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Extended Visions, November/December 2007

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This has been a very interesting year from a weather perspective. Good spring moisture had us thinking the drought was behind us. We went into a dry spell in June, July and the first part of August that had us thinking the drought was back with a vengeance. Then Mother Nature turned on the spigot and we received record rainfall. For many parts of eastern Nebraska, we had the wettest October on record. Due to this rainfall, it appears that irrigated crops will do only slightly better than rain-fed crops.

All of this wet weather has made it difficult for plot and crop harvest as well as feedlot management. Lagoons are nearing capacity and will need pumped to get ready for winter. If you see irrigation systems running, we have not lost our minds. We are just trying to disperse lagoon water when it is warm enough and the soil is not saturated.

Many of you may be wondering why all of the heavy equipment has been moving around south of Load Lines 1 and 2. This activity is part of a UNL investigation into buried waste at the ARDC. By the time this article is published, Load Line 2 excavations will be finished and Load Line 1 will be close if not finished. Operations will then move to the former landfill area.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish August Christenson a happy birthday. Augie’s birthday was October 11. If you have not been to the August N. Christenson Research and Education Building lately, you will notice that Augie’s namesake has just received a new coat of paint. In my mind it does not seem possible that the Christenson Building needed a new coat of paint…can you believe we have been in this building for 12.5 years? Q

December Programs... Ethanol By-Product Use for Cow/Calf Producers and Farmer Feeders
At the Saunders County Extension Office located at the ARDC: August. N. Christenson Research & Education Building Both programs run from 7-9 p.m.

The expansion of the ethanol production industry in Nebraska has created opportunities for cattle producers to utilize the byproducts as a feed source in their operations. UNL researchers have conducted research for many years on utilizing ethanol byproducts - from feed rations to storage and it is ongoing. Is byproduct feeding a viable option for you? Come learn more about how byproducts could become an economical feed staple in your operation.

Wednesday, December 5 Ethanol By-Product Use for Cow/Calf Producers
Presented by: Biocut Nutrition Extended Beef Specialist, UNL Department of Animal Science
* Nutrient quality and differences between distillers grains and corn gluten feed
* Storage and handling issues for cow/calf producers
* Use in heifer development and backgrounding diets
* Using solubles in cattle diets
* Pricing distillers grains

Wednesday, December 19 Ethanol By-Product Use for Farmer Feeders
Presented by: Galen Erickson, Extension Beef Feedlot Nutrition Specialist, UNL Department of Animal Science
* What are these byproducts
* How they fit in feeding operations
* What can you expect in terms of cattle performance
* How much can be fed, and what does it change in the diet?
* What are the challenges
* Pricing these wet byproducts
* How to manage inventory (storing wet byproducts)

Register one day in advance - contact UNL Extension at (402)329-8030 or via e-mail at kglwenn@unl.edu
How a University of Nebraska HUSKER GENETICS Foundation Seed Variety Goes from the Lab to the Farmer

**Step 1 - Faculty conduct research on seed varieties and develop “lines” that show promise and are worthy of further propagation.**

**Step 2 - The seed variety is then increased by the University of Nebraska HUSKER GENETICS Foundation Seed Division.**

**Step 3 - After the variety is increased, it must receive certification from the Nebraska Crop Improvement Association.**

**Step 4 - Certified Seed Growers sell the producer a pure variety labeled with all required information.**

**Step 5 - After the variety is increased substantially while maintaining purity - the seed becomes available to farmers.**

Steps 3 and 4 above mention “certification.” And just how does seed become “certified” by the Nebraska Crop Improvement Association? Seed is purchased from University of Nebraska HUSKER GENETICS Foundation Seed Division and planted on clean fields. Fields are inspected by the Nebraska Crop Improvement Association and must meet Field Purity Standards. The variety is harvested with a clean combine and the identity of the variety is maintained at all times. The seed lot is inspected by an NCIA inspector and sent to the NCIA Lab. It must pass mechanical standards for germ, purity, and weed seeds. Certified Seed Growers sell the producer a pure variety labeled with all required information.

