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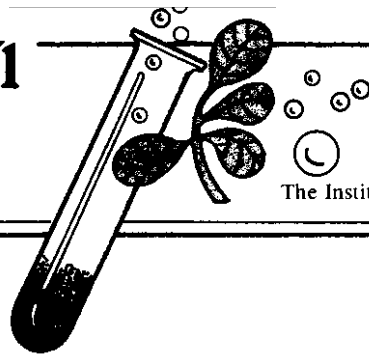
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August 1997

Volume 32, Number 1

COMMENTS FROM THE DEAN

Higher education is undergoing tremendous change that is leading to increased stress on faculty members. At the national level, several important changes have occurred: a significant decline in federal funding for research and educational programs, calls for increased attention to undergraduate education and distance education needs, redefinition of faculty scholarship, more emphasis on accountability (problem-solving research, accomplishments, and impacts), and more than 20 studies of the future of land-grant universities. These changes suggest that decision makers and the public are questioning the value of publicly-supported universities in American society.

Chancellor Moeser summed up the situation very well in a recent paper (1). He observed:

"What we see are more demands for accountability; more demands for faculty productivity (and this means productivity in the classroom, not the laboratory). They regard faculty as a kind of privileged elite, a new leisure class, with the protections of life-time job security available in no other sector of society. In an age of tremendous insecurity over corporate downsizing and job elimination, faculty are increasingly viewed as somewhat arrogantly maintaining a level of privilege and security not enjoyed by others, while all the time not working very hard either. Thus, we see attacks on tenure and sabbatical leaves, and demands that we increase the amount of time faculty spend in the classroom."

A recent book (2) by Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the House of Representatives, provides another perspective on how some politicians view higher education. One paragraph from a chapter dealing with higher education reads:

Put simply, higher education in this country is out of control. First, campuses are run for the benefit of the faculty, not the students. Second, tenured faculty have become increasingly out of touch with the rest of America, rejecting the culture of the people who pay their salaries. Third, there is an acceptance of higher costs without effective

management by administrators. Take all three together and you can see that higher education and the general public are on a collision course.

Not many faculty or administrators would agree with this assessment of the status of higher education, but it is important that we understand and appreciate these viewpoints because these ideas are widely held within American society. Concerns similar to those expressed above also are affecting university funding at the state and local level throughout the U.S.

If we are to improve this situation, it is essential that all faculty and administrators do a better job of assessing clientele needs, of focusing our programs on issues relevant to clientele, and of reporting our accomplishments and impacts to decision makers and clientele. We are fortunate that Nebraskans value and support the University of Nebraska but this support can erode quickly if we put our needs above the needs of those who pay the bills. I ask for your help in ensuring that citizens of Nebraska understand and appreciate our research programs and accomplishments.

Darrell W. Nelson
Dean and Director

- (1) Moeser, James. 1997. *The Agenda for Change*. Merrill Center for Advanced Studies. University of Kansas.
- (2) Gingrich, Newt. 1995. *To Renew America*. Harper-Collins.

ARD REALLOCATION ENHANCEMENTS

As a part of the UNL Reallocation Process, ARD was required to identify \$772,038 (4 percent of state-aided budget) for potential reallocation. Units identified to ARD the resources they believed might be held up for reallocation. Ultimately, the ARD reallocation target was achieved by eliminating faculty positions (5.86 FTE), support staff positions (17.81 FTE) and \$29,201 in GRA stipends and operating funds.

All of the resources proposed by ARD were accepted for reallocation by the Chancellor's Budget Advisory Committee, the Academic Planning Committee and the Chancellor. The ARD budget will be reduced by \$772,038 over the next two fiscal years. No current employees will lose their positions until June 30, 1998.



