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Agronomy and Horticulture Department

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Agronomy & Horticulture Newsletter, July 18, 2011

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A note from the “new” Department Head – Dr. Roch Gaussoin



By now you should be aware of an administrative change in the Department of Agronomy and Horticulture. I am very excited about the opportunity to, at least for a short period, be the department head for a great group of faculty and staff. I am in my 20th year at UNL, starting in the department formally known as Horticulture until the integration

into the merged department we all now call home. I have agreed to serve as the interim department head for up to two years. Our first major project is completion of the documentation for the external review to be conducted in October. After the review is completed and responded to, we will begin a search for a permanent department head. I anticipate this will be in early 2012. We will also be recruiting for multiple faculty positions at approximately the same time. The combination of the review, new administrator (now and in the future) and new faculty hires obviously represents a great deal of change in our department. Rather than a challenge I see this as a great opportunity to build on the strong foundation we currently have in the department and further develop a visionary group of scientists, educators and staff for innovative work in feeding the body and souls of Nebraska citizens, as well as the global population. I hope you all recognize the great responsibility and privilege you each have to be an integral component of this effort. I look forward to my new assignment and hope I can be a vital part of developing a common vision among a very diverse and talented group of people. I will try to have an open door policy, so feel free to drop in and share your successes and concerns. I will close this note with what I feel is critical to any work environment, “work hard and play hard, because life is too short not to laugh and have a good time.”

Best,
Roch



eARFA CASNR Academic Appointment Information due Aug. 15

The teaching appointment in CASNR is the measure of a faculty member’s contributions to the Unit and the College, and will be used as a basis to determine departmental resources. To correctly reflect your contributions to your appointment, it is imperative your data in eARFA are accurately displayed in the database system.

In order to complete the Academic Appointment calculation for the 2010-11 academic year, it will be necessary for all faculty and staff using the eARFA reporting system to enter CASNR specific data by

August 15. This includes colleagues who may have retired or moved on to other positions outside UNL (this includes individuals without faculty appointments who taught courses within your departments).

Remember...**do not click on the "Submit" button** in eARFA. Only save your information in the system and please save your data early and often to prevent any loss of data and time. The remainder of your eARFA information will be due in November and you can submit the entire report at this time.

For further information, please reference the July 7, 2011 reminder email from Carol Wusk in the CASNR office.

Congratulations!

Five faculty members from Agronomy and Horticulture were advanced in the university's Promotion and Tenure program. Those promoted to full professor include Ismail Dweikat, Stevan Knezevic (Northeast Research and Extension Center), Martha Mamo, and Charles Wortmann. Carlos Urrea Florez (Panhandle Research and Extension Center) was tenured and promoted to associate professor. These faculty were recognized at a Promotion and Tenure Reception on April 19 and in the June 30th Scarlet.

Registration opens for ASA-CSSA-SSSA International meetings

Registration is open for the ASA-CSSA-SSSA International meetings Oct. 16-19, 2011, in San Antonio, Texas. The theme is "Fundamentals for Life: Soil, Crop & Environmental Sciences." Please contact Karen Kreider (2-5138, kkreider2@unl.edu) or Carola Strauss (2-8747, cstrauss1@unl.edu) to start the registration process and to make your arrangements. See the website at <https://www.acsm meetings.org/>.

Cassman Speaks on Water for Food

Dr. Ken Cassman was recently featured in EarthSky discussing the subject of water for food. He spoke about how growers can produce more food for Earth's growing population using the same or less water than we're using today. To see the article and hear the podcast, go to the EarthSky website:

<http://earthsky.org/food/ken-cassman-on-water-for-food>. EarthSky is a scientific broadcast network featuring web, audio, and video content.

INFORMATION FROM THE HAPPI BUSINESS CENTER

Mileage Reimbursement Rate increases

As of July 1, 2011, the mileage reimbursement rate for UNL employees increased to fifty five and one-half cents (\$0.555) per mile. This new rate mirrors the rate set by the Internal Revenue Service. For more information on UNL's mileage reimbursement, visit the following website: <http://go.unl.edu/59b>.

INFORMATION FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

2011 Daniel T. Walters Travel Fund available to graduate students

This travel fund will provide a \$500 award for a Soil Science graduate student in the Department of Agronomy and Horticulture who is personally presenting the results of his or her research at a professional meeting. Expenses may include transportation (not to exceed cost of coach class airfare), registration, lodging, and meals. University procedures for travel authorization and expense reimbursement must be followed. All currently registered Soils Science graduate students are eligible to apply. Applications are due August 31, 2011, to Marlene Busse, graduate secretary, 279K PLSH, 0915.

A WORD FROM YOUR OFFICE PROFESSIONALS

Welcome to Tiffany Anderson!

Our new Office Associate, Tiffany Anderson, started working in the department on Monday, July 18. She comes to our department with a B.S. degree in marketing from UNL. Her background includes sales, marketing, and an internship at National Research Corporation (NRC). She spent one semester studying international affairs in Barcelona, Spain. She is from Funk, Neb., and graduated from Holdrege High School. Please stop by her desk in 279 PLSH to welcome her.

