

2005

Crop Watch No. 2005-25, November 18, 2005

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CROP WATCH

University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension
Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources

UNIVERSITY OF
Nebraska
Lincoln

No. 2005-25, November 18, 2005

If you did it with a handshake earlier

Setting on-farm grain storage rental fees

With low corn prices and high corn yields, many farmers are storing this year's harvest and waiting for better prices next spring. If you're negotiating for on-farm storage or considering building storage for future years, consider the following recommendations from Paul Hay, Extension Educator in Gage County, on how to arrive at a rental fee that is fair to all parties.

When setting the fee for on-farm storage, Hay recommends considering a group of cost factors he calls the "DIRTI Five"—depreciation, interest, repair, taxes and insurance. In addition, he recommends considering other costs, such as utilities, or whether the bin offers drying and other amenities which would warrant an additional fee.

To determine the dollar amount for each cost factor, consider the age of the bin and calculate the costs based on a percentage of the bin's value. For example, depreciation

and interest might each be 6%, repair might be 0.5% - 1.5%, property taxes on the bin might be 1% and insurance might be 0.5%. (With an older bin, repair costs might be higher.) In this case, the total might be about 15%. While it's important to realize all the costs, it's not likely many farmers would pay that fee, Hay said. More often the two parties are likely to arrive at a fee that covers repairs, property taxes and insurance and a portion of the depreciation and interest costs for a total of 7-8%.

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Stored grain levels up

Even before this year's high-yielding grain harvest, producers were storing record levels of grain on-farm and in elevators, creating a shortage of space for this year's crop in some areas.

In 2005 the amount of stored corn and soybean more than doubled, according to a Sept. 30 report from USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, Nebraska Field Office.

Old crop corn stocks in all

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Leaf rust found on 2005 fall-sown winter wheat

On November 10, I found leaf rust, caused by the fungus *Puccinia triticina* f.sp. *tritici*, in wheat re-search plots at the South Central Agricultural Laboratory near Clay Center. The research plots are planted with Millennium and are surrounded by Jagalene. Both varieties were infected.

Disease incidence (percentage of diseased plants) was very low at 1% to 3%. Disease severity (percentage of leaf area covered with rust pustules) on individual leaves was also very low at 1% to 2%. There have been reports of yellowing on wheat in the Nebraska Panhandle, but rust has not been confirmed as the cause.

Occurrence of leaf rust on winter wheat in the fall is not common in Nebraska; however, when fall conditions are favorable (warm temperatures and moisture on the leaf surface), leaf rust can develop. Freezing temperatures later in the fall and in winter are expected to kill leaves with sporulating rust pustules. It is possible for the leaf rust fungus to overwinter in Nebraska if winter turns out to be mild. Any fields where leaf rust is found on winter wheat this fall should be regularly monitored starting in early May next year.

Stephen Wegulo
Extension Plant Pathologist

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Ag update

Del Hemsath, Extension educator in Dakota, Dixon and Thurston counties: Harvest is basically completed in the northeast area with corn yields higher than expected. Dryland corn produced yields of 120-180 bushels per acre.

There were very few pest problems or weather problems this year which should have helped in achieving yields. The dry and hot weather did affect some corn fields, causing short ears, poor pollination and barren stalks. There also seems to be some variety differences with the stacking of genes. I have had some calls and observations about grain production being poor in some fields where the corn was triple stacked. More cornstalks have been baled on some fields than in the past.

USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service Nebraska Field Office: For the week ending November 13 warm, dry conditions continued across the state allowing corn and sorghum harvests to remain ahead of normal, according to Producers were busy with fall tillage operations and fertilizer applications but were concerned

Ranching Roundup Dec. 1

Jim Gerrish, a forage systems researcher and educator, will a "Ranching Roundup" Thursday, December 1, at the Yuma Community Center in Yuma, Colorado (N Hwy 59 & 2nd Ave). To register or to learn more about the program, contact the Wray NRCS Field Office at (970) 332-3173, Ext. 3, or write Julie Elliott, 247 North Clay, Wray, Colorado, 80758 or julie.elliott@co.usda.gov.

The \$5 fee includes lunch. Please register by Thanksgiving to ensure a lunch reservation. The day begins with coffee and registration at 8:30 a.m. and continues with speakers from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

about the lack of moisture going into the winter months.