In the reallocation process, ARD identified 12 program areas for enhancement. Some of these areas were proposed to strengthen existing programs while other enhancement proposals related to new programs. All of the ARD proposals involved partnerships with at least one other college or division. We were fortunate that seven of our enhancement proposals were funded over the next two fiscal years for a total of \$777,488. A listing of the funded enhancements are presented below:

Program	FY 1997	FY 1998	Total
School of Natural Resource Sciences	84,250	60,000	144,250
Assumption of NRI Salaries	67,500	67,500	135,000
Plant Science Initiative	112,000	133,000	245,000
Northeast Learning Center Lease	25,000	0	25,000
Agribusiness Research Initiative	48,000	76,500	124,500
Animal Molecular Biology	0	50,000	50,000
Undergraduate Honors Research	25,000	28,738	53,738
Total:	\$361,750	415,738	777,488

We regret that the reallocation process weakened a number of productive research programs through withdrawal of resources. Hopefully, grant funds or other funds will be found to maintain many of these affected programs at the "cutting edge." We are pleased that the Chancellor's Budget Committee recognized the overall quality of our research programs and provided us with funding to implement several new thrusts that will keep our programs nationally competitive.

PROJECTS APPROVED BY THE COMMODITY BOARDS JULY 1, 1997-JUNE 30, 1998

Nebraska Dry Bean Proposals

The following projects were approved by the Nebraska Dry Bean Development, Utilization and Marketing Board for July 1, 1997-June 30, 1998:

David Nuland Dale Lindgren James Steadman Dermot Coyne	Evaluation of Dry Bean Cultivars for Disease Reaction and Performance in Western Nebraska	\$5,600
Dermot Coyne James Steadman Anne Vidaver David Nuland Dale Lindgren	Breeding Great Northern and Pinto Dry Beans with Multiple Disease Resistance Combined with Improved Seed Quality, Yield and Plant Type	14,409
James Steadman Eric Kerr Dale Lindgren	Pathogenic Variability of the Bean Rust Fungus in Western Nebraska and the Search for Stable Rust Resistance	5,000
Jim Schild Dave Nuland Eric Kerr	Evaluation of Fertilizer Nitrogen and Foliar Fungicides on Regrowth and Yield Following Hail	4,200
Charles Hibberd	Increasing the Production Efficiency and Market Value of Dry Edible Beans Through a Collaborative, Integrated Research and Extension Program at the Panhandle Research and Extension Center	24,000
C. Dean Yonts	Polyacrylamide (PAM) — A Method to Control Irrigation Induced Soil Erosion in the Production of Dry Beans	3,500

David Nuland Jim Schild	Commercial Evaluation of Great Northern Breeding Line 94-4	3,250
Robert Wilson	Integrating Rotary Hoeing, In-Row Cultivation and Herbicides for Low Cost Weed Control in Dry Edible Beans	2,500
Gary Yuen Eric Kerr Dale Lindgren James Steadman	Evaluation of Bacteria and Chitin for Biological Control of Bean Rust	4,000

GRAND TOTAL \$66,459

Nebraska Wheat Board Proposals

The following projects were approved by the Nebraska Wheat Board for the July 1, 1997-June 30, 1998 funding period:

D. R. Shelton P. S. Baenziger C. J. Peterson R. A. Graybosch	Selecting Nebraska Wheats for Processing Needs of Domestic and Foreign Markets	\$36,190
P. S. Baenziger D. R. Shelton D. Baltensperger	Improving Winter Wheat Varieties for Nebraska	45,400
L. A. Nelson	Variety Testing of Public Winter Wheat Varieties Developed Outside of Nebraska	12,000
C. James Peterson P. S. Baenziger D. R. Shelton D. Baltensperger R. A. Graybosch	Hard White Wheat Development for Nebraska	65,000
J. E. Watkins P. S. Baenziger	Lessening the Impact of Leaf and Stem Rust and Wheat Streak Mosaic Virus on Nebraska Wheat Varieties	19,000
R. N. Klein	Winter Wheat Varieties Seed No-Till into Winter Wheat or Corn Residue	9,750
Gary L. Hein J. E. Watkins	Impact of High Plains Disease on Wheats Being Developed for Wheat Curl Mite and Wheat Streak Mosaic Resistance	9,880
GRAND TOTAL		\$187,340

Nebraska Grain Sorghum Proposals

The following projects were approved by the Nebraska Grain Sorghum Development, Utilization and Marketing Board for July 1, 1997-June 30, 1998 funding:

R. N. Klein P. T. Nordquist C. A. Francis F. W. Roeth	Nebraska Hybrid Grain Sorghum Seed Strip Test	\$7,500
D. J. Andrews	Using a New Genetic Diversity to Develop Grain Sorghum Germplasm with Good Adaptation to Eastern Nebraska	20,229
Z B Mayo L. Silberman	Sorghum Insect Pest Management in Nebraska	7,400
M. A. Hanna V. Ghorpade G. Biby	Developing Industrial Uses Chapter for FFA Textbooks	1,500
M. A. Hanna V. Ghorpade	Phytochemicals from Sorghum Bran	14,800

