Timely Resources

Like most of Nebraska, the ARDC saw a waterlogged June. We didn’t experience the major flooding that some parts of Saunders County and Nebraska had. However, the continuous onslaught of heavy rain and thunderstorms presented similar challenges to those being faced by producers. Like most producers, we were anxious to get in the fields and we had to make adjustments in the how, when and where factors. So when we say that our research and programs focus on Nebraska, research at the ARDC is done in “real-world” conditions. For those who were affected by the flooding, UNL Extension has put together a variety of resources ranging from drinking water safety to crop production in flood-damaged fields. Visit the website at: www.extension.unl.edu for more information.

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Calendar Of Events

July
13 UNMC Farm Safety Tour
15 4-H Council Meeting
20 Mid-Summer Crop Management Diagnostic Clinic
21 Mid-Summer Crop Management Diagnostic Clinic

August
5 Hemispheric Forum for Young Leaders in Ag
12-13 Sorghum Improvement Conference of North America
18 Wheat Board – Australian Visitors
19 Late Season Crop Management Diagnostic Clinic
23-25 State Fair Entries
26 USDA-AMS Focus Group
31 Precision Ag Practicum Begins

From Fairways to Lawns

Turfgrass is an excellent ground cover. It reduces soil erosion and soil water loss, capturing landscape chemicals and other toxins before they can run off or degrade water resources. Vigorous, well-adapted turfgrasses require few pesticide applications and can be managed with a minimum of fertilizer applications.

The John Seaton Anderson Turfgrass Research Facility is one of the largest University-based turfgrass research locations in the United States with approximately 50 irrigated acres and more than 70 total acres. The facility is used by numerous faculty from several departments at the University of Nebraska, including Agronomy and Horticulture, Plant Pathology, and Entomology, when screening turfgrass pesticides including herbicides, insecticides, and fungicides.

Research from the UNL Department of Agronomy and Horticulture Turfgrass Research Program has identified turfgrass species that thrive under Nebraska's growing conditions. Cultivated varieties (cultivars) of common turfgrasses, primarily Kentucky bluegrass and turf-type tall fescue, with better drought tolerance and disease resistance have been identified through the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program. Subsequently these varieties have been promoted to professional turfgrass managers, homeowners, and the green industry.

From Fairways to Lawns - Continued on Page 2

Crop Management Diagnostic Clinics: Hands-On Training, Widespread Impact

“It is always a good thing to be able to look at cropping practices from a new direction and in turn, expand overall knowledge."

— 2009 CMDC Participant

Crop Management Diagnostic Clinics (CMDC) provide a systems approach to training in four interrelated areas: crop management, nutrient management, post management and soil-water management.

Since 1996 over 12,000 agriculture business representatives, ag producers, crop consultants, and educators have attended the sessions at the Agricultural Research and Development Center. Those who have attended manage or influence 3.7 million acres annually or about 57% of the row crop production in Nebraska. Participants represent 64 Nebraska counties and 13 states.

Instruction is fee-based and includes: hands-on infield diagnostic training, field demonstrations, classroom lectures, demonstrations and problem solving exercises. Small groups promote interaction between faculty and participants with an opportunity to engage in discussion about cutting edge research. Each year training sessions are offered to both public audiences and private industry. Specialized sessions include precision farming and manure management.

The results show the tremendous economic impact of the CMDC and indicate significant environmental benefits. A survey of producers and crop advisors who attended clinics between 2003 and 2007 was recently completed. The response rate of the survey was 23%. Respondents valued the increased production resulting from attending the training at $36.4 million annually.

Learn more about the Crop Management Diagnostic Clinics at: http://ardc.unl.edu/cmdc.shtml. 2010 clinics include:
• July 20 – Mid-Summer Crop Management Diagnostic Clinic
• July 21 – Mid Summer Crop Management Diagnostic Clinic
• August 19 – Late Season Crop Management Diagnostic Clinic

“We have an impressive lineup of topics and speakers this summer that includes UNL faculty and private industry agronomists. We are pleased to have a well-known corn specialist on the program this year,” says Keith Glewen, UNL Extension educator. Roger Elmore of Iowa State University Extension will discuss high-yield corn management on July 20.