Corn harvest progressed to 95% complete, ahead of last year at 81% and average at 89%. Harvest is near

completion across most of the state, with harvest in the southwestern and Panhandle counties not as advanced.

Cropping profitability seminars focus on yields, water

The Nebraska Grain Sorghum Producers Association (NeGSPA) and Grain Sorghum Board will host a series of three Cropping Profitability Seminars in January.

"Escalating energy and fertilizer costs together with water limitations, have farmers looking for ways to gain greater production efficiency," said Gerald Simonsen of Ruskin, NeGSPA President. "Farmers are looking for ways to reduce production risk while achieving bin-busting yields."

The meetings, which will run from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. each day, are supported by UNL Extension and Kansas State University Extension. They will be held:

January 10 at the Ella Missing Community Center in Arapahoe;

January 11 at the Auditorium in Hardy; and

January 12 at the Saline Center at Hwy 15 & County Road M in Saline County.

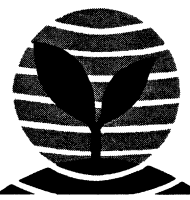
The program is packed with valuable information that farmers can apply to their operations, said Burdette Piening of Lincoln, Chair of the Grain Sorghum Board. "It also gives farmers a chance to offer input on the sorghum check-off program." Each day begins with a public forum hosted by the Nebraska Grain Sorghum Board.

Program presentations include Al Dutcher, UNL climatologist, on the long-range weather outlook; Barney Gordon, Kansas State University agronomist on how to raise 200-bushel sorghum with limited water availability; Phil Stahlman, KSU weed scientist, with an overview of current and potential weed control options in sorghum. Paul Hay and Noel Mues, UNL extension educators, will demonstrate how to capture water for optimal crop use. The Nebraska State Patrol has been invited to

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Lisa Jasa, Editor; Email: ljasa1@unl.edu

Grain storage fee *(Continued from page 231)*

Utility costs might be part of this amount or an additional amount. If the bin isn't on a separate electrical meter, the two parties should agree to how utilities will be assessed. Hay suggested that costs might be gauged by comparing a utility bill before the bin was filled to one afterward or both parties could just agree to a fee, perhaps 0.5%.

To estimate the total fee, you'll need to estimate the value of the bin. Hay suggested that an older, but solid bin with a good fan and roof might be valued at \$1.25 per bushel of capacity. For example, a 10,000 bushel capacity bin would be valued at \$12,500. A newer bin — one less than 10 years old — would be valued at \$1.50 per bushel of capacity or \$15,000 for a 10,000 bushel bin.

For a 10,000 bushel older bin, a rate of 7.5% plus 0.5% for electricity would generate a fee of \$1,000, which would be fairly typical of what an elevator might charge for four months of storage (2.5 cents a bushel per month), however with on-farm storage, the length for storage wouldn't need to be limited to four months.

Hay said providing an extended storage period would offer advantages to both parties. It provides the renter flexibility in selling the grain and the owner some security in having a full bin when spring and summer storms hit.

The time required for managing grain quality also may be a factor. With on-farm storage the renter is responsible for the quality, handling and maintenance of the grain, while with elevator storage, the elevator assumes these costs and those of any losses.

While record yields and low prices the last two years may have created an increased need for storage, if you regularly seek additional storage, you might want to consider adding a bin on-farm. Hay estimated that a new 8,000 bushel bin with good amenities could be built for \$1.75 a bushel. A 20,000 bushel bin might be built for \$1.20 a bushel.

Watch this week's Market Journal on Saturday at 7 a.m. on NETV or Sunday at 9 a.m. on NETV2 for an interview with Hay.

Lisa Jasa, Editor

Storage levels

(Continued from page 231)

positions on September 1 totaled 280 million bushels, according to USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, Nebraska Field Office. This is more than double the September 1, 2004, stocks total of 115 million bushels and is the highest September 1 stocks level since 1999.

Of the total stocks, 100 million bushels are stored on farm, more than double last year's holdings. Off farm holdings of 180 million bushels were also more than double a year ago.