J. E. Eastin	Development and Testing of High Yield-Stress Resistant-Improved Seed Size Sorghums	20,600
M. D. Clegg L. A. Nelson D. Baltensperger	Sorghum Grown and Grain Fill Under Cool Sub-optimal Nighttime Temperatures	4,500
T. Milton T. Klopfenstein	Utilization of Distillers Grains from the Fermentation of Sorghum and Corn in Beef Finishing and Dairy Lactation Diets	25,272
GRAND TOTAL		\$101,801

PROPOSALS SUBMITTED FOR FEDERAL GRANTS

The following is a listing of proposals that were submitted after June 1997, by faculty for federal grant programs. While not all grants will be funded, we are appreciative of the faculty member's effort in submitting proposals to the various agencies.

Raymond Chollet — NSF — Seryl-Phosphorylation/Dephosphorylation of Plant Metabolic Enzymes in Leaves (PEPC) and Root Nodules (SuSy, PEPC) — \$576,685

Stephen W. Ragsdale — U.S. Department of Energy — Enzymology of Acetoclastic Methanogenesis — \$962,702

Bob Volk — USDA/ARS — Integrated Nitrogen, Water, and Pesticide Management Systems to Protect Groundwater Quality — \$300,000

David W. Stanley-Samuelson — USDA/ARS — Pest Control by Manipulation of Insect Eicosanoid Mediated Immune Responses to Bacterial Infections — \$24,000

Kenneth G. Hubbard and David E. Stooksbury — NASA — Prototype Applications of High Resolution Soil Moisture Estimates for Agricultural Assessments — \$299,515

Gautam Sarath and Robert V. Klucas — NSF — Understanding the Biology and Biochemistry of a Novel Soybean Plant Acid Phosphatase — \$341,948

Rhonda Brand — NSF — A Novel System to Determine the Biological Impact of Pesticide Combinations — \$200,122

Kyle D. Hoagland — U.S. Army Corps of Engineers — Changes in Primary Productivity of Pawnee Reservoir as a Result of Reservoir Aging — \$49,848

Barbara Sparks and Kathleen Prochaska-Cue — Department of Health and Human Services — The Impact of Welfare Reform on Women and Their Families: Stage I — \$169,242

NEW OR REVISED PROJECTS

The following station projects were approved recently by the USDA Cooperative State Research Service:

NEB-12-215 (Agronomy) Development of Integrated Weed Management Strategies to Improve Great Plains and Midwest Grasslands

Investigator: Robert A. Masters

Status: Revised State project effective Nov. 1, 1996

NEB-12-260 (Agronomy) Resource-Efficient Management of Summer Annual Dryland Cereal Crops in Nebraska

Investigator: Steve Mason

Status: New Hatch project effective June 1, 1997

NEB-14-014 (Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences) Bovine Respiratory Disease: Risk Factors, Pathogens, Diagnosis and Management

Investigator: Subramaniam Srikumaran

Status: Revised Hatch project effective Oct. 1, 1996 that contributes to regional project NC-107

NEB-14-094 (Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences) Molecular Characterization of Animal RNA Viruses and Their Interactions with the Host

Investigator: Ruben Donis

Status: New Animal Health project effective May 19, 1997

NEB-16-075 (Food Science and Technology) Coupling of Molecular Recognition and Signal Generation in Arrayed Fluorescent Hybridization Assays

Investigator: Andrew Benson

Status: New State project effective July 1, 1997

NEB-19-007 (Food Processing Center) Development and Quality/Safety Enhancement of Specialty Food Products

Investigator: Steve L. Taylor

Status: New Special grant effective July 1, 1997

NEB-20-058 (Horticulture) Exudate Physiology of Grasses Grown Under Stress Environments

Investigator: Garald Horst

Status: New Hatch project effective June 1, 1997

NEB-24-033 (AgLec) Distance Education Policy Research: Organization and Administration

