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Extended Visions Newsletter of ARDC

Agricultural Research and Development Center

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4-2005

## Extended Visions, March/April 2005

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ARDC Director's Comments

**Save the Date - June 3**

by Daniel J Duncan, ARDC Director

On Friday, June 3, 2005, we will have a celebration at the ARDC marking two historic events. First of all, we will formally announce a significant gift to the ARDC. We will honor the donor during a ceremony in the Research and Education Building. During the ceremony, we will formally rename a major building on the ARDC to signify our appreciation for this gift. This is the largest single gift ever to the ARDC and one of the larger gifts in the history of IANR.

The second historic event will be a celebration marking the 10th anniversary of the Research and Education Building. It is hard to believe that the ARDC and the Cooperative Extension in Saunders County offices moved into the building in late April of 1995. It sure has been a quick 10 years!

We have seen many changes over the last 10 years at the ARDC. We have greatly increased our irrigation capacity, demolished numerous Ordnance Plant buildings, and greatly increased our data and voice communication capabilities along with many other improvements that have laid a solid foundation for the future.

As significant as these things have been, they pale in comparison to the impact the Research and Education Building has had on the development of the ARDC. Numerous enhancements at the ARDC would not have been possible without this building serving as the focal point.

We are delighted that these two historic events will be taking place at the same time. We encourage you to mark your calendar for June 3 and help us celebrate these important events. □

**Rezac Selected as 2004 ARDC Employee of the Year**

Ken Rezac has been selected as the recipient of the 2004 ARDC Employee of the Year Award. Sponsored by the ARDC/Cooperative Extension in Saunders County Social Committee, fellow employees nominated candidates and scoring forms are then submitted by supervisors, employees and the social committee. The award was presented at a recent staff event.

Ken Rezac is an Ag Research Technician at the Beef Feedlot at the ARDC. Also nominated were Jeff Noel of the Foundation Seed Division and Deloris Pittman of the ARDC.

Nominations for Rezac state that he has demonstrated



Ken Rezac, ARDC Employee of Year recipient, was presented with a plaque by Dan Duncan, ARDC Director.

extraordinary commitment and dedication to the University for more than 26 years. Also noted is that his continued service and dedication has

been extremely valuable in the success of the feedlot research facilities. He has demonstrated an ability and commitment to doing the job right.

In addition to receiving a plaque, Rezac was also honored with prizes solicited and organized by the ARDC/Saunders County Cooperative

Extension Social Committee. This includes: 2 (one-day) passes to the Champions Club; two 18-hole rounds of golf with cart at the Hilltop Country Club at Wahoo; \$20 Gift Certificate to the Barn Door Restaurant of Ceresco; and recognition on a plaque to be displayed indefinitely at the ARDC Research and Education Building. □

**DISCOVER OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN** throughout this issue...

- \* **Interested in on-farm research?** Register by March 4 for the NSFSGPP On-Farm Research Update to be held on March 8. (P. 1)
- \* **Worried about SOY RUST?** Attend the workshop on March 29 to detect it early. (P. 3)
- \* **Want to take a course from home?** Take the Soils Home Study Course from your home or office. (P. 2)
- \* **Need Chemigation or Nitrogen Management Training?** Information available on Page 2.
- \* **Got Your Green Thumb Ready?** See P. 2 for horticulture programs.

**On-Farm Research Update - March 8**

Corn and soybean growers are invited to attend the Nebraska Soybean and Feed Grains Profitability Project (NSFGPP) on-farm research update on **Tuesday, March 8** at the ARDC from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Obtain valuable crop production-related information from on-farm research projects conducted on Nebraska farms by Nebraska farmers.

The Nebraska Soybean and Feed Grains Profitability Project is an on-farm research project designed to provide farm operators with an understanding of how to conduct crop research on their farms using their own machinery. Comparisons are scientifically designed, statistically analyzed and conducted for three years to assure reliable, useful information.

