January 1996

Animal Science Alumni Newsletter, Winter 1996

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FROM THE DEPARTMENT HEAD’S DESK

Greetings! It has been an exciting and productive year since the last issue of this newsletter. Most exciting to me has been the continued growth in our student programs. The number of undergraduate Animal Science majors in the fall, 1995, neared the record levels of more than a decade ago. Employer demand for graduates has remained strong. I believe the Department’s commitment to course and curriculum revision and development is paying excellent dividends. Eighteen of our students received scholarships administered by the Department for the 1995-96 academic year. We continue to seek additional undergraduate scholarships. I encourage you as alumni to remember the need for scholarships as you consider contributions to the University of Nebraska Foundation.

It is also exciting to welcome new faculty because of the new dimensions they bring to the Department. Dr. Daniel Pomp joined us last September. His program is featured elsewhere in the newsletter. We are recruiting for two other new positions. The first is in ruminant nutrition biochemistry research and teaching. This position will help fill the void created by Bud Britton’s death in 1994. Dr. Rick Stock resigned in August, 1995, to accept a position with Cargill, Inc. We are seeking a new faculty member to lead our feedlot nutrition and management extension and research programs in Lincoln.

We are very proud of the accomplishments of our faculty, students and staff and of their many well deserved awards and recognitions. One highlight was the establishment of a new named professorship, the Nebraska Cattle Industry Professor of Animal Science. We congratulate Dr. Chris Calkins, who was named the first recipient in July, 1995. And, we thank the Nebraska Cattlemen Research and Education Foundation and many contributors for establishing the endowment to support the Professorship.

We wish all of our alumni a successful 1996 and extend an invitation to visit the Department at any time.

Elton Aberle
The table indicates that the acceptance rate is 3.7 percent of those who initially inquired about graduate education. It is interesting to note that the percentage of international students inquiring is almost identical for all disciplines.

The fall 1995 graduate program has a total enrollment of 79 students. There are 29, or approximately 37 percent, international students. Twenty percent of our students are from Nebraska.

Our graduate program continues to be one of the top programs in the country. It is through support of the alumni and citizens of this state that our department is able to be a leader in graduate student animal science training.

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

The number of undergraduate animal science majors is near record levels. Currently there are 233 majors, the highest number since 1982. The profile of new students enrolling also continues to change. Of the entering students, 45 percent are female and 32 percent transfer students.

A major change in the curriculum occurred this fall with the implementation of the UNL Comprehensive Education Program. This is a campus-wide, general education program developed to provide students, regardless of major or college, with a common set of educational experiences. It is designed to enhance student knowledge in a broad variety of academic areas and to help develop intellectual and social skills vital to college graduates in the 21st century. The program has four components:

1. Information Discovery and Retrieval - Students must be able to use the library system.
2. Essential Studies Courses - Students will take at least one of the following courses: communication; mathematics and statistics; human behavior, culture and social organization; science and technology; historical studies; humanities; arts; and race, ethnicity and gender.
3. Integrative Studies Courses - These are standard university courses that engage students intensively in those intellectual activities that are the hallmarks of the educated person--writing, speaking, critical thinking and the consideration of human diversity.
4. Co-curricular Experience - Students are encouraged to participate in activities outside the classroom to gain experience that will contribute to their growth as active, knowledgeable, self-aware, open-minded, and healthy individuals.

The co-curricular component involves opportunities for growth in these areas: personal development, health and wellness, intellectual development, cultural understanding, arts appreciation, career development, values and ethics and social responsibility.

NEW FACULTY

Daniel H. Pomp joined the University of Nebraska faculty September 1, 1995 as an assistant professor in breeding and genetics. Daniel received his B.S. degree from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel in 1983, his M.S. from the University of Wisconsin, Madison in 1986 and his Ph.D. from North Carolina State University, Raleigh in 1989. He comes to the University of Nebraska from Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK where he was an assistant professor in animal breeding and molecular genetics. His area of interest includes application of molecular and embryo biotechnologies to genetic improvement of livestock and the study of growth, body composition, reproduction and lactation in mammals.

