

April 2003

Extended Visions March-April 2003

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ARDC Director's Comments

New Year Brings Change...Again!

by Daniel J. Duncan, ARDC Director

ment and guarded pessimism due to potential budget cuts and issues pertaining to the Superfund Cleanup. In my last article, I mentioned that Doug Gustafson would be retiring as of March 12, 2003. Doug's retirement set in motion several changes in responsibilities at the ARDC. We made the decision to eliminate our Research Projects Coordinator Position and merge 50% of those responsibilities with the Farm Operations Supervisor position Doug held. Walker Luedtke has assumed this new position. Walker will be managing the ARDC farming operation on a day-to-day basis as well as coordinating research projects. Since this new position basically makes up 1.5 FTE (Full-Time Equivalent), others on the Farm Staff will be asked to take on additional responsibility.

Walker, in his previous position, was also responsible for coordinating the implementation of plot designs for the Crop Management Diagnostic Clinics. This responsibility has shifted to Ben Hirschfeld. In addition, Ben will be responsible for the implementation of the other special field days and events both on and off the ARDC that are managed by Keith Glewen.

In the January/February edition of this newsletter, I announced that Jeff Noel had joined our staff as Director of the Foundation Seed Division. In this edition, I am pleased to announce that we have filled our Facility Manager position.

Dwight Hanson will join our staff on April 1 as our Facility Manager. Dwight has a B.S. in Civil Engineering and a M.S. in Agricultural and Biological Systems Engineering. He is a Registered Engineer and a licensed Municipal Water System Manager. Dwight, a resident of Ithaca, has had several business interests in Saunders County. He brings a wealth of relevant experience and expertise to this position. We are delighted Dwight has agreed to join our team and look forward to having him on board April 1! □

Quite often in this article I write about changes that are occurring at the ARDC...this article will be no exception. We are starting 2003 with a great deal of excitement and issues pertaining to the Superfund Cleanup.

ARDC FEATURE



The ARDC.. World Class?

ARDC ADMINISTRATION

by Daniel J. Duncan, ARDC Director

In preparing to write this article, I reviewed some of the items I placed in the paper the last time the ARDC Administrative Office was featured in *Extended Visions*. I need to do these types of reviews periodically (I probably don't do them enough) to really realize how much progress and how many changes we have made.

I came to the ARDC from the Panhandle Research and Extension Center on November 11, 1991...it doesn't seem like 11 years have gone by, but they have. It is equally unbelievable that we have been in the Research and Education Building since April of 1995 (8 years). Time does really fly when you are having fun!!

While some of you might take that as sarcasm, it is not. I have had a lot of fun in this job and feel lucky to have had the opportunity to serve at the ARDC the past 11 years. What has made my tenure the most fun have been the people I have worked with. It never ceases to amaze me what faculty, staff and students working on the ARDC have accomplished. I have had a blast working with them even though at times it has been a daunting and trying task to attempt to get scores of people to coordinate activities and work in harmony. While we may not work in total harmony all the time, we have made great strides in working together to make the ARDC a World-Class Research Facility...a place all Nebraskans can take pride in.

We have had a goal since I have been at the ARDC to transform the facility from a place where world-class research was conducted into a "World-Class Research Facility." Of course, with this being our goal, one has to ask how will we measure our progress and how will we know when we have reached our goal. Well, I don't think this is a question that can be answered objectively, but must be determined by subjective factors based on the quality of research projects conducted by the faculty and staff, the breadth and scope of these activities and many other factors. Let us take a look at some of these factors.

Quality - In a February 2001 edition of *ARD News*, Dean Darrell Nelson wrote about several qualitative measures of our faculties' success in obtaining grants and contracts. While I won't go into the details for this article, it is quite apparent that IANR Faculty as a whole are highly successful when compared to their peers. With a large group of these faculty conducting research on the ARDC and the experience and talent of the staff at the ARDC, logic tells us the quality of the research and those that conducted it on the ARDC must be extremely high.