**The luncheon speaker Todd Peterson, Emerging Technologies Manager at Pioneer Hi-Bred International headquarters, will present "So Your Daughter Wants to Come Back to the Farm?"** His message will focus on helping farmers think "out-of-the-box" when planning for the future of their farming operations. He will discuss management and labor issues that every farm operation must deal

ON-FARM RESEARCH UPDATE - Cont. on P. 3

**Levis Joins Extension Team**

Don Levis is the newest Extension Educator on board with Cooperative Extension in Saunders County. His primary duties will focus on planning, developing and delivering comprehensive research-based educational programs concerning livestock production for adults and youth.

Levis is no stranger to Cooperative Extension or the University of Nebraska. He has worked in the Extension field for 27 years. He most recently was affiliated with the Pork Industry Center at Ohio State University as the Director. Prior to that he worked with Extension and research at UNL.

"I have always been highly dedicated to helping the customers of Cooperative Extension. Thus, my short-term goal is to obtain input from livestock producers in Saunders County and surrounding region as to what they

LEVIS JOINS EXTENSION TEAM - Cont. on P. 4



Don Levis, PhD Extension Educator

**ARDC Feature Unit Cow/Calf Research**



**Cow/Calf Herd Essential for Research and Teaching**

*An Overview*

The Animal Science department is fortunate to have a great resource in the Cow/Calf

Unit at the ARDC. The unit maintains approximately 400 beef cows on three and one-half sections of pastureland. Revenue to support the cow herd and carry out improvements is generated from the sale of animals produced at the unit.

The majority of the pastures are cool-season grasses, primarily smooth bromegrass. Warm-season pastures including little and big bluestem, indiangrass, and switchgrass make up the balance of the grassland.

During the winter months, extensive use of crop residues in and around the ARDC provide a vital feed source for the cow herd and are supplemented with hay grown on the ARDC. Supplemental mineral and protein are fed to complement the forage resources and these supplements are processed at the ARDC feed mill. An established rotational grazing plan and limited but strategic use of fertilizer and herbicides insure the sustainability and productivity of the pastures.

COW/CALF HERD - Cont. on P. 2

## Home Study Course Provides Soil Fertility Education

Farmers, consultants and agribusiness professionals can learn about soil fertility from the comfort of their homes through a University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension course.

**"Soils Home Study Course I"** is an introductory course designed to enhance participants' understanding of soil and help them make good management decisions regarding soils and fertilizer.

Participants complete the lessons and 10 quizzes at their own pace via the Internet or by mail.

The 10 lesson titles are: The Origin and Development of Soils; Physical Properties of Soil and Water; Soil Organic Matter; Soil pH; Nitrogen as a Nutrient; Phosphorus and Potassium in the Soil; Soil and Plant Considerations for Calcium; Magnesium, Sulfur, Zinc and Other Micro-Nutrients; Characteristics of Fertilizer Materials; Fundamentals of Soil Testing; and The Scientific Basis for Making Fertilizer Recommendations.

Contributors to the course include Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources faculty and staff and industry specialists.

Cost is \$60 and includes a course book. Some Natural Resources District or Natural Resources Conservation Service offices offer scholarship funds for the course.

Those who complete the course will receive a certificate of completion from the university. Participants also can receive 10 continuing education credits through Nebraska's Certified Crop Advisor Program.

For more information or to register, visit the Web at <http://www.ianr.unl.edu/soilshomestudy/>, contact Keith Glewen at (402) 624-8030, or e-mail [kglewen1@unl.edu](mailto:kglewen1@unl.edu). □



## Time To Get Growing!

Please contact Sarah Browning, University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension at (402) 727-2775 or by e-mail at [sbrowning2@unl.edu](mailto:sbrowning2@unl.edu) for information or to register for any of the horticultural programs listed below. You can learn more about these and other horticulture topics at <http://hortparadise.unl.edu>. For acreage information, please visit <http://acreage.unl.edu>.

Programs coming in March as part of the 'Creating A Horticulture Paradise' program series that will be held at the Dodge Extension office in Fremont include:

- \* **March 8** - **Designing and Growing Beautiful Container Plantings**
- \* **March 15** - **Great Perennial Plants for Nebraska Gardens**
- \* **March 22** - **Weed Identification & Control in the Lawn and Landscape**

There are no registration fees for the 'Creating A Horticulture Paradise' programs. However, pre-registration is requested to ensure adequate handouts are available.