DEATHS

Earl W. Gleaves, retired Poultry Extension Specialist, passed away January 23, 1995 after an extended illness. Earl and his wife, Lois, had been residing in Miami, OK since his retirement. He was a member of the University of Nebraska staff from 1964-1991.

Earl played a key role in increasing layers and turkeys for the poultry industry. Through Gleaves' counsel, leadership, and professional expertise, commercial layers increased in number in Nebraska to 5,680,000, the turkey industry was rejuvenated from near collapse to 2,110,000 birds, and broiler production increased to about 2,400,000. He played a key role in organizing and developing an egg producer cooperative in southern Nebraska and northeastern Kansas. Earl provided leadership for the total re-organization of the poultry industry associations into one umbrella organization, Nebraska Poultry Industries, Inc. (NPI).

The number of 4-H members involved in poultry projects in Nebraska grew considerably since 1965 due to his extension leadership in this area.

Jane Ossenkop, a secretary in Animal Science for 17 years, lost her battle with cancer and passed away at her home near Walton, NE on June 1, 1995. Until her death, she was secretary to Kathy Anderson, Ted Doane and Rick Rasby. Jane worked with The Sheep World, Nebraska Sheep Industry Association, Angora Goat Symposium, 4-H horse projects, especially the District and State Horse Shows, Cow-Calf Production Management, Integrated Resources Management and many other extension and teaching activities. Jane will be missed as she was very dedicated to her job, her professors and the University.

BLOCK & BRIDLE

1995 HONOREE
James Milton Wolf

James Milton Wolf was born on September 14, 1921 in Denver, CO. He graduated from East Denver High, attended Michigan University, received his A.B. from Harvard University in 1943 and his LL.B. from Harvard Law School in 1949. Jim and Elaine were married in 1949 and have two sons and two daughters.
President of Ideal Beef Systems—Performance People and cattle. Today's ranch consists of approximately 1,900 calves are born each year. The Wagonhammer employs seven people on the ranch and eight on the feedlot and farm.

Jim has been active in the ranching and livestock industry for over 30 years and has played a vital role in the beef industry. He became a leader in the field of performance testing cattle. Much of these data is part of the American Angus Association's database for providing Expected Progeny Differences.

Some of the many awards Jim has received are Beef Improvement Federation “USA Seedstock Producer” of the year in 1979, the Ak-Sar-Ben Agricultural Achievement Award in 1985, and induction into the Nebraska Hall of Agricultural Achievement in 1994. Jim served on the Board of Directors for National Beef Improvement Federation, as President of Ideal Beef Systems-Performance People and was a member of the Consumer Relations Committee for the National Cattlemen's Association.

He has been very active in his community and has given major emphasis to supporting the Boy Scouts and 4-H for many years. He and his wife helped organize the construction of the Boone County Fitness Center in Albion and donated funds for the equipment.

Jim has served as a past member of the school board and past chairman of the Wolf Memorial Center Advisory Board. He has also been an active member of the Albion Kiwanis and the Masonic Lodge.

OFFICERS FOR 1995-1996

President - Debbie Roeber, Ashland
Vice President - Todd Grabenstein, Eustis
Secretary - Mike Newton, Ravena
Treasurer - Tricia Adkisson, Farnam
News Reporter - Judi Wottlewicz, Loup City
Historian - Jared Walahoski, Elyria
Assistant Historian - Joe Skavdahl, Harrison
Marshal - Bill Ference, Loup City
Assistant Marshal - Kris Leska, Sargent
Program Chair - Hally Laible, Ewing

ACTIVITIES FOR 1995-96

Christmas Lunch
Spring Kids' Day
Big Red Beef Show & Symposium
Little MAEC - Meats Division
Quarter Horse Show
State Ag Ed Contest
HONORS BANQUET - 6:00 P.M.

