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Presentation for Neal E. Harlan

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"CARY" SANDELL

Presentation for Neal E. Harlan

Our first Public Service To Agriculture Award this evening will be presented "posthumously" to Neal E. Harlan who gained recognition throughout Nebraska and the Midwest in grain merchandising "combined" with a lifelong-interest in the "progress" of agriculture through education and research.

Neal was raised on a farm near Hickman which "engendered" a strong-interest and active-involvement in "Nebraska agriculture" until his untimely death in 2003. After graduating from Hickman High School in 1949, he enrolled at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and received a B. S. degree in agriculture in 1953. Then he served two years as a commissioned-officer in the United States Army Artillery.

Neal began his career at the West-central Co-op Grain Company in Omaha in 1956 as a "grain-merchandiser" and "operator" of the firm's office at York. He was "promoted" to senior vice president of marketing in 1967. In 1969 he joined the Scoular Company in Omaha as vice-president in charge of grain-

merchandising and storage and was named executive-vice president in 1981. He became president and chief-executive-officer of Scoular in 1983 and three years later became president and chief-operating-officer. Neal retired in 1991 and continued to serve on the Scoular board.

During his years at Scoular, this Nebraska company became one of the largest grain-merchandising-firms in the Midwest. In 2001, it ranked 107th in Forbes Magazine's rankings of the nation's top private-companies with revenues of $1.9 billion.

John Heck, an officer at Scoular, said Neal Harlan's business-success was rooted in his ability to work with people. He also was an unpretentious man who was willing to "dig in and do the hard work," Heck said in an article published in the Omaha World-Herald. On one occasion, NEAL [redacted] pulled up to a grain elevator in a gray suit, slipped on coveralls and boots, and climbed up to the top of the elevator to see if he could help fix what needed to be fixed.

Neal's son-in-law, Frank Skrupa, said that he never deviated from a certain set of standards: always tell the truth; be happy for the success of others; and treat everybody the same.

Neal was always a strong advocate for Nebraska agriculture and a strong supporter of UNL. While serving as president of Scoular, he worked closely with the UNL Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources. He was a driving force for establishing the highly successful and nationally recognized agribusiness major in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources and the College of Business Administration. He also brought his senior staff at Scoular to UNL on a regular basis to interact with faculty and administration regarding the changing needs of the agricultural industry.

Throughout his career in agribusiness, Neal maintained active involvement in the family farm. The farm was among the very first in the area to use minimum tillage and to install center pivot irrigation.

Neal and his wife and soul mate, Lee, took an active interest in supporting agriculture and law programs at the University. Their contributions included the Neal and Leone Harlan Vice Chancellorship in the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources Scholarship Program, the fund for renovation of Agricultural Hall on the UNL East Campus, the Omtvedt Innovation Award Program in the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, the Neal Harlan Professorship of Agribusiness, the Neal and Leone Harlan Auditorium in the headquarters building at the University's Agricultural Research and Development Center at Ithaca, the Lied Center for the Performing Arts, and the Judge Harry A. Spencer Professorship in Law which honors Leone Harlan's father, a Nebraska Supreme Court Justice, Judge Spencer died in August 2007, just before his 104th birthday.

Dr. Ron Hansen

Over the years, Neal was active in many organizations including the Agriculture Builders of Nebraska, Nebraska Methodist Hospital Foundation, Nebraska Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Board of Directors of the University of Nebraska Alumni Association, Board of Trustees of the University of Nebraska Foundation, Board of Directors of the Nebraska Agricultural Leadership Council, Inc., which sponsors the Nebraska Lead Program in cooperation with the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at UNL, University of Nebraska President's Club, and trustee and elder of his church.

During retirement Neal maintained involvement in the Scoular Company and the family farming operation. He also built Habitat for Humanity Homes in Arizona where the Harlans maintained a winter home while their Nebraska residence remained at Ginger Cove Lake at Valley. The Harlan's daughter, Stephanie Skrupa of Omaha, is on a business trip and could not attend this evening.

Therefore, in recognition of his "profound" dedication and contributions to the future of Nebraska agriculture, the grain merchandising industry, the education of young people, and his alma mater, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, it is a privilege to present this Public Service to Agriculture Award "posthumously" to Neal E. Harlan. I would like to ask Lee Harlan to come forward to accept the award.