Two acreage-related workshops will be offered this spring at the Dodge County Extension Office located at 1206 W. 23rd Street in Fremont. Additional programs will be offered in the fall. Preregister at least 3 days in advance is \$10 per person. At the door fee is \$15 per person. The programs run from 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.

- \* **March 12** - **Create A Prairie With Native Grasses and Wildflowers**
- \* **April 16** - **Acreage Landscape Management**

## Master Gardener Training

Training will be held on Thursdays from March 3 through April 14, 9 a.m.- 4 p.m. at the Dodge County Extension Office 1206 W. 23rd Street in Fremont.

Through the Master Gardener training sessions and workshops, you'll become a more knowledgeable gardener and will have the opportunity to share this knowledge with your community. You will have access to a wealth of information that can make you a better gardener and you will also meet lots of interesting people who share your love of gardening. □

## Brown Accepts Position on Campus

A reception was held in late January to honor Lance Brown. Lance served as an Extension Educator in Saunders County since 2000, working the 4-H and other youth programs. He has left this position, but is still with the University of Nebraska and is now the Agribusiness Program Coordinator position on campus in Lincoln. We wish Lance the very best! □



Lance Brown was presented with a certificate of appreciation by Keith Glewen, Extension Educator.

## COW/CALF HERD - Cont. from P. 1

Recent improvements at the Cow/Calf unit include the establishment of more warm-season pasture seeded with native grasses to more correctly balance forage availability with the needs of the cow herd during the summer months. Facilities have also been updated to



Replacement heifers for the Physiology herd grazing in at the ARDC.

include a hydraulic working chute with scales at one location to facilitate easier handling of the cattle and to allow frequent weights to be taken with greater ease. The unit maintains two separate cow herds, a Teaching herd and a Beef Physiology Research herd. Karl Moline manages the unit and is assisted by Jeff Bergman. Karl and Jeff are both valued long-time employees at ARDC and integral members of the Teaching and Physiology Research teams. They are responsible for not only the day-to-day operations at the Cow/Calf unit, but also do a great job of juggling the responsibilities of providing animals for educational activities and assisting the research team with data collection and management.

## Management

Karl Moline, Cow/Calf Unit Manager, has been with the University since 1981. Karl and his wife Kathy live in Lincoln and have two sons, Mike and Craig. Jeff Bergman, Ag Technician III, has worked for the University since 1980. Jeff and his wife Trish make their home near Ithaca and have two children, a son, Dustin, and a daughter, Chelsea.



Jeff Bergman and Karl Moline

## Teaching Herd

Dr. Jim Gosey, a University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension Beef Specialist, supervises the Teaching herd. The teaching herd consists of 180 cows, approximately 80 are purebred Angus. The remaining cows are Husker Red and Husker Black composites. The Husker composites blend Red or Black Angus genetics with Simmental or Gelbvieh to produce an optimum combination of British and Continental breeds. Cattle from the teaching herd are transported to East Campus for use in a number of classes, including Animal Management, Animal Production Skills, Livestock Evaluation, Cow-calf Management, Beef Cattle Merchandising and Reproductive Physiology courses. Students in these classes gain experience in animal handling, artificial insemination, pregnancy diagnosis, evaluation of cattle and performance records for breeding purposes, semen collection, live animal evaluation to estimate carcass traits, and gain hands on experience managing a cow-calf operation.

The Teaching herd calves from about February 20th until April 10th each year and utilizes artificial insemination (AI) to produce about 70% of the calf crop. Sires are chosen based on Expected Progeny Differences (EPDs) calculated by the breed associations and used to rank the performance of a sires progeny for numerous traits.



Jim Gosey, PhD



Herdmaster D281 composite bull was developed in the University's teaching herd.

Virginia, Nebraska.

