

2008

Nebraska Urban Pest Management Conference

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Nebraska Urban Pest Management Conference
The Cornhusker-Marriott Hotel Grand Ballroom
333 S. 13th St., Lincoln, NE

8 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2008

John C. Owens, NU Vice President and Harlan Vice Chancellor, IANR

It is my very great pleasure to welcome each of you to this 16th Annual Nebraska Urban Pest Management Conference here in Lincoln. I'm John Owens, University of Nebraska Vice President and Harlan Vice Chancellor of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and I am so glad to be here with you this morning. As an entomologist, this conference certainly is one for which I have great affinity and much interest.

We are so pleased this year that our University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension, which is a major component of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and the Nebraska State Pest Control Association, are offering this Urban Pest Management Conference. We hope that will continue, benefiting both the pest management professionals and the exhibitors in attendance.

The Urban Pest Management Conference started back in 1993, and has offered some significant educational programs “with your support!” It is such a great cooperative effort among UNL Extension, the Nebraska pest control industry, ~~manufacturers and~~ dealers of pest control products, the Nebraska Department of Agriculture, the University of Nebraska Medical Center’s College of Public Health, the Nebraska Health and Human Services “System”, city/county health departments, the Nebraska Environmental Health Association, the Nebraska Grain and Feed Dealers Association, and the Nebraska Mosquito and Vector Control Association. What a “great list” of cooperators! Such cooperation is so very important in this age of “tight” public resources, and it’s a delight for me to recognize it here today.

As I look at today’s program I see so many speakers who will deliver critical information, “including” members of our IANR faculty and staff here at the University of Nebraska. I see so many topics that will be exciting to discuss and learn more about. A knowledge-packed and highly educational two days “await you.”

You'll hear prominent, well-known experts in their fields, people who can and who will "provide" you the latest information, and speak to the changes occurring in the industry. "All" are "combined" in this two-day conference to send you home with a "wealth" of information and new ideas. Plus, during the conference you have this wonderful opportunity to talk formally and informally with others in your field, "exchanging ideas". To me that always is a plus of any meeting.

Certainly this urban pest management conference fills a very real "educational need", and that's what land-grant universities like ours are meant to do. Last year an independent study found we in the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources provide Nebraskans a 15-to-1 return on each state tax dollar invested with us. We do that through classroom teaching, research that discovers new knowledge, and extension education, which carries that new knowledge all across Nebraska so people can put it to immediate use in their lives. In the Institute, classroom teaching, research, and extension education are closely entwined.

I'm pleased to note today that this conference annually attracts 200-300 professionals like you, people who provide solutions to pest problems, people who come to hone expertise through continuing education. You provide a highly valuable service, and I thank you for that.

I also thank all those who worked to put this conference together and who work so hard to make it a success, and again, a huge thank you to the cooperators who have come together here. Welcome, everyone - have a great conference! Thank you.

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