Old crop soybeans stored in all positions totaled 15.8 million bushels, also more than twice the level stored last year. On-farm stocks of 5.2 million bushels are over three times year ago levels, and off-farm stocks of 10.6 million bushels are more than double last year's holdings.

Wheat stored in all positions totaled 66.5 million bushels, up 1% from a year ago.

Estimates of the storage situation following this year's harvest will be available from USDA's Agricultural Statistics Service in January.

Soil and water conservation sign-up underway

Farmers and ranchers interested in soil, water and wildlife conservation or wetland restoration funds are encouraged to apply by November 30 at their Natural Resources Conservation Service office.

"All these programs have an on-going sign-up process for landowners or operators. The November 30 deadline is the first of several 'cut-off' dates through the year where we rank the received applications and begin funding contracts," said Doug Gahn, acting NRCS state conservationist.

Key voluntary conservation programs include:

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP): assists farmers and ranchers to improve soil, air, and water quality on private working lands

Ground and Surface Water Conservation: helps producers conserve water by altering present irrigation systems to improve water efficiency and reduce water used

Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP): helps landowners restore, enhance and conserve wetlands.

Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program: a voluntary program that provides matching funds to state and local governments and

non-governmental organizations to buy conservation easements on farm and ranch land.

Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP): offers assistance through long-term agreements to create, restore and enhance wildlife habitat for upland wildlife, wetland wildlife, threatened, endangered species or at-risk species and fisheries.

Landowners and producers wanting information on these programs can go to www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs or contact their local NRCS office.

UNL launches statewide organic farming research

A recently announced \$750,000 grant will help the University of Nebraska–Lincoln expand organic farming research and education, enhance collaborations with growers and develop science-based information for organic food production.

A team of Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources researchers has received a four-year grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service. The project -- Improving Organic Farming Systems across Nebraska Agroecoregions -- will lay the foundation for long-term organic farming efforts at UNL.

Overall goals include establishing the university's first certified organic research plots, launching focused research, incorporating organic farming concepts into UNL Extension and classroom education, and developing an ecological index of different farming methods.

"In essence, this is a grant to integrate an organic farming component into our teaching, research and extension mission at IANR," said Charles Shapiro, soil scientist at the university's Northeast Research and Extension Center and one of seven project co-leaders.

Growth in organic production in the state and nation is increasing the need for practical, science-based production information.

"This is going to allow us to provide better information to producers across the state on workable organic systems for their region," said David Baltensperger, alternative crops breeder at the Panhandle Research and Extension Center and a project co-leader. "The biggest thing it will allow us to do is long-term research on organic systems to make them work better in a given region."

Establishing 20- to 40-acre certified research plots at university farms near Concord, Mead, Clay

Center and Sidney is a major component. Scientists will use these plots to examine priority concerns for organic producers, such as weed management, crop varieties and soil fertility. Each site will focus on different aspects of organic production while the network will enable collection of statewide information.

"Establishing this land base will allow us to study organic methods under Nebraska farming conditions from east to west. I don't know of any other state in the region that has 120 acres devoted to organic research statewide," Shapiro said. "Nebraska is lucky to have a research and extension system that allows us to do this."

Organic certification takes three years and researchers will use each site's transition as a learning experience. Documenting issues that arise during the conversion to organic farming should provide information for farmers looking to make the change.

"It's one thing to say we know what it's like to farm organically, it's another to do it. We'll be doing it," Shapiro said. "We need to address the meaty everyday problems our clients face."

Collaboration with organic farmers is essential. Organic growers supported the grant, and local and state organic producer advisory committees will guide research. Scientists also will conduct studies on cooperating certified organic farms.

"We're building partnerships to work together to ensure success and make sure we are addressing the practical concerns facing organic farmers," Shapiro said.

That close working relationship between researchers and organic farmers is an exciting aspect of this project, said Stephanie Newman, executive director of the Organic Crop Improvement Association Research and Education Inc. OCIA International and OCIA Research

and Education are allied international organizations with world headquarters in Lincoln. They provide organic research, education, certification and inspection to farmers, processors and brokers/traders worldwide. OCIA will work with UNL to organize farmer advisory groups and will certify university plots.

"The research will add to the body of knowledge regarding organic farming and encourage the cooperation between scientists and farmers," she said.

