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Agronomy & Horticulture Newsletter, March 12, 2012

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Happy St. Patrick's Day to all the faculty, staff, alumni, students and friends of the Agronomy and Horticulture Department! St. Patrick's Day is Saturday, March 17.

Range Short Course Scheduled June 18–22

The Nebraska Range Short Course is set for June 18–22, 2012, on the campus of Chadron State College. It is designed to provide individuals who have a background in range management, natural resources, or agriculture an opportunity to increase their knowledge in range management.

The week-long course is taught through a series of classroom and field sessions that focuses on underlying principles of range management for efficient, sustainable use of rangeland for multiple purposes. The course topics include plant identification, plant growth and development, rangeland soils, assessing range condition and health, prescribed burning, ecosystem services, wildlife management, grazing management, and range livestock production.

The short course is sponsored by the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, Chadron State College, and the Nebraska Section Society for Range Management and can be taken for credit at either UNL or Chadron State. Sixteen continuing education credits are available for the SRM “Certified

Professional in Rangeland Management” program.

Applications are due May 18, 2012, and enrollment is limited to 50 participants. The registration fee of \$225 includes educational materials, transportation associated with field trips during the week, and breaks. Food and lodging can be arranged with Chadron State College.

Contact Walt Schacht (wschacht@unl.edu or 402-472-0205) for questions. The short course



website is at <http://agronomy.unl.edu/nebraskarangeshortcourse>.

Mark the Date!

March 12: CASNR Teaching & Learning Improvement Council seminar “Assessing Student Learning in the Classroom” by Dr. Beth Lewis, noon, Nebraska East Union.

March 13: The Agronomy & Horticulture Graduate Student Association will meet at 5:30 p.m. in the break area of Plant Sciences Hall. Food will be provided. Please RSVP to Brian Kreinke, kreinkeb@gmail.com.

March 16: A free grant writing seminar will be held from 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m. in the Nebraska City Campus Union. Sponsored by the Office of Research and Econ. Development, details are at: <http://research.unl.edu/events/grantseminar/>.

March 16: Agronomy and Horticulture Dept. Seminar “Grazing Strategies and Rangeland Health in the Nebraska Sandhills” with Jerry Volesky, 3:30 p.m., 150 Keim, Refreshments at 3 p.m.

March 18–25: Spring Break, UNL offices are open but no classes.

March 20: Professional Dev. Field Day at the Agricultural Research and Development Center, Mead. Please register at: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/viewform?formkey=dElPenQ2NUIPQTJIMTlzbGNzdVdYc0E6MQ>.

March 26: Plant Path. seminar “The *Pseudomonas* HopA1 effector suppresses plant innate immunity and resembles phosphothreonine lyases from animal pathogens” by Tania Toruna, UNL Ph.D. student, 264 Keim, 4 p.m.

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News from the HAPPI Business Center

Submit Inventory forms to TJ McAndrew

Due to changes in the Federal Property Guidelines, any piece of equipment purchased with partial or complete federal funds MUST be first offered back to the Federal Property System before it is sent to the University Inventory Department. In order to achieve this, all inventory items must be turned into TJ McAndrew who will check to see what funds were used to purchase the item and then will contact the appropriate inventory department. To ensure this will happen, we would appreciate it if you would turn in the surplus inventory sheet to TJ and not fax it yourself.

Turn Staff Evaluations in by March 15

Staff performance evaluations are due to John Dillingham by March 15. Please make this a priority as turning in late evaluations delays the entire department budget process including salary increases.

EHS Safety Colloquium is April 18

The Environmental Health & Safety Office is planning its next colloquium, "*Safe Handling: Unstable, Reactive & Energetic Chemicals*" on Wednesday, April 18, 2012.

There will be two sessions (one on each campus). One session will be in the Nebraska East Union (Great Plains Room) from 12:30–1:20 p.m. and the other session is in Hamilton Hall, Room 102, from 3:30–4:20 p.m. The sessions are sponsored by EHS in collaboration with the Office of Research & Economic Development. See the EHS website: <http://ehs.unl.edu/training/Colloquium/> for details.

Information Technology News and Updates

By Warren Werner, Microcomputer Support Associate

Computer problems may also be submitted electronically through the UNL support system at mysupport@unl.edu. This will be entered directly into the Information Services trouble ticket system, and I will get these as well. Ultimately, it is preferable to email mysupport@unl.edu first, as I will get the requests anyway, and if the problem is something that I can't handle, other people in IS will also see them. To contact me directly, e-mail me at wwerner2@unl.edu or call by phone to 402-890-5648.

McClellan visits UNL for Coyne Lectureship

Everyone is invited to the Coyne Graduate Student Distinguished Lectureship with Dr. Philip McClellan on Wednesday, April 4, 2012, at 1 p.m. in the Nebraska East Union.

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March 30: Dept. Seminar "Seed Enhancement – Principles & Practice," John Eastin, Kamterter Products LLC, 3:30 p.m., 150 Keim, Refreshments at 3 p.m.

