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Busy Summer Makes Way for Fall Projects

by Daniel J Duncan, ARDC Director & IANR Ag Research Division Assistant Dean and Director

Harvest is upon us! With the marginal rainfall and hot weather, it appears that harvest will be earlier than usual. We will have to wait and see if the spotty rains we have received will bring in an average or below average crop.

We have had a busy summer at the ARDC! In the last newsletter you read about the renaming of the Research and Education Building to the August N. Christenson Research and Education Building. As part of that event, we placed a new sign with an electronic message board at the entrance to the Christenson Research and Education Building as a way of welcoming and informing people about events on the ARDC. This sign has welcomed numerous persons attending clinics and other meetings at the ARDC since its installation.

As you drive through the ARDC, you probably have noticed that the new feedlot is taking shape. This facility will add research capability we greatly needed. East of this facility we are putting up a

70-acre center pivot to handle the runoff water from the new feedlot. As part of this project, we will be converting the pasture area under this pivot to row crop and some of the row crop area south of the feedlot to pasture.

In addition, you may have noticed the two water towers have received quite a bit of attention. The stem pipes on both were in need of repair due to lightning strikes. This work was performed as well as other maintenance work on the towers. We also took this opportunity to paint the towers.

We have many other building projects underway including a new shop and office facility for the farm and facility staff, a project to run fiber optic cable to all major buildings on the ARDC, an isolation area for crop breeding research, and many other smaller scale (but just as important) projects.

These are just a few of the changes that have been or will be made in the near future as the ARDC continues to evolve to meet the needs of our students, faculty and clientele. □

Ag Builders of Nebraska Visit the ARDC

August visitors at the ARDC included the Ag Builders of Nebraska (ABN) group. The ABN serves as an advisory group and advocate of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Membership includes Nebraskans from across the state who provide valuable input to IANR administrators and who also serve as a cohesive voice on issues about or affecting IANR.

The group held a board meeting at the ARDC. Members of commodity boards, agricultural associations and IANR administrators then had the opportunity to join the group to converse and to learn more about research projects at the ARDC.

Those attending learned about the Carbon Sequestration Program from Dan Walters, Professor, UNL Agronomy & Horticulture Department. Jeff Noel Director of the Foundation Seed Division and Ag Research Technician William Barelman demonstrated how to use the color seed sorter. The machine removes contaminants



The Ag Builders of Nebraska group learned about the Carbon Sequestration Project from Dan Walters, a professor in UNL's Department of Agronomy and Horticulture who is extensively involved in the project.



Galen Erickson, assistant professor in UNL's Department of Animal Science, provided information on the new feedlot under construction at the ARDC and byproduct utilization of distillers grains and corn gluten for feed.



The Animal Science Feedmill will soon complete its thirtieth year of service at the

ARDC. The first feed was mixed in the new mill in early January 1976. Only feed for University-owned livestock is mixed at the mill.

Feed made in the mill is mixed in one of two one-ton mixers. All the swine and poultry diets are mixed in one mixer and all beef, dairy, horse and sheep diets are mixed in another mixer. This is done to eliminate the contamination of feeds with different feed additives or ingredients. About 80% of the feed made at the mill is bulk with the remainder

FEATURE UNIT-FEEDMILL - Cont. from P. 1
being sacked. The mill has a pellet mill that produces cow cubes and smaller pellets can be made. Approximately 150 tons of cow cubes are made each year to supplement the Animal Science cow herds. The total amount of feed processed through the mill for all livestock averages about 300 tons per month.

The Feedmill mixes supplement rations for the Beef Feedlot and Cow-Calf Units. Grain mixes and complete feeds are mixed for the Dairy and Swine Units. Some cattle feed is also mixed for the University's Veterinary Science Unit.

