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April 2005

## The Leading Object: April 2005

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# Perspectives

Our scientists are among the most-cited agricultural sciences scientists in the world.

I e-mailed this good news to the IANR community earlier, and I want to write further about it here.



John C. Owens  
NU Vice President and  
Harlan Vice Chancellor, IANR

This is a **very** big deal.

The ISI Essential Science Indicators Report, 1994-2004, tracks research that captures scientists' interest. It indexes nearly 9,000 journals, and tracks how often articles are cited by other authors.

Our scientists are cited a lot. IANR scientists published 1,028 papers that were cited 6,056 times from January 1994-January 2004.

When the ISI Essential Sciences Indicators Report reviewed agricultural sciences articles published by 298 institutions worldwide (these include both large universities and government agencies), it found we rank 16<sup>th</sup> globally.

Sixteenth.

Globally.

USDA is #1. The Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique in France is #2. Wageningen University in the Netherlands is #3; University of California-Davis #4.

We are in very good company here.

When you narrow the report's top 20 listings to universities only, we are 10<sup>th</sup> in the world. Narrow the field further, to U.S. universities only, and we are 8<sup>th</sup>.

This speaks so tremendously well for our faculty and the excellence of our research programs.

It also speaks tremendously well for our State of Nebraska, population roughly 1.7 million people.

Other highly-ranked universities on the ISI Essential Science Indicators Report  
*continued on page 2*

# The Leading Object

*The Morrill Act of 1862  
established a Land Grant University  
in each state where  
The Leading Object  
would be instruction  
in agriculture and related fields.*

April 2005

## Backyard Farmer Back for 52<sup>nd</sup> Year

Like fine wines, some things just get better every year.

University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension's "Backyard Farmer," for example, continues to remodel and renew itself year after year after year on public television. The series' 52<sup>nd</sup> year began Thursday, April 7, at 7 p.m. CT and continues each Thursday through September 15.

Two new series debut this year within the program. One series focuses on new home landscaping; the other on University of Nebraska-Lincoln agronomy and horticulture student projects.

"We try to make the show fresh each year," said producer Brad Mills. "This year



we're adding in information on working with new home landscaping and soil to start new home owners off right, and with projects our agronomy and horticulture students are doing, so Nebraskans can see what's new and exciting in horticulture here at the university."

In addition, the crew will return to Minden to see how last year's makeover garden is progressing and offer information including integrated pest management, landscaping for pets, berm construction, and small-town farmers' markets.

John Fech, extension educator for horticulture in Douglas/Sarpy counties, is the program host, working with a rotating panel of four specialists.

"Backyard Farmer" airs on NET1, formerly the Nebraska ETV Network, and on NET2 at 8 p.m. CT Friday and 8 a.m. CT Monday. In addition, the program is video-streamed at the  
*continued on page 2*



"Backyard Farmer" panelists pictured from left, front row: Anne Streich, horticulture educator; Roch Gaussoin, turfgrass specialist; Kim Todd, landscape horticulture specialist; and Fred Baxendale, urban horticulture specialist; back row: Brady Kappler, weed science educator; John Watkins, plant pathologist; Dave Keith, urban integrated pest management specialist; and Jim Kalisch, insect diagnostician.

IANR

*Perspectives continued from page 1*

list are from states with much, much larger populations than Nebraska's. Yet Nebraskans, from the early years of this university, have had the wisdom, faith, and vision to invest in their land-grant university for research so vital to the well-being and continuing success of our agricultural state.

Our faculty, in turn, skillfully use and leverage Nebraskans' investment to provide a truly outstanding return on the state dollars supporting our work.

Providing an excellent return for our stakeholders is important to IANR's culture and heritage. We take our land-grant university mission very seriously in the Institute.

Here research, teaching, and extension education are so closely intertwined that a "hurrah" for one is a "hurrah" for all. Each supports the others. Each enhances the others. Each needs the others to most richly fulfill our land-grant mission of taking the resources of the university to our state.

Through research, we discover new knowledge of value to Nebraskans and our world. We teach that new knowledge in our classrooms and laboratories, right along with lessons of integrity, responsibility, and leadership.

We teach it throughout our state in extension education programming.

I have said repeatedly that I consider extension education the most successful out-of-the-traditional-classroom learning experience ever yet devised. It provides Nebraskans knowledge they immediately can put to use in their lives.

Because we combine research, teaching, and extension education so well here, because they are so closely intertwined to benefit Nebraska, the combined strengths of what all together bring our state is so much greater than the strength of any one, alone.

When a story such as our ranking in the ISI Essential Science Indicators Report, 1994-2004, comes along, we need to celebrate that. We need to exult. This is a highly visible sign of the excellence that lies within IANR.