Uniqueness - In order to be "World Class," something must be unique. In the past 11 years, I have visited many research facilities operated by Land Grant Universities and the USDA. It is quite apparent to me that IANR Research Facilities are unique within the nation. IANR's system of locating research faculty around the state is not the norm. Many states that do have faculty located off-campus do not blend research and extension as we do in Nebraska. When coupled together, IANR's system is unique—I would say even special. The ARDC could be labeled as unique in that it is part of a unique system. However, there are other factors that make the ARDC unique within the nation.

Most university research stations are a few hundred acres and are utilized by faculty from one or two departments. The ARDC is approximately 9,500 acres and is utilized by faculty from over 15 departments, colleges and divisions within the University of Nebraska System. We have the ability to do large-scale integrated systems research on the ARDC that is virtually impossible to do anywhere else in the nation. Our Carbon Sequestration Program utilizes three quarter sections of land, two of which are irrigated. We have the ability to dedicate land to certain experimental varieties of crops, produce grain in significant quantities, keep the identity of the grain preserved, process the grain, and feed the grain. At every step in this process, we can conduct research vital to the licensing process. Most other research facilities cannot do this, especially on the scale that we can at the ARDC.

Facilities and Other Resources - In order to be "World Class," facilities and resources must also be superior to other similar research facilities. I believe the Research and Education Building on the ARDC to be one of the most functional buildings of its kind in the

Upcoming Programs

All are held at the ARDC Research and Education Building unless otherwise noted.

More details available at <http://ardc.unl.edu/whatsnew.htm> or call (402)624-8030. We can get you more information!

***PESTICIDE DISPOSAL**

March 8 at Douglas/Sarpy County Extension Office, 8015 West Center Rd. in Omaha; **March 17** at Waverly Coop, 10741 N. 142nd St. in Waverly; **March 18** at Wal-Mart, 3010 E. 23rd Ave. in Fremont 8:00 a.m. - 12 Noon

Each site will collect all types of herbicides, insecticides and fungicides; and all types of agricultural, livestock, home, lawn and garden, structural, and commercial pesticides (including those in aerosol containers). Items such as oil, antifreeze, paint, varnish, thinners, cleaners and solvents are not accepted. Certain guidelines must be met. Call the NDA at (402)471-2394 or NU's Pesticide Education Office at (402)472-1632. On-line information is available at <http://pested.unl.edu/pat>.

***QUICKEN™ FARM RECORDKEEPING WORKSHOP**

March 13, 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

All instruction will be presented in a hands-on teaching style with participants performing the tasks being demonstrated by the instructors. No prior computerized

UPCOMING PROGRAMS - Continued on P. 4

THE ARDC - WORLD CLASS? - Continued on P. 2





Behind the Scenes

by Deloris Pittman, Marketing & Promotions Manager
and Ruby Urban, Administrative & Computer
Operations Manager

Leading the Way

With over 9,500 acres filled with research, crops, animals, employees, buildings, roads, and various infrastructure components - the ARDC is a plethora of activity. It takes forethought, organization and leadership to keep a research center this size up and running - today and looking towards the future.

Daniel Duncan is the ARDC Director. He is responsible for providing leadership and directing operations involving facilities, roads, infrastructure, non-research related cropping activities, and educational and outreach activities on the ARDC. He develops long-range plans for improving infrastructure and operations of the ARDC. Dan facilitates research support activities for multi-department programs. He also provides leadership for the development and operations of the Barta Brothers Ranch, as well as for the Foundation Seed Division.

Dan began his University career as Research Operations Manager at the Panhandle Research and Extension Center in Scottsbluff 1987 and has been with the ARDC since 1991. Dan has a Master of Science Degree in Agricultural Economics (Agri-Business) and Bachelors degrees in Animal Science and Agronomy - all from UNL. He is a LEAD VII Fellow, received the UNL's Carl Donaldson Award in 1997 and has served as President of the University Association for Administrative Development. He and his wife, Paula, live in Lincoln. Dan is a Husker Track Official for Throws and Weight and Measures. He and his wife enjoy traveling in their spare time.

Taking Care of Business

Marnie Cihal, Cheryl Sheary and Ruby Urban have a major role in the administrative support and financial management activities both on and beyond the ARDC. As members of the Assist Business Center, they work together with IANR staff on Lincoln's East Campus from Agricultural Hall, Communications and Information Technology (CIT), and the Southeast Research and Extension Center (SREC) to perform a variety of accounting-, human resource- and grant-related functions.