Dr. Walt Schacht, a UNL agronomy professor, is involved in a cooperative project with the cow-calf unit to research pasture management issues on pasture utilized by the teaching herd. Currently, these efforts include evaluation of legume interseeding and fertilization on carbon and nitrogen balance in smooth bromegrass pastures. The goal is to determine if interseeding with either kurra clover, birdsfoot trefoil, or alfalfa, or fertilization impacts carbon and nitrogen content of the soil.

## Research Herd

The research herd is used to conduct basic and applied research in beef cattle reproductive physiology and contains 220 cows. Dr. Andrea Cupp, an assistant professor in beef

reproductive physiology, manages the research herd. Dr. Cupp is currently conducting research on reproductive development and management in both bulls and females. Her research includes collaborative projects with Dr. Rick Rasby and Dr. Rick Funston, beef extension specialists and physiologists in Lincoln

*Crop Management Winter Programs Continue in March....*

**Soy Rust First Detector Training**

**S**oybean Rust First Detector Training will give those involved in plant health management timely training related to detecting soybean rust and other unusual crop concerns.

Soybean Rust First Detector Training will be from 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. March 29 at the ARDC and from 9:30-2 p.m. March 30 at the Lifelong Learning Center in Norfolk.

This training is part of Nebraska Cooperative Extension's Crop Management Winter Programs and is being offered in conjunction with the National Plant Diagnostic Network, a consortium of land-grant university institutions that provides services for plant disease diagnosis, plant identification and insect/pest identification.

Topics include the mission of the NPND and an introduction to agricultural biosecurity, monitoring for high risk pests, and quality and secure sample submission.

Participants will receive training related to exotic pest issues, enhance their pest identification skills, gain professional development and become registered first detectors.

First detectors are those who notice any unusual problems or pest concerns, including soybean rust. The training includes information from Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources faculty and the agricultural industry.

Register early as space is limited to 65 participants. Registration is \$25 and includes lunch, refreshment breaks, workshop materials and an instruction manual. This reduced rate is courtesy of the Great Plains Diagnostic Network, a regional component of the NPND of

**ON-FARM RESEARCH UPDATE - Cont. from P. 1**

from one generation to the next. He will help producers determine if they are making the best use of resources and help them stay abreast of emerging technologies.

The public is invited to attend, the registration fee is \$10 per person which includes a copy of the annual on-farm research report, refreshments and noon luncheon. **Preregister by March 4 by calling 800-529-8030.** You can learn more about the NSFGPP on the web at <http://on-farmresearch.unl.edu/>. □



**Calendar of Events**

**MARCH**

- 7 Shooting Sports Training 6:00-8:00pm
- 7 Saunders County Extension Board Meeting 6:00-10:00pm
- 8 NSFGPP Annual Research Update 8:00-4:00
- 9 Quality Assurance Training 7:00-9:00
- 11 Chemigation Training 9:00
- 14 CMWP - Crop Scout Training for Pest Managers (see article for details!)
- 14 Shooting Sports Training 6:00-8:00
- 15 State Dairy Association Meeting 8:00-5:00
- 15 Nitrogen Management Training 7:00-10:00pm
- 16 Nitrogen Management Training 9:00-12:00
- 21 Shooting Sports Training 6:00-8:00
- 29 CMWP - Soybean Rust First Detector Training (see article for details!)

**APRIL**

- 5 Saunders County Livestock Association 5:00-10:00pm
- 7 Public Speaking Contest 6:00-8:00 pm
- 12 Animal Science Class 150 Tour
- 12 Saunders County Extension Board Meeting 7:00-10:00pm
- 20 Nebraska Federal Women's Council 8:00-5:00

*Attention Crop Scouts Don't Miss This One!*

**COW/CALF HERD - Cont. from P. 2**

and North Platte, respectively.

Dr. Cupp's laboratory is interested in molecular signals during pre-pubertal testis development that will later influence bull fertility. Her lab has demonstrated that the development of blood vessels (which are necessary to provide nutrients and oxygen to growing tissue) is critical to testis formation and growth. One protein involved in blood vessel formation is Vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF). Her laboratory is trying to determine how expression of VEGF may affect testis development and fertility in mature bulls. Dr. Cupp's lab is also trying to manipulate testis development through feeding melengesterol acetate (MGA) to bull calves of varying ages. Through preliminary data, it appears that MGA may affect testis development depending on whether it is fed prior to or during puberty.



