Southeast Research and Extension Center Relocates To ARDC

By Mark Schroeder, ARDC Director

I am excited to announce that our IANR Deans Council has decided to move the headquarters for the Southeast Research and Extension Center (SREC) to the Agricultural Research and Development Center. The SREC encompasses 28 counties with over 70 extension educators serving the area. The center is the largest of the four located statewide with others headquartered at Scottsbluff, North Platte, and Norfolk. The SREC was previously headquartered in Musselh Hall on Lincoln East Campus.

The SREC moved into the Christenson Research and Education Building in December. Director Susan Williams, 4H Program Coordinator Bob Medina, and Assistant Director Dave Varnier lead the administrative office. All three are Saunders County residents. Both Susan and Bob are former Extension Educators with Saunders County Extension.

SREC Director Williams states, “The ARDC is a state-of-the-art facility serving many departments throughout the NU system. We hope to build on the current synergy between the ARDC staff, the research faculty and the extension faculty through this new arrangement. The move will benefit both the ARDC and SREC by providing the opportunity to increase UNL’s visibility with stakeholders on important issues in both research and extension. It will provide an opportunity to build stronger relationships with faculty and pursue additional joint projects. The location allows us to grow programming important to both our urban and agricultural clientele. There will not be any administrative or reporting changes for either unit, but it will allow us to continue to work to streamline and share our business center functions.”

We welcome the SREC administrative office to the ARDC family.

And on behalf of all the staff from the ARDC and Saunders County Extension, we wish each of you a happy new year! ✨

Glewen Receives IANR Top Honor

Keith Glewen, UNL Extension Educator based in Saunders County, received the prestigious Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources 2009 Omvedt Innovation Award Nov. 18.

Glewen was recognized at the ceremony by Vice Chancellor John Owens for his outstanding contributions and innovative programming. Glewen annually coordinates educational events relating to soybeans, crop and diagnostic clinics, farm management, machinery updates, irrigation and energy, no-till, chemigation, and nitrogen management.

The Omvedt Innovation Awards and funding are provided by Leone and the late Neal Harlan, who honored Irv Omvedt on his retirement as Vice Chancellor of IANR. The awards recognize areas of strength and promise within the Institute, as well as innovative research and programming by IANR faculty, staff, and students. ✨

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Facilities Operations at the ARDC

By Jeff Stuehmer, ARDC Facilities Operations Manager

Facilities Operations at the ARDC provides support for all of the units at the ARDC. This involves maintaining, modifying and improving facilities used by each department and maintaining facilities used by all departments.

Facilities that all departments use include the roads and the central water system at the ARDC. Most of these facilities were installed when the Nebraska Ordinance Plant was constructed in the 1940’s. There are approximately twenty six miles of "public" roads and over twenty five miles of watermains and two water towers serving the water system. Units or departments at the ARDC also have their own roads and water systems and Facilities helps them maintain, expand and improve their systems. The main facilities that other departments own are buildings. There are over 167 buildings at the ARDC.

The Facilities Staff works with all departments to help them maintain or modify their buildings.

The Facilities staff is composed of a Facilities Manager, a Trades Supervisor, two carpenters, two electricians, a landscape assistant, a plumber and a heavy equipment operator. Jeff Stuehmer is the Facilities Manager and is responsible for the overall operation of the Facilities Operations. In addition to ensuring that the Facilities staff has the equipment and training needed to efficiently complete their task, he works with the Unit Managers to design and coordinate their projects and area improvements. To keep projects on track and maintain the ARDC assets, he works closely with Facilities Management in Lincoln and the Task Force for Building Renewal. Richard Anderson is the Trades Supervisor. He is responsible for the day to day business of Facilities Operations. He works with the Unit Managers to schedule the work needed for their projects. He is also the person they contact when emergencies arise.

Brian Lessmann is the Landscape Assistant at the ARDC. His main responsibility is the grounds upkeep and maintenance at the Christenson Research and Education building. Brian keeps the headquarters building ready for events and makes sure everything is ready for the public since we have so many visitors to the ARDC.