The development of Business Centers on the IANR Campus is a response to several factors including budgetary issues facing the University, limited financial and human resources, and the University of Nebraska-wide Administrative Systems Project implementation of the sophisticated SAP management software. SAP allows the University to

operate one business system for financial management, budgeting, human resource and payroll functions. Personnel in the Business Centers focus on becoming specialized in one of these areas.

The ARDC's specialization is in the area of financial management. Cheryl is responsible for all phases of accounting and purchasing along with data entry into SAP. Because of the large volume of transactions generated by the Assist Business Center, she focuses on handling ARDC and Southeast Research and Extension Center transactions. Approximately 65 accounts consisting of state, revolving, auxiliary, and grant funds with budgets totaling over \$9 million are currently handled through the ARDC office.

Marnie is responsible for ledger reconciliation and also vendor and ledger account file maintenance. She also provides clerical support for the Crop Management and Diagnostic Clinics.

Both Cheryl and Marnie may be found handling the receptionist and switchboard duties in the Research and Education Building. They share this responsibility on a rotating basis with Sharron Ankersen and Cheryl Dunbar from the Saunders County Extension Office and Lisa Moravec from the Foundation Seed Division. Lisa also provides backup support for Cheryl on SAP-related transactions.

Ruby manages the budget, accounting and human resource functions as they relate to ARDC and SREC business operations. She reviews the ledgers and provides periodic reports to the Directors and faculty on account status. Ruby also assists faculty members with grant-related issues. Supervising the ARDC, SREC and Saunders County business support staff and managing the ARDC computer operations are also components of Ruby's position.

As the Assist Business Center continues to evolve, the team members look forward to the challenge of identifying more efficient and cost-effective ways to do business to better serve the needs of University staff, vendors and clientele.

Ruby Urban is the Administrative and Computer Operations Manager and has worked for the ARDC about 10-1/2 years. Ruby and her husband, Ray Jr., live on a farm near Malmo. She received her B.S. degree in Business Administration from UNL in 2000. She also recently received the NU Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources' (IANR) Outstanding Employee Award for January/February 2003. Ruby enjoys helping her husband with their livestock/grain operation. In her spare time, she



The ARDC Administration staff includes: (Front left to right) Marnie Cihal, Deloris Pittman, and Cheryl Sheary. Back: Ruby Urban, Ben Hirschfeld, and Dan Duncan.

THE ARDC - WORLD CLASS? - Continued from Page 1

country. In fact, it is rivaled or surpassed mostly by facilities at the IANR Research and Extension Centers. The R&E Building allows us to greatly facilitate the transfer of research-based knowledge to clientele through Cooperative Extension. In 2002 we had approximately 9,000 students attend such educational programs on the ARDC. I believe this number of learners at an off-campus location is among the highest in the nation.

Many of the other 180 buildings on the ARDC may not be nearly as aesthetically pleasing as other research facilities, but functionally are at least better than average. This is one area I think we need to work on to reach our goal as well as enable the breadth and scope of research projects to increase.

The ARDC is situated in the Todd Valley of Saunders County...under which lies a very prolific aquifer. This abundant groundwater allows irrigation systems to be developed to meet needs rather than simply where we can find water.

Where does all of this leave us in our quest to be considered a World-Class Research Facility? I think this is such a subjective designation that one could make a case either way. I am not ready to declare we have reached our goal. I am ready to argue that we are close...and getting closer each year because of the hard work and cooperation of nearly 400 people. I can argue that the ARDC is a unique research facility that allows faculty a competitive advantage over their peers at other institutions in large scale and integrated systems research. I can argue that faculty are taking advantage of that opportunity.

Is the ARDC a World-Class Research Facility? Perhaps... o

Wireless Communication Enhances Research Capabilities at the ARDC

by Ruby Urban, Administrative and Computer Operations Manager

Communication and research capabilities on the ARDC have been enhanced by the installation of a wireless Internet/network communication system. Previously, departmental units located outside the Research and Education Building had to use a modem to connect to a local Internet Service provider. High-speed Internet access and networking connections to UNL were only available from inside the Research and Education Building. This private wireless system, which was installed in April 2001, provided an opportunity for units to gain both high-speed Internet and networking capabilities by linking into the R&E Building's existing communication system.

