Agronomy & Horticulture Newsletter, March 12, 2012

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Range Short Course Scheduled June 18–22

The Nebraska Range Short Course is set for June 18–22, 2012, on the campus of Chadron State College. It is designed to provide individuals who have a background in range management, natural resources, or agriculture an opportunity to increase their knowledge in range management.

The week-long course is taught through a series of classroom and field sessions that focus on underlying principles of range management for efficient, sustainable use of rangeland for multiple purposes. The course topics include plant identification, plant growth and development, rangeland soils, assessing range condition and health, prescribed burning, ecosystem services, wildlife management, grazing management, and range livestock production.

The short course is sponsored by the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, Chadron State College, and the Nebraska Section Society for Range Management and can be taken for credit at either UNL or Chadron State. Sixteen continuing education credits are available for the SRM “Certified Professional in Rangeland Management” program.

Applications are due May 18, 2012, and enrollment is limited to 50 participants. The registration fee of $225 includes educational materials, transportation associated with field trips during the week, and breaks. Food and lodging can be arranged with Chadron State College.

Contact Walt Schacht (wschacht@unl.edu or 402-472-0205) for questions. The short course website is at http://agronomy.unl.edu/nebraskarangeshortcourse.
News from the HAPPI Business Center
Submit Inventory forms to TJ McAndrew

Due to changes in the Federal Property Guidelines, any piece of equipment purchased with partial or complete federal funds MUST be first offered back to the Federal Property System before it is sent to the University Inventory Department. In order to achieve this, all inventory items must be turned into TJ McAndrew who will check to see what funds were used to purchase the item and then will contact the appropriate inventory department. To ensure this will happen, we would appreciate it if you would turn in the surplus inventory sheet to TJ and not fax it yourself.

Turn Staff Evaluations in by March 15

Staff performance evaluations are due to John Dillingham by March 15. Please make this a priority as turning in late evaluations delays the entire department budget process including salary increases.

EHS Safety Colloquium is April 18

The Environmental Health & Safety Office is planning its next colloquium, “Safe Handling: Unstable, Reactive & Energetic Chemicals” on Wednesday, April 18, 2012.

There will be two sessions (one on each campus). One session will be in the Nebraska East Union (Great Plains Room) from 12:30–1:20 p.m. and the other session is in Hamilton Hall, Room 102, from 3:30–4:20 p.m. The sessions are sponsored by EHS in collaboration with the Office of Research & Economic Development. See the EHS website: http://ehs.unl.edu/training/Colloquium/ for details.

Information Technology News and Updates
By Warren Werner, Microcomputer Support Associate

Computer problems may also be submitted electronically through the UNL support system at mysupport@unl.edu. This will be entered directly into the Information Services trouble ticket system, and I will get these as well. Ultimately, it is preferable to email mysupport@unl.edu first, as I will get the requests anyway, and if the problem is something that I can’t handle, other people in IS will also see them. To contact me directly, e-mail me at wwerner2@unl.edu or call by phone to 402-890-5648.

McClean visits UNL for Coyne Lectureship

Everyone is invited to the Coyne Graduate Student Distinguished Lectureship with Dr. Philip McClean on Wednesday, April 4, 2012, at 1 p.m. in the Nebraska East Union.
Plant Breeding and Genetics Seminar Set

Plant Breeding and genetics graduate students are organizing a UNL Plant Breeding and Genetics Symposium on Tuesday, April 3 in the Nebraska East Union. The symposium runs from 8 a.m.–5 p.m. For more information and to register, see the UNL Plant Breeding and Genetics Symposium website at http://passel.unl.edu/communities/unlpbsymposium.

In the News

The UNL Viticulture program was in the news recently as part of a multi-state team that received a $2.5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture Specialty Crop Research Initiative. The grant will tackle the obstacles in vineyards, wineries, tasting rooms, and tourism to bring cold hardy grapes to a wider market. For more information, contact Dr. Paul Read, pread@unl.edu, 402-472-5136, or see the news story at http://newsroom.unl.edu/announce/todayatunl/1062/6333.

Information For and About Graduate Students

Applications Available for Travel Funds

Applications for the Daniel T. Walters Graduate Student Travel Fund are due March 23. This fund will provide up to a $500 award to a graduate student in the Department of Agronomy and Horticulture who is personally presenting their research results at a professional meeting. Preference is given to students who have a significant soils component in their research. Expenses may include transportation (not to exceed cost of coach class airfare), registration, lodging and meals. University procedures for travel authorization and expense reimbursement must be followed. Students must be enrolled at UNL at the time they are presenting their research. Contact Marlene Busse, mbusse1@unl.edu, 402-472-1560 for details.

Progress Reports are Due March 30

The graduate student deadline to submit progress reports to Marlene Busse, mbusse1@unl.edu, is March 30, 2012. The progress report and instructions are at http://agronomy.unl.edu/graduate1

Graduate Students Invited to Participate in Poster Contest

Graduate students are invited to participate in the 2012 Global Water for Food Conference Poster Contest. The conference is May 30–June 1 and the theme is: “Blue Water, Green Water, and the Future of Agriculture.” Abstracts are due March 30. For more information, visit the website at: http://waterforfood.nebraska.edu/graduate-student-poster-competition-2.