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Haskell Agricultural Laboratory 50th Anniversary Celebration

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Haskell Agricultural Laboratory, Concord

Tuesday, August 14, 2007 John C. Owens NU Vice President and IANR Harlan Vice Chancellor This is a great day. Today we celebrate 50 years of work done here at the Haskell Agricultural Laboratory for Nebraska. Work that addresses issues of great importance here. Work that matters. As your land-grant university, it is a point of pride for us to celebrate work done for our state. We are at work for Nebraska. That's our heritage. It's why we're here. A recent independent study shows the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources provides Nebraskans a conservative 15-to-1 return for every state tax dollar Nebraska important to us all. invests with us. That's money in Nebraskans' pockets and that's THE BATTELLE INSTANTE The Institute, of which the Haskell Agricultural Laboratory and the Northeast Research-and-Extension Center are a part, Dean Scenellaller ACADEMIK DECENTES - CASAR 1290 FALLOS

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takes very seriously our land-grant university responsibility to take the university's resources to Nebraskans. The research and extension centers throughout our state are conscious choices to put university resources close to our constituents. That way we can best understand and respond to Nebraska's needs.

We continually are at work for Nebraska through our property.

research, teaching, and extension education. Think of the work done here at Haskell over the past 50 years, and work ongoing today – research into, and extension education on, water-quality and quantity, environmental issues, and best-management practices in crop and animal agriculture.

Historically, Haskell faculty have made significant impacts in creating new knowledge around the benefits and correct interpretations and use of soil testing, irrigation scheduling, integrated pest management, crop residue management, and MANY others.

Haskell scientists have been instrumental in developing enhancements in swine-housing-management in the areas of

proper ventilation, energy-management, drinking-water usage, nutrition, and manure management. Currently, they're working on such cutting edge issues as organic crop production, manure management, biofuels, conservation buffers to protect water quality, remote-sensing of crop-conditions and pests, and telemetric-monitoring of environmental-impacts on beef cattle. New directions being undertaken include developing procedures for selecting pigs that are resistant to Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome virus, and management recommendations for subsurface drip irrigation systems. These current and new research activities are instrumental to a new Institute research and extension education project laying the foundation for more efficient and environmentally-friendly crop and livestock production systems.

We know the importance of the Haskell Agricultural

Laboratory to Nebraska and especially to northeast Nebraska.

We also know the Haskell Building, built in 1964, has had no significant renovation in over 40 years. We sought funding from

the Legislature for renovation of the building and for swine facilities here this past spring. While that funding did not occur, we know there is significant need. We will continue our efforts to obtain funding to meet that need.

As I end my remarks today, I want to thank everyone who has worked so hard to make this 50th anniversary celebration a success. I thank the Haskell Agricultural Laboratory and staff for all the good work you do, every day, as you are at work for Nebraska. I thank, too, past members of the faculty and staff for their contributions to the valuable work done here. I also want to thank each of you who turned out today in support of this celebration. Your support is very important to us.

This truly is a great day. Enjoy the celebration. Thank you.