Integrating organic agriculture into UNL teaching, extension and research is another goal. The team also will collaborate with the Nebraska Indian Community College's Santee site to incorporate Native American wisdom about land use.

Wildlife researchers will focus primarily on birds in extensive field studies to develop a Healthy Farm Index, a tool for landowners to measure their farm's ecological health, said wildlife biologist Ron Johnson, a project co-leader who will head this study. After identifying the birds, insects and soil factors associated with different farming scenarios, researchers will devise a preliminary index that relates different land covers to birds and biodiversity to measure farm health and sustainability.

"We hope the infrastructure we are creating will spawn a whole range of other projects that could involve many others and help build organic farming as a standard component of what we do at the university," said Jim Brandle, a windbreak ecologist and project co-leader.

Other co-leaders are entomologist Bob Wright, weed scientist Stevan Knezevic and agronomist Chuck Francis.

Vicki Miller
IANR News

Mark your calendars

UNL Extension winter programs

University of Nebraska–Lincoln Extension offers a variety of winter programs to inform and update the state's agricultural industry. Get the information you need to make sound decisions for your farm operation or agribusiness. Hear about new ag products and recent regulation changes and learn the latest crop production and pest management recommendations targeted to Nebraska growing conditions and farm issues. For further information on any of these meetings, contact the host Extension office. Certified Crop Advisor (CCA) continuing education credits are available for many of these programs. Check with the program contact for application procedures.

Corn/Soybean Profitability Workshops

University of Nebraska–Lincoln Extension Corn/Soybean Profitability Workshops will be offered at five sites in December. The workshops, presented by UNL specialists and educators, will help producers improve corn and soybean yields and profits. Registration begins at 9 a.m. with the first presentation at 9:15 a.m. The workshops will conclude at 3 p.m.

Each workshop will address topics of statewide interest as well as local issues. Topics include: cropping system decisions, the costs of tillage; reducing crop water use, controlling your fertilizer costs, managing your seed costs, and problem corn and soybean insects and diseases in 2006.

Meeting date and locations are:

- **Dec. 19** -- Albion, Casey's Community Building, Boone County Fairgrounds.
- **Dec. 20** -- Beatrice, Extension Office Meeting Room, Gage County Fairgrounds.
- **Dec. 21** -- Hastings, Adams County Fairgrounds.
- **Dec. 22** -- Lexington, Dawson County Extension Office Meeting Room.
- **Dec. 23** -- Imperial, Imperial Super 8 Motel Conference Room.

CCA Continuing education credits will be available: 2 in soil and water management, 1 in nutrient management, 1 in crop management and 1 in pest management. Participants must provide their crop advisor number at the meeting to receive credit.

For more information about the workshops or registration, contact the UNL Extension educator in the host county. Registration fees vary by location.

Soybean Day and Machinery Expo

The 2005 Nebraska Soybean Day and Machinery Expo Dec. 9 will feature an encore presentation from keynote speaker Sue Martin.

Martin, president and owner of Ag & Investment Services Inc., is a regular analyst for the nationally broadcast television program "Market to Market," syndicated in 40 states. Martin spoke at the 2004 Nebraska Soybean Day and Machinery Expo. Participants will learn from her grain marketing report card and hear an outlook for corn and soybean futures for the next six months.

"Participants will learn from Martin's insight in marketing strategies, future trends on the domestic and global level and formulation of marketing plans," Glewen said.

The expo, which will open at 8:30 a.m. with speakers at 9 a.m., will be in the pavilion at the Saunders County Fairgrounds in Wahoo, said Keith Glewen, UNL Extension educator. A complimentary lunch is included.

Other speakers and presentations include: Jim Erwin, regional agronomist with NK Brand Seeds, *2005 Growing Season – What We Saw and What It Means for 2006*; Alex Martin, UNL weeds specialist, *Controlling Early Season Weeds in Soybeans and Life After Glyphosate*; Allen Dutcher, UNL climatologist, *Weather – Past, Present and Forecast for 2006 and Is There Anything Behind This Talk of Global Warming?*; Charles Wortmann, UNL nutrient management specialist, *Managing Lime and Phosphorus in Soybean Production*; Greg Anderson, a soybean grower from Newman Grove, *Eighteen Years of Growing Continuous Soybeans on the Same Farm – Is it Working?*; and a Nebraska Soybean Checkoff update and association information by Nebraska Soybean Board and Nebraska Soybean Association representatives.