Another duty of the Feedmill is to mix and deliver feed to livestock located on UNL's East Campus in Lincoln. This includes feed for beef cattle, sheep, horses, pigs and poultry. Some experimental diets are made for cattle at the Dalbey-Halleck Research Farm near Virginia, Nebraska (This is a 1,140-acre farm with 175 mature beef cows and 80 heifers used for beef cow-calf management research.) and at the Gudmundsen Sandhills Laboratory near Whitman. (This is a 12,800-acre range ranch with about 1,200 acres of sub-irrigated meadow and 11,600 acres of upland range; 360 March-calving and 200 June-calving beef cows used in nutrition and physiology projects.).



Dick Meyer and Chuck Rezac

January 1976, Dick started working at the then "new" Feedmill at the ARDC and

FEATURE UNIT - FEEDMILL Cont. on P. 3



Dick Meyer oversees operations at the feedmill. Chuck Rezac operates the feed truck.

About the People

Two employees, Dick Meyer and Chuck Rezac, operate the feedmill on a daily basis. Dick is the manager and lives on a farm east of Greenwood. Dick originally started his employment with the University in March 1972 working at the Animal Science Beef Feedlot. He transferred from the feedlot to the old swine center Feedmill at 75th and Adams Streets in Lincoln in November 1975 to get additional Feedmill operating experience and to learn to mix swine diets. In

ABN TOUR - Cont. from P. 1
from seed allowing for a more superior end product. Robert Graybosch, a professor in UNL's Department of Agromony & Horticulture and a Research Geneticist with USDA-ARS discussed the seed breeding program.

The group got a sneak peak at the new feedlot that is in progress. Terry Klopfenstein and Galen Erickson, faculty members in UNL's Animal Science Department, also discussed current nutritional studies, including byproduct utilization of distillers grains and corn gluten feed.

The afternoon program included a look at ABN Highlights with Dave Stock, ABN President. John Owens, NU Vice President & IANR Vice Chancellor, provided an IANR update and responded to various questions posed by the group. The economic impact of the ARDC on the surrounding community was discussed by Dan Duncan, ARDC Director & IANR Ag Research Division Assistant Dean and Director. The group also learned about the Agro-Environmental Trail from Don Levis, Extension Educator. And they also had the opportunity to take part in a walking tour of Crop Management and Diagnostic Clinic Site with Keith Glewen, Extension Educator. □



At the Foundation Seed Division, Ag Research Technician William Barelman, demonstrated how the color sorter machine is utilized to ensure seed purity.

Learn more about the Agro-Environmental Trail that is coming to the ARDC below!

UNIVERSITY OF
Nebraska
Lincoln
Makes the
Grade!

UNL
QUICK FACT...
For the second straight year, UNL has made U.S. News and World Report's annual America's Best Colleges rankings' Top 50 list for public national universities. You can learn more about the rankings and process of how the ratings were determined at:
www.usnews.com. □

AGRO-ENVIRONMENTAL TRAIL PROJECT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA ARDC

The Agro-Environmental Trail will be a premier facility for people of all ages to learn about the natural resources and agricultural environments in eastern Nebraska.

Partners:

- * Audubon Nebraska
- * Environmental Protection Agency
- * Lower Platte North NRD
- * Lower Platte River Corridor Alliance
- * National Park Service
- * Natural Resources Conservation Service
- * Nebraska Game & Parks Commission
- * University of Nebraska-Lincoln Institute of Agriculture & Natural Resources
- * U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Goals and Activities:

- * Teach appreciation of agriculture and the natural environment for adults and students with hands-on opportunities
- * Demonstrate the co-existence of agriculture and the natural environment through Best Management Practices for agriculture and urban settings
- * Demonstrate the interaction of watershed components of the Platte River
- * Create an infrastructure that benefits both humans and the natural environment
- * Highlight native species of plants and wildlife of eastern Nebraska

Physical Aspects:

- The land is made up of deep, rich loamy soils divided into bottom, plains, and a sandy rolling hill
- Silver Creek flows through the southwest corner of project lands with sub-irrigated meadows and over 100 acres of wetlands
- Native species of plants and wildlife, agro-forestry woodlots, and natural riparian corridor
- Diverse environments all in the same section of land - The August N. Christenson Research and Education Building, pastures for cattle grazing, crop lands, riparian corridor, woodlots, feedlots, and landscaped areas.