March 30: Graduate student deadline to submit progress reports to Marlene Busse, mbusse1@unl.edu. The progress report/instructions are at: <http://agronomy.unl.edu/graduate>.

April 3: Plant Breeding Symposium, 8 a.m.–5 p.m., Nebraska East Union. Register at <http://passel.unl.edu/communities/unlpbsymposium>.

April 4: Graduate Education event as part of the 2012 UNL Research Fair, 9 a.m.–6:30 p.m., Nebraska City Union. To register, visit <http://go.unl.edu/April4>.

April 4: Coyne Graduate Student Distinguished Lectureship, 1 p.m., Nebraska East Union, with Dr. Phillip E. McClean, Dir., Genomics and Bioinformatics Program, NDSU, reception following the lecture.

April 6: Dept. Seminar: "Nebraska Crop Improvement Association – Past to Present!" with Steve Knox, 3:30 p.m., 150 Keim, Refreshments at 3 p.m.

April 9: CASNR Teaching & Learning Improvement Council seminar, 12:15–1:15 p.m., Nebraska East Union.

April 9: Plant Pathology Seminar, "Characterization of chemotype and aggressiveness of Nebraska isolates of *Fusarium graminearum*" by Anita Panthi, M.S. student, 264 Keim, 4 p.m.

April 13: Dept. Seminar: "Bush Encroachment in Namibia, Southern Africa" with Dr. Walt Schacht, 3:30 p.m., 150 Keim, Refreshments at 3 p.m.

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Plant Breeding and Genetics Seminar Set

Plant Breeding and genetics graduate students are organizing a UNL Plant Breeding and Genetics Symposium on Tuesday, April 3 in the Nebraska East Union. The symposium runs from 8 a.m.–5 p.m. For more information and to register, see the UNL Plant Breeding and Genetics Symposium website at <http://passel.unl.edu/communities/unlpbsymposium>.

In the News

The UNL Viticulture program was in the news recently as part of a multi-state team that received a \$2.5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture Specialty Crop Research Initiative. The grant will tackle the obstacles in vineyards, wineries, tasting rooms, and tourism to bring cold hardy grapes to a wider market. For more information, contact Dr. Paul Read, pread@unl.edu, 402-472-5136, or see the news story at <http://newsroom.unl.edu/announce/todayatunl/1062/6333>.

Information For and About Graduate Students *Applications Available for Travel Funds*

Applications for the Daniel T. Walters Graduate Student Travel Fund are due March 23. This fund will provide up to a \$500 award to a graduate student in the Department of Agronomy and Horticulture who is personally presenting their research results at a professional meeting. Preference is given to students who have a significant soils component in their research. Expenses may include transportation (not to exceed cost of coach class airfare), registration, lodging and meals. University procedures for travel authorization and expense reimbursement must be followed. Students must be enrolled at UNL at the time they are presenting their research. Contact Marlene Busse, mbusse1@unl.edu, 402-472-1560 for details.

Progress Reports are Due March 30

The graduate student deadline to submit progress reports to Marlene Busse, mbusse1@unl.edu, is March 30, 2012. The progress report and instructions are at <http://agronomy.unl.edu/graduate1>

Graduate Students Invited to Participate in Poster Contest

Graduate students are invited to participate in the 2012 Global Water for Food Conference Poster Contest. The conference is May 30–June 1 and the theme is: “Blue Water, Green Water, and the Future of Agriculture.” Abstracts are due March 30. For more information, visit the website at: <http://waterforfood.nebraska.edu/graduate-student-poster-competition-2>.

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April 17: CASNR Week Lunch on the Lawn, 11 a.m.–1 p.m., NEU.

April 19: Agronomy and Horticulture Awards Banquet, Nebraska Club, 6 p.m.

April 20: Dept. Seminar: “Food, Farm and Fitness: Agricultural Productivity, Nutrition and Health in Ethiopia” with Dr. Martha Mamo, 3:30 p.m., 150 Keim, Refreshments at 3 p.m.

April 23: Plant Pathology Seminar, “Overview of Switchgrass as a Biofuel and Associated Pathogens” with Catherine Stewart, M.S. student, and “An Introduction to using *Lysobacter enzymogenes* as a biological control agent with Ya Li, M.S. Student, 264 Keim, 4 p.m.

April 25–27: Horticulture Club Spring Expo 2012 plant sale, City Campus and East Campus Unions. Times to be announced later.

April 27: Dept. Spring BBQ.

April 27: Dept. Seminar “Sclerotinia Resistance in Soybean: The Impossible Dream?” George Graef, 3:30 p.m., 150 Keim.

May 30–June 1: 2012 Global Water for Food Conference.

June 18–22: 2012 Nebraska Range Short Course, Chadron. To register see: <http://agronomy.unl.edu/nebraskarangeshortcourse>.

June 26–28: 2012 NAIPSC short course, WCREC, North Platte, Neb. Please register at: <http://ipscourse.unl.edu>.

June 5: UNL First Five Weeks Summer Session begins.

July 4: Independence Day, Offices closed and no classes.

Aug. 20: UNL Fall Semester begins.