization.

Horticulture Extension in Saunders County

Answers to lawn & gardening or household insect questions are available through the Saunders County Extension Office. Sarah Browning has been Horticulture Extension Educator for both Saunders and Dodge counties since 1998. Sarah coordinates the Master Gardener Program in both counties, offers classes on popular lawn & garden topics, manages a web site devoted to popular lawn & garden topics, manages a web site devoted to popular lawn & garden topics, provides horticulture information and makes home visits involving lawns or trees. A short home visit, 30 minutes or less, is $20 and a longer visit is $30. If necessary, a sample of the problem can also be submitted for further diagnosis to the Plant Pest Diagnostic Clinic at the UNL Pathology Department for an additional $10.

The Master Gardener Program is an important component of the horticulture outreach services provided by the Saunders County Extension Office. As volunteers, Master Gardeners share along their culture knowledge to beginning gardeners and help them learn more about all aspects of horticulture. They also have the opportunity to meet and learn from other Master Gardeners in the community who share the same interest. Interest areas of Saunders Master Gardeners can be found volunteering at many activities throughout the county, including Wahoo’s Hanson House, and the Saunders County Historical Society.

The ‘Horticulture Paradise’ web site, http://hortparadise.unl.edu, is available on-line to provide lawn and garden information any time of the day or night it is needed, even evenings or weekends. The ‘Horticulture Paradise’ web site provides a wealth of valuable information.

Finally, Sarah works with a team of UNL Extension faculty and staff to provide a variety of programs for acreage owners, a monthly email newsletter focusing on important issues for acreages and the ‘Acreage & Small Farm Insights’ web site, http://acreage.unl.edu.

Livestock Production

Livestock production is an integral component in Saunders County’s economic and social structure. Thousands of jobs are directly or indirectly related to producing livestock in Nebraska. The livestock industry accounts for 64% of all agriculture cash receipts in the state. Nebraska’s livestock industry is the largest customer for Nebraska farmers that raise corn, soybeans and sorghum. Because of the production of livestock in Nebraska, it is undergoing a dangerous trend as the number of livestock operations and animals diminishes. The trend of decreasing numbers seriously erodes the economic stability of Saunders County and the entire state. Fewer animals and fewer farmers lead to big problems such as a shrinking tax base and loss of capital.

Don Levis and Keith Glewen are dedicated to helping teach science-based information to Saunders County livestock producers on possible ways to sustain their livestock operations and remain profitable. Because of a close working relationship with the ARDC, the Saunders County Extension Educators have access to an almost endless source for current science-based information. The research conducted at ARDC plays a key role in generating new knowledge for use by the livestock industry in Saunders County and across Nebraska. If you have any information or ideas as to how the livestock programs needed in Saunders County, please feel free to contact Don Levis at (402) 624-8007 or e-mail dlevis1@unl.edu.

Visit these websites...
http://hortparadise.unl.edu
http://acreage.unl.edu

FEATURE UNIT-EXTENSION - Cont. on P. 4

UPCOMING EVENTS

Crop Management Diagnostic Clinics
August 24 - Late Season Sessions (ARDC)
September 7 - Yield Monitor (North Platte)
Soybean Management Field Days
August 9 - Holdrege
August 10 - Orchard
Central City
August 12 - Holland/Hickman
Solution Days
August 30 & 31 - Goechner

ABOUT THE PEOPLE - from P. 2

Over the last ten years, Connie has held several different positions in UNL’s Department of Entomology, including student worker, graduate research assistant, research technologist and faculty member. For the last few years, she has served as a lecturer and Distance Education Coordinator for the department.

She received a B.Sc. in Natural Resources from UNL and an M.S. in Entomology from UNL. She is working toward her Ph.D. in Human Sciences with a Specialization in Leadership from UNL, which will be completed in August 2005.

She and her husband, Jim live in Lincoln. Connie enjoys walking, being outdoors, trying new things, visiting with people and learning. Connie’s area of specialization is in planning, developing and delivering comprehensive research-based educational programs concerning livestock production for adults and youth. She joined the Extension team as an Educator in January 2005.