RECENT DEPARTMENT AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

FACULTY

Elton Aberle - President (94-95), Past President (95-96), American Society of Animal Science
Kathy Anderson - Graduate Faculty Member
Kathy Anderson, Ed, Clems, Ted Doane, Earl Ellington, Keith Gilster, Jim Kinder and Duane Reese - Recognized by the Teaching Council & UNL Parents
Mary Beck - Secretary-Treasurer (94-95 & 95-96) of Poultry Science Association
Mike Brumm, Dennis Burson, Don Levis and Duane Reese - Members of the Swine Home Study Courses Team, winner of the Cooperative Extension Excellence in Team Programming Award
Chris Calkins - Nebraska Cattle Industry Professor of Animal Science/Office of President-Elect (95-96) of American Meat Science Association/ESCCOP-ACOP Leadership Development Course Intern
Ted Doane - National Association of Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture Teacher Fellow Award
Earl Ellington - President Elect (95-96), President (96-97) and Past President (97-98) Phi Beta Delta, Honor Society for International Scholars and Treasurer (92-96), Gamma Sigma Delta International, the Honor Society of Agriculture
Jim Gosey - American Polled Hereford Association Hall of Merit Award, Honorary Member of Block and Bridle Club
Rick Grant - ARD Junior Faculty Award for Excellence in Research/Promoted to Associate Professor
Jim Kinder - Excellence In Research Award, Gamma Sigma Delta
Terry Klopfenstein - Recognized by UNL for developing a patent - "a treatment of soybean meal"
Larry Larson - L.K. Crowe Outstanding Advisor Award
Phil Miller - Graduate Faculty Fellow
Mark Morrison - Adjunct Status with School of Biological Sciences Microbial Physiology
Dale Van Vleck - Recognized by UNL for writing a book entitled “Selection Index and Introduction to Mixed Model Methods”
Doyle Wolverton - Certificate of Commendation from National Association of County Agricultural Agents

GRADUATE STUDENTS

Kristin Barkhouse - Alumni Association Graduate Teaching Assistant Award/John Hallman Memorial Award
Ellen Bergfeld and David Hickok - Milton E. Mohr Fellowships
Sheri Bierman, Christi Calhoun and Wes Osburn - Vincent Arthaud Memorial Travel Awards
Christi Calhoun - American Meat Science Association MS Poster Paper Competition winner
Christi Calhoun and Brian Demos - Ak-Sar-Ben IFT Student Paper Competition 1st & 2nd Awards
Christi Calhoun, Karol Fike and Rob McCoy - Widaman Trust Distinguished Graduate Student Assistants
Mary Forman - Poultry Science Association Graduate Student Paper Award of Excellence
Rob McCoy and Chris Richards - American Feed Ingredients Association Scholarships
Wes Osburn - National Pork Producers Council Fellowship
Brian Quandt - Tyson Foods Scholarship

UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS
Michael Baker and Hope Lerch - William J. & Hazel J. Loeffel
Barry Benson and Lisa Ternus - Walter A. & Alice V. Rockwell
Kayce Donahoe and Cinch Munson - Capital City Kiwanis Club Undergraduate Teaching Assistant
Robert Fischer - D.V. & Ernestine Stephens Memorial
Clayton Glause - American Breeders Service
Todd Grabenstein and Nick Toberer - Max & Ora Mae Stark
Kara Greenwood - Baltzell-Agri-Products, Inc.
Matthew Haumont - Maurice E. Boeckenhauer Memorial
Jodi Hinrichs - Standard Manufacturing Company
Cinch Munson - Chris & Sarah Raun Memorial
Daniel Neil - Nutrition Service Associates
Deborah Roebel and Travis Woollen - Arthur W. & Viola Thompson
Scott Stehlik - Tom & Martha Wake
Carrie Yule - Lincoln Coca-Cola Bottling Company

American Society of Animal Science Scholar Awards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Seniors</th>
<th>Juniors</th>
<th>Sophomores</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kendra Bryan</td>
<td>Barry Benson</td>
<td>Daniel Frese</td>
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<tr>
<td>Randy Burge</td>
<td>Robert Fischer</td>
<td>Paul Havel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rebecca Fluckey</td>
<td>Kara Greenwood</td>
<td>Jodi Hinrichs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clayton Glause</td>
<td>Daniel Neil</td>
<td>Hope Lerch</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cinch Munson</td>
<td>Deborah Roebel</td>
<td>Lisa Ternus</td>
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<td>Stephen Pullmann</td>
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<td>Shad Stamm</td>
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STAFF
Barbara Gnirk - Honorary Member of Block and Bridle Club
Mary Lou Machacek - IANR Office-Service Outstanding Employee Award

