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Agronomy & Horticulture Newsletter, March 7, 2011

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INFORMATION FROM OUR HAPPI BUSINESS CENTER

The benefits audit will be entering into the verification phase on March 7. If you have dependents on your insurance, it's time to find the marriage licenses and birth certificates.

Also, one more reminder about 2010 Staff Evaluations: Your annual staff evaluations need to be completed and sent to John Dillingham (202F Keim Hall, 0915) by **March 15**.

----- John Dillingham, Personnel Generalist, PHR

A WORD FROM YOUR OFFICE PROFESSIONALS

Please keep in mind that we are all here to assist you with your teaching, research, and extension projects. Even though Kathy is on extended leave through March, you are encouraged to visit with any of us about your needs. (When Kathy returns, she will again be available to coordinate the workload assignments among members of our group.)



Here's a win-win tip from your OfficePros meeting and travel planners, Carola Strauss and Karen Krieder: If you are planning to fly from Lincoln and return via Omaha, we can arrange an Enterprise

Rent-A-Car® to be made a part of your overall travel package. Upon returning to Omaha, you'll simply go to the airport's Enterprise counter, pick up your pre-selected vehicle, drive it back to Lincoln, and drop it off to UNL's transportation services (East or City Campus—whichever one you prefer). Transportation Services will then return the car to Enterprise for you—no mess, no fuss, no hassle.

Because this service is directly charged to your cost object and is included as a part of your overall travel package, you save: 1) time, 2) wear and tear on your personal vehicle, 3) out-of-pocket airport parking expense, and 4) the filing of personal mileage reimbursement costs.

----- Brenda, Carola, Karen, Kat, Kathy, Linda, and Marlene

PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEWEST EMPLOYEE

Ben Deaver joined our department on March 1 to assist Aaron Lorenz as a Research Technologist II. His work location is 110 Stewart Seed Lab. Welcome aboard, Ben.

ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORTS FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS (due March 31, 2011)

Progress reports are to be completed annually for all M.S. and Ph.D. students. The purpose of these reports is to assist and guide graduate students, their advisors, and their supervisory committees towards regular and meaningful updates regarding progress and expectations within each student's program. The Progress Report and associated review with advisors can help increase communication between faculty and students, anticipate problems or differences in expectations, and resolve them before they become unmanageable or negative. In addition, students experience an evaluation process that is common among professionals.

All graduate students should complete this Progress Report. This includes M.S. students, Ph.D. students, international and domestic students, and full and part-time students. Students who do not have a Progress Report turned in will receive an incomplete in research hours until the report is submitted (FAC 7/22/05). **EXCEPTIONS:** If you have just begun your program at the beginning of this semester or plan to graduate at the end of this semester, you do not have to complete the Progress Report. If you plan to graduate this summer, you still need to complete the report.

Please complete and return your Progress Report to Marlene Busse, 279 PLSH 0914, by March 31, 2011. This deadline can be delayed for satisfactory reasons. If you have questions, contact Marlene. The Progress Report is available from the following website:

<http://agronomy.unl.edu/graduate1>

CONGRATULATIONS!

Faculty Awards:

The Range Science Education Council and the Society for Range Management presented the *2011 Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award* to **Walt Schacht**. This award recognizes individuals who have demonstrated excellence in teaching, advising, and mentoring over an extended period. Students describe Walt's availability, openness, involvement, dedication, and genuine interest in each student as characteristics that had a profound effect on them during and after their undergraduate programs. Students also appreciated his extensive knowledge about the subjects he teaches and his ability to provide a rich, lively learning environment. Congratulations, Walt!

We also want to extend congratulations to **Ellen Paporozzi**, recipient of a Senior Faculty *Holling Family Award for Teaching Excellence* for the year 2011. The committee selects recipients based on identification of innovation in an educational program, description of goals, outcomes of the teaching activity on the learners, and evidence of peer evaluation of the nominee's work. The award was presented

to Ellen at a recognition event hosted by CASNR on Thursday, March 3. The Holling Family Award Program for Teaching Excellence was made possible by the Holling family to honor their pioneer parents.