Certified Crop Adviser credits have been applied for and are pending approval for above clinics.
Youth Learn Valuable Skills at Summer 4-H Programs

The variety of workshops UNL Extension provided for area youth should have hushed the “I’m bored” comments that parents often hear when youth are out of school. The 4-H workshops included: Babysitting Basics; Canning and yeast bread workshop; Rocket Workshop; Dress for Success Workshop; Painting Workshop and the 4-H Clover Kid Day Camp.

“4-H is about learning. Just as the 4-H slogan reads, “Learn By Doing,” the summer workshop series is designed each year to provide specialized educational opportunities for youth to gain hands-on learning to enhance skill development,” stated Kara Dam, UNL Extension educator.

Quality Assurance training and the Animal Science Fun Day also provided the opportunity to learn about livestock and animals. At the Animal Science Fun Day participants learned about livestock nutrition through food identification and categories of feeds. They learned about beef cattle reproduction by seeing actual beef cattle reproductive tracts and learning about artificial insemination. And they visited the dairy research barn, saw a fistulated cow up close and learned about rumen fluid. They also learned about beef nutrition and dairy research at and dairy research projects at the ARDC. Teams then competed in a quiz bowl and a skill-a-thon.

According to Sara Ellickett, UNL Extension educator, “At the Animal Science Fun Day, youth were able to learn many scientific aspects of animal science while seeing and doing things that they don’t typically get to. Plus, they were able to see and hear about different career options they may pursue in the future.”

While the programs offered project or topic specific training, the life skills that the youth gain are just as important. The underlying goal of 4-H is to develop knowledge, skills and attitudes that will enable youth to become productive and contributing members of society.

“Beef - A Popular Topic at the ARDC”

Beef — it’s what people have been talking about at the ARDC this summer. A recent program highlighted “new” cuts of beef. UNL Extension partnered with the Nebraska Beef Council to offer the Beef Value Cuts program which showcased the value cuts that come from the chuck of a beef carcass. Most people associate chuck cuts with slow cooking or what is ground into hamburger. However, research has revealed that when certain tender muscles can be singled out in the chuck, it’s basically a matter of cutting the chuck area differently. For the consumer, this means a more moderately priced, tasty steak.

The program included a live cutting demonstration showing the new value cuts that come from the chuck roll. Participants learned about the value these cuts bring to a beef carcass. Most people associate chuck cuts with slow cooking or what is ground into hamburger. However, research has revealed that when certain tender muscles can be singled out in the chuck, it’s basically a matter of cutting the chuck area differently. For the consumer, this means a more moderately priced, tasty steak.

The Delmonico is just one of the new cuts that come from the chuck roll. Participants learned about the value these cuts bring to a beef carcass. Most people associate chuck cuts with slow cooking or what is ground into hamburger. However, research has revealed that when certain tender muscles can be singled out in the chuck, it’s basically a matter of cutting the chuck area differently. For the consumer, this means a more moderately priced, tasty steak.

The Delmonico is just one value cut that can be obtained from the chuck roll.
ATV Safety Training Helps Riders Stay Safe

There are many reasons people own an all-terrain vehicle (ATV). ATVs are useful for sorting cattle, checking crops and irrigation, controlling weeds in pastures, and even handy for moving snow. Some people use them for hunting. And others simply like the recreational aspect of owning an ATV.

ATVs are fast and they can go places other vehicles can’t go — features that attract riders of all ages. Regardless of how the ATV will be used, the operator needs to have a clear understanding of ATV safety.

And that is why University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension provides a statewide 4-H ATV RiderCourse training program.

Extension received a grant from the National 4-H Council, in conjunction with the ATV Safety Institute and local dealers, to train people to provide ATV safety training. Extension educators Bob Meduna and Dave Varner coordinate the program. Extension staff and volunteers serve as trainers for the ATV RiderCourse that is open to youth and adults.