For people who do not know us, it signals the great worth of the work we do.

People who do know us already are aware of that worth. They see it throughout Nebraska, in their communities, and in their lives.

It is important that we celebrate our public successes. It is just as important that we celebrate those that are much more private. Much more quiet. Those for which stories may never be written, but which have long-lasting, indelible, sometimes life-changing results.

Our research, teaching, and extension education matter in people's lives.

What could be better than that?



## NHAA Names Neidig, Elects New Members

Bryce Neidig, a Madison County farmer and former Nebraska Farm Bureau President, was named the Nebraska Hall of Agricultural Achievement's 117<sup>th</sup>



Neidig

honoree at its April banquet.

Formed in 1916, NHAA has more than 200 members statewide dedicated to preserving and improving Nebraska agriculture. Each year, the group recognizes at least one honoree and the election of new members. This year's new members are:

Mary Bargman Crawford of Alliance; Norman Husa of Wymore; K. Kirk Jamison of Lincoln; Dan Laursen of Alliance; and Clayton Lukow of Holstein.

IANR faculty members Richard L. Fleming (Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communication), Joan M. Laughlin (Textiles, Clothing and Design), Michael S. Turner (Agricultural Economics) and Dale H. Vanderholm (Agricultural Research Division) also were elected.

*Backyard Farmer continued from page 1*

program's Web site, <http://byf.unl.edu>, and a 30-minute "Backyard Farmer Extra" will answer e-mail questions at 8:30 a.m. Saturdays on NET1 and at 9:30 a.m. CT Sundays and 1:30 p.m. CT Thursday on NET2.

"Backyard Farmer" is a collaboration between Cooperative Extension in the University's Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and NET Television.

— Barbara Rixstine

*Need to meet with the*  
Vice President/Vice Chancellor?

**Drop-ins each Friday from 3-5 p.m.\***

**John C. Owens**

NU Vice President for  
Agriculture and Natural Resources  
and Harlan Vice Chancellor of IANR

202 Ag Hall • (402) 472-2871

\*Occasionally Dr. Owens will be  
called away on University business.

Editor - Barbara Rixstine • Layout - Anne Moore • Photography - Brett Hampton



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109 ACB, 0918; via e-mail ([brixstine2@unl.edu](mailto:brixstine2@unl.edu)) or via fax (402-472-0025).

## Three New Curriculums Debut

# New 4-H Programs Have Technology Base

New programs and new opportunities await Nebraska 4-H'ers.

University of Nebraska Cooperative

Extension has developed three new 4-H curriculums – Quilt Quest, Fast Foods! and YOUth in Motion.

Patricia Fairchild, 4-H curriculum design specialist, said the new curriculums have a technological base, with their own Web sites and CD-ROMS soon to come.

Quilt Quest is about much more than making a quilt, Fairchild said. It's about intergenerational programming and the use of quilts to demonstrate other arts and sciences. Through Quilt Quest, 4-H'ers in grades five through 12 will get exposure to different cultures, discover computer technology in quilting, and apply quilt-making to science, math, language arts, arts, history, and other elements.

Planning for Quilt Quest began three years ago, in large part because of the expertise already on East Campus with the university's International Quilt Study Center, 4-H Communications Associate Tracy Pracheil said, adding "There hasn't been a quilt curriculum for 4-H'ers produced by a university that we're aware of."



YOUth in Motion teaches youth to set fitness goals through lessons in stretching and exercising, resting, healthy snacking, and reading food labels.

4-H'ers who use YOUth in Motion can work with their families to set physical fitness goals.

"Physical fitness is a key component of youth programs and is coming to the forefront with concerns over obesity," Pracheil said.

Fast Foods! teaches 4-H'ers to cook nutritious meals quickly with few ingredients. They also learn that using the correct utensils can simplify their cooking, Pracheil said.



The new curriculums reflect 4-H's goal to "provide 4-H'ers with research-based education and in-depth curriculum they can use to build their life skills," she said.

Fairchild said some nontraditional users of the curriculum, like quilting guilds, have expressed interest in



Cover designs by Communications & Information Technology

beginning their own 4-H clubs and using Quilt Quest's 284-page, full-color manual.

"It's just tremendous," Fairchild said of the nontraditional uses

for the curriculum. "This is avant-garde."

– Lori McGinnis

## Learning Good Sportsmanship Key to New 4-H Program

Nebraska 4-H'ers will learn more about good sportsmanship as part of a new University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension project that kicks off this month.

*Great Fans. Great Sports.* begins with an April 21 workshop at College Park in Grand Island. Extension 4-H Specialist Kathleen Lodl said she expects the workshop will initiate a series of community coalitions across Nebraska that will promote good sportsmanship in competitive activities.

