Agronomy & Horticulture Newsletter, November 22, 2011

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Happy Thanksgiving to all our employees, students and friends!

Urrea Florez wins Award from Cooperative

Dr. Carlos Urrea Florez was awarded a Distinguished Achievement Award from the Bean Improvement Cooperative (BIC) on Nov. 1, 2011. Carlos was recognized for “Outstanding Scientific Achievement Relating to Bean (Phaseolus vulgaris L.) Improvement.”

His efforts focus on the genetics, germplasm evaluation, and development of dry bean and chickpea cultivars adapted to western Nebraska. Screening bean germplasm for desirable agronomic traits and resistance to major abiotic and biotic stresses is an integral part of his breeding program.

Located at the Panhandle Research & Extension Center in Scottsbluff, Neb, Carlos joined the university in 2005 as a dry bean breeder. He earned his Ph.D. in Plant Breeding from North Dakota State University, Fargo, NE.

Advising Awards

The 2011 Lawrence K. Crowe Undergraduate Advising Award was given to Dr. Walter Schacht, Department of Agronomy and Horticulture, who is presently in Namibia. Dr. Lowell Moser accepted the plaque in Dr. Schacht’s absence at the Undergraduate Advising Luncheon held on October 19, 2011, in the Nebraska East Union.

Craig McGill, Forensic Science adviser, had a brief presentation on Academic Advising. The Crowe Family has provided a $1,000 stipend.
Life Sciences Listening Sessions Set

A second listening session on the proposed Life Sciences core biology concepts/competencies and supporting competencies will be held Fri., Dec. 2, from 1:30-3 p.m. in the Nebraska East Union (NEU). This is a very important step in the development of the life sciences undergraduate curriculum, according to CASNR Dean Steve Waller. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

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Mark the Date!

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Dec. 16: CASNR Salute to Graduates, 4 p.m., Great Plains Room, NEU.
Dec. 16–17: UNL Graduation.
Dec. 19: Agronomy & Horticulture Holiday Luncheon, Nebraska East Union (NEU), 11 a.m.
Jan. 5: Crop Production Clinics, York.
Jan. 6: Crop Production Clinic, Kearney.
Jan. 6: Deadline to nominate a CASNR colleague for UNL’s Distinguished Teaching Awards.
Jan. 9: Spring semester starts.
Jan. 10: Crop Production Clinics, Hastings.
Jan. 11: Crop Production Clinics, North Platte.
Jan. 12: Crop Production Clinics, Gering.
Jan. 16: Holling Family Teaching Excellence Award nominations due.
Jan. 17: Crop Production Clinics in Ainsworth.
Jan. 18: Crop Production Clinics in Norfolk.
Jan. 19: Crop Production Clinics in Fremont.

Lighten Up Team Live Healthy Challenge

Congratulations to the Agronomy & Horticulture Lighten Up team members for their participation in the Live Healthy Nebraska Lifestyle Challenge. This wellness program charged individuals and teams to live healthier lifestyles through daily activity/exercise, volunteer work, eating fruits and vegetables, drinking water, reducing stress, and getting at least eight hours of sleep per night. Points were recorded each week and were based on how well a person followed the recommended guidelines. The cost was $10 (with UNL discount) and included long sleeved T-shirts.

Diane Nolan won a massager for the highest number of total points earned: 317. Great job to Diane and to everyone else on the team!

The Live Healthy 100 Day Challenge will begin this winter. In this program, participants record types and amount of activity each week, including everything from running to Wii Sports to housework! The program also offers many incentives, such as the chance to win prizes for teams whose members record their data every week, T-shirts, food coupons, free health magazine subscriptions, and friendly competition with other teams. We will be looking for another great active Lighten Up team consisting of both old and new members from the Agronomy & Horticulture Department! Stay tuned!

– Captains Erin Bauer and Aaron Franco, Wellness Ambassadors

Staff Appreciation Luncheon is Dec. 19

Everyone is invited to the Agronomy & Horticulture Staff Appreciation Luncheon on Dec. 19. This event is a thank you to our hardworking staff who keep our department running smoothly.

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Department Recognizes 18 Undergraduates

Eighteen seniors from Agronomy and Horticulture will be recognized at the CASNR Salute to Graduates ceremony, on Fri., Dec. 16, 2011. The Salute will begin at 4:00 p.m. in the Great Plains Room, Nebraska East Union. Faculty and staff are encouraged to honor the graduates with their presence. This CASNR tradition, the 13th ceremony, has honored nearly 1,000 graduates and brought 5,000 guests into contact with our faculty, staff and East Campus environment.

