Ken Rezac, ARDC Employee of Year recipient, was presented with a plaque by Dan Duncan, ARDC Director. Extension Social Committee. This includes: 2 (one-day) passes to the Champions Club; two 18-hole rounds of golf with cart at the Hilltop Country Club at Wahoo; $20 Gift Certificate to the Barn Door Restaurant of Crecece; and recognition on a plaque to be displayed indefinitely at the ARDC Research and Education Building.

Levis Joins Extension Team

Don Levis is the newest Extension Educator on board with Cooperative Extension in Saunders County. His primary duties will focus on planning, developing and delivering comprehensive research-based educational programs concerning livestock production for adults and youth.

Levis is no stranger to Cooperative Extension or the University of Nebraska. He has worked in the Extension field for 27 years. He most recently was affiliated with the Pork Industry Center at Ohio State University as the Director. Prior to that he worked with Extension and research at UNL.

“I have always been highly dedicated to helping the customers of Cooperative Extension. Thus, my short-term goal is to obtain input from livestock producers in Saunders County and surrounding region as to what they need.”

Levis JOINS EXTENSION TEAM - Cont. on P. 4

Cow/Calf Herb Essential for Research and Teaching

An Overview

The Animal Science department is fortunate to have a great resource in the Cow/Calf Herb. Unit at the ARDC. The unit maintains approximately 400 beef cows on three- and one-half sections of pastureland. Revenue to support the cow herd and carry out improvements is generated from the sale of animals produced at the unit.

The majority of the pastures are cool-season grasses, primarily smooth bromegrass. Warm-season pastures including little and big bluestem, indiangrass, and switchgrass make up the balance of the grassland.

During the winter months, extensive use of crop residues in and around the ARDC provide a vital feed source for the cow herd and are supplemented with hay grown on the ARDC. Supplemental mineral and protein are fed to complement the forage resources and these supplements are processed at the ARDC feed mill. An established rotational grazing plan and limited but strategic use of fertilizer and herbicides insure the sustainability and productivity of the pastures.

On-Farm Research Update - March 8

On-Farm Research Update to be held on March 8. (P. 1)

Interested in on-farm research? Register by March 4 for the NSFGPP On-Farm Research Update to be held on March 8. (P. 1)

Worried about SOY RUST? Attend the workshop on March 29 to detect it early. (P. 1)


Get Your Green Thumb Ready? See P. 2 for horticulture programs.

Save the Date - June 3

by Daniel J. Duncan, ARDC Director

On Friday, June 3, 2005, we will have a celebration at the ARDC marking two historic events. First of all, we will formally announce a significant gift to the ARDC. We will honor the donor during a ceremony in the Research and Education Building. During the ceremony, we will formally rename a major building on the ARDC to signify our appreciation for this gift. This is the largest single gift ever to the ARDC and one of the larger gifts in the history of IANR.

The second historic event will be a celebration marking the 10th anniversary of the Research and Education Building. It is hard to believe that the ARDC and the Cooperative Extension in Saunders County offices moved into the building in late April of 1995. It sure has been a quick 10 years!

We have seen many changes over the last 10 years at the ARDC. We have greatly increased our irrigation capability, demolished numerous Ordnance Plant buildings, and greatly increased our data and voice communication capabilities along with many other improvements that have laid a solid foundation for the future.

As significant as these things have been, they pale in comparison to the impact the Research and Education Building has had on the development of the ARDC. Numerous enhancements at the ARDC would not have been possible without this building serving as the focal point.

We are delighted that these two historic events will be taking place at the same time. We encourage you to mark your calendar for June 3 and help us celebrate these important events.

Levis Joins Extension Team - Cont. on P. 4

ARDC Feature Unit - Cow/Calf Research

COW/CALF HERD - Cont. on P. 2

On-Farm RESEARCH UPDATE - Cont. on P. 3

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Director's Comments

On-Farm Research Update - March 8

Ken Rezac, ARDC Employee of the Year nominee, was honored with a plaque by Dan Duncan, ARDC Director. Extension Social Committee.

Ken Rezac is an Ag Research Technician at the Beef Feedlot at the ARDC. Also nominated were Jeff Noel of the Foundation Seed Division and Deloris Pittman of the ARDC.

Nominations for Rezac state that he has demonstrated extraordinary commitment and dedication to the University for more than 26 years. Also noted is that he continues service and dedication has been extremely valuable in the success of the feedlot research facilities. He has demonstrated an ability and commitment to doing the job right.

In addition to receiving a plaque, Rezac was also honored with prizes solicited and organized by the ARDC/Saunders County Cooperative Extension in Saunders County.

On-Farm Research Update to be held on March 8.

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 Worried about SOY RUST? Attend the workshop on March 29 to detect it early. (P. 1)


 Get Your Green Thumb Ready? See P. 2 for horticulture programs.
Home Study Course Provides Soil Fertility Education

Farmers, consultants and agribusiness professionals can learn about soil fertility from the comfort of their homes through a University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension course.