Andrea Cupp, PhD

Basic and applied studies aimed at improving reproductive efficiency in cows and heifers are also being conducted on the research herd at the ARDC. Estrus synchronization systems to allow fixed-time AI are being evaluated using the majority of the cow herd. The goal of this project is to find an easy, inexpensive method to facilitate AI without heat-checking in commercial cowherds, while maintaining high conception rates. Since estrus synchronization is a critical issue with cattle producers, Dr. Cupp's laboratory is also trying to identify molecular mechanisms that control ovulation of the dominant ovarian follicle in beef cows. This research involves collecting samples from ovarian follicles of non-pregnant cows using ultrasound technology. The technique is non-invasive and allows researchers to identify proteins and growth factors that regulate ovulation by collecting samples at different stages of follicle development.

A collaborative project with Dr. Rasby and Dr. Funston is to evaluate the effects of feeding dried distillers grains to replacement heifers. Heifers from both ARDC and Dalbey-Halleck farm in Virginia, Nebraska are being utilized for this research. The goal is to determine whether feeding dried distillers grains for supplemental protein and energy influences pubertal development of reproductive performance compared to heifers fed a supplement containing lower levels of undegradable intake protein.

The faculty and staff of the Cow/Calf unit at ARDC continue to be committed to providing UNL students and Nebraska producers with opportunities for education, research-based management alternatives, and innovative ideas to sustain Nebraska's cattle industry. □

which Nebraska's Plant and Pest Diagnostic Clinic is a member.

**Crop Scout Training - March 14**

A University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension Crop Management Winter Program March 14 will help pest managers better scout corn and soybeans for fertilizer deficiencies, pests and diseases.

Crop Scout Training for Pest Managers is from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at the university's Agricultural Research and Development Center near Mead.

Topics include: growth staging, recognizing fertilizer deficiencies, major pest identification, understanding insect economic thresholds, handling soybean cyst nematode, and weed and disease identification and management.

The training session includes in-depth information from Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources faculty and staff and the agricultural industry.

A total of 5.5 Certified Crop Advisor credits are available with 4 in pest management, 1 in crop management and .5 in fertility/nutrient management.

Registration is \$65 before March 7 and \$75 after. Registration includes lunch, refreshment breaks, workshop materials and an instruction manual. Certified Crop Advisor credits also are available.

To register for either of these programs, call (402) 624-8000, fax (402) 624-8010, e-mail [cdunbar2@unl.edu](mailto:cdunbar2@unl.edu), visit the web at <http://ardc.unl.edu/registration.htm>, or contact the ARDC, CMDC Programs, 1071 County Road G, Ithaca, Nebraska, 68033. □

Further training is offered through the UNL Department of Agronomy and Horticulture. The department provides CEU credit, college credit or stand alone non-credit course options. Courses are designed for the working professional in the agronomic and horticultural sciences, and postgraduate students seeking in-depth knowledge of emerging issues and new approaches in many areas of agricultural technology. Delivery approaches vary. Some classes are presented as 1 or 2 day workshops with the option of continued projects for credit. Some are delivered via internet and videostreaming.

A Crop Genetic Engineering course will be offered on March 15 and 16 on East Campus of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. It is also available via distance delivery. A complete listing for this course and others can be found at [http://agronomy.unl.edu/distance\\_ed/](http://agronomy.unl.edu/distance_ed/). For more information, call (402) 472-2811. □

**Chemigation and Nitrogen Management Training Dates**

**\* CHEMIGATION TRAINING**

Individuals who apply fertilizers, pesticides, or other chemicals through an irrigation system must be certified by the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality. To receive certification, applicators must complete training and testing, which is provided by the University of Nebraska-Cooperative Extension. Applicators must be re-certified every four years.