The Campertons are Doug Radeen and Jon Swenson. Their main task is maintenance of the buildings at the ARDC. They also do occasional remodeling and other building upgrades. When you see nice displays or other special wooden items, they probably built them.

A good example of their work is the Friends of ARDC board in the main headquarters lobby. Jon is also our secondary tractor operator for pulling the GPS controlled soil scraper for grading.

Kirk Bartek and Ed Booth are the ARDC electricians. Kirk focuses mainly on lighting, power systems and new installations and Ed works with control systems, troubleshooting and repairs. Electricity is a main energy supply at the ARDC powering all our irrigation wells, water systems, facilities operations at the ARDC.

Facilities Operations installed a tower at the farm/facilities shop for antennas needed for the two-way radio system and a radio control system (scada) for domestic water wells. In the future, irrigation control antennas could be added.

Left to right: Dr. John Owens - Vice Chancellor; Keith Glewen - Education Educator and Dr. Elbert Dickey - Dean of Extension
Facilities Operations replaced 12" valves on the water main that no longer were operational. The replacement work will allow the staff to isolate areas when leaks occur. Several replacements have been performed in order to update the system which is approaching 70 years old.

Facilities Operations staff at the ARDC include: (front) Ed Booth, Jon Kern, Brian Lessmann, and Jon Swanson. (Back) Jeff Stuehmer, Jerome Mashek, Rich Anderson, Doug Rudeen, and Kirk Bartek.

About the People

With all of the roads, buildings, water and electrical systems, landscaping and other areas to maintain at the research center, some might compare the ARDC infrastructure to that of a small town. The Facilities Operations crew is made up of a talented group of employees who perform the necessary tasks. Learn more about them here...

* Rich Anderson and his wife, Shelley, have three children. They reside on an acreage near Colon. He and his family enjoy the outdoors, animals, hunting, and fishing.

* Kirk Bartek lives in Weston and has four children and two grandchildren. He started working full time for the ARDC in May of 1976. Weston city council member since 1986. Electrical Superintendent for the Village of Weston. Licensed State of Nebraska Electrical Contractor since 1997. He enjoys spending time with his kids and grandkids. Also enjoys car shows, demo derby's, classic cars, karaoke, all sports and fishing.

* Ed Booth and his wife Donna live in Wahoo with their daughter. Ed has been with the ARDC for over 30 years. Ed enjoys church and 4-H activities.

* Jon Kern and his wife, Lacey and son Peyton, live in Lincoln. Jeff earned his AAS in Architectural Technology from SCC-Milford and a Bachelors in Construction Management from UNL. He enjoys family time, farming with his dad, woodworking, metalworking, home improvement, stock car racing/pit crewing and working on cars.

* Jon Kern and his wife, Cathy, live in Fremont. John possesses a master plumber license, grade 4 water operator's license and grade 6 backflow license.

* Brian Lessmann received his arborist license in August 2002. He enjoys playing golf, fishing, reading, spending time with nieces and nephews, enjoy dancing and meeting new people.

* Jerome Mashek, and his wife, Carisa, live in Ceresco. They have two children. Jerome has a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice with a minor in Sociology from the University of Nebraska at Kearney.

* Doug Rudeen lives by Ceresco with his wife Shawn. They have two daughters attending college. Before joining the facilities crew, he worked at the ARDC Beef Feedlot for 15 years. He has been with Facilities Operations since August of 1998.

* Jon Swanson and his wife Patty live on a farm near Malmo. They have two children. Samantha is a junior at UNL, and Mitch is a sophomore at Bishop Neumann. Jon originally worked with the Energy Integrated Farm and moved over to the carpenter shop in 1991. He and his family enjoy sports, outdoor activities, and working with livestock on the farm.

Programs for Beef Producers

To register or for more information for the Beef Satellite Short Courses or the Beef Profitability Workshops, please contact Sara Ellicott, UNL Extension Educator, at (402)624-8030, (800)529-8030, or sellicott2@unl.edu.