Student Awards:

Jordan Johnson was selected to receive the W.R. Chapline Fellowship for 2011. Jordan is an M.S. student advised by Walt Schacht and Jerry Volesky. Congratulations Jordan!

The Range Club recently completed a trip to the Society for Range Management annual meetings in Billings, MT. The club is advised by Drs. Schacht and Guretzky. Undergraduate and graduate students attending the meeting included Jon Soper, Jordan Johnson, Laura Snell, Ben Beckman, Barbara Kagima, Chelsey Fullerton, Lars Anderson, Jess Milby, Robert Vavala, Dirk Schultz, Heidi Christenson, and Jess Edgar. Several competed in the Undergraduate Range Management Exam (URME) and Plant ID competitions. **Ben Beckman**, Senior Grasslands Ecology and Management major, placed 13th out of 186 in URME. **Chelsey Fullerton**, Freshman Grazing Livestock Systems major, placed 50th out of 186 in URME. **Lars Anderson**, M.S. student advised by Drs. Schacht and Powell, won 1st Place in the Graduate Student Poster Competition. His poster title was “Vegetation Structure and Composition at Greater Prairie Chicken Nest and Brood Sites: Drivers for Success?” Congratulations to all!

SPRING 2011 SEMINAR SCHEDULE FOR AGRONOMY & HORTICULTURE

Fridays at 3:30 p.m. (refreshments at 3:00 p.m.)

150 Keim Hall

- Mar 11 Bioprocessing of Lignocellulosic Biomass: Addressing Challenges at Multiple Scales; Deepak Keshwani, Biological Systems Engineering
- Mar 18 High Resolution Methods Define Patterns of Fatty Acid Trafficking; Paul Black, Biochemistry
- Apr 1 Marker Assisted Selection for Grain Yield in Soybean & Implications for MAS in General; Scott Sebastian, Ph.D., Trait Interaction Genetics, Pioneer Company (Johnston, IA)
- Apr 8 Carbon Dioxide Exchange in Agricultural Ecosystems; Shashi Verma, Bessey Professorship, School of Natural Resources
- Apr 15 Building Stress Gene Networks in Crops; Harkamal Walia, Agronomy & Horticulture
- Apr 22 Soil Carbon Loss Contributes to Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Biofuels; Adam Liska, Biological Systems Engineering
- Apr 29 Progress on Making a Perfect Fertilizer, i.e., Feedlot Manure; Galen Erickson, Animal Science

BROWN BAG SESSIONS ON LIFE SCIENCES CURRICULUM

12:00-1:00 p.m. in 150 Keim Hall

Dates and Topics for Discussion are Listed Below

- Mar 16 Horticulture Plant Production System Learning in Our Teaching Program; Ellen Pappozzi, Paul Read, and Stacy Adams
- Apr 21 Agronomic Plant Production System Learning in Our Teaching Program; Steve Mason and John Guretzky
- May 4 Tentative topic of discussion is “Perennial/Grassland Plant System Learning in Our Teaching Program”

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

SPRING SEMESTER OPEN OFFICE HOURS FOR FACULTY, STAFF, OR STUDENTS TO VISIT WITH MARK LAGRIMINI

Thursday's, 3:30 - 5 p.m., Room 202H Keim:

March 17 and 31

April 14, 21, and 28

May 5, 12, 19, and 26

- Mar 15 **Agronomy & Horticulture Faculty Meeting**, 8:30-10:30 a.m., 150 Keim Hall
Mar 26 **Twenty-Fourth Annual Orchid Show and Sale**, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Lauritzen Gardens,
& 27 100 Bancroft St., Omaha, NE. Presented by The Greater Omaha Orchid Society,
<http://greateromahaorchidsociety.org>
Apr 14 **Agronomy & Horticulture Faculty Meeting**, 10 a.m.-12 p.m, 150 Keim Hall
May 11 **Agronomy & Horticulture Faculty Meeting**, 8:30-10:30 a.m., 150 Keim Hall
May 12 **Agronomy & Horticulture Teaching Retreat**, 8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m., East Campus Union
Jun 14 **Agronomy & Horticulture Faculty Meeting**, 3-5 p.m., 150 Keim Hall