This resource will provide the setting for educators, researchers, and the public to implement projects that will increase knowledge on the interaction of agricultural and natural environments.

Missouri and Iowa Visited by Livestock Tour

Twenty-nine local livestock and grain producers took part in the 2005 Saunders County Livestock Association "Cattle Drive" #47 in mid-August. People familiar with the event more commonly refer to it as the "livestock feeder's tour". This was the first year that Don Levis, Extension Educator coordinated and hosted the tour, logging in over 1,100 miles on the trip. Andrew Labenz, Extension Intern also participated in the event.

Northern Missouri and southern Iowa were the featured regions. The first stop included the Roger Vest Farm at Maryville, Missouri. The Vest farm is a 250-head commercial Angus cow-calf operation. Some of the cull cows are fed for an Iowa State Extension study looking at feeding strategies to get the cows into the white fat category.

The group then traveled to the Brinkley Angus Ranch at Milan, Missouri. Jim Brinkley and his family operate a 220-head Angus operation that utilizes artificial insemination technology. This is a very progressive operation



Pasture management and the marketing of cull cows were topics approached by Roger Vest with the tour group.



The group had the opportunity to discuss and view breeding stock at the Brinkley Angus Ranch.

partnership with Stephenson-Basin Angus Ranch in Montana. Each year, several hundred head of bulls are fed out for the farm and others. The tour group also enjoyed the scenic tour along the Mississippi River before arriving at Nauvoo, Illinois for a brief visit about the area.

While cattle operations were of primary interest, the group learned about raising game at the Wildlife Lakes Elk Farm at West Burlington, Iowa. Henry Bohlen and his family farm have raised elk for 15 years and concentrate towards having breeding stock with strong genetic backgrounds for antler growth.

At Grandview, Iowa, the group visited the Da-Es-Ro Angus Farms. The operation was started in 1949 with just one 4-H heifer. Today this 125-cow purebred operation focuses on producing seed stock that excels in economically important traits. They also place added emphasis on carcass merit and expected progeny differences.

The tour concluded with a visit to the Nichols Farms at Bridgewater, Iowa. Nichols Farms have 1,200 registered cows. This operation is considered the largest seed stock producer in the Midwest.

Overall, participants felt the tour was well worth their time. Participants commented on the value of seeing some very good operations and meeting the operators. They also noted that seeing the different aspects of the different operations was educational.

Some examples of how participants said the tour helps improve their livestock operations included: learning about new feed additives to improve gains; value of good genetics and how genetics improves meat quality; different ways to put up hay and silage; how other operations are handling the problems of the livestock industry in today's world; how different bloodlines can handle fescue; pasture management procedures; and use of liquid and dried distiller grains. And one participant noted that the tour helps to improve the comradery among Saunders County Livestock Association members.

To learn more about the annual Saunders County Livestock Association tours, please contact Don Levis, Extension Educator at (402)624-8030, (800)529-8030 or dlevis1@unl.edu.



Calendar of Events

SEPTEMBER

- | | | |
|----|--|-------------|
| 15 | EPA Public Meeting | 6:00-9:00pm |
| 29 | NE Statewide Aboretum Landscape Maintenance Workshop | 8:00-4:30 |