"We are a nation that thrives on the participation in competition," Lodl said. "While it is often thought that such participation builds character, it doesn't automatically happen."

Extension partners on the project with the University of Nebraska Alumni Association, which brought the concept to the university and to the city of Lincoln a year ago. "It grew from there," said Andrea Cranford, Associate Executive Director for Communications for the association. The association decided to take the program to 4-H.

"If you want good sportsmanship, you have to start at the youngest level," she said.

*Great Fans. Great Sports.* is based on the six pillars of character and decision-making tools of 4-H's *Character Counts!* program. Participants will use educational activities, helpful tips, discussion points, and other resources to learn how to be good sports in all areas of competition in athletics, the arts, and other activities, Lodl said.

"Competitive events are full of opportunities to learn about respect, responsibility, trustworthiness, fairness, as well as how ... to be a good citizen," she added.



## Raun: UNL Days 'Best Time in My Life'

Robert Raun can't say enough good things about his days at UNL more than half a century ago.

"I think it was the best time in my life and I feel like I gained a lot from it," said the 1951 general agriculture graduate and former member of the NU Board of Regents.

He raves about his professors, his college experience, and his extracurricular activities. But ask him about the best thing that happened to him during that time and he turns sentimental. He says it was meeting his future wife, Eileen, who attended the former College of Home Economics.

Raun started attending UNL in 1945 after he graduated from high school. He attended one year, then took two years off to join the Air Force because "I always had a fondness for airplanes."

After Air Force stints in Mississippi and Texas, Raun returned to UNL, completed his bachelor's degree and returned to the family farm near Minden.

"I always intended to go back to the farm and that's what I did," he said.

While at UNL, Raun was involved in student leadership. He was student body president and president of the Ag Executive Board. He was president of his fraternity, Alpha Gamma Rho, and a



Raun

member of the livestock judging team and Innocents Society.

"You don't get the full benefit of a university education if all you do is go to class," Raun said, adding that his extracurricular activities rounded out his

college experience. Yet he has fond memories of his classes, his professors, and all his professors taught him.

"It has helped in so many ways," he said. "You learn to get along with people. You learn a lot about agriculture and who to go to with problems. There's so many things that are good about a college education."

His leadership experience continued after college. He served as regent from 1966 to 1980 and was Director of the Nebraska Department of Agriculture from 1983 to 1985. He also served on the W.K. Kellogg Foundation Board from 1985 to 1998.

Raun keeps busy since retiring in 1993. He helps his son on the farm, and he served as chairman of a fund-raising group for renovation of the Minden Opera House.

Raun and his wife Eileen have six children, all of whom graduated from UNL and live and work in Nebraska.

—Lori McGinnis

## Spiderworts Win NSA Competition

Two spiderwort artworks won the 2005 botanical print competition sponsored by the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum. The competition, which features native wildflowers, began in 1999.

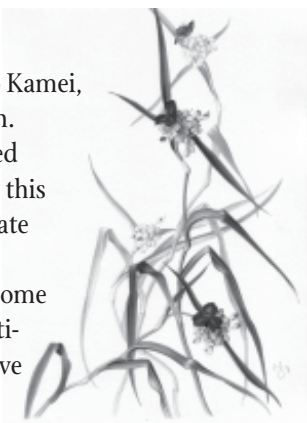
A new category this year, botanical interpretation, was won by Lincolnite Carol Rustad, a UNL fine arts graduate.

The botanical print category was this year by Japanese artist Yoshiko Kamei, who also won the 2004 competition.

The Nebraska Arts Council helped support the additional art category this year, NSA Communications Associate Karma Larsen said.

"We've enjoyed getting to know some regional artists through the competition," she said. "Although we receive entries from overseas, submissions by Nebraskans continue to be some of the strongest."

—Barbara Rixstine



'Spiderwort' by Yoshiko Kamei

## Entry-level field scout training set for May 17

Training for entry-level crop scouts who will be working for crop consultants, industry agronomists, or farm service centers is scheduled for Tuesday, May 17 at the University of Nebraska Agricultural Research and Development Center near Mead.

The hands-on class will focus on corn and soybean diseases, insects, weeds, crop growth and development, and nutrient deficiencies. Class will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Past participants have given the training high marks — 90% of the 2004 participants rated the program as above average or one of the best programs of its type available.

Early registration is recommended. The fee is \$75, with a \$10 discount for those registering by May 10. Register online at <http://ardc.unl.edu/registration.htm>, call (402) 624-8000, fax (402) 624-8010, or e-mail [cdunbar2@unl.edu](mailto:cdunbar2@unl.edu).

Additional Crop Management Diagnostic Clinics are planned for July 14-15 and Aug. 24.

—Cropwatch