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Agronomy and Horticulture Department

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Agronomy & Horticulture Newsletter, March 25, 2011

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INFORMATION FROM OUR HAPPI BUSINESS CENTER

Please turn in your evaluations as soon as possible. The planning period for merit increases will begin shortly, and evaluation scores play a large part in this process.

----- John Dillingham, Personnel Generalist, PHR

A WORD FROM YOUR OFFICE PROFESSIONALS

UNL – Nondiscrimination Statements – revised and approved on Nov. 29, 2010 by Senior Administrative Team (reviewed and approved by General Counsel 11/10)



TOOLBOX STANDARDS – used on printed materials

NEW employment nondiscrimination statement Long Version (preferred)

It is the policy of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln not to discriminate based upon age, race, ethnicity, color, national origin, gender, sex, pregnancy, disability, sexual orientation, genetic information, veteran's status, marital status, religion or political affiliation.

NEW Short Version (for space consideration)

The University of Nebraska–Lincoln is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

Chancellor's Tag Lines – used with employment ads

Faculty positions (including post-doc positions):

"The University of Nebraska has an active National Science Foundation ADVANCE gender equity program, and is committed to a pluralistic campus community through affirmative action, equal opportunity, work-life balance, and dual careers."

All other positions:

"The University of Nebraska is committed to a pluralistic campus community through affirmative action, equal opportunity, work-life balance, and dual careers."

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

From the IANR eARFA Steering Committee: eARFA - 2011 reporting now available for IANR Faculty

eARFA has been switched over to the 2011 reporting year. You can enter 2011 data in all sections including the IANR Report Summary Statement, Goals for Next Year, Goal Accomplishments, and CASNR Teaching and Advising sections.

The Date Range must be changed so that you can report your accomplishments and impacts to your 2011 goals and enter new goals for 2012. Change the date range in "Customize Settings" to match your 2011 reporting time frame.

Your 2010 report has been moved to the Past Reports section in the View or Submit Report screen. The Current Status of your annual report has been set back to the default setting of "has not been submitted yet."

NOTE on URL Web Address for bookmarks: The Web address has always been <http://earfa.unl.edu>. However, in the past the address displayed in the browser would change to beaver.unl.edu... (name of the server the eARFA system resided on) and this would be the address in the bookmark. The beaver... address no longer works as eARFA was moved to a new server. Please update your eARFA bookmark to <http://earfa.unl.edu>.

If you have questions about the usage of eARFA, please contact Pam Peters.

DEPARTMENTAL COMMUNICATIONS

Attention IANR faculty and staff: Remember to continue to submit campus news to Today@UNL. Items should be relevant and of interest to faculty and staff. They also should take place on campus or in the vicinity. If you have questions or need assistance with submitting items to Today@UNL, please email Sandi Alswager Karstens at salswager2@unl.edu with Today@UNL in the subject line.

----- Murd Holland, NU Vice President/IANR Vice Chancellor's Office

ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORTS FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS (due March 31, 2011)

Progress reports are to be completed annually for all M.S. and Ph.D. students. The purpose of these reports is to assist and guide graduate students, their advisors, and their supervisory committees towards regular and meaningful updates regarding progress and expectations within each student's program. The Progress Report and associated review with advisors can help increase communication between faculty and students, anticipate problems or differences in expectations, and resolve them before they become unmanageable or negative. In addition, students experience an evaluation process that is common among professionals.

All graduate students should complete this Progress Report. This includes M.S. students, Ph.D. students, international and domestic students, and full and part-time students. Students who do not have a Progress Report turned in will receive an incomplete in research hours until the report is submitted (FAC 7/22/05). **EXCEPTIONS:** If you have just begun your program at the beginning of this semester or plan to graduate at the end of this semester, you do not have to complete the Progress Report. If you plan to graduate this summer, you still need to complete the report.