Beef Satellite Short Courses

UNL Extension continues to offer the Beef Satellite short-courses, “Staying Competitive in an Ever Changing Beef Cattle Industry” this January. Producers will get to see the latest research findings from UNL and will get to determine if utilizing such practices will assist them in their cattle operations.

The series is scheduled for Monday evenings at 7 p.m. on January 11 and 18. The sessions are presented via satellite and will include a question and answer session. Each short course should conclude around 9 p.m. at the ARDC Christenson Building.


The January 18, presentation on “Indexes, SNPs and DNA Testing – Understanding the Complicated Genetics and How It Applies To the Cow/Calf Producer,” will be presented by Matt Spangler, UNL beef specialist.

Beef Profitability Workshops

How a beef operation is managed can make a significant difference in how profitable it is. With so many variables to consider, such as feed and fuel costs and up-and-down markets, managing profitability and maintaining a healthy bottom line can present an ongoing challenge.

UNL Extension will offer beef profitability workshops on February 4 to help producers meet these challenges. The sessions will be held at two different locations. The afternoon session will be held at the Washington County Extension Office, 597 Grant St., Blair, NE. and the evening session will be held UNL Extension in Saunders County office at the ARDC.

Richard Randle, UNL Extension Beef Cattle Veterinarian, will address calving management and Bruce Anderson, UNL Extension Forage Specialist, will address pasture management.

Watch the website, saunders.unl.edu for more information or contact the Extension Office at (800)529-8030 or (402)624-8030.

Beef Profitability Workshops

Eastern Nebraska Meat Goat Workshop - Febr. 6

The second Eastern Nebraska Meat Goat Workshop will be held Saturday, February 6 at the August N. Christenson Building, located at the ARDC from 9:30-3:30.

Speakers for the program include Randy Saner, UNL Extension Educator in Lincoln/McPherson Counties who will present parasite management and FAMACHA training. Brian Faris, Extension Sheep and Meat Goat Specialist from Kansas State University will also present some very valuable information on multi-species grazing and marketing.

Registration fee when you register by January 29 is $25 for the first person; $10 per additional person from the same operation. FAMACHA training materials are an additional $10. It is only necessary to order one per family.

Registration fee after January 29 is $40 for the first person and $25 per additional person from the same operation. If you wish to have a program flyer directly mailed or e-mailed to you, contact the Extension Office at (800)529-8030, (402)624-8030 or Saunders-County@unl.edu.
**4-H Market Beef Weigh Dates Set**

All 4-H members who plan to exhibit market steers or market heifers need to plan on attending one of the two weigh day options for Saunders County 4-H members. The first weigh day will be held on Saturday, January 23rd from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. at the Wahoo Sale Barn. The second and final opportunity will be on Saturday, March 20th from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Animals that will be shown at the county fair or Fremont 4-H Fair only will need to be weighed and identified. Any animals that may be shown at either the Nebraska State Fair or Ak-Sar-Ben Livestock Exposition will need to have a DNA sample taken. Each DNA sample will be a $6.00 charge / animal.

Any new 4-H families or FFA members who are interested in showing market beef need to attend the weigh day. Any youth who is eight years old as of January 1 is eligible to participate in the market beef project. Youth who are ten as of January 1 are eligible to participate at the Nebraska State Fair and/or the Ak-Sar-Ben Livestock Exposition.

If you have questions about identifying your 4-H and/or FFA market beef, please contact the Saunders County Extension office at (800)529-8030 or (402)624-8030.

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**4-H Volunteer Leader’s Banquet and Training – January 27**

Volunteer Leaders put forth great effort throughout the year to ensure that the 4-H members in their clubs are informed and educated. In honor and recognition of the time that these volunteers invest in our youth, we want to show our appreciation at the 2010 4-H Volunteer Leader’s Banquet and Training. The evening will begin with a meal at 6:00 p.m. at the ARDC. Following the meal, leaders will learn about all of the new opportunities in 4-H for their youth in 2010 as well as learn about the changes that will be implemented this year.

This is a great evening for all volunteers. Please make your reservations with the Extension office to attend by Friday, January 22.