University units and departments taking advantage of the wireless technology include the Animal Science Dairy, Feedlot, Feed Mill and Swine Units; Foundation Seed Division; ARDC Farm and Facilities Operations; Agronomy; Horticulture; Nebraska Forest Service Fire Equipment Shop; Ag Meteorology; and CALMIT (Center for Advanced Land Management Information Technologies).

Wireless repeaters on an ARDC water tower and the Feed Mill provide line-of-sight access to building locations and field sites around the Center. Data is broadcast to the Research and Education Building where it joins the building's network system and is routed to the UNL campus by the use of a partial T1 line reserved for frame-relay data transmission.

The addition of the wireless system has more than doubled the number of computers, printers and other equipment on the ARDC network to approximately 100 devices. It has also increased the bandwidth usage on the frame-relay transmission to Lincoln.

The first Webcam set up on the ARDC for the "America's Farm" website was made possible by wireless technology. The camera is located on an elevated platform at America's Farm and can be accessed from the menu at <http://www.americasfarm.org>.

Research faculty, graduate students and staff who come from Lincoln have the ability to connect their laptops through the ARDC network by using a wireless network card configured for the University's network. For example, they can be using the network to record data

BEHIND THE SCENES - Continued from P. 2

enjoys reading, flower gardening and being with friends.

Cheryl Sheary is a Clerk Assistant III at the ARDC. She started at the ARDC in 1995. She lives on acreage near Wahoo. Cheryl received the NU Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources' (IANR) Outstanding Employee Award for October 2000.

Marnie Cihal is a part-time Clerical Assistant II at the ARDC. She also does part-time office work for the Agronomy Department at the ARDC. Marnie started with the ARDC in 1998 and is a graduate of Prague High School. She and her husband, Dan, live near Valparaiso. They have two daughters and a son whose activities keep Marnie busy when she is not at work.

Getting the Word Out

How did you hear about that program you attended at the ARDC? Did you read in the newsletter, the newspaper or hear about it on the radio? Did you get a brochure in the mail? Maybe you even read about it on the web.

As Marketing and Promotions Manager, Deloris Pittman's prepares marketing efforts for Cooperative Extension, the ARDC and the Foundation Seed Division. This involves developing promotional materials, web sites, news releases, evaluation reports, and other pieces and seeing them through from initial inception to arriving in your hands.

Depending on the request and co-worker's schedules, Deloris also either plans and conducts or simply assists with tours. She is a member of the Ag Awareness Coalition that provides an ag education festival for 800-1,000 students each fall. She also spearheads or assists with special event planning and coordinates building use plans with groups throughout the year.

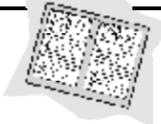
Deloris has been with the ARDC since 1996. She worked at the Research and Education Building for over four years and began working from an office in Lincoln in 2001. Deloris received the NU Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources' (IANR) Outstanding Employee Award for May/June 2002. She has a Bachelor of Science Degree in journalism with an Advertising Degree from UNL. She and her husband, Daren, live in Lincoln.

Changes with the Seasons

While most employees' jobs change somewhat throughout the year, one ARDC employee's job changes significantly with the seasons. Ben Hirschfeld is an ag Research Technician III at the ARDC. Ben's job takes on a very different feel depending on the time of the year. In the spring and summer, he plays an integral role in plot preparation and various details pertaining to the Crop Management Diagnostic Clinics at the ARDC and Soybean Management Field Days that are held at various sites across Nebraska. Ben can also be found assisting program presenters with the multimedia technology equipment utilized at the Research and Education Building in the winter months. In the fall, Ben assists with the Foundation Seed Division's grain harvest. Ben also assists with the prawn research project throughout the year.