FACULTY ACTIVITIES

OMEGA EGG RESEARCH

Research has been conducted during the past two years in the poultry nutrition program testing the incorporation of omega 3 fatty acids from flax seed into consumer eggs. Dr. Sheila Schiedeler has found direct deposition of C18:3 and C22:6 from flax seed into the egg. These fatty acids are similar to the omega 3 fatty acids found in fish, which have been found to increase the ratio of HDL (good) to LDL (bad) cholesterol in humans and to reduce the incidence of cardiovascular disease. Currently, a human study is being conducted in collaboration with Dr. Nancy Lewis in Nutritional Sciences and Dietetics in which the "Omega" egg is being compared to a regular egg in the diet of hypercholesterolemic subjects. "Omega" eggs are being served on the UNL athletic training table and are sold at the UNL dairy store.

NEW LIVESTOCK GENE MAPPING RESEARCH PROGRAM IS INITIATED

In September, 1995, a new research program was initiated. This program, supervised by new faculty member Daniel Pomp, will focus on gene mapping and marker assisted selection in livestock species. A new laboratory is currently under development and will be dedicated to this exciting new program.

Presently, genetic improvement in animals is achieved by selecting parents based on their performance as well as that of their relatives and progeny. While this is a successful process, significant enhancement may be gained by direct evaluation of the genes or DNA that regulate economically relevant traits in livestock. The current explosion of molecular biology and DNA methodology now affords animal scientists the opportunity to begin identifying these genes in cattle, pigs, sheep and poultry. This will lead to the ability to select animals based on direct visualization of their DNA, a process known as DNA marker assisted selection. This ability will be combined with phenotypic selection to identify superior animals in a more accurate and rapid manner, thus increasing genetic improvement.

If you are interested in learning more about the new Livestock Gene Mapping Research Program, contact Daniel Pomp (402/472-6416). You may wish to arrange a personal or group visit to the laboratory to get first-hand exposure to gene mapping and DNA technology in livestock.

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

Swine extension specialists at the University of Nebraska, in cooperation with the Nebraska Pork Producers Association, will soon offer two major activities designed to give Nebraska pork producers tools to improve their competitiveness. One is Pork Central and the other is the Pork Management Review.

Pork Central - Picture an "Operations Center" environment. In this room there is an 800 telephone line, a computer, a coordinator and a part-time secretary surrounded by a multitude of resource materials, a large calendar on the wall with all events involving pork producers and a list of resource people. People can call in seeking information and assistance. They can be helped either by referral (in-house or outside NU), informing them about an upcoming meeting, sending them printed or videotape material, or a farm visit by a specialist, educator or mentor to do a management review. Moreover, Pork Central can serve as a depository or clearinghouse of resources, and facilitate the formation of networks
and partnerships. The main impetus for Pork Central is the need to create a highly visible focal point by which producers can efficiently access the resources they need to be competitive and to draw the University swine team closer together.

Pork Management Review - The management review is intended to be a tool to evaluate current management practices and identify specific weaknesses in a swine enterprise. Once problems are identified and prioritized, appropriate resources can be used to solve the problems. The review would link producers and others in the pork industry to the educational resources available through Pork Central. Specialists are busy preparing the management review and we hope to field test it soon.

CHUCK SCHROEDER ACCEPTS NEW POSITION

Charles P. Schroeder, an Animal Science Alumnus and native of Palisade, NE, has resigned as Executive Vice President and Director of Development of the University of Nebraska Foundation to accept a new challenge. Schroeder joined the NU Foundation in September, 1981. He accepted a position with the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) as the first Chief Executive Officer. Charles (Chuck) has been associated with the University Foundation for the past nine years, and his outstanding work has resulted in the funding of many important University projects. We will miss his talents but wish him the very best in his new role.

We also congratulate Chuck on being named Alumnus of the Year at the CASNR Alumni Association Reunion on November 4, 1995.

COURSES

A.S. 456 - SHEEP PRODUCTION

Sheep Production was one of the first production classes taught at the University of Nebraska. Instructors include Dad Weber (10 years), M.A. Alexander (34 years) and Ted Doane (30 years).

