Agronomy & Horticulture Newsletter, November 22, 2011

Kathy Schindler
University of Nebraska-Lincoln, kschindler1@unl.edu

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Happy Thanksgiving to all our employees, students and friends!

Urrea Florez wins Award from Cooperative

Dr. Carlos Urrea Florez was awarded a Distinguished Achievement Award from the Bean Improvement Cooperative (BIC) on Nov. 1, 2011. Carlos was recognized for “Outstanding Scientific Achievement Relating to Bean (Phaseolus vulgaris L.) Improvement.”

His efforts focus on the genetics, germplasm evaluation, and development of dry bean and chickpea cultivars adapted to western Nebraska. Screening bean germplasm for desirable agronomic traits and resistance to major abiotic and biotic stresses is an integral part of his breeding program.

Located at the Panhandle Research & Extension Center in Scottsbluff, Carlos joined the university in 2005 as a dry bean breeder. He earned his Ph.D. in Plant Breeding from North Dakota State University, Fargo, N.D.

Life Sciences Listening Sessions Set

A second listening session on the proposed Life Sciences core biology concepts/competencies and supporting competencies will be held Fri., Dec. 2, from 1:30–3 p.m. in the Nebraska East Union (NEU). This is a very important step in the development of the life sciences undergraduate curriculum, according to CASNR Dean Steve Waller. Everyone is encouraged to attend.
Lighten Up Team Live Healthy Challenge

Congratulations to the Agronomy & Horticulture Lighten Up team members for their participation in the Live Healthy Nebraska Lifestyle Challenge. This wellness program charged individuals and teams to live healthier lifestyles through daily activity/exercise, volunteer work, eating fruits and vegetables, drinking water, reducing stress, and getting at least eight hours of sleep per night. Points were recorded each week and were based on how well a person followed the recommended guidelines. The cost was $10 (with UNL discount) and included long sleeved T-shirts.

Diane Nolan won a massager for the highest number of total points earned: 317. Great job to Diane and to everyone else on the team!

The Live Healthy 100 Day Challenge will begin this winter. In this program, participants record types and amount of activity each week, including everything from running to Wii Sports to housework! The program also offers many incentives, such as the chance to win prizes for teams whose members record their data every week, T-shirts, food coupons, free health magazine subscriptions, and friendly competition with other teams. We will be looking for another great active Lighten Up team consisting of both old and new members from the Agronomy & Horticulture Department! Stay tuned!

– Captains Erin Bauer and Aaron Franco, Wellness Ambassadors

Staff Appreciation Luncheon is Dec. 19

Everyone is invited to the Agronomy & Horticulture Staff Appreciation Luncheon on Mon., Dec. 19 from 11:00–1:00 p.m. in the Great Plains Room of the East Campus Union. Please return the registration form that was e-mailed on Nov. 18 to Brenda Gibson, 202 Keim, or register by Dec. 1 at the website: agronomy.unl.edu/holidaylunch.
Department Recognizes 18 Undergraduates

Eighteen seniors from Agronomy and Horticulture will be recognized at the CASNR Salute to Graduates ceremony, on Fri., Dec. 16, 2011. The Salute will begin at 4:00 p.m. in the Great Plains Room, Nebraska East Union. Faculty and staff are encouraged to honor the graduates with their presence. This CASNR tradition, the 13th ceremony, has honored nearly 1,000 graduates and brought 5,000 guests into contact with our faculty, staff and East Campus environment.

Graduating seniors are: Jason Epp, Jacob Romshek, David Brandow, Mitch Hansen, Kevin Rohrer, Haley Stromberg, Matthew Schramm, Sara Boling, Ryan Armbrust, James Livengood, Cody Miller, Robert Zurcher, Paul Mlinar, Tyler Rosenow, Lacy Leibhart, Andrew Uerling, Samuel McInturf, and Cody Quine.

News from the HAPPI Business Center

Welcome to our newest employees!

Please welcome three new employees to the department!

- Bo Liu began working at the West Central Research & Extension Center at North Platte on Nov. 1. He is supervised by Dr. James Steadman;
- Aaron Schmitz joined the department on Nov. 14 as a Post-Doc. He is working with Dr. Harkamal Walia; and
- Clémence Henry started working with Dr. Mark Lagrimini on Nov. 16 as a Post-Doc.

Heuermann Series offers Food for Thought

The next speaker in the Heuermann Series will be former Governor of Nebraska and U.S. Senator Bob Kerrey. Sen. Kerrey will speak on December 12th, 4 p.m., in the Hardin Hall auditorium, about “Conflict and Resolution on the Missouri River.” A 3:30 pm reception will precede the lecture.

The Heuermann Series focuses on providing security in the areas of food, natural resources, and renewable energy, and securing the sustainability of rural communities. The sessions are open to the public and made possible through a gift from B. Keith and Norma Heuermann of Phillips. For more information, see the announcement at http://newsroom.unl.edu/announce/ianrnews/740/4441.
A Word from Your Office Professionals

Order your 2012 calendar today

With only six more weeks left in 2011, it’s time to order 2012 calendars. Please contact Kathy Schindler, kschindler1@unl.edu, or one of the other Office Pros in 279 PLSH to order your calendar from Office Depot. We will also need a cost object to charge the cost of the calendar against.

Thanks Professors and Classes for the Flowers!

Thanks to Dr. Ellen Paparozzi and her production classes for holiday flowers (mums and poinsettias) the Office Professionals received in October. Thanks also to Dave Lambe for the flower bouquets we receive from the Floral Design classes throughout the semester. We appreciate your “enriching our lives through flowers!”

Announcements Sought for Department Newsletter

Please contact Kathy Schindler, kschindler1@unl.edu, 402-472-1508, to submit announcements, pictures, and articles for the department newsletter. The newsletter is distributed twice a month.

– Brenda, Carola, Karen, Kat, Kathy, Marlene & Tiffany

UNL Offers computer antivirus protection

UNL offers antivirus protection for all university-owned computers, as well as for computers personally-owned by UNL students, faculty and staff. This service is offered at no charge to the campus. Viruses, trojans, and worms are malicious programs that are easily spread across computers with email and Internet access. Using the UNL-provided antivirus is not required, but you may be required to use an antivirus program with current definitions for your computer to be granted access on UNL’s network. For more information, see the website at: antivirus.unl.edu.

Reducing Building Energy Consumption

Faculty, staff and students can help UNL lower its energy usage by visiting the Building Energy Consumption website at http://uem.unl.edu/energy-management/portal.shtml. The portal shows monthly energy use in individual buildings on campus for the last 12 months. Search either by the building name or by clicking on the building on a campus map. Energy conservation tips include turning off lights, appliances, and office machines at the end of the day, dressing for the season, and lowering thermostats when buildings and rooms are not occupied.