Moravec Selected as ARDC Employee of the Year

Lisa Moravec has been selected as the recipient of the 2009 Employee of the Year Award at the ARDC. Sponsored by the ARDC/UNL Extension in Saunders County, the award is designed to recognize a staff employee for outstanding service to the agency.

A nominator for Lisa, noted, “Lisa's business functions support for our unit to make the daily operations flow smoothly. She is irreplaceable in her support of the Director's position and responsibilities.”

Lisa is responsible for the business office functions of Husker Genetics since 2000, including such tasks as financial management, ordering supplies, and the organization of training sessions. She possesses a bachelor’s degree in Agriculture with a major in accounting, and other such as taking orders, answering customer inquiries, and preparing reports.

The School of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences (SVM&BMS) unit, located predominantly in the northeast corner of the ARDC property, consists of approximately 350 acres of grassland. The school currently maintains a beef cow-calf herd consisting of approximately 100 head of adult breeding animals that calve in the spring. SVM&BMS primarily relies on brome grass pastures and hay as the feed sources for the cows. In addition, by-product feeds, such as distiller’s grains, alfalfa, cornstalks, and bean stubble round out the feedstuffs for maintaining the cow herd.

Lisa was presented with the Employee of the Year plaque by Mark Schroeder, ARDC Director.


Other Top Honors

UNL Extension Educator, Keith Glewen, received the George Beadle award at the Annual Wahoo Chamber of Commerce Awards Banquet. The award embodies excellence in education and training. Beadle combines the worlds of education and science. The School of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences (SVM&BMS) unit, located predominantly in the northeast corner of the ARDC property, consists of approximately 350 acres of grassland. The school currently maintains a beef cow-calf herd consisting of approximately 100 head of adult breeding animals that calve in the spring.

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UNL’s Ag Research Division Boasts 36% Rate of Return Over 42-Year Period

While investing money in the stock market can be risky in today's economy, investing in the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Agricultural Research Division is a pretty sure thing, offering an internal rate of return of 36 percent in the period of study.

The UNL study found that for every $1 invested in ARD, the major research arm of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln’s Agricultural Experiment Station, investors received the equivalent net annual benefits of 36 cents every year for 31 years, amounting to $17. This is more than twice the national average return of $8. Nebraska's ARD returns rank second nationally with only the University of Missouri's Agricultural Experiment Station ranking just slightly higher with a 37 percent rate of return. The study was conducted in all 48 continental U.S. states. On average, the rate of return in other states was 29 percent.

"These returns are very impressive," said Lilyan Fulginiti, UNL agricultural economist. "The ARD’s impressive 36 percent rate of return beats the 9 percent and 12 percent average returns of the S&P 500 and NASDAQ-composite indexes during the same period.

Fulginiti conducted this research, along with Alejandro Plastina, an economist at the International Cotton Advisory Committee.

At a time of declining financial support from the federal government for agricultural research, every dollar counts. This study shows that research and development through land-grant universities helps the agricultural sector become competitive by substantially contributing to increases in productivity, Fulginiti said.

Nebraska agriculture depends heavily on the scientific advancements ARD provides, said Susan Fritz, interim dean and director of the ARD and associate vice chancellor of IANR.

"Nebraska has a bio-based economy, with ARD RATE OF RETURN - Cont. on P. 4

This is the eighth year the award has been presented. Past winners can be viewed online at http://ardc.unl.edu/eoy.shtml.
About the People

Danny Josoff is a part-time employee for Vet Science. Danny also works for the SV&MBS in the Veterinary Diagnostic Center. Both Blaine and Sharon are graduates of the University of Nebraska with Bachelor degrees in Animal Science. Danny Josoff is part-time employee for Vet Science. Danny and his wife Jennifer, along with their four daughters, Bailey, Liberty, McKinley, and Laycee live north of Yutan. They own and run a small group of cows and background their own calves. Their family is very busy with youth sports and school activities. They also spend the early summer getting 4-H projects ready for the county fair. Danny has been with the department for 2 years. Danny’s role is an essential part in the day-to-day management of the unit.