**About the People**

Jeff Noel is the FSD Director and started in January 2003. He is originally from Kentucky and graduated from Western Kentucky University with a bachelor’s degree in Ag & Business Administration. He grew up on a grain and livestock farm and raised cattle and hogs, corn, soybeans, wheat, barley, and tobacco. He also managed a Co-op Agronomy Division and worked for WILFARM LLC and LOL. He moved to Lincoln from Badger, Iowa, with his wife, Tena. William Barelman, Ag Research Technician II, processes seed, makes deliveries, and maintains the seed warehouse and inventories. He has been with the University since 1981 and has a bachelor’s degree in Ag Economics from UNL, (1980). His hobbies include collecting tools and farm toys.

Mike Zoubek, Ag Research Technician II and also works with Farm Operations at the ARDC. He is originally from Wahoo and before joining the ARDC, he worked as a crop consultant in Sublette, Kansas for five years. He lives in Wahoo.

Lisa Moravec, Staff Assistant, performs office functions for the Foundation Seed Division, such as taking orders, accounting, and other duties. She started with the FSD in 2000 and possesses a bachelor’s degree in Agriculture with a major in Ag Education from UNL. She and her husband, Kent, live near Ithaca with their son and daughter. In her spare time, she enjoys attending her children’s activities and going to tractor pulls.

**About the Research**

University of Nebraska faculty are on the cutting edge of seed development. In this issue, we feature George Graef, a Professor in UNL’s Department of Agronomy and Horticuluture, who is extensively involved in soybean breeding and genetics. Graef’s research focuses primarily on improving yield and stress resistance in soybeans adapted to Nebraska production areas. Some specific objectives include:

1. Development of soybean germplasm and cultivars with increased seed protein content
2. Development of soybean germplasm and cultivars with increased oil content
3. Identifying genes involved in protein and oil content in soybean seeds
4. Coordination of nationwide cooperative evaluation of soybean lines with improved quality traits from state and USDA soybean breeding programs
5. Development of soybean cultivars for specific food and end uses
6. Identification of resistance genes for Sclerotinia Stem Rot and Bean Pod Mottle Virus in soybeans
7. Use of genetic male sterility in soybean cultivar development and recurrent selection programs

Graef teaches plant breeding courses and coordinates the Agronomy 295 Internship course. He has also published numerous articles about his research in scientific journals. Graef holds a B.S. degree in Environmental Horticulture from the University of Connecticut, and M.S. degree in Plant Breeding and Cytogenetics from Iowa State University, and a Ph.D. in Plant Breeding and Cytogenetics, Minor, Genetics from Iowa State University.

Learn more about Dr. Graef and other researchers in the plant breeding program by visiting the “Plant Breeding, Genetics and Molecular Physiology” section of the Department of Agronomy and Horticulture’s website. Key in http://agronomy.unl.edu, select “Faculty/Staff,” then “Peer Groups” and “Plant Breeding.”
Bergman Recognized at Retirement Reception

Ben Bergman was recently honored at a reception held at the ARDC. Ben worked with UNL’s Department of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences research area at the ARDC from December 1999 to October 2007. He also has worked at various other areas at the ARDC over the years. We wish Ben the very best in his retirement!

How the Field Days Stack Up

UNL Extension develops and delivers educational ag programs that provide research-based information to Nebraskans. The intent of this programming is to help Nebraskans be economically competitive in sustainable livestock, and crop production systems, and be good stewards of our natural resource systems.

UNL Extension Educator, Keith Glewen, coordinates or partners with other Extension personnel and organizations to coordinate field days, such as the Crop Management Diagnostic Clinics, Soybean Management Field Days, Solution Days, and the Irrigation and Energy Conservation Field Day. University and industry educators and specialists are instrumental in providing program content and presentations, while ARDC and Extension personnel play a key role in implementing the programs.

The Crop Management Diagnostic Clinics (CMDC) have been held at the ARDC since 1996 at a site located south of the August N. Christenson Research & Education Building specifically developed for the programs.

This was the 9th year for Soybean Management Field Days (SMFD). The event is held at four producer sites across the state, which vary from year to year. Producers obtain ideas and insight about the challenges they face in producing a quality crop at a profitable price in today’s global economy.

Irrigation and Energy Conservation Field Day - 246,019
Solution Days - 436,353
SMFD - 564,681
CMDC - 7,183,989

SMFD is sponsored by the Nebraska Corn Board in partnership with Extension.