Investigator(s): James King, S. Kay Rockwell and Earl Russell

Status: New State project effective July 1, 1997

NEB-25-004 (Water Center/Environmental Programs) Nebraska Participation in the National Agricultural Pesticide Impact Assessment Program

Investigator: Shripat Kamble

Status: New Special grant effective Dec. 15, 1996

NEB-91-047 (Nutritional Science and Dietetics) The Metabolic Basis of Atherosclerosis

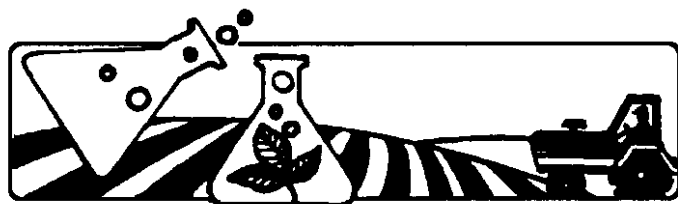
Investigator: Timothy Carr

Status: New Hatch project effective May 1, 1997

NEB-92-030 (Family and Consumer Sciences) High Hopes and Bright Futures: Successful Teens in Nebraska

Investigator(s): William Meredith and Douglas Abbott

Status: New State project effective July 1, 1997



**GRANTS AND CONTRACTS
RECEIVED
JUNE AND JULY, 1997**

Agricultural Meteorology	
Wilhite, D. A. — USDA	186,921
Wilhite, D. A. — Dept. Of Interior — Bureau of Reclamation	200,000
Agronomy	
Andrews, D. — Maharashtra Hi Bred Seeds, India	30,000
Baenziger, P. S. — Pioneer Hi-Bred Int'l	18,000
Cassman, K. G. — Pioneer Hi-Bred Int'l	25,000
Eghball, Bahman — USDA/ARS	100,000
Johnson, Blaine — Pioneer Hi-Bred Int'l	19,000
Miscellaneous grants under \$10,000 each	24,050
Animal Science	
Miscellaneous grants under \$10,000 each	34,000
Biochemistry	
Spreitzer, R. — U. S. Department of Energy	92,000
Center for Rural Revitalization	
Cordes, S. and Allen, J. — USDA/CSREES	236,437
Entomology	
Baxendale, F. P. — John Deere and Company	35,019
Siegfried, B. D. — Novartis Seeds	64,518
Siegfried, B. D. — USDA/CSREES via Purdue University	53,200
Miscellaneous grants under \$10,000 each	62,750
Food Science and Technology	
Meagher, M. — National Corn Growers Association	10,510
Meagher, M. — U.S. Army	124,812
Miscellaneous grants under \$10,000 each	1,500
Forestry, Fisheries and Wildlife	
Miscellaneous grants under \$10,000 each	4,750
Horticulture	
Gaussoin, R. — Nebraska Department of Agriculture	13,000
Miscellaneous grants under \$10,000 each	26,296
Industrial Agricultural Products Center	
Hanna, M. A. — National Corn Growers Association	39,553
Hanna, M. A. — Banner Pharmacaps	38,956
Northeast Research and Extension Center	
Miscellaneous grants under \$10,000 each	28,183
Panhandle Research and Extension Center	
Baltensperger, D. — Kansas State University	15,280
Pavlista, A. — Nebr. Dept. Of Agriculture	10,000
Smith, J. — Western Sugar	50,000
Miscellaneous grants under \$10,000 each	58,300
Plant Pathology	
Miscellaneous grants under \$10,000 each	4,700
South Central Research and Extension Center	
Miscellaneous grants under \$10,000 each	48,700
Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences	
Kelling, C. — Syntrovet	61,928
Osorio, F. A. — National Pork Producers	49,238
Miscellaneous grants under \$10,000 each	25,595
Water Center/Environmental Programs	
Spalding, R. — Nebraska Department of Agriculture	17,000
Miscellaneous grants under \$10,000 each	7,500
West Central Research and Extension Center	
Miscellaneous grants under \$10,000 each	10,925
GRAND TOTAL	\$1,827,621

REGIONAL RESEARCH TRAVEL COSTS

Faculty who are official ARD representatives to regional research committees are authorized to travel to one meeting per year using the ARD Regional Travel Trust. We view the participation in annual meetings of regional committees to be important and have used this approach to help encourage that.

