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Agronomy and Horticulture Department

8-13-2012

Agronomy & Horticulture Newsletter, August 13, 2012

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Schindler, Kathy, "Agronomy & Horticulture Newsletter, August 13, 2012" (2012). *Agronomy and Horticulture Department Monthly Newsletters*. 4.

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Photo by Dr. Zac Reicher

Drought-tolerant Turfgrasses Show Promise

Research near Mead has shown promise with some turfgrass performance during drought. Objectives of a study, currently in its third year, are to evaluate comparative drought tolerance of 30 turfgrass cultivars comprising six major turfgrass species: blue grama, buffalograss, fine fescues, Kentucky bluegrass, perennial ryegrass, and tall fescue. Several amenity turfgrasses are also included. The photo above shows a linear irrigation system where turf near the top of the figure is receiving 80 percent evapotranspiration (ET) while turf at the bottom of the picture is receiving almost no irrigation. Buffalograss (center) Kentucky bluegrass (left) and tall fescue (right) are examples of differences in turf performance. To see the full article by Dr. Roch Gaussoin and Scott Dworak, follow the link to the Turf website: <http://turf.unl.edu/index.cfm>.

Agricultural Field Day is August 22

The South Central Agricultural Laboratory Field Day will be August 22 at the farm near Clay Center, starting at 8:30 a.m.



Speakers from Agronomy and Horticulture include Jim Specht, Jessica Torrion, Richard Ferguson, Lowell Sandell, Amit Jhala, and graduate students Rodrigo Werle, Nick Ward and Brian Krienke. For more information, see the IANR news

release at: <http://ianrnews.unl.edu/static/1208080.shtml>.

Mark Your Calendars!

- Aug. 14–17:** 14th annual Soybean Management Field Days. For details, see <http://ardc.unl.edu/soydays>.
- Aug. 14–15:** 12th Annual Nebraska Grazing Conference, Kearney Holiday Inn. For details, contact the UNL Center for Grassland Studies at grassland@unl.edu, or (402) 472-4101.
- Aug. 16:** Annual CASNR Faculty Meeting, Nebraska East Union, Refreshments at 2:30 p.m. followed by a program at 3 p.m.
- Aug. 16:** Department Seminar with Dr. Michael Francki, Adjunct Professor, 150 Keim Hall, 2:30 p.m. Meet & Greet follows at 3:30 p.m.
- Aug. 17:** Agronomy & Horticulture Graduate Student Reception, 3 p.m., outside Keim 262. Refreshments will be served. Visit with new and current graduate students.
- Aug. 17:** CASNR Luau for new freshmen, Hardin Hall, 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m.
- Aug. 20:** UNL Fall Semester begins!
- Aug. 22:** South Central Ag. Laboratory Field Day, farm near Clay Center, 8:30 a.m.
- Aug 24–Sep 3:** Nebraska State Fair, Grand Island. See: <http://www.statefair.org/fair/>
- Sept. 3:** Labor Day, Office closed and no classes scheduled.
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News From T.J. McAndrew, Facilities *Open Wide and Say "Safety"*

If it's time for an employee safety attitude checkup, you don't need to send your workers to the doctor. You can make your own diagnosis with a safety attitude survey. Safety is largely about actions. But it's also about attitude. You can observe actions objectively. But it's harder to see into employees' heads and hearts and examine their attitude toward workplace safety. Every employee must be dead serious about safety—or they could end up dead. As well as taking job safety seriously, a positive attitude is reflected by other factors, such as:

- Being willing to learn about safety and health issues
- Complying with all safety regulations, rules, and procedures
- Taking personal responsibility for safety
- Focusing on and paying attention to tasks
- Keeping alert to and reporting hazards
- Participating in training and safety improvement
- Using required PPE routinely
- Being concerned about and taking action to protect co-workers' safety
- Avoiding risky behavior
- Reporting accidents, near misses, and hazardous conditions
- Asking questions to learn more about safety and avoid mistakes that

can lead to accidents.

All of these attitudinal elements add up to a good, safe worker. Lack of too many of them, and you could be looking at an accident waiting to happen. Eventually, a poor safety attitude will reveal itself in unsafe acts – especially when nobody's looking. And since neither you nor the company's supervisors can always be looking, you have to be able to trust employees' attitudes as well as their skills and knowledge to prevent workplace accidents and injuries.

Transportation Reminders and Updates

Please remember to turn in mileage log forms to the Office Professionals early each month. Vehicle mileage needs to be submitted online by the 7th of each month or the department or project is charged \$10 per vehicle.