Ben started with the ARDC in 2001. He has an Agribusiness Associate Degree from Southeast Community College - Beatrice. He was recently married and he and his wife, Carolyn, live in Lincoln. □

Calendar of Events



MARCH

7	Chemigation Training	9:00-1:30
7	Market Journal	12:00-1:00
10	Safety Committee Meeting	1:00-2:00
10	Leading with Character	8:30-3:30
10	Shooting Sports	6:30-9:00pm
12	Unit Managers Meeting	12:00-3:00
13	State Dairy Association Conference	8:00-5:00
13	Quicken Workshop	9:00-4:30
17	Shooting Sports	6:30-9:00pm
18	Clover College Learn Fair	6:30-9:00pm
19	ICMWP -Field Scout Training	9:00-5:00
20	Leading with Character	8:30-3:30
21	Market Journal	12:00-1:00
24	Quality Assurance Training	7:00-10:00pm
27	Saunders Co. TeamMates Conf.	9:00-4:00
28	Market Journal	12:00-1:00
29	Acreage Owners Expo	9:00 -3:00

APRIL

1	Private Pesticide Training	9:00-11:00
2	Administration Team Meeting	9:30-11:00
2	4-H Council Meeting	6:30-10:00pm
3	Farm Equipment Safety	1:00-4:00
3	4-H Public Speaking Contest	7:00-10:00pm
4	Milliken Park (Fremont) Tour	9:00-2:00
4	Market Journal	12:00-1:00
7	Safety Committee Meeting	1:00-2:00
9	Unit Managers Meeting	1:00-3:00
11	Market Journal	12:00-1:00
18	Market Journal	12:00-1:00
25	Market Journal	12:00-1:00
30	Nebraska Federal Women's Council	8:00-5:00

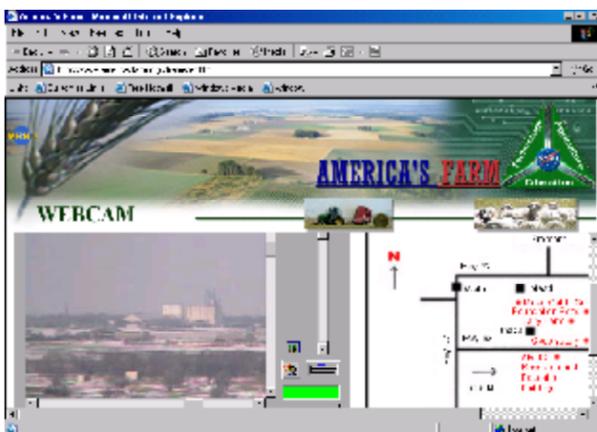
MAY

2	Market Journal	12:00-1:00
7	Administration Team Meeting	9:30-11:00
9	Market Journal	12:00-1:00
12	Safety Committee Meeting	1:00-2:00
13	Vice Chancellor's Dept Chairs	7:30-2:00
14	Unit Managers Meeting	1:00-3:00
16	Market Journal	12:00-1:00
19	Vice Chancellor's Council Retreat	12:00-8:00pm
20	Vice Chancellor's Council Retreat	7:30-1:00
23	Market Journal	12:00-1:00
30	Market Journal	12:00-1:00

WIRELESS COMMUNICATION-Continued from P.2



The America's Farm video camera captured this photo of a hawk perched on a rail of the water tower.



This is a shot of what the America's Farm web site looks like. Not only can the video camera zoom in on specific areas at the ARDC, but it can also zoom out as far away as Mead (as shown in the above photo).

from a cattle pen at the Feedlot, or they can be evaluating crop production records in the field.

Matt Anderson, Animal Science Swine Unit Manager, provided these comments about the wireless network: "Because of the wireless network, our unit now has a system that serves our communication and research needs. We are able to view and monitor the animal environments from remote locations. We are also able to have companies that are collaborating on research projects download and store data collected to remote server locations. In the future, this technology should allow us and other researchers to remotely view our pigs." □

Who Do We Serve?

by Deloris Pittman, Marketing & Promotions Manager

Chances are you've probably attended at least one program or meeting at the ARDC. Research undoubtedly plays a vital role to the livelihood of the ARDC, but equally important is the dissemination of research-based education and information to the public.

When someone visits the ARDC Research and Education Building for the first time, we often are asked, "What do you use this big building for?" The answer is...many, many different activities, programs, conferences, workshops and meetings.

