2005

Nebraska Hall of Agricultural Achievement

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Nebraska Hall of Agricultural Achievement
April 8, 2005
Nebraska East Union
John C. Owens
NU Vice President and IANR Harlan Vice Chancellor

I am delighted to be present tonight to celebrate the achievements of these wonderful and worthy new additions to the Nebraska Hall of Agricultural Achievement. It’s a real treat to have this opportunity to focus on recognizing some very special Nebraskans who are so deserving of their honors. I can think of few experiences more gratifying than those in which we all get to say a heartfelt "well-done and thank-you" to those people who make significant contributions to the world around them by the way they live their lives and by the places they choose to put their talents and energies to work."
It's such a "great pleasure" to congratulate Bryce Neidig for being this year's "esteemed honoree." Thank you, Bryce, for all you do and all you have done to represent agriculture in ways "that matter" so very much. Let me also "applaud" each of the past honorees who are present with us tonight. I "thank" each of you for all you continue to do to tell agriculture's story in Nebraska and beyond. I also sincerely "thank" each of you here tonight who already has been named to the Nebraska Hall of Agricultural Achievement. "Thank you" for your ongoing support and for being "champions" of Nebraska agriculture.

My work and the people "with whom" I come in contact keep me perpetually "aware" of the need to preserve and to improve Nebraska agriculture. "This also is the goal" of the Nebraska Hall of Agricultural Achievement, and I continually appreciate those of you who work so hard to keep Nebraska agriculture "both strong and productive. Your determination, your wisdom, and your vision are "absolutely vital" to us all.
Now, it is my great pleasure to introduce to you the newest members of the Nebraska Hall of Agricultural Achievement. Time limits me from detailing each person's many, many accomplishments; however, I feel privileged to provide you with a brief glimpse of all these people do and have accomplished. This year's new Nebraska Hall of Agricultural Achievement members are:

ALPHABETICAL ORDER

Iowa State Alumni

Jack JANDSON

There's help with the alphabet available at your table!
Mary Bargman Crawford of Alliance, the Nebraska Agriculture Coordinator for U.S. Sen. Chuck Hagel. In this role Mary coordinates legislative and constituent services with six, state and Capitol Hill staff members on farm policy, ag credit, and food safety – just to name a few. Her journalism background has earned her recognition for “writing excellence” in support of agriculture, including the Nebraska Press Women Achievement Award. Her numerous memberships include the Nebraska Cattlemen, North Platte Valley Water Coalition, and University of Nebraska-Lincoln College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources Alumni Association.
Richard L. Fleming of Lincoln has held several roles at UNL and within the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, including extension editor, Chairman of the Department of Agricultural Communications, Director of the UNL Information Office, and Assistant to the Chancellor. Although Dick retired in 1996, he still actively supports and works for IANR. He advises and counsels students and organizations, and coordinates events management, as well as award recognitions for IANR faculty and staff. Among Dick's memberships are Agricultural Communicators in Education, Gamma Sigma Delta, Nebraska Agribusiness Club, Nebraska AgRelations Council, and many more.
-- Norman Husa (Hew-sa) of Wymore is a farmer, a seedsman and an effective leader. Norm has invested a significant amount of time and resources in understanding both world-commodity-markets and Nebraska's role in the global marketplace. He was selected by former Governors Nelson and Johans to participate in four foreign trade missions, traveling to Argentina, Brazil, China, and Asia. He and his wife, Linda, served on the Farm Crisis Hotline in the 1980s. Norm has held office for the Nebraska Crop Improvement Association, Nebraska Soybean Board, United Soybean Board, and has served on the Agricultural Advisory Committees under two different governors. He has won several significant awards including the Nebraska Crop Improvement Association's Presidential Award of Excellence.
-- K. Kirk Jamison of Lincoln is the Executive Director of the Nebraska 4-H Foundation. Kirk is a former investment-banker, financial adviser, and was “State-Director” for the Farmers Home Administration, where he “helped” finance young-and-beginning farmers. Some of his “other” appointments include positions on councils by Governors Orr and Kerrey, and as Chair of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Revitalization Task Force, and Chair of USDA's Food-and-Agriculture Council. Kirk is a past President and member of the Agriculture Builders of Nebraska and the Nebraska AgriBusiness Club; and member of the Nebraska AgRelations Council, Nebraska Diplomats, and several other organizations.
-- Joan Laughlin of Lincoln joined UNL in 1974 as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Textiles, Clothing, and Design. She moved through-the-academic ranks to Professor, Department Chair, and Associate Dean. Dr. Laughlin's research on pesticide decontamination of textiles is used worldwide. At the state level, 35,000 certified pesticide applicators annually attend training sessions and receive her information on minimizing pesticide risk. Her NebGuide, "Laundering Pesticide-Contaminated Clothing," has been reprinted by Cooperative Extension in 25 different states. Dr. Laughlin's research results were incorporated into the World Health Organization's analyses, and her findings primarily are the basis for EPA guidelines regarding protective-clothing for pesticide use. She has received numerous awards for the quality and impact of her work.
Dan Laursen farms near Alliance and is a leader in the turf industry. He founded and chairs the High Plains Grass Seed Association. Dan has hosted and developed field-days to promote alternative crops such as canola and brown mustard, and turf grass.

Dan has successfully coordinated grants to enhance grass seed cleaning and was recognized in 2004 for Outstanding Service to Panhandle Agriculture. Dan is a mentor-producer for a federal grant to improve the success of alternative crops. His many memberships and offices include the Nebraska Crop Improvement Association, Box-Butte-County Extension Board, and the Dry Bean Growers Association.
-- Clayton Lukow farms and ranches near Holstein. A life-long resident of Adams County, he is known for his knowledge and wisdom in water resource management. Clayton has been appointed to commodity boards, councils, water councils, and congresses by Governors Thone, Kerrey, Nelson, and Johanns. In 1995, President Clinton appointed him Federal Representative and Chairman of the Kansas-Nebraska Blue River Compact Administration. Clayton co-chaired the Nebraska Farm-Policy-Task-Force, served on the U.S. Feed Grains Council Board and was the first farmer to chair the council's Governmental Affairs Committee. He also served as adviser on U.S. trade missions to Spain, England, and Ireland.
-- Michael S. Turner of Lincoln joined UNL's Department of Agricultural Economics in 1964. He served as "Interim-Head" in 1988, and directed the Agricultural Marketing Center and co-directed the Agribusiness program. He has been recognized "nationally" in the area of cooperative-management and has provided extensive and effective "leadership training" across Nebraska on agribusiness management. Mike has provided technical assistance, feasibility counseling, and strategic planning to dozens of Nebraska cooperatives, and he has received numerous recognitions. Upon his retirement from UNL in 1999, the Nebraska Cooperative Council"renamed" its scholarship to honor him.
-- Dale H. Vanderholm of Hickman recently retired as the Associate Dean and Associate Director of the IANR Agricultural Research Division, and continues to serve, on a half-time basis, as the IANR Facilities Director. He was a "key-part" of the leadership team that "transformed" agricultural research into programs "critical" to Nebraska and its future. Dr. Vanderholm represented UNL on commodity boards, the Water Council Planning Committee, the Nebraska Crop Improvement Association, and many others. He has been recognized by the American Society of Agricultural Engineering, Nebraska Agribusiness Club, Nebraska Grain Sorghum Board, and "several" student honorary societies. He chaired the North Central Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors, and was "President" of the Agricultural Research Institute.

Please join me in applauding this years' "additions" to the Nebraska Hall of Agricultural Achievement. Thank you.