The ATV RiderCourse provides fast-paced, hands-on training, which includes pre-ride inspection, starting and stopping, quick turns, hill riding, emergency stopping and swerving, and riding over obstacles. Participants learn about protective gear, local regulations, places to ride and environmental concerns.

Adult family members and 4-H and FFA leaders are also encouraged to participate. Participants are required to have safety gear and the correct size ATV. This year a fleet of youth-sized ATVs are being transported to training events to train youth who may not have the correct size machine.

In Nebraska ATV accidents caused 90 deaths (adults and children) from 1982 to 2008, according to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission website at www.atvsafety.gov. Between the years of 1982-2005, the organization reports that ATV accidents claimed the lives of 25 children under 16 in Nebraska.

The RiderCourse training offered by Extension teaches riders to take precautions to stay safe. ATVs should not be treated as a motorized toy. A common mistake made by many adults is to allow a child to drive or ride as a passenger on an adult size ATV. Children under 16 should drive only appropriately sized ATVs under adult supervision. Smaller ATVs that are less powerful and designed for smaller users.

ASI teaches the following “golden rules” for ATV safety:

- Always wear a helmet and other protective gear.
- Never ride on public roads — another vehicle could hit you.
- Never ride under the influence of alcohol or other drugs.
- Never carry a passenger on a single-rider vehicle.
- Ride an ATV that’s right for your age.
- Supervise riders younger than 16; ATVs are not toys.
- Ride only on designated trails and at a safe speed.
- Take an ATV RiderCourse; visit www.atvsafety.org

For more information on ATV safety or RiderCourse training, please call UNL Extension at 402-624-8030.

1 The USCPSC reports that data collection for 2006-2008 is incomplete.
**Soybean Management Field Day August 13 at the ARDC**

Each year Soybean Management Field Days are held at 4 sites across Nebraska. The field days will be held August 10 at Phillips, August 11 at Stuyla, August 12 at Tekamah, and August 13 at the ARDC. Learn more at http://ardc.unl.edu/soydays. The field days are sponsored by the Nebraska Soybean Board in partnership with UNL Extension.

**Precision Ag Practicum**

A new UNL Extension program will provide comprehensive training for those interested in obtaining hands-on precision ag training. The Precision Ag Practicum consists of 3 multi-day sessions (August 31-September 2, early December, and February 9-10) and weekly interseesion via conference calls or web. Each session will include a combination of presentations and exercises. Learn more at http://ardc.unl.edu/precisionagpracticum/.

**Extended Visions**

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**SREC Showcases Research/Extension Connection**

The UNL Southeast Research and Extension Center (SREC) showcased the connection between research and Extension at a recent tour for area stakeholders at the ARDC. SREC partners with UNL Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources department faculty on a wide variety of research projects and educational programs. The day provided the opportunity to see how some of those connections work.

Those attending learned about distillers co-products, irrigation technologies, crop diagnostics and on-farm research, organic crops, crop canopy sensors, turfgrass management, water quality, and youth scientists in 4-H.

See You at the Saunders County Fair July 25 - August 1

**SUNDAY, JULY 25**

* 1 p.m. 4-H Archery Contest - Gayle Hattan Pavilion

* 4 p.m. Tractor Pull

**MONDAY, JULY 26**

* 8:30 a.m. Fashion Revue Judging - 4-H Building

* 8:30 a.m. Dog Show - Gayle Hattan Pavilion

* 9 a.m. Open to All Livestock Entries (Beef, Dairy, Sheep, Swine, Goats, Poultry, Rabbits)

* 10:30 a.m. Check-in for Cats - Open Air Auditorium

* 11 a.m. Cat Show - Open Air Auditorium

* 12 p.m. Dog Agility - Gayle Hattan Pavilion (or 30 minutes following conclusion of the Dog Show)

* 1 p.m. Favorite Foods Review - 4-H Building

* 3:30 p.m. 4-H BB Gun Shooting Sports Competition - Gayle Hattan Pavilion (or following conclusion of dog agility contest)

* 6 p.m. 4-H Air Rifle Shooting Sports Competition - Gayle Hattan Pavilion

* 7 p.m. Public Fashion Revue - Open Air Revue

**TUESDAY, JULY 27**

* 8:30 a.m. Halter horses checked in prior to 8:30 a.m.