Programming efforts were enhanced with the relocation of the Saunders County Cooperative Extension offices to the ARDC in 1995. The move enabled the ARDC and Extension the opportunity to share resources and manpower to a certain degree. As a result, in the last 8 years programs have blossomed to meet the needs of not only local residents, but also statewide clientele and even beyond the boundaries of our state.

It's difficult to describe the "typical" visitor at the ARDC because the wide variety of programs offered on-site attracts diverse audiences. What follows is a sampling of training opportunities and meetings that have taken place at the ARDC in the last year. And this list doesn't even cover everything!

Producers, agribusinesses and other ag organizations obtain valuable education and information via programs at the ARDC such as: Ag Risk Management conference, Beginning Computer Use in Agriculture workshop, Crop Management & Diagnostic Clinics, Crop Production Field Day, Farm Bill workshops, Integrated Crop Management Winter Programs, Livestock Association Twilight Tour, Market Journal satellite conferences, Nebraska Feed Grains Profitability Project grower consultations and annual update, Nebraska No-Till Conference, Nitrogen Management, Pesticide and Chemigation training, Quality Assurance training, Quicken workshops, and Research

WHODO WE SERVE? - Continued on P. 4

UPCOMING PROGRAMS - Continued from P. 1

record-keeping experience is necessary. However, participants should have a basic familiarity with using a computer and typing on a computer keyboard. Fees include: \$40 for one person at a computer or \$45 for two people at one computer. The registration fee includes meals and a set of handouts. **Pre-registration deadline is March 7.**

***PRECISION AGRICULTURE WORKSHOP**

March 14, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.; March 15, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., UNL East Campus, Lincoln, \$160 by March 6/\$180 after March 6. Hands-on training related to key aspects of data collection and processing related to precision agriculture. Participants will be introduced to basic challenges in precision agriculture, including dealing with different sources of georeferenced data, software packages and tools. Topics include GPS principles and how to use a handheld receiver, cost-free geospatial data available through the Internet, principle components of a yield monitoring system (use AgLeader display), conventional and perspective soil mapping techniques, combining various data sources in a farm-level GIS package (AGIS or Farm Works), principle data processing techniques (map comparison, query, etc.), popular data mining approaches, and development of prescription maps for variable rate application of agricultural inputs. *Twelve CCA Credits have been applied for (9 Soil and Water Management and 3 Fertility/Nutrient Management).*

***CROP SCOUT TRAINING FOR PEST MANAGERS**

March 19, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., ARDC, \$80 by March 12/\$90 after March 12. Topics include growth staging of corn and soybean plants, recognizing fertilizer deficiencies, identification of major pests in corn and soybeans, understand economic thresholds of insects, how to handle soybean cyst nematode, and weed and disease identification and management. *A total of 5.5 CCA Credits have been applied for (4 Pest Management, 1 Crop Management and 5 Fertility/Nutrient Management).*

***TEAMMATES SPRING CONFERENCE**

March 27, 8 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. If you are interested in learning about the TeamMates mentoring program, call Lance Brown at (402)624-8030 for details on the conference. The fee is \$5 for mentors and \$15 for all others.

***ACREAGE OWNER EXPO**

March 29, registration 8:30 a.m. The program includes: managing your acreage resources more effectively; access to various University resources; what you need to know before purchasing an acreage; designing the acreage layout for maximum function; domestic wells and water quality; septic and lagoon solid waste systems and management; windbreaks and shelterbelts; gardening; food preservation; native grasses and wildflowers; ponds and their inhabitants; and insect pests and how to control them. Advanced registration is \$25 per person and \$45 per couple.

***PESTICIDE APPLICATOR TRAINING**

April 1, 9:00 a.m. Certification as a private applicator allows farmers to purchase and use restricted use pesticides in their farming operations. Private pesticide applicators with expiring certification and those seeking first-time certification will need to attend certification training sessions in 2003. Extension provides the educational program, while the state ag department is responsible for certification. The training costs \$10 per person.

***4-H PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST**

April 3, Preregistration due March 31 Call (402)624-8030 to register or for details.