Levis worked in the Extension field for 27 years. He was most recently affiliated with the Pork Industry Center at Ohio State University as the Director. Prior to that he worked with Extension and research at UNL.

He received his B.Sc. degree from Northeast Missouri State University with a major in Agriculture. His M.S. degree in Animal Science is from Northwest Missouri State University. He holds a Ph.D. in Reproductive Physiology from South Dakota State University. He and his wife, Cynthia, live in Wahoo. As a UNL Extension Educator Sarah Browning provides programming for commercial horticulture professionals, acreage owners and commercial vegetable producers. She trains Master Gardeners for Dodge and surrounding counties, as well as providing general horticulture programming for homeowners. Sarah has also created and maintains two horticulture and acreage websites. Learn about them in the Horticulture Extension in Saunders County article.

Sarah started with the University in 1998 as an Extension Assistant and has served as an Extension Educator since 2003. She received a B.Sc. in Horticulture from Northwest Missouri State University and obtained her M.S. in Plant Breeding from UNL.

Sarah lives in Wahoo. In 2005, she became a certified arborist through the Nebraska Arborist Association.

Keith Glewen is a native of Wisconsin and is the “vetern” educator on the Saunders County team. Keith has worked as an Extension Educator in Saunders County since 1980. His area of specialization is in adult program and instruction pertaining to crop production and natural resources. He received his B.Sc. degree in Agronomy from the University of Wisconsin at Platteville and his M.S. degree in Agronomy from UNL.

More information on some of the programs that Keith works with can be found in the Agriculture and Natural Resources article.

Keith and his wife, Sherry, live in Wahoo. They have four sons and a daughter. Keith enjoys gardening, landscaping and growing corn and soybeans.

The Extension staff is an “award winning team” with numerous awards and honors to their credit – too numerous for the space available for this article!
**Science-Based School Enrichment**

The University of Nebraska 4-H program in Saunders County is a partnership effort of youth, adult volunteer leaders, and University of Nebraska Extension Educators. One of the major objectives of Don Levis and Connie Reimers-Hild is to provide 4-H Leaders with high-quality and relevant materials to educate today’s young people. It is essential that youth develop knowledge, skills and attitudes that will enable them to become a productive and contributing member of society. The Saunders County 4-H program is open to all youth (ages 5 to 19) regardless of ethnic, racial or socio-economic background.

The University of Nebraska 4-H program offers the following eight different project areas for youth: Plants & Animals; Science & Technology; Environmental & Earth Sciences; Consumer & Family Science; Communication & Expressive Arts; Citizenship & Civic Education; Healthy Lifestyle Education; and Personal Development & Leadership. Numerous types of activities are available in each of the categories. Youth can become involved in these projects by joining a 4-H club that has a leader(s) interested in the project of interest. Adults can get involved with 4-H by volunteering to help an existing club leader or by starting a club of their own.

Detailed information about the 4-H program can be found on the University of Nebraska’s 4-H web site (http://4h.unl.edu) or call us at (402)-624-8030 or e-mail saunders-county@unl.edu. ☑️

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**It’s Fair Time in Saunders County**

**SATURDAY, JULY 23**

**9:00 a.m.** 4-H Dog Show - Open Air Pavilion

**10:00 a.m.** Check in Cats - Gayle Hattan Pavilion

**11:00 a.m.** 4-H Cat Show

**MONDAY, JULY 25**

**8:30 a.m.** Fashion Revue Judging - 4-H Building

**9:00 a.m.** Interview Judging - for clothing being styled - 4-H Building

**Open to All Livestock Entries:**

(Bee, Dairy, Sheep, Swine, Goats, Poultry, Rabbits)

**6:00 p.m.** 4-H Shooting Sports Competition - Gayle Hattan Pavilion

**8:00 p.m.** Public Fashion Revue - Open Air Pavilion

**TUESDAY, JULY 26**

**9:00 a.m.** 4-H Horse Show - Judging Halter Classes, Showmanship - Rodeo Arena

**1:00 p.m.** Check-in 4-H Rabbit and Poultry - Poultry/Rabbit Barn

**TBA that day**

(4-H Horse Show - Performance, Walk-Trot, Pleasure)