Review of several recent travel authorizations have indicated some airfares to regional meeting locations seem excessive. Regional research committee representatives are urged to plan ahead as much as possible in order to get the most economical airfares possible. While the airfare structure is very complex, getting reservations well in advance should result in lower prices.

We would like to see as much of these funds as possible allocated to the departments for direct support of research, and minimizing the proportion of these funds spent on travel will help us do that. Thanks for your cooperation.

**RESEARCH, EXTENSION AND EDUCATION TITLE
OF THE 1996 FARM BILL**

During debate on the 1996 Farm Bill, Congress decided that USDA research, extension and education programs should be examined in greater depth and as a consequence extended the existing authorization for two years. During the last 12 months, Congress has been studying research, extension and education programs. One of the major sources of input to Congress on this issue is the NRC report *Colleges of Agriculture at the Land-Grant Universities: Public Service and Public Policy*. This report recommended significant changes in the way our programs are funded and administered. Senator Lugar, chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, also obtained broad input on the programs from responses to 42 questions he sent to many stakeholders from throughout the United States.

After considering input from the Land Grant System, and other sources, the Senate Agriculture Committee has recently approved a new version of the Research, Extension and Education Title. Some of the key elements of this legislation are listed below:

- Created a new mandatory spending program that provides \$780 million over five years for research to address critical emerging agricultural issues of primary importance related to future food production, environmental problems, and farm income (Initiative for Future Agriculture and Food Systems).
- Extended the Fund for Rural America through Oct. 1, 2001. Revised the formula to 50 percent for rural development, 33 percent for research, and 17 percent at the Secretary's discretion.
- Required that 25 percent of Hatch funds be used for multi-state projects that are interdisciplinary in approach.

- Required that a specified proportion of Smith-Lever funds be used for multi-state programs. The level will be 25 percent or twice the current proportion of funds spent on multi-state programs.
- Required that a certain percentage of all Smith-Lever and Hatch funds be used for integrated cooperative extension and research programs. The percentage will be 25 percent or twice the current proportion of funds spent on integrated programs.
- The Secretary is required to establish priorities for federally-funded research, extension and education programs based on input from stakeholders and the National Advisory Board.
- The Secretary is required to establish procedures that ensure relevance and merit of federally-funded programs.
- Authorized grants to policy research centers.
- Established the National Agricultural Weather Information Service within USDA.
- Authorized the Secretary to establish a National Food Genome Strategy.
- Authorized the Secretary to award a grant to A*DEC to administer the Agricultural Telecommunications Program.
- The Secretary is directed to coordinate research, economic and market information, and other activities to develop and promote biobased products.
- Authorized a new competitive grant program for research and education on precision agriculture.
- Directs the Secretary to conduct a performance evaluation to determine whether federally funded agricultural research, extension and education programs result in public good that has national or multi-state significance.

We are generally pleased with the Senate version of the Research, Extension and Education Title. However, this legislation must be considered by the full Senate. Similar legislation is pending in the House of Representatives. After the legislation is passed by both Houses of Congress, a conference committee will reconcile differences. The legislation must then be signed by the President before it becomes law. Thus, there is a great deal more work to do before this legislation become effective. Please bear in mind that this legislation **authorizes** programs. House and Senate Appropriations Committees determine the level of funding that will be provided to these programs on an annual basis.

CSREES BUDGET FOR FY 1998

The House of Representatives and Senate have been working on USDA appropriations for the last few weeks. Listed below is the CSREES budget for FY 1998 as passed by the House and Senate. A conference committee will meet after the summer recess to resolve differences in the appropriation levels.