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**4-H Provides Opportunities in Life Skill Development**

Being a part of the Saunders County 4-H program is an opportunity to invest in your future. The 4 “H’s” on the clover stand for Head, Heart, Hands and Health. When we recite the 4-H Pledge, we “pledge my head to clearer thinking.” Learning management skills and critical thinking skills is part of being a 4-H member. Through participation in 4-H curriculum (projects), workshops and clinics and other educational opportunities available for 4-H members, you too can learn more in a wide range of project areas.

> “my Heart to greater loyalty” … leads us to a greater understanding in relating to and caring for others. 4-H provides endless opportunities to develop relationships with others. Youth will develop a relationship with not only their peers, but also adults and others who will serve as mentors, friends and role models. 4-H provides opportunities to learn about the differences among us, but to also open the pathway for a greater acceptance of those differences.

> “my Hands to larger service” … Giving and Working within our communities is a valuable part of being a good citizen. Community Service, Leadership, Teamwork and Self-motivation are all a part of this “H”.

> “and my Health to better living, for my club, my community, my country and my world.” Learning to take care of others must start with learning to take care of our- selves. Being individuals of strong character and learning to make good choices is a part of the 4-H Life Skills.

Life Skill development is not something that starts at age 8 and ends at age 18. Life Skill development is something that continues from our first to our final days. 4-H is just an excellent avenue to help channel the learning of these life skills. To learn more about life skill development or to enroll your child in 4-H, or you may visit the 4-H website at:

http://4h.unl.edu/volunteers/InfoSeries.htm.

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**Calendar of Events**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4-H Council Meeting</td>
<td>January 22</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>ARDC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grain Marketing Workshop</td>
<td>February 8</td>
<td>8:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.</td>
<td>ARDC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nitrogen Management Training</td>
<td>February 11</td>
<td>7:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.</td>
<td>ARDC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Martin Luther King Day - Closed</td>
<td>February 18</td>
<td>All day</td>
<td>ARDC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beef Satellite Short Course</td>
<td>February 18</td>
<td>7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.</td>
<td>ARDC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-H Leader’s Banquet &amp; Training</td>
<td>February 27</td>
<td>6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.</td>
<td>ARDC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern NE Meat Goat Workshop</td>
<td>February 6</td>
<td>9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>ARDC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Private Applicator Pesticide Training</td>
<td>February 9</td>
<td>1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.</td>
<td>ARDC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Private Applicator Pesticide Training</td>
<td>February 15</td>
<td>6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.</td>
<td>ARDC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grain Marketing Workshop</td>
<td>February 18</td>
<td>7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.</td>
<td>ARDC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No-Till Conference</td>
<td>February 18</td>
<td>9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>ARDC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Q&amp;A Train the Trainer</td>
<td>February 18</td>
<td>7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.</td>
<td>ARDC</td>
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**Programs for Crop Producers**

**Febr. 17 - Nebraska No-Till Conference**

Why are some producers successful with no-till and others not? This year’s Nebraska No-Till Conference addresses that question by letting successful producers and agronomists share their experiences with no-till. While every farming situation is different, understanding how some producers overcame hurdles can extend their success.

The Nebraska No-Till Conference will be held on separate days at two sites: Tuesday, February 16 at the Ag Center in Holdrege and on Wednesday, February 17 at the ARDC. Pre-registration is due February 10. Register online at http://ardc.unl.edu/no-till.shtml. For more information or to register at the ARDC location, call (800)529-8030 or email at kglewen1@unl.edu. For more information or to register at the Holdrege location, call (308)995-4222 or email cburn1@unl.edu.

**Farm Management – Grain Marketing Programs:**

Watch for more details on these upcoming workshops.

* Friday, January 8: Grain Marketing Workshop – Featuring Glen Ring Enterprises LLC
  * Monday, February 15: Grain Marketing Workshop – Featuring Sue Martin of the television program, Market to Market - sponsored by First National Bank Northeast and UNL Extension
  * Wednesday, March 10: Managing Crop Revenue Risk – Featuring Steve Johnson, PhD. Steve serves as the Farm & Ag Business Management Specialist in Central Iowa for Iowa State University Extension.

