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2006

## Nebraska Hall of Agricultural Achievement Dinner

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Dear Elmer Dicks → Dear Harlan  
Federal Work-Release Program

Nebraska Hall of Agricultural Achievement Dinner  
April 23, 2006  
Nebraska East Union  
John C. Owens  
NU Vice President and IANR Harlan Vice Chancellor

It is "my pleasure" to be with you tonight celebrating the accomplishments of these wonderful and worthy new additions to the Nebraska Hall of Agricultural Achievement. I'm delighted to have this opportunity to help recognize these individuals so deserving of their honors. What a pleasure to say, "well done and thank you" to people who make such significant contributions to the world, who live their lives "meaningfully" in the way they choose to put their talents and energies to work.

It is my great pleasure to congratulate this year's esteemed honoree, ● Keith Heuermann. Thank you, Keith, for the tremendous amount of work you have done to further the advancement of "production-agriculture" and all of society. Your work through breeding hybrid corn, and, "after retirement", your launching a company that sells popcorn worldwide, is nothing short of amazing. I also want to thank you again, Keith, for "all" you do and all you

*a true land-grant university success story!*

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have done for your alumnus ~~and~~ the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources. Let me also applaud the past honorees present here tonight. I thank each of you for all you continue to do to tell agriculture's admirable story in Nebraska and beyond. I also sincerely thank each of you here tonight who already has been named to the Nebraska Hall of Agricultural Achievement. Thank you for your ongoing work and your championing of Nebraska agriculture.

The people I am in contact with through my own work keep me perpetually aware of the need to preserve, <sup>to</sup> support, and <sup>to</sup> improve Nebraska agriculture. I continually appreciate each person who works so hard to keep Nebraska agriculture strong -- strong and productive. Your determination, your wisdom, and your vision are vital to us all.

Now it is my great pleasure to introduce you to the newest members of the Nebraska Hall of Agricultural Achievement. I am privileged to provide you these brief glimpses that reflect just a

small part of all these people do and have accomplished. This year's new Nebraska Hall of Agricultural Achievement members are:

-- Don Adams, who as of May 1, will become the district director of UNL's West Central Research and Extension Center at North Platte, and the associate dean of the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture at Curtis. Don is widely-known for his research and education programs which have helped transform the cow-calf industry in Nebraska. Don led a UNL team that researched how "best" to modify the calving season to "better-use" available forage resources. Under his leadership, the <sup>UNL</sup> Gundmundsen Sandhills Laboratory near Whitman has evolved into a nationally known research and demonstration facility. Don also played a lead-role in developing a practicum to enhance ranching profitability.

-- Linda Boeckner is the nutrition specialist and family and consumer science program coordinator at UNL's Panhandle Research and Extension Center at Scottsbluff. Linda developed nationally recognized programs for both youth and adults. Her work

provides training and educational material to state agencies and "her programs" have been picked up for use "nationwide". She also works with educational programs through the University of Nebraska Medical Center. Linda's concerns about "the impact" of aging on rural communities led her to "partnerships" to address the nutritional, financial, health, and services needs of this key *and growing* population of our state.

-- Victor Bohuslavsky is "executive director" of the Nebraska Soybean Board and he farms near Brainard. Victor has been active in "advancing" the Nebraska soybean industry since the 1980s. He has been "instrumental" in promoting the health aspects of soybeans in the diet and he's a "huge proponent" of soy biodiesel. Victor is active in the United Soybean Board as well as the American Soybean Association, and he works "internationally" to promote soy products. Previously, he was the vocational agricultural instructor at East Butler High School and "earlier" worked in management for Ralston Purina.

*Gall-bladder? - Friday*

*Not the same person!*

-- Daniel J. Duncan became director of the university's Agricultural Research and Development Center (ARDC) near Mead in 1991. He assumed added responsibilities as assistant director of the Agricultural Research Division in 2004. Previously, in 1987, Dan became operations manager at the Panhandle Research and Extension Center. Dan helped develop the university's Barta Brothers Ranch and is credited with leading the ARDC, one of the nation's largest university research and demonstration field facilities, to become a world-class agricultural research operation. He also innovated ways to employ technology to enhance communications and data transfer from the field lab to the Lincoln campus or, for that matter, <sup>to</sup> anywhere in the world.

-- Mary-Pat Finn-Hoag is farm editor of the <sup>Norfolk</sup> Norfolk Daily News and has served in that key role for 28 years. The Wayne State College graduate is known for her agricultural feature stories and in-depth reporting. Her 4-H and FFA coverage includes an annual 4-H special edition for the 23-county northeast Nebraska coverage area. Mary Pat is a LEAD program alumna and has been a member

of the Ag Advisory Board at Northeast Community College since 1980. She received the Nebraska Press Women Communicator of Achievement Award in 2001.

-- Derrel Martin, professor of biological systems engineering at UNL, has earned a national and international reputation in some "key" water management and irrigation system-management areas. Derrel's research, which focuses on greater efficiency while "improving" environmental-consequences, has been awarded several million dollars in grants and contracts. His research also includes using "crop-modeling" as a management tool. This award-winning college professor who teaches multiple irrigation courses is highly skilled at creating partnerships to solve problems and enhance productivity.

-- Milton Rogers, a "life-long" agriculturalist in Deuel County, owns and operates Milton Rogers Dryland Farms, a wheat and small grain "enterprise". Since 2001, he has served as "chairman" of Nebraska's "five-member" Farm Service Agency "State-Committee". He was "re-appointed" to this post by USDA Secretary Mike Johanns in 2005. Milton contributes "extensively" to policy development and

trade initiatives at state, national, and international levels. He has "served" on the Nebraska Farm Bureau board and as chairman of Farmers Elevator Co. in Chappell. He is a Nebraska LEAD alumnus and has served on several university panels and committees.

-- Roy Smith of Plattsmouth operated a grain and livestock enterprise in Cass County from 1968 until 2003. He is the grain-market-commentator for "Market Journal," UNL Extension's weekly program aired on NET and the Web. Roy also is senior grain market analyst for Agriculture Online, Successful Farming's Web site, and he's a regular contributor to the magazine. He has served on the Nebraska Soybean Association board of directors and on many panels and committees to advance soybean growers' position. He also serves on the USDA Futures and Options Pilot Project Advisory Committee and is past <sup>vice</sup> president of the ~~Nebraska~~ <sup>American</sup> Soybean Association.

[NOTE: Optional mention of Roy Dinsdale:

Roy Dinsdale of Palmer was elected to the Nebraska Hall of Agricultural Achievement, but was unable to be with us tonight. We will officially welcome and introduce Roy at next year's recognition banquet.]



Please join me once again in congratulating the 2006 additions to the Nebraska Hall of Agricultural Achievement.