The class has gone through several evolutionary changes over the years. It was first a three-hour class, then in the 1970s, the class was changed to a two-hour class, back to a three-hour class in the 1980s and back to a two-hour class in 1990.

The enrollment have fluctuated from 8 to 80 and now has settled at 10 to 15 students per class over the last 10 years. The gender mix has been close to equality in the last few years.

Subject areas taught has not varied, but technology has changed. In the 1960s, when the Sheep Unit was moved to the Mead Station (ARDC), the availability of "hands on" opportunities became limited. This was especially true during lambing and the rearing of young lambs. At that time, conversions of empty existing buildings were made and pregnant ewes were brought to the campus except for the first two years when ewes were borrowed from producers in the area. The buildings used were the beef barn, horse barn and the poultry building dubbed as the Judging Pavilion Annex. In 1988, the department moved to the new building and all have appreciated the excellent facilities it has provided. The only thing wrong with the new building is that there are no opportunities to experience the cold miserable nights of getting up and checking for new lambs! Now the students come to the warm building on three-hour interval checks. If they don't want to leave the building for the next three hours, they study, watch videos of sheep production or a good John Wayne movie.

A.S. 270 - ANIMAL WELFARE

Animal Welfare is a new course taught by Dr. Mary Beck. Developed in response to a UNL-wide committee, inputs were sought from faculty at several other institutions who taught similar courses. Students explore the philosophical, ethical, legal and practical issues of animal use, from agricultural use, through animals in research, as pets, in drug testing and in hunting for sport or food. Class participation is a large part of the evaluation of students as discussion gradually takes the place of lectures given early in the semester.

Students spent an afternoon at the Nebraska Farm Bureau offices receiving training in dealing with the press/public on animal use issues. Each student was then "interviewed" during a simulated news conference and critiqued by both the Nebraska Farm Bureau staff and other students.

During October, groups of students took the identity of an actual member of Congress and developed position statements typical of legislative processes. Observers from the Nebraska Cattlemen, the Lincoln Public Schools, and the Nebraska Farm Bureau were present to evaluate the activity for possible use in Nebraska on a regular basis.

The class also debated a legislative bill in a mock Congressional hearing. The bill debated was an amendment to the Animal Welfare Act to provide for humane treatment and housing of veal calves. Each team presented its arguments as an "animal scientist," a "veterinarian," a "producer," and as one other person of their choice. Teams were allowed to lobby the members of the Congressional subcommittee, consisting of five animal science professors playing the roles of members of Congress. Following the oral testimony and summations, the subcommittee met in closed session and decided whether or not the bill should be sent to the full House of Representatives or killed in committee. Grades for this activity were based on participation and quality of effort and not by the outcome of the vote.

In November, students worked in pairs to write a term paper on some issue of animal use. This involved contrasting opposing viewpoints from articles and synthesizing a conclusion. Teams presented their papers orally at the end of the semester. Again, grades were based on participation and degree of effort, as determined by the students on evaluation forms they completed on themselves.

Another activity was for students to become proficient in the use of electronic media, specifically use of the Internet and the various ways in which it can be used to communicate and gain access to information.

The course meets general science requirements, has Integrative Studies status, and meets twice a week. It is open to students at the sophomore level or above.
**JUDGING TEAM ACTIVITIES**

**1995 Livestock Judging Team**

Front Row Left to Right: Jim Gosey, Assistant Coach; Renee Plueger, Concord; Kent Fichtner, Maywood; Paul Peterson, Gothenburg; Ted Doane, Coach. Back Row Left to Right: Pete Olson, Assistant Coach; Deb Roeber, Ashland; Joel Engel, Schuyler; Mike Newton, Loup City.

The University of Nebraska Livestock Judging Team participated in three contests this fall—the Midwest Classic, Wichita, KS, the American Royal, Kansas City, MO and the North American International Livestock Exposition, Louisville, KY.