# # #

LAMP

Presentation for Elbert C. Dickey

Our next honoree came to Nebraska in 1978 to join the University of Nebraska-Lincoln which had long-been-recognized as a pioneer in conservation tillage research, but, at the time, few-farmers were using the practice. Dr. Elbert C. Dickey brought research-and-technology together in an Extension educational-program for farmers and is known as the person who introduced conservation-tillage in Nebraska. Now he coordinates all Extension educational programs across Nebraska with the overall goal of enhancing our quality of life.

A native of Wayne County, Illinois, Dr. Dickey holds four degrees from the University of Illinois, including a doctorate in agricultural-engineering. Early in his Nebraska career, Dr. Dickey coordinated the Conserving-and-Managing Natural Resources Cooperative Extension Priority-Initiative from 1982 to 1991. He conducted many meetings on conservation tillage which involved planting into stubble without plowing by using such systems as no-till, till-plant, and minimum tillage. He used a portable rain-

simulator to demonstrate directly the effect of soil-slope and crop-residue on the amount of soil-and-water lost. The impact of this basic-change in production-practices resulted an estimated fuel cost savings of $6 million a year at that time along with a reduction in soil erosion estimated at 4.6 tons per-crop-acre per year. He subsequently coordinated a multi-state conservation-tillage professional-development program.

Elbert's accomplishments did not go unnoticed. In 1991 he was named assistant dean of the Extension Division in the University's Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources. He was appointed associate dean in 1998, interim dean-and-director in 1999, and I was pleased to name Dr. Dickey to his current position of dean-and-director in 2001. Elbert provides leadership for all aspects of Extension programs which include Food Production and Natural Resource Systems...Building Strong Families... Nutrition, Health and Safety...4-H and Youth Development...Community Resource Development... and Community and Residential Environment. These programs are

"carried out" through extension specialists and extension educators "serving" every county in Nebraska and at our regional research and extension centers.

One supporter of his nomination "wrote" that Dean Dickey and his leadership team have been highly effective in moving Extension through a period of great change "redefining" the roles of educators, restructuring research and extension districts, and refocusing programming. These changes "are critical" in preparing Extension to meet the "future needs" of Nebraska by improving its efficiency and being even more inclusive regarding "who" it serves. Extension programming has been "essential" to the advancement and success of production agriculture in Nebraska and will continue to be critically important to Nebraska "if" we are to successfully address societal demands of "conserving" our natural resources and "protecting" the environment while "meeting" our nations's food, fiber, and bio-energy needs.

Elbert's record in Nebraska led to his selection as the Education and Extension Advisor for the U.S. Department of

Agriculture's Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service known as CSREES. While serving in this half-time assignment the past two years, he worked to strengthen the relationship between CSREES and the national land-grant universities, especially in helping make Extension education efforts a strong part of the National Research Initiative program.

Earlier this fall he was elected as chair of the Extension Committee on Organization and Policy. This Committee provides leadership and advocacy for the entire Extension System in the United States. He also has been a member and chair of the Governing Board of Directors of *eXtension*, a nationwide, pioneering effort for delivery of Extension materials using internet web sites and the *eXtension* national headquarters are LOCATED on UNL's East Campus. Nebraska was a pioneer in using satellite delivery for educational programs and web sites for any-time delivery of educational resources and learning modules.

Dean Dickey's efforts have been recognized by election to the Nebraska Hall of Agricultural Achievement and being named a

Fellow and recipient of the Nolan-Mitchell Award for Engineering Achievement by the American Society of Agricultural Engineers. He was named Education and Research Person of the Year by the Nebraska Fertilizer and Agricultural Chemical Institute and received the Distinguished Service Award from the Conservation Tillage Task Force of the Great Plains Agricultural Council, among other awards.

Based on the many significant contributions he has made to Nebraska agriculture and to our overall quality of life while developing one of the top Extension systems in the nation, it is an honor to present this Public Service to Agriculture award to Elbert C. Dickey. Please come forward to receive this award. Hearty congratulations!

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