OCTOBER

- | | | |
|-------|--|-------------|
| 5 | 4-H Council Meeting | 7:00-9:00pm |
| 11 | Ag Awareness Festival | 10:00-1:30 |
| 11 | USDA Financial Meeting | 8:00-4:00 |
| 12 | PSAT - Wahoo High School | 8:00-12:00 |
| 13 | Ag Awareness Festival | 10:00-1:30 |
| 14 | Ag Awareness Festival | 10:00-1:30 |
| 17 | Ag Awareness Festival | 10:00-1:30 |
| 19 | PSAT - Wahoo High School | 8:00-12:00 |
| 25-27 | Onsite Wastewater Certification Training | 8:00-5:00 |
| 28 | Husker Nutrition Conference | 8:00-5:00 |

FEATURE UNIT-FEEDMILL - Cont. from P. 2

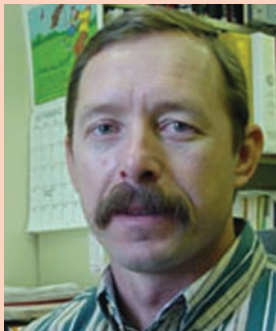
has worked at the Animal Science Feedmill since that time.

Chuck Rezac started working at the Feedmill in October 1979. Chuck and his wife, Verna, live in Wahoo. They have two children. Their son Pat is a senior at UNL and daughter, Megan, is a junior at Midland College in Fremont.

In addition to mixing feed at the mill, Chuck drives the Animal Science feed truck delivering mixed feed to various units at the ARDC and to East Campus. On his trips back from Lincoln, he picks up truckloads of soybean meal or soybean hulls from ADM. Chuck also picks up other feed ingredients from vendors in Omaha. Chuck also does various other trucking jobs, such as getting dried distillers grains from ethanol plants at Holdrege and York or corn germ meal and corn gluten meal from Columbus.

Over 6,000 domestic farm animals used for research and teaching reside at the ARDC. The feedmill at the ARDC provides feed for all of those animals, plus livestock at other University locations. And with those thousands of animals come research and educational programs involving many faculty members. In this issue of *Extended Visions*, we feature a Professor and Beef Specialist in the UNL Department of Animal Science.

Rick Rasby works with Extension, research and teaching in the areas of cattle reproduction, nutrition, and management. He joined UNL in 1986 as an Extension Beef Specialist with primary



Rick Rasby

responsibilities in cow/calf management, reproduction, and nutrition.

Rasby received his Bachelors Degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and his Masters and Ph.D. from Oklahoma State University. He has been co-leader of the Integrated Resource Management and Quality Feeds for Quality Feeding programs. He was also involved in development of the computer cow/calf record-keeping program PC-COWCARD.

His extension programs have focused on economical feeding programs for beef cows and evaluation of reproductive performance of the cow herd. His research has been to characterize performance and the economics of cow/calf production systems from calving to evaluation of the carcass and eating characteristics. □ -- Feedmill article and staff article provided by Dick Meyer



William Kranz, UNL Extension Irrigation Specialist, discussed how irrigation impacts profits at the Crop Management Diagnostic Clinics.

Summer Field Days Provide Education

As this issue of *Extended Visions* goes to press, we are wrapping up the last of the summer field days. Each year the Crop Management Diagnostic Clinics, Soybean Management Field Days, and Solution Days programs have significant impact on Nebraska. Watch for details! □



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

Valuable Experience from Horticulture Internship

by Trisha Larson

I have just started my senior year at Mead High School and feel that my summer job was beneficial in helping narrow down my career search. I worked at the John Seaton Anderson Turf and Ornamental Research Facility at the ARDC. I acquired new skills and knowledge by learning how to operate machinery, maintain and harvest grass, and plant various types of flowers. With this I also became a weed expert!

My supervisor was Lannie Wit and I worked with other employees that included graduate students. This job also allowed me to work with UNL college professors. Master Gardeners also made visits to fine tune an area that was once used for the Festival of Color open house. I learned information about plant identification, landscape design, and pruning techniques.

This school year I will continue to work at the ARDC through fall. In the spring I will graduate from Mead High School and plan to pursue a four year college in Landscape Design. □



THINK SPRING - In the Fall?