Please remember to be courteous to other drivers if you use department cars #36 and #49. If the gas tank is below $\frac{3}{4}$ tank, fill it up using the fuel card attached to the keys.



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Sept. 11: Chancellor's State of the University Address, Awards Recognition and university-wide picnic, Lied Center.

Oct. 4: CASNR Career Fair, Nebraska East Union, 10 a.m.–3 p.m. This is part of a 3-day Career Fair Oct. 2–4, 2012.

Oct. 15–16: UNL Fall Break. No classes but offices are open.

Oct. 21–25: ASA, CSSA, SSSA Annual Meetings, Cincinnati, Ohio. Registration runs June 19–Sept. 12. Details are at: <https://www.acsmeetings.org/>.

Oct. 31: Halloween Hail & Farewell Potluck, 11:30–1 p.m., 150 Keim.

Nov. 22–25: Thanksgiving Break.

Dec. 10: Agronomy & Horticulture holiday luncheon, 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m., Nebraska East Union (NEU).

Dec. 14–15: UNL Graduation.

Dec. 17: IANR Staff Holiday Luncheon, 11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m., NEU.

Dec. 24, 2012–Jan. 2, 2013: UNL Holiday Closedown, Offices closed.

Jan. 8–10, 2013: Nebraska Turf Conference, LaVista Conference Center.

Feb. 14: Valentine's Hail & Farewell Dessert Potluck, 2–3 p.m., 150 Keim.

Feb. 18–19, 2013: Nebraska Great Plains Conference, Cornhusker Hotel, Lincoln.

Feb. 28–March 2, 2013: Nebraska Winery and Grape Growers Forum and Trade Show, Holiday Inn, Kearney.

April 26: 11:30–1 p.m. Staff Appreciation BBQ.

Portrait Photo Available at no Charge

Photographer Tom Slocum has offered to take individual portrait photos of faculty, staff and students on Thursday, Aug. 23 and Friday, Aug. 24 at the Nebraska East Union (NEU). Tom will be in the Garden Room from 7:30 a.m.–4 p.m.

There is no charge for these photographs and they are on “first come, first served” basis. The photos could be used for departmental listings, websites, scholarship applications, etc. These will be downloaded on the following website for your use: <http://casnr.unl.edu/photos>. Tom has enjoyed a career as a photographer for the University of Nebraska–Lincoln and this is his way of showing his appreciation for everyone on East Campus.

Office Pros news & updates

Changes are occurring with the Office Professional Work Group. The department has hired Kathy Schindler to be the Office Supervisor and recently hired two new Office Associates: Sloane Cornelius and Fran Benne.

Sloane officially started July 23. Prior to that, she had been helping the Office Pros on a temporary basis. Fran starts on Aug. 13.

Sloane is a Business Administration student at Southeast Community College and lives in Lincoln with her partner, John. She is hoping to graduate next year with her associate’s degree and then move on to study for her Bachelor’s in Business Administration and Native American Studies. In her spare time, she likes to watch cartoons, take walks, dream of taking expensive vacations, try to cook, talk about Native American and Social Rights, and spend time with her significant other.



Sloane Cornelius

The other change occurring in the 279 Plant Sciences Office Suite is the creation of a Student Services Center. Marlene Busse and Cathy Dickinson will be providing assistance to graduate and undergraduate students from their offices in 279K and 279J PLSH. This resource center will not replace faculty advising but will give students another place to find answers to academic and college-related questions. Watch for more details about this development.

Missing Cart Sought

The Office Professionals are currently seeking a gray two-tiered cart that was lost at the end of July. If you know where this cart is, please return it to 279 PLSH or contact Kathy Schindler, kschindler1@unl.edu, so she can retrieve it.

In the News

Dr. Ismail Dweikat was featured in news articles about Grain sorghum, or milo, in late July and early August.

On July 27, the Lincoln Journal-Star published this news article at:

http://journalstar.com/business/agriculture/mighty-milo-mighty-scarce-in-drought-year/article_0c64462d-3632-50fd-ba29-f70495b9ddb.html#.UCLBAmxXIes.email

Dr. Dweikat was also featured in video on CBS Evening News at http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-18563_162-57490388/as-corn-withers-farmers-turn-to-drought-friendly-sorghum/?tag=mncol:lst:1.

Newsletter Details

To submit news or announcements for the Agronomy & Horticulture newsletter, please contact Kathy Schindler, kschindler1@unl.edu, 402-472-1508.