Producers will be able to visit with representatives

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Agronomy and Horticulture Highlights Dec. 1

The 2005 Agronomy and Horticulture Highlights program Dec. 1 offers participants the opportunity to tour classes, greenhouses and labs while learning about research, extension and teaching activities in the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Department of Agronomy and Horticulture.

The department's annual program will be at the Great Plains Room in the Nebraska East Union on UNL's East Campus from 8:15 a.m. to 3 p.m.

"Having the program, which has been at the Cornhusker the last few years, at East Campus allows us to bring people over to the Plant Sciences Building and show them the classrooms, the greenhouses and give them a feeling of what it is like to be a student," said Alex Martin, UNL weeds specialist and program co-organizer.

Mark Lagrimini, agronomy and horticulture department head, will open the program with a welcome at 8:45 a.m.

At 9 a.m. UNL plant scientist Tom Clemente will discuss *Plant Genetic Engineering*. At 9:30 a.m. Dave Lambe, UNL lecturer, will speak on *The Business Side of Horticulture: Building a Student's Portfolio*.

Soybean Expo

(Continued from page 135)

from seed, herbicide, fertilizer and equipment companies and view new farm equipment during the day.

Registration is available at the door. For more information about the program or exhibitor information, call (800) 529-8030 or e-mail kglewen1@unl.edu. This free program is sponsored by UNL Extension, the Nebraska Soybean Board, Saunders County Soybean Growers Organization and private industry.

Following a 10 a.m. break, tours will begin at 10:30 a.m. Following lunch, at 1 p.m., Ken Vogel, a U.S. Department of Agriculture Agricultural Research Service geneticist and agronomy professor, will discuss the current status of biomass energy crops.

At 1:30 p.m., Lagrimini will lead a discussion on the future of the agronomy and horticulture department. Guests also will have the opportunity to ask questions and provide suggestions.

The program will conclude following a 2:30 p.m. presentation by Bob Shearman, UNL turf scientist, on *Using Native Plants in Our Landscapes*.

Certified Crop Advisor Continuing Education Units will be available. Participants need their CCA certification number to register for the units.

A complimentary lunch will be provided to those who register by Nov. 21. To register or for more information, contact Brenda Gibson at (402) 472-2811.

Support for Agronomy and Horticulture Highlights is provided by DuPont, Bayer, Monsanto, Pioneer Hybrid International.

Returning to the Farm

Returning to the Farm, a UNL Extension workshop, will provide students, beginning farmers and their families the information and tools to make a smooth transition back to the family farm or ranch operation. Workshops will be held Dec. 9-10 and Jan. 6-7 at the Lancaster Extension Education Center in Lincoln.

Registration of \$250 per family unit plus \$10 per attending family member is due Dec. 2. Registrations received after Dec. 2 will be charged an additional \$25. Registration includes all instruction, handouts, morning refreshments and Friday evening meals.

For more information or to register, contact Kester at (402) 472-1771 or e-mail mkester2@unl.edu.

Testing for nitrogen, other nutrients now saves costs later

As fertilizer prices increase, farmers can save money and maximize profits by taking into account residual soil nitrogen, University of Nebraska-Lincoln specialists say.

UNL research has shown that many areas in Nebraska have residual nitrogen in the soil profile left over from past fertilizer applications, said soils specialist Richard Ferguson. Soil testing can detect this leftover nitrogen and save farmers money in reduced commercial nitrogen costs.

"Higher fertilizer costs combined with low corn prices make soil testing even more important this fall," Ferguson said. "The key is to maximize your profitability when fertilizer prices are high. That is why soil testing is important."

For example, if a farmer found 80 pounds of residual nitrogen per acre, he or she could save about \$16 per acre when commercial nitrogen costs 20 cents per pound and \$24 per acre when it costs 30 cents per pound, said Matt Stockton, agricultural economist at UNL's West Central Research and Extension Center at North Platte.

Ferguson recommends taking deep soil samples — at least 24 inches — to test for nitrogen yearly. He also recommends testing soil organic matter to about 8 inches every five years.