NEW SHORT COURSE OFFERED THIS SUMMER IN NORTH PLATTE

Steve Young, Weed Ecologist at the West Central Research & Extension Center, has developed and organized a new short course, "North American Invasive Plant Ecology and Management Short Course."

This course is being held July 6-8, 2011, at the West Central Research & Extension Center in North Platte. **Registration is limited to 40 participants and is due by May 1, 2011.** Copies of the course brochure are available on the table in 279 Plant Sciences Hall. **Graduate students are welcome to enroll. Please read the latest update below regarding graduate student participation:**

UPDATE

2011 NORTH AMERICAN INVASIVE PLANT ECOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT SHORT COURSE (NAIPSC)

(from January 21, 2011): Organizers of the 1st annual North American Invasive Plant Ecology and Management Short Course (NAIPSC) are pleased to announce the receipt of funding from the Nebraska Environmental Trust and the Nebraska Academy of Sciences to help finance graduate student participation. "Providing money to help pay for graduate student registration costs is a significant incentive for those who are interested, but may not be able to pay their own way," said Steve Young, NAIPSC lead organizer. "We need a good mix of participants with broad interest levels at the NAIPSC and these funds help move us in that direction," he added. The NAIPSC is three days of intense instruction and learning on the basics of invasive plant ecology and management and will be held at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln West Central Research & Extension Center in North Platte, NE. The funds, in the form of \$300 scholarships, will be available to the first 10 graduate students who register for the NAIPSC. Graduate students must be enrolled in an accredited university graduate program, which may include ecology, natural resources, environmental policy, geospatial sciences, or other subjects relating to the topics of the NAIPSC. In addition, graduate students must complete a 1-2 credit online project in association with their participation in the NAIPSC. For more information, go to <http://ipscourse.unl.edu>. All interested graduate students are encouraged to contact Dr. Young at 308-696-6712 or syoung4@unl.edu.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

For the latest news, information, and list of events at the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, please visit <http://ianrhome.unl.edu/home>. Click on **IANR News Feed** or the **IANR Calendar** under the heading "Timely Topics."

If you would like to submit events for the Agronomy & Horticulture calendar, give them to **Aaron Franco** after they have been approved by the department head. Our calendar also shows events posted on the IANR and CASNR calendars. Go to: <http://events.unl.edu/agronomy>.

FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENTS:

FYI: Visit UNL's Office of Sponsored Programs web site for funding announcements in PDF format at <http://www.unl.edu/research/sp1/index.shtml> under "Funding Opportunities." These announcements are compiled from the funding opportunities offered by federal funding agencies, private foundations, and a variety of additional entities. If you want to subscribe to Funding Announcements, contact Nathan Meier (472-1808 or nmeier2@unl.edu). Additional funding opportunities may be found at <http://www.grants.gov>. Grants.gov is the single access point for individuals to search competitive funding opportunities from more than 900 grant programs offered by the 26 federal grant-making agencies.

NEBRASKA CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Educational and Research Grants: (deadline is March 10)

The Nebraska Crop Improvement Association has a grant fund to support investigations and promotion of seed science related projects in Nebraska.

Grant proposals will be accepted for projects which cover a one to three year period. However, funding will only be approved on an annual basis (April 15). Funding of grants have a maximum of \$3000 per year.

Funding of grant proposals are a function of the NCIA Board of Directors. Guidelines are available from the NCIA office. **Grant requests must be submitted by March 10** to:

Nebraska Crop Improvement Association
267 Plant Science Hall
P.O. Box 830911
Lincoln, NE 68583-0911
402-472-1444