Great gardens and landscapes require careful planning. So why not plan to attend some training now to hone up on your green thumb skills? For more information, contact Sarah Browning, Extension Educator at (402) 727-2775 or sbrowning2@unl.edu.

Landscape Maintenance Workshop

The Nebraska Statewide Arboretum is sponsoring a Landscape Maintenance Workshop at the ARDC on September 29 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Presenters are from UNL and the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum.

Topics include: Landscape Care Is Not for Rocket Scientists!; Weed Identification & Control Strategies; Putting Landscape Plants to Bed; Tree Pruning Basics; Turf Care Strategies for a Healthier Landscape; Maintenance Miscellaneous; and Embracing Natural Area Plantings. Since landscape issues can vary from town to town and from region to region, local issues will also be covered - highlighting emerging or special issues that are important for the local area. For more information, please contact Sarah Browning.

WANTED: Master Gardeners!

Most seeds are planted in the spring, but here's one worth planting right now. Would you like to improve your yard or garden? Do you wish you knew more about plants? Would you like to not only apply this knowledge to your own personal situation, but to the help improve the community? If these topics sound of interest of you - then consider participating in UNL Extension's Master Gardener program. The training begins in March, but now is the time to start thinking about taking part in the training.

What is a Master Gardener? Master Gardeners are trained volunteers who assist UNL Extension Educators in providing horticultural information to Nebraskans. The Master Gardener Program is a national program that started in Washington State in 1972. Master Gardeners provide only research-based information, giving the public accurate and tested answers to their questions.

Through the Master Gardener training sessions and workshops, you'll become a more knowledgeable gardener and will have the opportunity to share this knowledge with your community. You will have access to a wealth of information that can make you a better gardener and you will also meet lots of interesting people who share your love of gardening....locally, statewide and nationally.

How do you earn the "Master Gardener" title? The program offers a minimum 40 hours of instruction that covers topics in botany, soils, fertilizers, lawn care, vegetable gardening, annual and perennial flowers, trees and shrubs, water gardening, insect, disease and weed control.

Once you have completed the initial training and scored at least 70% on an open-book exam entitles participants to become a Master Gardener Intern. Completion of 40 hours volunteer service by a Master Gardener Intern makes you a fully fledged Certified Nebraska Master Gardener.

Classes will be held at the UNL Extension Office in Dodge County on Thursdays, March 2 through March 30, from 9:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. The cost to attend the basic 40 hours of training is \$150.00, which includes the Master Gardener handbook and turfgrass management guide. Participants who complete their 40 hours of volunteer service in the summer following training will receive a \$40 refund from their initial fee. □

Best Wishes to Meduna



Dan Duncan presented Bob Meduna with a certificate of appreciation at a farewell reception held for Bob. Bob worked at the Foundation Seed Division for almost five years and left to work in a position with Pioneer Hi-Bred previously held by his father.

ACREAGE INSIGHTS RURAL LIVING CLINICS

September - Septic and Lagoon Systems

October - Growing Grapes

November - Woody Florals for Prof.

Training will be held at several locations.

Brochure and registration at <http://acreage.unl.edu>.

Indepth
Training in
just a couple
of hours!

\$10 per
person
in advance
\$15 at the
door

This issue of *Extended Visions* was produced and edited by Deloris Pittman, Marketing & Promotions Manager. *Extended Visions* is published bimonthly by the University of Nebraska ARDC & University of Nebraska Extension in Saunders County, 1071 County Road G, Room A, Ithaca, Nebraska, 68033-2234.

For more information, call 402-624-8000 or 1-800-529-8030. Check out our web site at <http://ardc.unl.edu>. E-mail dpittman1@unl.edu. Copyrighted 2004, ARDC.

Daniel J. Duncan, Director, University of Nebraska-ARDC * Keith Glewen, Extension Educator Unit Leader

EXTENSION feature article and information provided by Dick Meyer with input by Phil Miller of the UNL Department of Animal Sciences.