**Nitrogen Management Training**

* January 15 and March 18 - All producers using fertilizer in the LPN-NRD must attend nitrogen certification at least once every 4 years.

**Pesticide Applicator Training**

* February, 9, 1:00-4:00 p.m.
* February 10, 6:50-9:30 p.m.
* March 31, 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Certification as a private applicator allows farmers to purchase and use restricted use pesticides in their farming operations. Private pesticide applicators with expiring certification and those seeking first-time certification will need to attend a certification training session in 2010. UNL Extension provides the educational program, while the state ag department is responsible for certification. The training fee is $30 per person.

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**4-H Updates provided by Karni Dam, UNL Extension Educator. For more information on any of the above, contact the Saunders County Extension Office at (402)624-8030 or (800)529-8030.**
Workshops for Green thumbs
Don’t let the snow on the ground keep you from making plans for your 2010 lawn and garden. UNL Extension will offer a variety of workshops to help you get a head start.
To register, please contact Sarah Browning, at UNL Extension in Dodge County at (402) 727-2775 or by email at sbrowning2@unl.edu.
All programs will be held from 6:30-9:00 p.m. at the following locations: Burt County Courthouse Meeting Room, Tekamah (402-374-2929); Courthouse Meeting Room, West Point (402-372-6006), Dodge County Extension Office - Fremont (402-727-2775) and Washington County Extension Office (402-426-9455).
Contact the appropriate location listed above for inclement weather cancellation information.

Febr. 16 - Native Plants for Water Conservation
A growing number of gardeners are interested in using plants that are native to their region and for good reason. Native plants are well adapted to a region’s growing conditions, including summer and winter temperature, annual precipitation (or lack thereof), soil pH and local pest problems. Come and learn about some great native Nebraska plants. Presented by Kelly Feehan, UNL Extension.

Febr. 23 - An In-depth Look at Fertilizers
So many different types of fertilizer products are available to home gardeners, that it can be confusing to know how to use them properly. Common questions include “What nitrogen source should I use?”, “How are slow release products manufactured and how do they differ in release to plants?”, “How much fertilizer should I apply and when?”, “Do I need to apply phosphorus, potassium, or iron?”, and much more will be answered through an in-depth discussion of fertilizers. Presented by Roch Gausson, UNL Extension Turfgrass Specialist.

Mar. 2 - Turfgrass & Related Insects
Last year, this session included white grub management in turfgrass and this year we will continue the discussion of lesser turfgrass insects, such as sod webworm and billbugs. The session will also cover insects that invade homes and how they can be managed. Presented by Jim Kalisch, UNL Entomology.

Mar. 9 - Beneficial Pollinating Insects and Vegetable Garden Pests
Healthy and active populations of pollinating insects are critical to fruit and vegetable production and there are many not-so-well-known native insects that are important pollinators aside from the European honeybee. Learn about managing your landscape to increase pollinating insects in your landscape and common insect pests of vegetable gardens. Presented by Wayne Ohnesorge, UNL Extension.

Mar. 16 - Tree & Shrub Pruning
Woody plants are pruned to maintain health, beauty and productivity, but exactly how and when to prune can be confusing for gardeners. Learn why, when and how to prune woody plants properly. Presented by Sarah Browning, UNL Extension.

Mar. 23 - Pesticide Safety and Non-Chemical IPM Pest Control Techniques
Using an integrated approach of biological, cultural, and finally chemical techniques is the best approach to pest management. Learn about non-chemical approaches to pest control and how to handle pesticides safely, when they are necessary, to protect your family and the environment. Presented by Jim Schild, UNL Extension.

Mead FFA Receives Grant to Promote Technology within Agricultural Careers
The Mead FFA Chapter was awarded the 2010 Nebraska Investment Finance Authority grant. This grant will allow the chapter to purchase global positioning technology and promote the benefits of careers in agriculture.

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