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Nebraska Agribusiness Club 40th Annual Awards Banquet

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Nebraska Agribusiness Club 40th Annual Awards Banquet
Thursday, November 2, 2006
Cornhusker Hotel, Lincoln, NE
John C. Owens
NU Vice President and IANR Harlan Vice Chancellor

Did you know if you look up the word "integrity" in the dictionary, the definition is Alan Moeller?

OK, maybe not – but it could be. Alan Moeller's integrity, his dependability, his enthusiasm, his skill, his wise and thoughtful counsel and the ethical, and principled way in which he lives his life and leads by example, are only a few of the many, many reasons I, and many others throughout Nebraska, value Alan so highly. He is a man totally worthy of the admiration, value, and respect this Public Service to Agriculture Award represents, and I am so very, very pleased to be here tonight to see him receive it.

Alan truly is a man whose life is about public service. He is a man devoted to Nebraska, devoted to Nebraskans, devoted to enhancing and strengthening agriculture, the state's largest industry, and devoted to the natural resources and quality of life in our state.

He is a man much more used to working behind the scenes to accomplish great things than he is used to standing in the spotlight. Tonight, however, we shine the spotlight on Alan, and that is pure pleasure to see.

And what good company Alan finds himself in tonight as he receives this award! My congratulations, also, to Eric Brown, Keith Heuermann, and Joy Philippi. The Nebraska Agribusiness Club clearly has outstanding recipients at this, its 40th annual awards banquet.

I spoke earlier of Alan's integrity. Let me give you a few more "I" words that describe him, as well. Intelligent. Industrious. Innovative. Indispensable. It is my privilege to work closely with Alan in the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and he *is absolutely indispensable* in my eyes. His experience, his knowledge and caring for the Institute, the university, agriculture, Nebraska and its people; the way he sees things and knows how they fit together, how disparate pieces can be

brought together to form a whole for the greater good; how to avoid as many pitfalls as possible – that knowledge and that caring and experience is absolutely indispensable to the work we do at the University.

I noted earlier that Alan is Assistant Vice Chancellor for Finance and Personnel in the Institute. He's also a lead administrator on personnel and academic matters, facility projects, and budget management for the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture at Curtis. A University of Nebraska-Lincoln graduate with bachelor's and master's degrees in agricultural economics, Alan served as Legislative Analyst for the Nebraska Legislature before joining the Institute in 1977. That experience added to his knowledge base and his professional contacts and friendships.

Over the years, Alan has worked tirelessly on behalf of the Institute, agriculture, and Nebraska, and we all thank him for that. He is an effective, skilled advocate for the work we do, and

the importance of agriculture, natural resources, and family and community issues – all areas of Institute expertise – in Nebraska. The compassion and understanding he shows for this state and its people, and the deep caring that underlies both, is extraordinary.

Just recently Alan played an indispensable role in helping develop the contract between Iowa State University and UNL to provide veterinary medical education for Nebraska students in an innovative new cooperative program that will begin on East Campus in fall 2007. This is a program we think will be of great value to Nebraska's livestock industry, and just one of the many, many examples I can provide of Alan's tireless work on behalf of our state.

Where I come from – the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, of which University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension and its 4-H youth program is a solid part – we're well aware of the head, heart, hands, and health of 4-H.

Alan, a 4-H'er in the Golden Rod 4-H Club up at Wisner, where his uncle was the volunteer leader, knows those four H's, also. As do many of you in this room this evening.

Tonight I'd like to add another set of four "H's" that describe Alan Moeller: Honorable. Hard-working. Honest. Humble. If you see Alan getting a bit red-faced even as I speak, that last word – humble – is why.

Let me add a few more descriptors, too, as I end my remarks tonight. Trustworthy. Positive. Mentor. Friend.

Congratulations, Alan, on receiving this extremely well-deserved award.