* 9 a.m. 4-H Horse Show - Judging Halter Classes, Showmanship - Rodeo Arena

* 9:30 a.m. Performance horses checked in prior to 9:30 a.m.

* TBA that day 4-H Horse Show - Performance, Walk-Trot, Pleasure, Horsemanship, Western Riding, Speed - Rodeo Arena (immediately following halter classes or at a time set at the discretion of the superintendents and judge)

* 10:15 a.m. Check-in: 4-H Rabbit and Poultry - Poultry/Rabbit Barn

* 10:30 a.m. 4-H Rabbit and Poultry - Poultry/Rabbit Barn

* 11 a.m. 4-H Rabbit Showmanship followed by the show - Gayle Hattan Pavilion

* 8:30 a.m. 4-H Small Pet Show - Open Air Pavilion

* 9 a.m.-9 p.m. 4-H Building Open to the Public

**THURSDAY, JULY 29**

* 9 a.m. 9- p.m. 4-H Building Open to Public

* 8:30 a.m. 4-H Sheep Show - Judging Breeding & Market - Gayle Hattan Pavilion

* 1:30 p.m. 4-H Dairy & Pygmy Goat Show - Gayle Hattan Pavilion

* 8:30 a.m. Dairy Cattle Show - Gayle Hattan Pavilion (or 30 minutes following the Dairy Goat Show) (Only Milking Dairy Cattle released following the show!)

* 10:30 a.m. 4-H Meat Goat Show - Gayle Hattan Pavilion (or 30 minutes following the Sheep Show)

* 6 p.m. Saunders County Fair Parade - Downtown Wahoo

* 8 p.m. Best Dressed Goat - Gayle Hattan Pavilion

**FRIDAY, JULY 30**

* 7:30 - 8:30 a.m. Check-in Jr Bulls, Feeder & Bucket Calves

* 8:30 a.m. 4-H Rabbit Showmanship followed by the show - Open Air Pavilion

* 9 a.m. 4-H and FFA Beef Show - Judging Breeding & Market - Gayle Hattan Pavilion

* 9 a.m. 9- p.m. 4-H Building Open to the Public

* 10:30 a.m. 4-H Poultry Showmanship followed by the show - Open Air Pavilion

* 7 p.m. Figure 8 Races - Rodeo Arena

**SATURDAY, JULY 31**

* 8:30 a.m. 4-H Swine Show - Gayle Hattan Pavilion

* 9 a.m. 9- p.m. 4-H Building Open to the Public

* 9 a.m. 9- p.m. 4-H Small Pet Show - Open Air Pavilion

* 10:30 a.m. Clover Kids Show (or after Small Pet Show) - Open Air Pavilion

* 2:45 p.m. Register for Ice Cream Rolling - Open Class Patio

* 3 p.m. Ice Cream Rolling Contest - Open Class Patio

* 3 p.m. Livestock Round Robin Showmanship - Gayle Hattan Pavilion (or half-hour following Swine Show)

* 5 p.m. Semi/Pickup Pull - Rodeo Arena

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 1**

* 8 a.m. Release of all 4-H and FFA livestock, rabbits and poultry

* 12 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. 4-H Building Open to the Public

* 12 p.m. Demo Derby (cars, trucks, combines) - Rodeo Arena

* 6:30 p.m. 4-H BBQ - Gayle Hattan Pavilion

* 5 p.m. Mentorious Awound Recognition - Gayle Hattan Pavilion

* 5:30 p.m. Livestock Sale - Gayle Hattan Pavilion

* 5:30 p.m. Home Ec Exhibits released

* 6 p.m. State Fair and Ak-Sar-Ben entries due