Graduating seniors are: Jason Epp, Jacob Romshek, David Brandow, Mitch Hansen, Kevin Rohrer, Haley Stromberg, Matthew Schramm, Sara Boling, Ryan Armbrust, James Livengood, Cody Miller, Robert Zurcher, Paul Mlinar, Tyler Rosenow, Lacy Leibhart, Andrew Uerling, Samuel McInturf, and Cody Quine.

News from the HAPPI Business Center

Welcome to our newest employees!

Please welcome three new employees to the department!

- Bo Liu began working at the West Central Research & Extension Center at North Platte, Neb., on Nov. 1. He is supervised by Dr. James Steadman;
- Aaron Schmitz joined the department on Nov. 14 as a Post-Doc. He is working with Dr. Harkamal Walia; and
- Clemence Henry started working with Dr. Mark Lagrimini on Nov. 16 as a Post-Doc.

Heuermann Series offers Food for Thought

The next speaker in the Heuermann Series will be former Governor of Nebraska and U.S. Senator Bob Kerrey. Sen. Kerrey will speak on December 12th, 4 p.m., in the Hardin Hall auditorium, about “Conflict and Resolution on the Missouri River.” A 3:30 pm reception will precede the lecture.

The Heuermann Series focuses on providing security in the areas of food, natural resources, and renewable energy, and securing the sustainability of rural communities. The sessions are open to the public and made possible through a gift from B. Keith and Norma Heuermann of

Mark the Date

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Jan. 23–25, 2012: Nebraska Green Expo, Mid-America Center, Council Bluffs, IA.
March 18–25: Spring Break.
May 4–5: Graduation.

UNL Range Club Plans Benefit

The UNL Range Club Benefit Night will be Wednesday, Nov. 30, 2011, at Noodles and Company, 14th & P Streets, from 5–9 p.m. The club requests that diners say they came to support the Range Club when they order. This event supports attendance to the national Society for Range Management (SRM) meeting in Spokane, WA, from Jan. 29–Feb. 3, 2012.

Horticulture Club Hosts Plant Sale

The Horticulture Club will hold its annual Poinsettia Sale on Dec. 7 & 8, 2011. The sale will be held at the Nebraska Union and East Campus Union, from 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
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A Word from Your Office Professionals

Order your 2012 calendar today

With only six more weeks left in 2011, it’s time to order 2012 calendars. Please contact Kathy Schindler, kschindler1@unl.edu, in 279 PLSH or one of the Office Pros to order your calendar from Office Depot. We will also need a cost object to charge the cost of the calendar against.

Thanks Professors and Classes for the Flowers!

Thanks to Dr. Ellen Paparozzi and her production classes for fall flowers the Office Professionals received in October. Thanks also to Dave Lambe for the flower bouquets we receive from the Floral Design classes. We appreciate your “enriching our lives through flowers!”

UNL Offers computer antivirus protection

UNL offers antivirus protection for all university-owned computers, as well as for computers personally-owned by UNL students, faculty and staff. This service is offered at no charge to the campus. Viruses, trojans, and worms are malicious programs that are easily spread across computers with email and internet access. Using the UNL-provided antivirus is not required, but you may be required to use an antivirus program with current definitions for your computer to be granted access on UNL’s network. For more information, see the website at: antivirus.unl.edu.

Announcements Sought for Department Newsletter

Please contact Kathy Schindler, kschindler1@unl.edu, 402-472-1508, to submit announcements, pictures, and articles for the department newsletter. The newsletter is distributed twice a month.

– Brenda, Carola, Karen, Kat, Kathy, Marlene & Tiffany

Reducing Building Energy Consumption

Faculty, staff and students can help UNL lower its energy usage by visiting the Building Energy Consumption website at http://uem.unl.edu/energy-management/portal.shtml. The portal shows monthly energy use in individual buildings on campus for the last 12 months.

Tours End for the Season

The walking tours at the Maxwell Arboretum have concluded for the season. Watch for announcements next spring about when the tours will resume.

Funding News

FYI: Funding opportunities are publicized at the UNL Office of Sponsored Programs website at: http://www.unl.edu/research/spl/index.shtml. These announcements are compiled from funding opportunities offered by federal agencies, private foundations, and a variety of additional entities. To subscribe to Funding Announcements, contact Nathan Meier (472-1808 or nmeier2@unl.edu). Additional funding prospects are at http://www.grants.gov. Grants.gov is the single access point for individuals to search competitive funding opportunities from more than 900 grant programs offered by the 26 federal agencies.

Phillips, Neb. For more information, see the announcement at http://newsroom.unl.edu/announce/ianrnews/740/4441.
Search either by the building name or by clicking on the building on a campus map. Energy conservation tips include turning off lights, appliances, and office machines at the end of the day, dressing for the season, and lowering thermostats when buildings and rooms are not occupied.