Program	FY97 Budget	FY98 House	FY98 Senate
----- \$ in thousands -----			
Base Programs			
Hatch Act	168,734	168,734	168,734
McIntire-Stennis	20,497	20,497	20,497
Animal Health	4,775	4,500	4,775
Competitive Grants (NRI)			
Plant Systems	36,044	37,044	38,100
Animal Systems	23,104	24,854	25,154
Nutrition, Food Qual & Health	7,209	9,000	8,000
Natural Resources & Environ	17,194	17,194	18,094
Processing & New Products	6,755	6,755	6,755
Markets, Trade & Rural Devel.	3,897	3,897	3,897
Biotech Consortiums	0	4,000	0
Genomics	0	3,000	0
Citrus Tristeza	0	1,000	0
Subtotal	94,203	106,744	100,000
Special Research Grants			
Pest Control Strategies:			
Critical Issues	200	500	200
Expert IPM Decision	177	300	177
Emerging Pest & Disease	1,623	2,000	1,623
IPM/Biocontrol	2,731	4,210	2,731
Pesticide Clearance	5,711	8,990	7,411
Pesticide Impact Assess.	1,327	1,327	1,327
Minor Use Animal Drugs	550	550	550
Nat. Biological Impact Assess.	254	254	254
Rural Development Centers	423	423	423
Tropical & Subtropical Ag	2,724	2,500	2,724
Water Quality	2,757	2,500	2,757
Global Change	1,567	0	1,567
Rural Economic & Soc Devel	0	2,000	0
Subtotal	20,044	23,554	21,744
Other Research Grants			
Rangeland Research Grants	475	0	0
Aquaculture Centers	4,000	4,000	4,000
Alternative Crops	650	650	550
Sustainable Agriculture	8,000	8,000	8,000
Critical Ag Materials	500	500	600
Subtotal	13,625	13,150	13,150
Federal Administration	10,249	8,081	11,141
Grand Total	359,862	372,995	367,776

We are pleased that Congress has recommended increases in the National Research Initiative and a few other research programs. Given the federal budget environment, the CSREES research appropriation is a positive sign the Congress believes that our research gives a high return on investment.

INDIRECT COST RECOVERY BUDGETING MODEL

UNL uses a defined model for distribution of indirect cost recovery. During the FY 1997, UNL distributed \$6,325,000 in indirect cost recovery funds. These funds were allocated in the following manner:

Fixed Commitments:		
Permanent base	\$700,000	
Computing	\$250,000	
Subtotal		\$950,000
Base Budget Commitments:		
Research Grants & Contracts Office	\$128,427	
Research Travel Grants (College level)	\$188,528	
Sponsored Programs — Finance	\$33,423	
Technology Transfer	\$206,000	
Animal Care	\$41,668	
Facilities Lease Cost	\$52,180	
Hazardous Waste Management	\$209,350	
Scientific Buyer	\$40,371	
Human Subjects Review Board	\$16,836	
Library	\$108,556	
Subtotal		\$1,025,339
Allocation Funds:		
Return to Colleges and Divisions	\$2,174,830	
VCR Research Support Program	\$869,932	
Plant Modification/Renovation	\$652,449	
Chancellor's Research Incentive Prog.	\$652,449	
Subtotal		\$4,349,661
Grand Total		\$6,325,000

We anticipate receiving the FY 1998 allocation of indirect cost recovery funds sometime in September. Last year, ARD received about 35 percent of the indirect costs funds generated by ARD faculty in the preceding year. We returned two-thirds of these funds to the units generating the indirect cost recovery. The remaining one-third was used for start-up equipment for new faculty members. The Vice Chancellor for Research provides matching for indirect cost recovery funds used for new faculty start-up.

LEGAL NAME ON USDA GRANT PROPOSALS

A recent note in the July 1997 issue of *Research Review*, published by the UNL Research Grants and Contracts Office, indicated that the correct legal name on any agreement made was the Board of Regents, University of Nebraska. The article failed to note the exception to this policy.

For United States Department of Agriculture agreements, the Director of the Nebraska Agricultural Experiment Station has authority to sign and should be identified on forms instead of the Board of Regents. For the USDA National Research Initiative Competitive Grants Program, as well as most other USDA grants programs, the cover sheet that shows the legal name of the organization should be filled out as follows:

1. Legal name of organization to which award should be made:
Nebraska Agricultural Experiment Station,
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
2. Address:
Office of Research Grants and Contracts,
303 Canfield
Administration Building
Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska 68588-0430
3. Name of Authorized Organizational Representative:
Darrell W. Nelson
4. Phone number: 402-472-2045
Fax number: 402-472-9071
Internet address: agr001@unlvm.unl.edu
5. Address of Authorized Organizational Representative:
Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Lincoln, Nebraska 68583-0704

If there are any questions about correct completion of the USDA documentation, please contact Diane Mohrhoff in the Agricultural Research Division office.

Diane says

What most folks need is an alarm clock that will ring when it's time for them to rise to the occasion.