Classes and labs provide students experience in animal handling, body condition scoring, pre-breeding health maintenance, breeding soundness, pregnancy diagnosis and processing at weaning.

Richard Randle, PhD

Are You Ready and Prepared for Calving Season?

by Sara Ellicott, UNL Extension Educator

Many cattlemen are likely beginning to think about calving season, since it is not all that far off; some may already be in the middle of it. I thought this week I would dedicate some time to a few reminders to consider in preparing for calving season.

First and foremost, it is important to have your calving barn or facility ready before it is time to use it. Have it clean and ready to go and have plenty of bedding on hand so that you do not have to scramble when your first calves start coming.

It is important to have some essential supplies on hand, so you are ready to go. Last winter, Rick Rabsy, UNL beef specialist, presented a workshop here locally and he included some good calving reminders. Here are a few things off his list.

A few basic supplies that might be necessary during calving season: calving notebook or book to record date of birth, tag numbers, problems, or anything else you need to write down to reference later; ear tags/tattoo equipment for calf identification; suitable stalls/pens, chute for restraining cows/heifers; halter for cattle; O.B. chains (30 inch and 60 inch stainless steel) and O.B. chain handles; calf puller; bucket, disinfectant, water; O.B. gloves and lubricant; iodine for navels; uterine boluses; antibiotics; electrolyte powder (commercial or homemade); calf tube to deliver electrolyte solution; scour boluses; knowledge of anatomy and calving process; and lots of patience.

At the recent Beef Profitability Workshop on February 4, Dr. Randy Randle, Extension Beef Cattle Veterinarian, addressed some of calving topics during his presentation. Calving difficulty has major impact on the cow and calf; for example, calves experiencing dystocia are four times more likely to be born dead or die within 24 hours of birth and calving difficulty may also cause a delayed return to estrus for cows. Dr. Randle discussed “abnormal” calving, how/when to determine if assistance is needed and also when to call your veterinarian. Those in attendance found this presentation to be a good review, and there were a lot of questions asked.

Finally, Dr. Randle covered newborn calf care, discussing the importance of colostroin to the calf and also some about calf scours. A few good reminders for calf scours: it is important to optimize the environment; meaning, separate calving pastures from winter pastures, calving pastures should have adequate drainage, provide protection for your cattle from the elements, avoid overcrowding, and maintain clean, dry, and warm environment.

For more specific information regarding Dr. Randle’s presentation, please contact Sara Ellicott, Extension Educator at sellcott2@unl.edu or (402) 624-8303.

Best wishes for a successful calving season!

Learning About Meat Goats

by Sara Ellicott, UNL Extension Educator

Over 35 participants took part in a meat goat workshop in February at the ARDC. Goat meat is not something everyone should or will consider. However, there have been a growing number of them in this country and the southeastern Nebraska region, so educational programs such as this is critical to proper management.

Randy Saner, UNL Extension Educator in Lincoln/McPherson counties presented a session about parasite management, explaining that this is one of the major challenges producers face when raising meat goats, particularly the fact that many of the medications available to treat these parasites are becoming less effective. Saner explained how producers need to know and understand what these parasite cycles are, use of multi-species grazing techniques may help with this situation, and also conducted FAMACHA training, something everyone should or will consider.

Best wishes for a successful meat goat season!
Final Weigh Day for 4-H Market Beef

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 was held in January. The second and final opportunity will be on Saturday, March 20th from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. at the Wahoo Sale Barn.

Animals that will be shown at the county fair or Fremont 4-H Fair only will need to 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.

Mark Your Calendars for These Dates...

- 4-H Speak and Split Contest - March 30, 6 pm, Mead High School (Register by Mar. 26)
- 4-H Enrollment Forms Due - April 1
- ATV Training (Open to youth and adults) - 4-H or non-4-H who want to improve their riding skills and knowledge. There is a maximum of 5 per class session, so pre-registration is REQUIRED. Participants will provide their own machine that is age appropriate.
- Saunders County Fair, July 25—August 1
- Fremont 4-H Fair, July 7—11
- Nebraska State Fair, August 27—September 6.