The workshops provide the training necessary to obtain initial certification or to renew existing certification. Training sessions will be held at the Dodge County Extension Office in Fremont on March 4 and at the University of Nebraska Agricultural Research and Development Center near Mead on March 11. Start time is 9:00 a.m. at each location.

A calculator is necessary to answer test questions. There is a \$10.00 cost for the recertification (\$15 for initial) of your permit. For more information, please contact University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension at (402)624-8030 or (800)529-8030. □

**\* NITROGEN MANAGEMENT TRAINING**

All producers using fertilizer in the LPN-NRD must attend nitrogen certification at least once every four years. Training will be offered at the ARDC Research and Education Building on March 15 at 7 p.m. and on March 16 at 9:30 a.m. □



## Mark Your Calendar for These 4-H Events

\* SHOOTING SPORTS - MARCH 7, 14, 21  
This training is required to compete at the fair!

\* BEEF WEIGH-IN FOR FAIR & NORFOLK EXPO - MARCH 26

Plan to attend bring your market beef to the final weigh-in for 4-H market beef at the Wahoo Sale Barn. Your animals do not need to be broke to lead at this time.

**Market beef can also be noseprinted at this time for the 56th Annual Norfolk Beef Expo, which will be held on September 10 and 11.** Cattle nose prints are due to the Norfolk Area Chamber of Commerce by April 1. This procedure is a change from past years when nose prints that were used for Ak-Sar-Ben and Nebraska State Fair were also used for the Norfolk Beef Expo. Due to a change in dates the Norfolk show will need a separate set of nose prints submitted directly to the Norfolk Area Chamber of Commerce.

\* QUALITY ASSURANCE TRAINING

Quality Assurance is again required for all 4-Hers showing beef, sheep, swine, goats, dairy, poultry and rabbits. This training is required annually unless a written test is passed. **General training sessions will be held on March 9, June 7 and June 9.** □

\* ANIMAL SCIENCE YOUTH FIELD DAY AT UNL - APRIL 2

\* PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST- APRIL 7

Preregistration is due Tuesday, April 5. Enjoy banana splits after the contest!

\* DISTRICT HORSE ENTRIES/ID'S DUE MAY 13

\* 1ST ANIMAL ID DAY - MAY 21 at the Fairgrounds

## Extension Promotes Conservation Practices in Wanahoo Project

Fishing, boating and camping are just a few of the benefits that Lake Wanahoo will provide. Lake Wanahoo, which will be located north of Wahoo, is also intended to be a source of environmental restoration and flood control. Thus, there are many reasons for careful planning of the construction of the reservoir and in its upkeep.

Upstream on Sand and Duck Creeks, seven smaller dams will be constructed. A large wetlands area will be situated at the north end of Lake Wanahoo. The purpose of the smaller dams and wetlands is to trap sediment and nutrients before they reach the lake. This is essential to preserve the water quality and extend the life of the lake.

Because most of the Sand and Duck Creek watershed is in agricultural production, conservation practices will play an important role in protecting not only the watershed area, but also Lake Wanahoo. The upland soils and toe slopes in this area are highly susceptible to soil erosion because of the easily eroded nature of the loess soils and the steep slopes of the hills.

Several entities are providing a coordinated effort to implement conservation practices. The Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) is providing funding for the implementation of conservation practices in this project. The Lower Platte North NRD is overseeing all project aspects and administering land treatment cost-share and other program funding. The Natural Resources Conservation Service is providing technical assistance for conservation practice design and installation. The NRCS is also serving as a resource for information and educational programs.

University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension is providing educational programs to those in the watershed area. The overall goal of this joint project is to increase landowner adoption of conservation and other best management practices. Specific educational program focus areas include: conservation buffers and other structural conservation practices, no-till planting and other best management practices, and septic systems and wastewater management. Initial focus of this project is on the Duck Creek subwatershed.

Rod Wilke is serving as the Extension Project Coordinator for the educational component of the watershed project. Other University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension staff involved with the project include: Dave Shelton, Extension Agricultural Engineer; Tom Franti, Extension Surface Water Management Engineer; Keith Glewen, Extension Educator; Scott Josiah, Extension Forester; and Sharon Skipton, Extension Educator.