When taking soil tests, a 160-acre field, for example, should be divided into four areas and 12 to 15 samples should be taken in each quadrant. These samples should be mixed well, then about a pint of soil should be sent to the lab for analysis. Fewer deep soil samples, about eight to 10 per quadrant, are necessary for residual soil nitrogen analysis.

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2006 Crop Protection Clinics

Learn the latest recommendations and updates for weed, disease and insect management at this year's Crop Protection Clinics, sponsored by UNL Extension.

Topics, which vary by site, are presented by UNL Extension educators and specialists. Topics include: Doing a professional job of pesticide application; Bt corn hybrids: selection and resistance management; corn rootworm biology and management update; soybean disease and insect updates; why weeds are on the increase; here today, gone tomorrow: why diseases emerge as new problems; when weeds use my water and steal my fuel; managing weeds in a glyphose-resistant weed world; Mexican bean beetles; bacterial diseases of dry beans; and foliar fungicides.

Register at the door. The \$30 fee includes a CPC proceedings; 2006 Nebraska Weed Management Guide, and noon meal. The sponsors have applied for 4.5 CCA CEU credits in pest management. For more information or programs for each site, visit the Plant Protection Clinic Web site at cpc.unl.edu or the UNL Weed Science site at weed.science.unl.edu. Also check the CPC Web site for weather cancellations.

- **Jan. 5** -- Auburn, Arbor Manor, 1617 Central Avenue
- **Jan. 6** -- Beatrice, Holiday Inn Express, 4005 North 6th Street
- **Jan. 10** -- York, Chances "R", 124 West 5th St.
- **January 11** -- Hastings, Garden Café, Holiday Inn Convention Center, 2201 Osborne Drive East
- **Jan. 12** -- O'Neill, The Blarney Stone Restaurant, 5th and Douglas sts.
- **Jan. 13** -- Norfolk, Lifelong Learning Center, 601 East Benjamin
- **Jan. 17** -- Fremont, Christensen Field (Main Arena), West Linden & Ridge Road
- **Jan. 17** -- Scottsbluff, Panhandle Research & Extension Center, 4502 Avenue I
- **Jan. 18** -- Ogallala, Grey Goose Lodge, 201 Chuckwagon Road
- **Jan. 19** -- Broken Bow, Bum Steer, 625 South 10th Avenue
- **Jan. 20** -- Holdrege, Ag Center, 1308 2nd St.
- **Jan. 23** -- Lincoln, Lancaster Extension Education Center, 444 Cherrycreek Road

Testing for nitrogen *(Continued from page 236)*

Stockton said soil sampling and analysis costs about \$1 per acre. With nitrogen at 20 cents per pound, as little as 5 pounds of residual nitrogen covers soil sampling costs and analysis.

Residual soil nitrogen also is often greater in fields where manure has been applied, said David Tarkalson, soil fertility and nutrient management specialist also at North Platte.

Crop Management Winter Programs

Pest Resistance Management and Spatial Data Management are two of the Nebraska Extension Crop Management Winter programs to be held this December on UNL's East Campus. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. followed by the workshop from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

These programs offer in-depth information from university specialists and private industry representatives. CCA continuing education credits will be available. Those who register one week in advance of programs will receive a discount (shown below). Fees include lunch, refreshment breaks, and workshop materials. Following are further details about these programs:

Pest Resistance Management, Dec. 7-8, UNL East Campus, \$200/\$250. Topics include: resistance of crop insect pests, pathogens and weeds to pesticides and other management techniques; principles underpinning pest resistance and its management; and the role of transgenic crops in pest resistance. College credit is available for this course.

Spatial Data Management (Prescription Maps), Dec. 12, L.W. Chase Hall, UNL East Campus, \$70/\$80. Topics include: major sources of spatial data for site-specific crop management, identifying different approaches in management of spatial variability of growing conditions, combining various data sources in a farm-level GIS package (SMS Advanced), the most popular data mining approaches, and how to develop prescription maps for variable rate application of agricultural inputs. This advanced level course is intended for an audience with some previous experience with precision agriculture. This program will be offered again March 13 at the same location.