MEDEX Program cannot be Charged to Purchasing Cards

Effective July 15, the Air Ambulance Card program and other similar services are not allowable purchases on the university's purchasing card, according to Jenny Schnase, UNL manager of the purchasing card program. Despite prior public guidance stating otherwise, Schnase said it is in the University's best interest to treat this program as travel, thereby processing enrollment similar to that of other travel purchases. Please share this information with others as you deem appropriate. If you have a P-Card question, please contact Jenny at 402-472-3152. For questions regarding the Air Ambulance Card program, please contact its administrator, Jim Vogel, at 402-472-3330. Information about the Air Ambulance Card program is located at <http://travel.unl.edu/>.

New University Mail Delivery Process is Every Odd-numbered Day

On July 5, Agronomy and Horticulture mail **pick up** and **delivery** was reduced to odd-numbered calendar days. Additionally, our incoming mail is being delivered at approximately 10:00 a.m. and distributed to individual mailboxes around 10:30 a.m.

Changes in mail services are part of the budget reduction process. Departments have the option to pick up mail on non-delivery days (even-numbered days) from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., Monday through Friday, at Mail and Distribution Services. To pick up mail, employees must bring the Department "Mail Pick Up Authorization" card and a valid Ncard. Employees who pick up mail assume all responsibility and liability for the mail. The employee must pick up ALL the mail coming to our building. The Department authorization card will be kept at the front desk in 202 Keim. Questions? Contact Brenda Gibson, 2-2811 or bgibson2@unl.edu. For more information about the new mail delivery process go to <http://printing.unl.edu/mail>.

Migrating to Blackboard 9.1

Fall 2011 courses in Blackboard should be moved or migrated to Blackboard Version 9.1. Course information previously in Blackboard 9 can be found at the following website: <https://bb9.unl.edu/>. Log in, then click on the tab that reads "Migrate to Bb 9.1", then follow the directions to move course content to 9.1.

Information about the transition to Bb 9.1, directions, and links to resources can be found at

<http://is.unl.edu/myunlupdate>. For questions, contact Kat Cockrill (kcockrill1@unl.edu), Kathy Schindler (kschindler1@unl.edu), or Terry Workman (tworkman2@unl.edu).



----- Brenda, Carola, Karen, Kat, Kathy, Marlene, and Tiffany

Lighting Replacement Project in Progress

New, energy efficient lighting is being installed in Plant Sciences Hall. Please be patient as our building improvements are made. For questions, please contact Sam Shafer or me. – TJ McAndrew

2011 Walking Tours of the Maxwell Arboretum



These informal walking tours are scheduled from 12:00–1:00 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. The tours are led by Emily Levine, Special Projects Research Horticulturist with Agronomy and Horticulture and former Grounds Supervisor for the arboretum. They are free and open to the public. Participants should meet at the Karl Loerch Gazebo one block east of the UNL Dairy Store, near 38th and Holdrege streets. Some metered parking is available on the East Campus Loop south of the arboretum. In the event of rain, that week's tour will be canceled.

For Your Information

For the latest news, information, and list of events at the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, please visit <http://ianrhome.unl.edu/home>. Click on IANR News Feed or the IANR Calendar under the heading “Timely Topics.”

If you would like to submit events for the Agronomy & Horticulture calendar, give them to **Aaron Franco** after they have been approved by the department head. Our calendar also shows events posted on the IANR and CASNR calendars. Go to: <http://events.unl.edu/agronomy>.

Funding Announcements

FYI: Visit UNL's Office of Sponsored Programs web site for funding announcements in PDF format at <http://www.unl.edu/research/sp1/index.shtml> under “Funding Opportunities.” These announcements are compiled from the funding opportunities offered by federal funding agencies, private foundations, and a variety of additional entities. If you want to subscribe to Funding Announcements, contact Nathan Meier (472-1808 or nmeier2@unl.edu). Additional funding opportunities may be found at <http://www.grants.gov>. Grants.gov is the single access point for individuals to search competitive funding opportunities from more than 900 grant programs offered by the 26 federal grant-making agencies.

Mark Your Calendars!

Aug. 2: Meet & Greet, Tour & Discussion, Monsanto Breeding Station, Waco, Neb. Contact Tom Hoegemeyer or Aaron Lorenz.

Aug. 9-10: 11th Nebraska Grazing Conference, Holiday Inn, Kearney, Neb.

Aug 10: Nebraska Turfgrass Association Field Day, Mead, NE, 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

Aug. 15-16: University Crop Testing Alliance meeting, 150 Keim, Lincoln, Neb.

Aug. 22: UNL fall semester begins. Welcome back students!

Sept. 5: Labor Day – Offices closed.

Oct. 3-6: Agronomy & Horticulture Department Comprehensive Review.

Oct. 17-20: ASA-CSSA-SSSA International meetings, San Antonio, Texas.

Oct. 16-20: Fifth International Symposium on Acclimatization and Establishment of Micropropagated Plants, Lied Conference Center, Nebraska City, Neb.