Solution Days 2007 provided producers with practical solutions to the changing agricultural landscape. The event is held annually at a site near York and is sponsored by NK®, Syngenta and the Nebraska Soybean Board in partnership with UNL Extension. The Irrigation and Energy Conservation Field Day started in 2006 at the ARDC. This year, the program was held in North Platte. The Field Day is sponsored by the Nebraska Corn Board and the Nebraska Corn Growers Association in partnership with UNL Extension. Participants learn about best management practices for corn production, achieving water conservation in irrigated and dryland corn production, how to reduce energy use production costs, how to maintain and, in some cases, increase yield and profitability and learn to better manage surface and ground-water irrigation.

The information that participants provide on evaluations is essential for determining impact and program usefulness and viability. The following provides a synopsis of some of the impact results and participant comments from the field days described above:

**Total acres managed or influenced by participants:**
CMDC - 7,183,989
SMFD - 564,681
Solution Days - 436,353
Irrigation and Energy Conservation Field Day - 246,019

**Estimated value of the knowledge gained and/or anticipated practice changes on a per acre basis:**
CMDC - $8.64
SMFD - $31
Solution Days - $8.56
Irrigation and Energy Conservation Field Day - $13.08

**Estimated total value of the program:**
CMDC - $65,242,277
SMFD - $5,939,988
Solution Days - $3,735,177
Irrigation and Energy Conservation Field Day - $3,217,929

“Gained knowledge by seeing some real life issues I had only seen in a book.”
“I saw a new perspective and ways to diversify my cropping strategies.”
“Gives us a one up on what is going on in the industry.”
“Hearing information like this keeps my operation on the cutting edge of all the new technologies and thinking.”

To learn more about these programs and other educational opportunities, please contact UNL Extension at 402-624-8030 or 800-529-8030.

Dec. 6 Workshop to Focus on Alternative Energy for Home, Farm, and Acreages

December will be a busy month for workshops. An Alternative Energy for Home, Farm, and Acreges workshop will be held on Thursday, December 6, from 1-5 p.m, at the ARDC.

Topics and presenters include:

* Energy Conservation In Homes and Buildings
  Shirley Niemeyer, UNL Housing and Environment Specialist
* Small Wind, Solar, and Photovoltaics for Home or Business
  John Dixon, Dixon Power Systems
* Net Metering for Renewable Electricity
  Rich Andrysik, Lincoln Electric Systems
* Ethanol and Biodiesel Blends
  Loren Icom, UNL Industrial Ag Products Center
* Modern Methane Production
  Crystal Powers, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

There is no charge for this UNL Extension-sponsored workshop. For more information, please contact John Hay at UNL’s Department of Biological Systems Engineering at 402-472-0408.

Calendar of Events

November
16 UNMC Agri Medicine Conference Tour-Biofuels Update
9:30-12:00
19 Saunders County Extension Board Meeting
7:00-10:00 pm

December
5 Ethanol By-Product Use for Cow/Calf Producers
7:00-9:00 p.m.
6 Energy Conference
8:00-5:00
10 Diamond Clover Recognition Program Training
10:00-1:00
12 Unit Managers Meeting
1:00-3:00
19 Ethanol By-Product Use for Farmer Feeders
7:00-9:00 p.m.
19 NSF/GPP Consultations
8:00-5:00
20 NSF/GPP Consultations
8:00-5:00
21 NSF/GPP Consultations
8:00-12:00

January
9 Unit Managers Meeting
1:00-3:00
14 NSF/GPP Consultations
8:00-5:00
15 NSF/GPP Consultations
8:00-5:00

Conservatively, the CROP MANAGEMENT DIAGNOSTIC CLINICS held at the ARDC impacted 57% of Nebraska’s row crop acres
**NEBRASKA SOYBEAN DAY & MACHINERY EXPO**

Friday, December 14
8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
with a break scheduled at 10:00 a.m. so you can view equipment and visit with exhibitors

Saunders County Fairgrounds - Wahoo, NE

8:30 a.m. View Commercial Exhibits

9:00 On-Farm Soybean Production Research Results From Area Growers
Keith Glewen, UNL, Extension Educator

Most Common Mistakes Made in Storing Grain
John Gnadke, Harvest Management Consultant, AGS, Inc. - Ankeny, Iowa
Sponsored by Pioneer Hi-Bred International

10:00 Break - View Commercial Exhibits

New Bin Considerations - John Gnadke - Sponsored by Pioneer Hi-Bred Intl’

**Nebraska Soybean Checkoff Update and Association Information**
Soybean Board and Soybean Association.

A Bump in the Road: How Transportation is a Growing Obstacle

12 Noon Lunch

Ten Most Common Yield Limiting Factors In Soybean Production
Dr. Palle Pedersen, Soybean Extension Agronomist, Iowa State University

Making Sense Out of the Grain Markets
Ray Smith, Farmer, Educator, Broadcaster, Writer, & Student of Marketing, Soyroy, Inc.