"Soils Home Study Course I" is an introductory course designed to enhance participants’ understanding of soil and help them make good management decisions regarding soils and fertilizer.

Participants complete the lessons and 10 quizzes at their own pace via the Internet or by mail.

The 10 lesson titles are: The Origin and Development of Soils; Physical Properties of Soil and Water; Soil Organic Matter; Soil pH; Nitrogen as a Nutrient; Phosphorus and Potassium in the Soil; Soil and Plant Considerations for Calcium; Magnesium, Sulfur, Zinc and other Micro-Nutrients; Characteristics of Fertilizer Materials; Fundamentals of Soil Testing; and The Scientific Basis for Making Fertilizer Recommendations.

Contributors to the course include Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources faculty and staff and industry specialists.

Cost is $60 and includes a course book. Some Natural Resources District or Natural Resources Conservation Service offices offer scholarship funds for the course.

Those who complete the course will receive a certificate of completion from the University. Participants also can receive 10 continuing education credits through Nebraska’s Certified Crop Advisor Program.

For more information or to register, visit the Web at http://www.iianr.unl.edu/soilshomestudy/, contact Keith Glewen at (402) 624-8030, or e-mail kglewen1@unl.edu. http://www.ianr.unl.edu/soilshomestudy/.

Time to Get Growing!

Please contact Sarah Browning, University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension at (402) 727-2775 or by e-mail at sabrowning2@unl.edu for information or to register for any of the horticultural programs listed below. You can learn more about these and other horticulture topics at http://hortparadise.unl.edu.

Programs coming in March as part of the 'Creating A Horticulture Paradise' program series that will be held at the the Dodge County Extension office in Fremont include:

* March 8 - Designing and Growing Beautiful Container Plantings
* March 15 - Great Perennial Plants for Nebraska Gardens
* March 22 - Weed Identification & Control in the Lawn and Landscape

There are no registration fees for the 'Creating A Horticulture Paradise' programs. However, pre-registration is requested to ensure adequate handouts are available.

Two acreage-related workshops will be offered this spring at the Dodge County Extension Office located at 1206 W. 23rd Street in Fremont. Additional programs will be offered in the fall. For registration at least 3 days in advance is $10 per person. At the door fee is $15 per person. The programs run from 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.

* March 12 - Create A Prairie With Native Grasses and Wildflowers
* April 16 - Acreage Landscape Management

Master Gardener Training

Training will be held on Thursdays from March 3 through April 14, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Dodge County Extension Office 1206 W. 23rd Street in Fremont.

Through the Master Gardener training sessions and workshops, you’ll become a more knowledgeable gardener and will have the opportunity to share this knowledge with your community. You will have access to a wealth of information that can make you a better gardener and you will also meet lots of interesting people who share your love of gardening.

Brown Accepts Position on Campus

Reception was held in late January to honor Lance Brown. Lance served as an Extension Educator in Saunders County since 2000, working the 4-H and other youth programs. He has left this position, but is still with the University of Nebraska and is now the Agribusiness Program Coordinator position on campus in Lincoln. We wish Lance the very best!
Soybean Rust First Detector Training will give those involved in plant health management timely training related to detecting soybean rust and other unusual crop concerns.

Soybean Rust First Detector Training will be from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. March 29 at ARDC and from 9:30-2 p.m. March 30 at the Lifelong Learning Center in Norfolk.

This training is part of Nebraska Cooperative Extension’s Crop Management Winter Programs and is being offered in conjunction with the National Plant Diagnostic Network, a consortium of land-grant university institutions that provides services for plant disease diagnosis, plant identification and insect/pest identification.

Topics include the mission of the NPDN and an introduction to agricultural biosecurity, monitoring for high risk pests and diseases, and Dalbey-Halleck farm in Virginia, Nebraska are being evaluated using the majority of the cow herd. The goal of this project is to find an easy, inexpensive method to facilitate AI without heat-checking in commercial cowherds, this project is to find an easy, inexpensive method to facilitate AI without heat-checking in commercial cowherds, while maintaining high conception rates. Since estrous synchronization is a critical issue with cattle producers, Dr. Cupp’s lab is also trying to manipulate testis development through feeding melengestrol acetate (MGA) to bulls of varying ages. Based on preliminary data, it appears that MGA may affect testis development depending on whether it is fed prior to or during puberty. Basic and applied studies aimed at improving reproductive efficiency in cows and heifers are also being conducted on the research herd at the ARDC. Estrus synchronization systems to allow fixed-time AI are being evaluated using the majority of the cow herd. The goal of this project is to find an easy, inexpensive method to facilitate AI without heat-checking in commercial cowherds, while maintaining high conception rates. Since estrous synchronization is a critical issue with cattle producers, Dr. Cupp’s lab is also trying to identify molecular mechanisms that control ovulation of the dominant ovarian follicle in beef cows. This research involves collecting samples from ovarian follicles of non-pregnant cows using ultrasound technology. The technique is non-invasive and allows researchers to identify proteins and growth factors that regulate ovulation by collecting samples at different stages of follicle development.