Western Riding, Horsemanship - Rodeo Arena

**5:30-8 p.m.** Home Ec add and 4-H & FFA Exhibits Entry - 4-H Bldg

6 - 7:30 p.m. Weigh-in 4-H and FFA Sheep & Goats - Swine Barn

6:30 p.m. 4-H and FFA Hay Hauling Contest - Gayle Hattan Pavilion

**7:30 - 9:00 p.m.** Weigh-in 4-H and FFA Beef - Swine Barn

**8:00 p.m.** All Livestock, Poultry and Rabbit Exhibits in place (including swine)

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 27**

**8:00 a.m.** Weigh-in & Ultra Sound Swine Entries - Swine Barn

**8:00 a.m.** ATV Safety Driving

**9 a.m.-5 p.m.** Judging of 4-H Exhibits & Interview Judging by Appointment - 4-H Bldg

**12:00 p.m.** 4-H Tractor Driving Contest (or immediately following ATV) - Gayle Hattan Pavilion

**4:00 p.m.** 4-H Bicycle Safety Contest - Meet at Gayle Hattan Pavilion

**5:00 p.m.** 4-H Building Open to Public

**THURSDAY, JULY 28**

**8:30 a.m.**

- 4-H Sheep Lead Class - Gayle Hattan Pavilion

- 4-H Building Open to Public

**9:00 a.m.** 4-H Sheep Show - Judging Breeding & Market - Gayle Hattan Pavilion

(or 15 minutes after conclusion of Lead Class)

**12:00 p.m.** Critique Judging 4-H Poultry - Open Air Pavilion

**1:00 p.m.** 4-H Meat, Dairy, Pygmy & Angora Goat Show - Gayle Hattan Pavilion

(or immediately following Sheep Show)

**6:00 p.m.** Saunders County Fair Parade - Downtown Wahoo

**FRIDAY, JULY 29**

**8:30 a.m.**

- 4-H Rabbit Show - Judging - Open Air Pavilion

- 4-H & FFA Beef Show - Judging Breeding & Market - Gayle Hattan Pavilion

**9 a.m.-9 p.m.** 4-H Building Open to the Public

**9:00 a.m.** 4-H Dairy Show - Gayle Hattan Pavilion

- Only Milking Dairy Cattle released following the show

- all other livestock, rabbits and poultry must stay

**5:00 p.m.** 4-H Steak Fry - 4-H Building

**SATURDAY, JULY 30**

**8:30 a.m.**

- 4-H Swine Show - Judging - Gayle Hattan Pavilion

**9 a.m.-9 p.m.** 4-H Building Open to the Public

**9:00 a.m.** 4-H Small Pet Show - Open Air Pavilion

**10:00 a.m.** Clover Kids Show (or after Small Pet Show) - Open Air Pavilion

**3:00 p.m.** Livestock Round Robin Showmanship - Gayle Hattan Pavilion

(or half-hour following Swine Show)

**SUNDAY, JULY 31**

**8:00 a.m.**

- Release of all 4-H and FFA livestock, rabbits and poultry

**8:00 a.m.** Load Swine not in Livestock Sale (subject to change, contact Swine Supts)

**4:00 p.m.** 4-H B-B-Q

**4:00 p.m.** 4-H Leader Recognition - Gayle Hattan Pavilion

**1:30-5:00 p.m.** 4-H Building Open to the Public

**5:00 p.m.** Livestock Sale - Gayle Hattan Pavilion

**5:30 p.m.** Home Ec Exhibits released

**6:00 p.m.** State Fair & Ask-Sue-Ben entries due

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**Farm Safety Topic of UNMC Tours**

The University of Nebraska Medical Center brings undergraduate students and residents to the ARDC for farm safety tours. The purpose of the tours is to acquaint participants with accidents and injuries that might occur in agricultural settings. Matt Greenquist, Feedlot Manager, and Mark Schroeder, ARDC Associate Director and General Farm Manager, are shown discussing safety issues with an undergraduate group. Karl Moline, Cow/Calf Unit Manager also met with the students. ☑️