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Nebraska Urban Pest Management Conference

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Nebraska Urban Pest Management Conference
January 26, 2006
Cornhusker-Marriott Hotel Grand Ballroom
Welcome
John C. Owens
NU Vice President and IANR Harlan Vice Chancellor

It is my very great pleasure to welcome each of you to the 14th annual Urban Pest Management Conference. I want you to know that we in the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources take seriously our role as partners with Nebraska. We are especially pleased for the "partnerships" we have with your industry.

The need for urban pest management continues to grow in the United States and in Nebraska. Demographically, 70 percent of Nebraska's population resides in urban areas. The good and necessary work you do to help protect human health, prevent financial losses, and manage insects, spiders, rodents, bats, and birds is highly important. Your expertise helps control insect pests of buildings, nuisance insects, and vectors that carry disease-producing organisms that result in human and animal

disease such as the West Nile Virus, and many more, and all that clearly matters for Nebraska.

The Urban Pest Management's yearly conference started back in 1993, and annually provides significant educational topics by prominent and well-known experts. Today you can look forward to hearing from more than 30 speakers who are consultants, manufacturers, university specialists, pest control practitioners, state and federal government regulators, and others.

Support from the industry you represent is key to this conference's success. Along with UNL Extension, supporters of this UPM conference include the Nebraska Pest Control Industry, manufacturers and dealers of pest control products, the Nebraska Department of Agriculture, the Nebraska Health and Human Services System, the Lincoln/Lancaster County health departments, the Nebraska Environmental Health Association, the Nebraska Grain and Feed Dealers Association, and the Nebraska Mosquito and Vector Control Association.

While you are here with us today in Lincoln, if you have some time I hope some of you will explore our downtown university campus. I invite you to visit our new, official door to the university: the Van Brundt Visitors Center, home of the Ross Media Arts Center. Also a short distance from here are the UNL Office of Admissions; the Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery and Sculpture Garden; the Lied Center for Performing Arts that features world-class talents; the University State Museum ("Elephant Hall"); and the Hewitt Place Building that houses the renowned Center for Great Plains Studies and the Lentz Center for Asian Culture. We are proud of the wide and rich variety of art appreciation that's just a brisk walk away. We'd also be delighted to have you come out and visit us on our beautiful East Campus, where our entomology department is located -- along with our wonderful Dairy Store, the Yeutter garden, and the Maxwell Arboretum.

Once again, welcome to Lincoln, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and the Urban Pest Management Conference.

You have an excellent program ahead of you. We hope you will feel free to tell us what you like about the conference, and if there are ways you think the conference can improve, we ask you to share that information with us. Your candid critiques are important.

My best wishes for a productive conference. Thank you for this opportunity to be with you this morning.