A collaborative project with Dr. Rasby and Dr. Sunstone is to evaluate the effects of feeding dried distillers grain to replacement heifers. Heifers from both ARDC and Dalbey-Halleck farm in Virginia, Nebraska are being utilized for this research. The goal is to determine whether feeding dried distillers grains for supplemental protein and energy influences puberty and development of reproductive performance compared to heifers fed a supplement containing lower levels of undegradable intake protein.

The faculty and the staff of the Cow/Calf unit at ARDC continue to be committed to providing UNL students and Nebraska producers with opportunities for education, research-based management alternatives, and innovative ideas to sustain Nebraska’s cattle industry.
Mark Your Calendar for These 4-H Events

- **SHOOTING SPORTS - MARCH 7, 14, 21**
  This training is required to compete at the fair!
- **BEEF WEIGH-IN FOR FAIR & NORFOLK EXPO - MARCH 26**
  Plan to attend bring your market beef to the final weigh-in for 4-H market beef at the Wahoo Sale Barn. Your animals do not need to be broke to lead at this time.

Market beef can also be noseprinted at this time for the 56th Annual Norfolk Beef Expo, which will be held on September 10 and 11. Cattle nose prints are due to the Norfolk Area Chamber of Commerce by April 1. This procedure is a change from past years when nose prints that were used for Ak-Sar-Ben and Nebraska State Fair were also used for the Norfolk Beef Expo. Due to a change in date the Norfolk show will need a separate set of nose prints submitted directly to the Norfolk Area Chamber of Commerce.

* QUALITY ASSURANCE TRAINING
Quality Assurance is again required for all 4-Hers showing beef, sheep, swine, dairy, poultry and rabbits. This training is required annually unless a written test is passed. General training sessions will be held on March 9, June 7 and June 9.
- **ANIMAL SCIENCE YOUTH FIELD DAY AT UNL - APRIL 2**
- **PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST- APRIL 7**
  Preregistration is due Tuesday, April 5. Enjoy banana splits after the contest!
- **DISTRICT HORSE ENTRIES/ID’S DUE MAY 13**
- **1ST ANIMAL ID DAY - MAY 21** at the Fairgrounds

Extension Promotes Conservation Practices in Wanahoo Project

Fishing, boating and camping are just a few of the benefits that Lake Wanahoo will provide. Lake Wanahoo, which will be located north of Wahoo, is also intended to be a source of environmental restoration and flood control. Thus, there are many reasons for careful planning of the construction of the reservoir and in its upkeep.

Upstream on Sand and Duck Creeks, several smaller dams will be constructed. A large wetlands area will be situated at the north end of Lake Wanahoo. The purpose of the smaller dams and wetlands is to trap sediment and nutrients before they reach the lake. This is essential to preserve the water quality and extend the life of the lake.

Because most of the Sand and Deck Creek watershed is in agricultural production, conservation practices will play an important role in protecting not only the watershed area, but also Lake Wanahoo. The upland soils and toe slopes in this area are highly susceptible to soil erosion because of the easily eroded nature of the loess soils and the steep slopes of the hills.

Several entities are providing a coordinated effort to implement conservation practices in this project. The NRCS is also serving as a resource for funding. The Natural Resources Conservation Service is providing technical assistance for overseeing all project aspects and administering land treatment cost-share and other program incentive programs that are available to landowners in the watershed.

The Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) is providing funding for the implementation of conservation practices in this project. The Lower Platte North NRD is overseeing all project aspects and administering land treatment cost-share and other program funding. The Natural Resources Conservation Service is providing technical assistance for conservation practice design and installation. The NRCS is also serving as a resource for information and educational programs.

University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension is providing educational programs to those in the watershed area. The overall goal of this joint project is to increase landowner adoption of conservation and other best management practices. Specific educational program focus areas include: conservation buffers and other structural conservation practices, no-till planting and other best management practices, and septic systems and wastewater management. Initial focus of this project is on the Duck Creek subwatershed.

Red Willow is serving as the Extension Project Coordinator for the educational component of the watershed project. Other University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension staff involved with the project include: Dave Shelton, Extension Agricultural Engineer; Tom Franti, Extension Surface Water Management Engineer; Keith Glowen, Extension Educator; Scott Josiah, Extension Forester; and Sharon Skipton, Extension Educator.

The implementation of best management practices are a coordinated effort between the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension and the Lower Platte North Natural Resources District. All educational program activities in the project will include information on cost-share and other assistance programs for conservation practices, waste-water systems, and no-till incentive programs that are available to homeowners and landowners in the watershed.