Later Crop Management Winter Programs will include: *Understanding and Managing Spatial Variability in Soil*, Feb. 3 in Grand Island; *Soil Biology*, Feb. 6 in Norfolk; *Herbicide Application Technology*, March 7-8 near Mead; *Managing Corn for High Yield Using Hybrid-Maize Software: Hands-on Workshop*, March 14 in Lincoln or March 17 in Norfolk; and *Crop Genetic Engineering*, March 14-15 in Lincoln.

For more information or to register for any of these programs, call (402) 624-8000, e-mail kglewen1@unl.edu or visit the Web at ardc.unl.edu/training.htm

"Manure can be a good source of nitrogen, but be sure to have the manure analyzed at a lab for ammonium and total nitrogen so you can match the application rate with your crop needs," Tarkalson said.

For more information about correct manure application, visit the UNL Soil Fertility Web site at soilfertility.unl.edu/.

Sandi Alswager Karstens, IANR News

UNL's College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources

Education in the classroom and on the job

This fall high school seniors across Nebraska are focusing on their futures. For many that means selecting the college that will provide them a strong foundation of education and experience on which they can build their careers. With 23 programs and two pre-professional programs, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (CASNR) is exactly the right choice for many.

In addition to their classroom and laboratory studies, many CASNR students also are realizing the benefits of enhancing their education with internships and part-time employment in fields related to their future careers. During the coming months in CropWatch CASNR students will share a little about their experiences and how these opportunities have prepared them for a successful future.

Nickolas Anderson, a sophomore majoring in biochemistry, is from Carver, Minnesota. Nick chose Nebraska because "UNL offered research facilities, specified programs, and a rich tradition in agriculture, all of which attracted me to its campus."

Anderson is currently working as a lab assistant under a UCARE (Undergraduate Creative Activities and Research Experiences) Grant for Dr. Gautam Sarath, a USDA scientist and UNL professor. With his research he is studying the nitrogen content stored in switch grass seeds by staining the seeds with dye and evaluating them with a spectrometer.

When asked how his experiences have helped him prepare for the future Anderson stated, "I believe that since I've been working in a USDA lab I will be able to

continue working for the USDA or another notable industry. UNL has allowed me to specify my degree and has offered me the freedom to expand my interests in biochemistry."

Anderson also pursues an active college life outside the classroom. He is the social chair for the UNL Chapter of Beta Sigma Psi (National Lutheran Fraternity), public relations chair for the Biochemistry Club, mentor for the environmental studies learning community, floor health aid, and a teacher's assistant for the Dean's Scholars for Experiential Leadership.

Check out UNL and CASNR

If you or someone you know are interested in learning more about UNL's College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, this would be a great time to schedule a campus visit and start making plans for next year. To get started, contact one of the offices listed below.

UNL Admissions

Visit their Web site at www.admissions.unl.edu or call 402-472-2023 to talk with a recruitment specialist.

Profitability seminars *(Continued from page 232)*

discuss DOT regulations and motor carrier safety regulations. Representatives of the National Sorghum Producers will share what changes and challenges lie ahead in 2007 Farm Bill discussions.

The Arapahoe seminar will include a presentation on preparing for the Conservation Security Program as Dr. Tom Franti, UNL surface water management specialist, discusses program eligibility, stewardship practices and record-keeping requirements. At

CASNR

For more information about the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources and the many opportunities that await students both in the classroom and through internships and research opportunities, visit the CASNR web site at <http://casnr.unl.edu> or contact one of the following:

Recruitment: Laura Frey at 402-472-4445 or 1-800-742-8800 (ext. 2541)

Career Services: Jill Brown at 402-472-8273

Campus Visits

(Please call ahead to schedule)

- Red Letter Days – all day, open house program for high school seniors and their families. When registering, you can indicate an interest in CASNR. Upcoming dates are: Dec. 2, Dec 5, and Feb. 20, (from 8 am to 3:30 pm)

- Personalized daily visits are available most weekdays at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. Some Saturday visits also are available.

Jill Brown
CASNR Career Services

the Hardy and Saline Center meetings, Randy Pryor, UNL extension educator, will provide a pilot program update on carbon sequestration credits.

Agribusiness representatives will have exhibits to showcase new products and production/management information.

Registration at the door is \$5, however, members of the Nebraska GrainSorghum Producers Association will be admitted free.