**1995 Meat Animal Evaluation Team**

Front Row, Left to Right: Barry Benson, Newman Grove; Chris Cornelius, Madrid; Stacie Jacob, Cozad; Brian Quandt, Coach; Back Row, Left to Right: Dennis Burson, Advisor; Anthony Moreave, David City; Jeff Pope, Ravenna; Mike Anderson, Cozad; Elton Aberle, Department Chair.

The 1995 Meat Animal Evaluation Team competed in five contests placing 5th overall at the Iowa State University Meats Judging Contest. They finished 8th at the American Royal with Stacie Jacob and Mike Anderson tying for 5th place in total placings. The team finished 11th at the International at Dakota City, NE. At the Northwestern contest in Denver, CO., the team was 6th in total placings and Mike Anderson was 1st in total placings. The team was 1st in total placings at the Southwestern contest in Fort Worth, TX.

**YOUR NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE**

Earl Ellington, Chair, Edd Clemens and Dennis Burson serve as the current departmental newsletter committee. As you know, the Animal Science Department has a long history of providing an annual newsletter to its alumni and friends. Each year we hear words of satisfaction from several of you. We certainly want not only news items and articles from you as requested later in the newsletter, but also any comments on how we might better the newsletter. We sincerely hope that you find this one to be interesting and informative. You have our best wishes for 1996, and we hope to see many of you at Alumni Day which is described on the front page.

**ALUMNI NEWS**

Thanks to those Animal Science graduates who have sent the information that follows. We would like to have updates from the rest of you for our 1996 newsletter.

**1970s**

Yoshinobu Arima, 1262 Hanenishi, Kute, Ohda, Shimane 694, Japan, a former Japanese Agricultural Train-
<table>
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<tr>
<th>CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 1995-96</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>BEEF</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>4-State Beef Conference - Jan. 11, Tecumseh</td>
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<td>Applied Genetics &amp; Reproductive Management Symposium - Jan. 16-18, Great Plains Veterinary Center, Clay Center</td>
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<td>Cattle Feeders Satellite Clinic - Feb. 8-15-22, Norfolk and Columbus</td>
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<td>Feedlot Roundtable - Mar. 14, College Park, Grand Island</td>
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<td><strong>DAIRY</strong></td>
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<td>Dairy Grazing Conferences, Hartington City Auditorium - Feb. 15</td>
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<td>4-H Building - Feb. 16, (Meetings are from 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.)</td>
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<td>Area Dairy Days, (Focus: Nutrient Management), Beatrice - Mar. 5; O’Neill - Mar. 6, Bloomfield - Mar 7; West Point - Mar. 8, (Meetings are from 10:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.)</td>
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<td><strong>SHEEP AND GOAT</strong></td>
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<td>Sheep Symposium - Nov. 17-18, Grand Island</td>
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<td>Angora Goat Seminar - Dec. 3, Animal Science - Lincoln</td>
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<td>ASI Convention - Feb. 12-18</td>
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<td>High Plains Meeting-Tri State - Apr. 1, Colby, KS</td>
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<td><strong>HORSE</strong></td>
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<td>Horsin Around - Feb. 3-4, Animal Science Arena, UNL</td>
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<td>Horse Judging Seminar - Mar. 16, Lexington Fairgrounds</td>
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<td>State 4-H Horse Exposition - July 15-18, Grand Island</td>
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<td><strong>SWINE</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Nebraska Pork Producers Convention - Feb. 12, Grand Island</td>
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<td>Nebraska Pork Industry Expo - Feb. 7-8, Columbus</td>
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<td>National Pork Producers Environmental Assurance Program Inservice - Feb. 15, Grand Island; Feb. 16, Norfolk</td>
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<td><strong>POULTRY</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Processing, Marketing and Demand for Ratite Meat Products - Feb. 22-24, Animal Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nebraska Poultry Industries Annual Convention - Mar. 6-7, Columbus</td>
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<td><strong>OTHER</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bud Britton Animal Science Golf Classic - May 24, Lincoln</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNL Livestock Judging Clinic - Form as Related to Function - June 6-7, Animal Science - Lincoln</td>
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<td>4-H Expovisions - July 10-12, UNL East Campus</td>
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<tr>
<td>AK-SAR-BEN Livestock Exposition - Sep. 25-30, Omaha</td>
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