2:30 p.m. Adjourn

Producers will be able to visit with representatives from seed, herbicide, fertilizer and equipment companies and view new farm equipment during a 30-minute break at 10 a.m.

Soy doughnuts will be cooked on site and the Pancake Man will serve a complimentary lunch.

This free program is sponsored by UNL Extension in the university’s Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, the Nebraska Soybean Board, Saunders County Soybean Growers Organization and private industry.

**Featured Speakers at the Soy Expo...**

This year’s Soy Expo will provide timely topics and presentations that soybean producers won’t want to miss. The agenda is packed with ideas to consider for 2008. Two of the featured speakers are John Gnadke and Dr. Palle Pedersen. Learn more about their experience below:

- John Gnadke is a Harvest Management Consultant with AGS, Inc. in Ankeny, Iowa. John’s career & expertise spans 42 years of experience working with grain drying, storage, & harvest management and has co-authored a manual titled, Quality Grain Care, A Grower’s Quick Reference Guide. John clients include farm and industry operations.

- Dr. Palle Pedersen, Soybean Extension Agronomist, Iowa State University, coordinates and provides state leadership in soybean production and management. His work in extension and research focus on economical and environmentally sustainable soybean production systems to maximize yield. Emphasis is on soybean response to management systems and new technologies; genetic and management system interactions; crop rotation effects; and the effect of agronomic practices on soybean pathogens and pests.

**M.E.A.D**

Making Education in Agriculture Different

Tim Hickman, however, a junior at Mead High School and Mead FFA member, works at the ARDC where he takes care of the animals and does maintenance work. He helps clip tails, give shots, ear notch and install PIN tags to baby pigs. Being at the ARDC has taught Tim about working in a bio-secure area. He has to clean the pens, feed the hogs, mow the grass, and replace flooring.

Tim learned of this job at his school and was recommended by Mrs. Kocian, the Ag teacher and FFA advisor at Mead High School.

“Working with the people is what I enjoy most about the job”, says Tim. This opportunity helps him for the future by giving him employment references and gives him the opportunity for a FFA Swine Proficiency award area to work in. Working almost full-time during the summer, he still loves the job and plans to work there again next summer. In spite of Tim’s busy school days - he still manages to work at the ARDC on the weekends.

**Annual Festival Teaches Youth About Ag**

Fourth grade students, primarily from Omaha, took a close-up look at agriculture during a 4-day festival at the ARDC. This year’s Ag Awareness Festival highlighted beef, dairy, grains, and swine. Production, technology, and products in agriculture are covered at this annual event that drew in 650 students.

Omaha schools and surrounding schools attending this year included: Good Shepherd Lutheran, Mary Our Queen, Edison, Oakdale (Westside District 66), Druid Hill, Wildwood, Mead, View, Sunny Slope, Holy Name, Lodrop, Trinity Lutheran (Fremont), Yutan, Blumfield, Seymour, St. Bernard and St. Robert Bellamine.

The first Agricultural Awareness Festival was held at the ARDC in October 1996 with 200 Omaha Public School sixth grade students attending. Since that time, the festival has grown to multiple days and is now aimed at fourth-graders. The event educates approximately 650-900 students primarily from Douglas, Saunders, and Dodge Counties each year in the fall.

An additional Lincoln festival was added in 2001 at the Lancaster County Event Center. Lancaster County and York County youth have attended. To date, over 10,000 children have attended the festivals sponsored by the Ag Awareness Coalition.

The Ag Awareness Coalition consists of University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension in Saunders, Lancaster and Douglas/Sarpy Counties; University of Nebraska Agricultural Research & Development Center; Agriculture in the Classroom; Gifford Farm Education Center; Dairy Council of Nebraska; Farmers National Company; and the Nebraska Beef Council.

For more information, please contact the University of Nebraska Agricultural Research and Development Center, 402-624-8000.