***HORTICULTURE PROGRAMS**

Various training opportunities exist year-round. Please call Sarah Browning at 1-800-830-4855 for details!

WHO DO WE SERVE? - Cont. from P. 3

Symposiums.

Alternative ag, acreage and horticulture-related programs also attract visitors to the ARDC. Some of this last year's programs have included: Acreage Owners Expo, Beekeepers conference, Direct Marketing Grass-Fed Beef workshop, Turf Field Day, Woody Floral Harvesting and Processing Field Day, Vegetable and Fruit Growers program and various horticulture programs. And grocers and restaurateurs attended an information sharing session on prawn production in Nebraska.

Family and youth programs also abound at the ARDC. The following is a sampling: Clover College Learn Fair, 4-H Speech Contest, 4-H Shooting Sports, Leading with Character, Mead Magnet School projects, TeamMates, Child Abuse Symposium, PAK 10 Livestock Quiz Bowl and Skillathon, Science Camp, AIM Orientation, Character Counts, and 4-H Leaders Training and Banquet. The ARDC also plays host to the fall Ag Awareness Festival attracting 800-1,000 urban fourth-graders.

Various tour groups also take advantage of learning on-site at the ARDC - whether they be youth, adults, college students, international or businesses. Here are some of our recent visitors: Omaha Christian Academy, Saint Paul United Methodist youth (Lincoln), 4-H tours, Farmers National Research Tour, Central States Seed Conference Tour, York County Economic Development Corporation Prawn Tour, as well as groups from the Ukraine, France, Panama, and Russia.

The ARDC is a unique conference facility due to its location. The center is a relatively short distance from both Lincoln and Omaha. Yet, it is removed from distractions that often disrupt meetings and conferences in metro locations - such as participants leaving during a lunch break and returning late. A benefit of not having any eating establishments or shopping centers nearby is that conference-goers will network with other participants over an on-site lunch and return to the remainder of the program on time.

This is one of the reasons many meeting coordinators have expressed that the ARDC is an ideal place for their needs. A sampling of organizations not named yet in this article that utilize the Research and Education Building include: Nebraska Federal Women's Council, Saunders County Health Systems, State Dairy Association, Saunders County Pork Producers, Saunders County Soybean Growers, County Election Training, Women in Ag Focus Group, Eastern Library System Annual Meeting, Mead Public High School, Great Plains R C & D, and Wahoo Public School PSAT testing.

The lion's share of the programs are hosted or co-sponsored by various University departments, primarily Cooperative Extension. However, many are joint efforts with commodity groups, government agencies, agribusinesses, and other entities.

With so many educational programs being coordinated and research projects taking place at the ARDC, the Research and Education Building is also used for planning and management meetings by NU departments and committees. Some of those include: ARDC Unit Manager and administrative teams, Southeast Cooperative Extension District, and 4-H Professional Improvement Day. The ARDC also has hosted events, such as NU President Smith's Annual Media Picnic and a LEAD dinner meeting.

Local boards meet at the ARDC, as well - such as: ARDC Liaison Committee, Saunders County Extension Board and the Saunders County 4-H Council. □

Learn more about the ARDC at <http://ardc.unl.edu>.



M.E.A.D.
Making Education in Agriculture Different

Magnet School UPDATES....

New Year, New Choices

by Jenny Kocian, Mead Public School

It seems unbelievable that the school year is already half

way over! In this Magnet update, I would like to introduce you to some new classes that students had the opportunity to enroll in this school year at Mead High

School. The curriculum for these six classes were written this summer in conjunction with area businesses, UNL and community college faculty, and a host of other experts in each area. Having the chance to work with those people outside of the school system is very beneficial.



Floral design students display their holiday centerpiece created in the Floral Design class.

They help to lend a hand in making a seamless education for post secondary transitions and are able to line up great hands-on activities and guest speakers for specific classroom topics within the curriculum. The following are the Magnet pathways that were expanded this year with the new classes listed below each

Horticulture Pathway: Crop Production, Floral Design, Landscape Design, Entomology (UNL college credit course)

Animal Science: Companion Animals, Wildlife Management

Food Science: Food Product Development □

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