Youth – Do You Enjoy Livestock? Then This is for You!

4-H livestock judging is a program that has been around a long time throughout the state and nation. It was at one time in Saunders County, but for various reasons has not been a formal part of the 4-H program for several years. This is the second year we are working on getting this re-started in the county for any youth that are interested.

Any youth involved in livestock projects or those interested in livestock are encouraged to attend. Youth will learn about livestock evaluation and how to place classes of beef, sheep and swine, along with defending their decision by giving oral reasons. There will be additional sessions planned in June where participants will look at classes of livestock, and there are opportunities for youth to participate in livestock judging contests this summer. There are some contests held in neighboring counties, along with one in Kearney, both in June. The culmination for the year is the Premier Animal Science Event (PASE) livestock judging contest, held on East Campus June 30, and open to all counties in the state. Our goal is to send a team or teams to this contest to represent Saunders County.

4-H youth interested in participating on the livestock judging team should contact Sara Ellicott, Extension Educator, as soon as possible. The first meetings were held in February, but the next sessions are: March 24, April 7, April 21 and May 12. All sessions start at 7:00 p.m. Those that were unable to attend these meetings are encouraged to come and begin learning. This will be introductory, no experience is necessary!

We are excited to see this program going again. There has been a decent amount of interest in the program, and our hope is that it continues to grow over time. For anyone interested in participating, learning more about livestock judging, or serving as an adult volunteer, please contact Sara Ellicott at 800-529-8030 or sellicot2@unl.edu.

Crop-Related Training

At the Saunders County Extension Office located at the ARDC August 7. N. Christensen Research & Education Building

Mar. 16 - Crop Scout Training for Pest Managers
Mar. 18 - nitrogen Management Training
Mar. 19 - Chemigation Training
Mar. 31 - Private Pesticide Applicator Training
May 11 - Field Scout Training

Learn more about these and other UNL Extension programs at www.saunder.unl.edu.

Saunders County Growers Improve Nutrition for Guatemalans

Soy protein is a valuable resource in feeding the world. In both Guatemala and Honduras, malnutrition and undernourishment are prevalent causes of death for many children and young adults. And that is why the Saunders County Soybean Growers Association contributed towards the purchase of a “SoyCow” for children in Guatemala.

A SoyCow is a processing system that can grind and cook whole soybeans into soy milk. Products, such as tofu and yogurt are then made from the soy milk. According to the World Soy Foundation, one pound of dry soybeans makes approximately one gallon of soy milk or yogurt. The World Soy Foundation has funded some of the work done by the World Initiative for Soy in Human Health (WISHH) and the National Soybean Research Laboratory at the University of Illinois in multiple developing countries that use the SoyCows to produce food for orphanages and still have food available to sell, making the operations economically sustainable.

UNL Extension Educator, Keith Glewen traveled with Nebraska soybean growers, Dennis Fujan, Bill Kremlake, and Mark Caspers to Guatemala in January to see the SoyCow in action and to meet some of the children in the girls’ orphanage where the equipment is in use.

Not only are the girls receiving an excellent source of protein, but they are also obtaining nutrition training and the older girls are learning about marketing the excess products from the soy cow.

More than $6,000 worth of soybeans were shipped to Guatemala provided by the Nebraska Soybean Checkoff Board. The group also saw projects that the World Soy Foundation is helping fund with CARE, Cargill, Rotary International and pediatric organizations during their trip.

The Nebraska delegation is shown with some of the Guatemalan children who have benefited from the SoyCow system.
Extended Visions

March/April 2010

Extended Visions was produced and edited by Deloris Pittman, Marketing & Promotions Manager. Extended Visions is published bimonthly by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Agricultural Research & Development Center.