Please complete and return your Progress Report to Marlene Busse, 279 PLSH 0914, by March 31, 2011. This deadline can be delayed for satisfactory reasons. If you have questions, contact Marlene. The Progress Report is available from the following website:

<http://agronomy.unl.edu/graduate1>

CONGRATULATIONS! ★

Cassman helps guide network of international ag research centers

Ken Cassman is thinking a lot about global food security these days. He recently was named to head the council responsible for advising a major network of international ag research centers. As the first chair of the new Independent Science and Partnership Council, Cassman will provide critical advice and expertise about the scientific merit and feasibility of global agricultural research projects to the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, known as CGIAR.



CGIAR is a consortium of 15 international research centers funded by governments, foundations, and international and regional organizations. The CGIAR

research centers work to improve agricultural productivity, conserve natural resources and promote policies that stimulate agricultural growth in developing nations. The research centers include organizations such as the International Rice Research Institute, the International Water Management Institute and the International Crop Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics.

The CGIAR Fund appointed Cassman in January to lead the seven-member council, which includes leading researchers in agriculture, environmental sciences, rural affairs and economics. Cassman is an internationally recognized expert in local and global food security, crop yield potential and biofuels.

The council's job is to help CGIAR funders identify agriculture development projects with the highest scientific quality and the greatest potential to increase farmers' incomes in poor, rural areas.

Read more at: <http://newsroom.unl.edu/announce/todayatunl/237/1894>

University of Nebraska names top research, teaching and engagement award winners

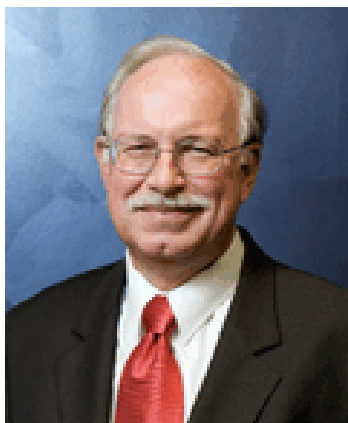
UNL professors Stephen Baenziger and Stephen Taylor were selected among the 2011 winners of the University of Nebraska's most prestigious awards for research, teaching and engagement.

The university-wide awards recognize faculty whose work has made a strong impact on students, the university and the state. Award recipients are selected by committees of outstanding peers.

Awards will be presented during a luncheon later in the spring.

Research: Baenziger earns ORCA

Outstanding Research and Creative Activity (ORCA) Award recognizes individual faculty members for outstanding research or creative activity of national or international significance.



P. Stephen Baenziger, Eugene Price Distinguished Professor in the Department of Agronomy and Horticulture, University of Nebraska-Lincoln: In 25 years at UNL, Baenziger has developed an international reputation as a wheat breeder whose research is helping to feed more people and improve lives in Nebraska and around the world. Baenziger is the only American serving on the Board of Trustees for the International Rice Research Institute, and has consulted with numerous international groups and universities to help foster modern agricultural research. Recently, UNL announced that Baenziger will be the first to hold the new Nebraska Wheat Growers Presidential Chair, an endowed professorship created through a licensing agreement between NUtech Ventures and Bayer CropScience. The licensing agreement also includes plans for Bayer CropScience to establish its first North American wheat breeding station near Lincoln – a reflection of the strength of UNL’s wheat research program.

Read more at: <http://newsroom.unl.edu/announce/todayatunl/250/1998>

SPRING 2011 SEMINAR SCHEDULE FOR AGRONOMY & HORTICULTURE

Fridays at 3:30 p.m. (refreshments at 3:00 p.m.)