The implementation of best management practices are a coordinated effort between the

USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension and the Lower Platte North Natural Resources District. All educational program activities in the project will include information on cost-share and other assistance programs for conservation practices, wastewater systems, and no-till incentive programs that are available to homeowners and landowners in the watershed. □

### Hundreds Learn About No-Till

University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension sponsored a No-Till Conference at the ARDC that attracted 185 producers and in Holdrege with 225 in attendance. Participants learned about no-till practices from the experiences of industry and University experts. □

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION  
**IMPACT**



**BIG RED TRUTHS**

A Nebraska education is one of America's "Best Values."

The cost of a college education is an investment...an investment in your future!

It's about earning a degree that will pave the way for a rewarding career and open the doors to a world of possibilities. From time to time, we will share facts about the costs and value of a University of Nebraska-Lincoln education—*Big Red Truths*—that provide the straight story on the many options to cover the cost of a UNL degree, and how to build your best possible future.

**Big Red Truth:** In 2004, *U.S. News and World Report* touted Nebraska as one of the top public universities in the nation, and *Consumers Digest* and *Kiplinger* endorse UNL's undergraduate education as one of America's best values based on a comparison of the academic quality and the cost of education for colleges and universities across the nation. Nebraska's tuition is one of the lowest among national public universities in the United States. □

UNIVERSITY OF  
**Nebraska**  
Lincoln

LEVIS JOINS EXTENSION TEAM - Cont. from P. 1

believe are the needs for educational programs," states Levis.

Levis possesses a strong background in animal science and has received numerous awards and honors for his work at the University, Extension and with the USDA. He received his bachelors degree from Northeast Missouri State University with a major in Agriculture. His masters degree in Animal Science is from Northwest Missouri State University. And he holds a Ph.D. in Reproductive Physiology from South Dakota State University.

Levis assumed his new position this January and is located at the Saunders County Extension office at the University of Nebraska ARDC Research and Education Building near Mead. You can contact Levis at 402-624-8030 or [dlevis1@unl.edu](mailto:dlevis1@unl.edu). □

## Meet the Members

In the next issue of *Extended Visions*, we will take a closer look at how the Saunders County Extension Board and the 4-H Council provide guidance for Extension and 4-H. Current members and the regions they represent are listed below. □

### SAUNDERS COUNTY EXTENSION BOARD

- \* Sandy Frahm, Southeast, Secretary
- \* Brenda Kremlacek, Northwest
- \* Vaden Hellerich, Southwest
- \* David Hilgenkamp, Director 4-H
- \* Sharon Konecky, Southwest, President
- \* Larry Rasmussen, Northeast, Treasurer
- \* Mary Romanelli, Northeast
- \* Carl Sousek, Northwest, Vice President
- \* Kevin Ziegenbein, Southeast

### SAUNDERS COUNTY 4-H COUNCIL

- \* Nancy Chapek, Northeast, Secretary
- \* Marge Divine, Southwest
- \* Annie Divis, Northeast (youth)
- \* Jordon Kavan, Northwest (youth)
- \* Lindsey Hanson, Northeast (youth), Co-Secretary
- \* Nicole Heyen, Southeast (youth)
- \* Dave Hilgenkamp, Northeast, President
- \* Lisa Langemeier, Southeast
- \* Bridget Meduna, Southwest (youth), Co-President
- \* Cody Moravec, Southeast (youth)
- \* Jay Nitz, Northwest
- \* Gerald Osmera, Southwest
- \* Barb Rezac, At-Large
- \* Micaela Rezac, Southwest (youth)
- \* Patty Swanson, At-Large
- \* Samantha Swanson, Northwest (youth)
- \* Sue Thomas, Southeast, Vice-President
- \* Brad Williams, Northwest

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Daniel J. Duncan, Director, University of Nebraska-ARDC \* Keith Glewen, Extension Educator Unit Leader

COW/CALF RESEARCH ARTICLES Provided by Dr. Andrea Cupp of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Department of Animal Sciences