Mead Students Gaining Valuable Skills through Hands on Experience

There are three important elements that make up Agricultural Education. One is classroom learning, where students learn about different aspects of agriculture in a classroom or laboratory setting. Another one is leadership, which members of the FFA develop through participating in contests, conventions, and attending meetings. The third element is Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE), which is more commonly referred to as an SAE. SAEs are all about members getting hands on experience in specific agricultural settings and developing skills from that experience. Mead FFA members have many interesting SAEs they dedicate their personal time developing.

A brief look at Allison Hough’s and Matthew Rozic’s SAEs may help one understand the value of this program. Allison Hough spends summers and weekends volunteering at the Lincoln Children’s Zoo. Her tasks include cleaning cages and feeding animals. She has learned how to properly handle various wild and exotic animals, her favorite are the camels. Most of her time however is spent teaching. She educates the public on wildlife and conservation using several different animals. “My SAE has helped me develop more responsible and understand what it takes to have a job. The skills I have developed will help me in a career working with animals,” said Allison Hough.

Matthew Rozic spends time throughout the year serving as a tour guide. He takes people from all over the country on guided hunting and fishing trips throughout Nebraska. Matt plans and organizes the hunt, scouts for animals, helps preserve habitat, and processes the meat. He said, “I love meeting new people and learning new things from each of them.” Matt enjoys the outdoors and this project allows him to gain valuable skills while doing what he loves.

A Supervised Agricultural Experience program is a key component of agricultural education. While working on an SAE project, students learn about the concepts and principles taught in their agriculture classes to real-world problems and scenarios. This allows them to gain knowledge and skills needed to be successful in a career. These opportunities are building business owners, scientists, educators, technicains, and producers of tomorrow.

Meet the SRC Staff

In our last issue, an article was included about the Southeast Research and Extension Center (SREC) moving to the ARDC Christenson Building. In this edition we introduce two of the staff members now located at the building.

Kay Klundt is the office supervisor for the SREC. She provides support to the SREC headquarters, district faculty, and staff and has been with the SREC since 1972. She also served as secretary to the Seward County Extension Service. She is a past recipient of the IANR Outstanding Office/Service Employee and the UNL Kudo Award.

Connie Hansen is an office associate and is often the first person you will see when you visit the Christenson Building at the ARDC, as she serves as the receptionist at the front desk. She also organizes and events and facilities for annual 4-H conferences, University Youth Conference and the Recently Appointed Administrator Workshop. She has been with UNL since 1991 and has also worked in UNL’s Law College and Division of Continuing Studies. Connie has a B.Sc. Degree in Advertising and Journalism from UNL. She has one son.

If you are at the Christenson Building, please stop by, say “hi” and introduce yourself to Kay and Connie!

Remembering Gayle Hattan

Gayle Hattan, former County Agent and Extension Agent in Saunders County passed away on February 16, 2010. He received his Masters Degree in Dairy Science from the University of Nebraska and served in the US Marine Corp during World War II. Gayle moved to Wahoo in 1952 and served as a Saunders County Extension Agent for over 30 years retiring in 1986. He was a big promoter of the 4 H programs all across Saunders County. Keith Glewen, currently Extension Educator in Saunders County noted that during the first six years of Glewen’s career in Extension he had the pleasure of working with Gayle. According to Keith, “during that period of time I learned a great deal about Extension work by working together on projects with Gayle.” Gayle had a great rapport with the citizens of Saunders County and especially producers and 4-H youth involved with production agriculture. He took it to learn people and had a great understanding of their needs.

Because of that he was able to bring University research-based Extension programs to the county to address those needs. Gayle was very successful at developing and nurturing those relationships. His efforts and impact on the County are still evident today.

Best Wishes to Josh Benton

Josh Benton was recognized at a recent farewell reception at the ARDC. Josh served as the manager of the beef feedlot from January 2007 to December 2009. Josh is pictured receiving a plaque from Mark Schroeder, ARDC Director. We extend our very best wishes to Josh as he works on completing his dissertation.

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

Allison Hough and a Camel at the Lincoln Children’s Zoo.