150 Keim Hall

- Apr 1 Marker Assisted Selection for Grain Yield in Soybean & Implications for MAS in General; Scott Sebastian, Ph.D., Trait Interaction Genetics, Pioneer Company (Johnston, IA)
- Apr 8 Carbon Dioxide Exchange in Agricultural Ecosystems; Shashi Verma, Bessey Professorship, School of Natural Resources
- Apr 15 Building Stress Gene Networks in Crops; Harkamal Walia, Agronomy & Horticulture
- Apr 22 Soil Carbon Loss Contributes to Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Biofuels; Adam Liska, Biological Systems Engineering
- Apr 29 Progress on Making a Perfect Fertilizer, i.e., Feedlot Manure; Galen Erickson, Animal Science

BROWN BAG SESSIONS ON LIFE SCIENCES CURRICULUM

12:00-1:00 p.m. in 150 Keim Hall

Dates and Topics for Discussion are Listed Below

- Apr 21 Agronomic Plant Production System Learning in Our Teaching Program; Steve Mason and John Guretzky
- May 4 Tentative topic of discussion is “Perennial/Grassland Plant System Learning in Our Teaching Program”

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

SPRING SEMESTER OPEN OFFICE HOURS FOR FACULTY, STAFF, OR STUDENTS TO VISIT WITH MARK LAGRIMINI

Thursday's, 3:30 - 5 p.m., Room 202H Keim:

March 31

April 14, 21, and 28

May 5, 12, 19, and 26

Mar 26 & 27 **Twenty-Fourth Annual Orchid Show and Sale**, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Lauritzen Gardens, 100 Bancroft St., Omaha, NE. Presented by The Greater Omaha Orchid Society, <http://greateromahaorchidsociety.org>

Apr 14 **Agronomy & Horticulture Faculty Meeting**, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., 150 Keim Hall

Apr 23 **The 25th Annual Spring Affair Plant Sale**, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Lancaster Event Center-Pavilion 1, 84th & Havelock Ave., Lincoln, NE. Proceeds from the Spring Affair Plant Sale fund critical programs and services helping to sustain Nebraska Statewide Arboretum's mission. For more information, go to <http://www.springaffair.unl.edu> or <http://www.facebook.com/springaffair>.

May 11 **Agronomy & Horticulture Faculty Meeting**, 8:30-10:30 a.m., 150 Keim Hall

May 12 **Agronomy & Horticulture Teaching Retreat**, 8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m., East Campus Union

Jun 14 **Agronomy & Horticulture Faculty Meeting**, 3-5 p.m., 150 Keim Hall

NEW SHORT COURSE OFFERED THIS SUMMER IN NORTH PLATTE

Steve Young, Weed Ecologist at the West Central Research & Extension Center, has developed and organized a new short course, "North American Invasive Plant Ecology and Management Short Course."

This course is being held July 6-8, 2011, at the West Central Research & Extension Center in North Platte. **Registration is limited to 40 participants and is due by May 1, 2011.** Copies of the course brochure are available on the table in 279 Plant Sciences Hall. **Graduate students are welcome to enroll. Please read the latest update below regarding graduate student participation:**

UPDATE

2011 NORTH AMERICAN INVASIVE PLANT ECOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT SHORT COURSE (NAIPSC)

(from January 21, 2011): Organizers of the 1st annual North American Invasive Plant Ecology and Management Short Course (NAIPSC) are pleased to announce the receipt of funding from the Nebraska Environmental Trust and the Nebraska Academy of Sciences to help finance graduate student participation. "Providing money to help pay for graduate student registration costs is a significant incentive for those who are interested, but may not be able to pay their own way," said Steve Young, NAIPSC lead organizer. "We need a good mix of participants with broad interest levels at the NAIPSC and these funds help move us in that direction," he added. The NAIPSC is three days of intense instruction and learning on the basics of invasive plant ecology and management and will be held at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln West Central Research & Extension Center in North Platte, NE. The funds, in the form of \$300 scholarships, will be available to the first 10 graduate students who register for the NAIPSC. Graduate students must be enrolled in an accredited university graduate program, which may include ecology, natural resources, environmental policy, geospatial sciences, or other subjects relating to the topics of the NAIPSC. In addition, graduate students must complete a 1-2 credit online project in association with their participation in the NAIPSC. For more information, go to <http://ipscourse.unl.edu>. All interested graduate students are encouraged to contact Dr. Young at 308-696-6712 or syoung4@unl.edu.

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.