Making History

When talking about ‘making history’, one hopes that it will be for something positive. For instance, a research project or an educational program that has lasting positive impact on the livelihood of Nebraskans.

Unfortunately, an infamous historical event was made September 13, 2010—a rare late season hail and wind storm tore through the ARDC and surrounding community leaving a path of destruction in its wake. More photos and information on the storm and damage can be found on Page 3.

Turning to a more positive story, in this issue we take a “historical” look at Husker Genetics and Foundation Seed. The division has seen many changes over the years and continues to provide outstanding, high-quality seed.

And perhaps making another page in history, this may be recorded as the final issue of Extended Visions that UNL Extension will participate in. UNL Extension in Saunders County and the Southeastern Extension and Research Center will no longer participate in the newsletter due to budget constraints.

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13 & 14 Precision Ag Pracicum
16 NE Soybean Day & Machinery Expo
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Changes at the Extension Office

As a result of budget problems facing Saunders County and the budget cuts handed down by the County Board of Supervisors, this will be the last issue in which UNL Extension in Saunders County will contribute to the Extended Visions newsletter. Current arrangements are for the extension office to share the cost of producing, printing, and mailing the Extended Visions newsletter with the Agricultural Research and Development Center (ARDC).

Items to cut in the extension office budget needed to be identified to maintain core or basic services and educational programs for the youth and adult citizens of Saunders County. We will continue to provide educational programs and information via the media when financial resources allow. The Extended Visions newsletter was an effective method of connecting the research and extension component of your land-grant university. Unfortunately, we have very little left to cut in our operating budget and this item was reluctantly identified.

In addition, Sarah Browning, Extension educator who has provided horticulture educational programs in Saunders and Dodge counties has made a career move. Starting December 1, Sarah will provide leadership for horticulture at the UNL Extension in Lancaster County office.

During her tenure in Saunders and Dodge counties, Sarah has developed numerous extension programs which have added much to the quality of life for the citizens she touched. She will be greatly missed and we wish Sarah the best in her new charge. Sarah’s departure will result in changes in the position description. The new hire will be located in the UNL Extension in Dodge County office and will no longer have programming responsibilities for Saunders County.

I wish I could bring you better news, unfortunately, we live in a very volatile world. With the limited resources we have left, we will work as hard as we always have, to provide readers and citizens of the county and state with the highest quality, unbiased, research-based educational programs possible.

We again would like to express our thanks to the many who have provided support throughout the budget process.

Thank you,
Keith Glewen

Tomorrow’s Future

Under Development Today

The University of Nebraska has a history of providing a consistent, reliable supply of well-adapted seed varieties to certified growers. UNL researchers spend years breeding cultivars—sometimes it takes 10-15 years to develop a new variety.

The role of the Foundation Seed Division (FSD) has been to increase small amounts of those new seed varieties to ensure sufficient seed distribution to certified seed growers. The seed is further increased by certified seed growers to provide high-quality seed for Nebraska farmers. These important steps being used seedstock from the plant breeder’s research plot to the farmer’s field.

UNL’s research team has done an outstanding job of developing superior soybeans, and this has been a steady increase in the demand for this germplasm. A clear marketing identity was needed for the release of these seed lines.

Husker Genetics was introduced in 2001 and merged with the Foundation Seed Division in 2008. Husker Genetics is how UNL licenses seed technology and serves as an interface between the University and industry. It provides an outlet for the vast genetic wealth of the university.

As a self-supporting, nonprofit organization, operating funds are derived directly from sales of foundation seeds and services. Services provided by the Nebraska Crop Improvement Association are utilized for inspection of seed fields. And the expertise of agronomists, plant breeders, plant pathologists, entomologists, and extension specialists are also drawn upon.

Extended Visions

Sponsored by UNL Extension, the Nebraska Soybean Board, Saunders County Soybean Growers Organization, and private industry.

This year’s featured speaker is Joe Russell speaking on “Managing Risk and Marketing in Volatile Times.”

Other presentations include:
• Husker Genetics – University Soybean Breeding Program - Where do they fit?
• Seed Treatments: Are they worth it?
• Sudden Death Syndrome – Has the plague reached Nebraska?
• Nebraska Soybean Checkoff Update and Association Information
• New Wells - New Challenges
• Monitoring Soybean Water Use

NEBRASKA SOYBEAN DAY & MACHINERY EXPO
THURSDAY, Dec. 16
8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
with a Break scheduled at 10:00 a.m.
so you can view equipment and visit with exhibitors.
Sponsored by UNL Extension, the Nebraska Soybean Board, Saunders County Soybean Growers Organization and private industry.

Thank you,
Keith Glewen
Husker Genetics currently has 11 experimental wheat varieties and four released varieties under increase for 2011. Wheat producers can see a list of wheat varieties recommended for their part of the state, read about a variety's characteristics, and compare those characteristics to other varieties of interest at the website above. The site also shows how varieties performed in nearby wheat variety trials and where to locate a certified seed dealer that carries the specific varieties.

The following provides a timeline of how Husker Genetics developed into what it is today. Because of the close working relationship with the Nebraska Crop Growers’ Association, the timeline begins with the earliest beginnings of seed certification in Nebraska.

- **On February 6, 1946,** Foundation Seed Stock production was transferred from NCIA to the Nebraska Hybrid Seed Corn Producers’ Association.
- **On March 7, 1941,** the Nebraska Hybrid Seed Corn Producers’ Association was formed.
- **On February 6, 1946,** Foundation Seed Stock production was transferred from NCIA to the Nebraska Hybrid Seed Corn Producers’ Association.
- **Nov. 1, 1949—All responsibility for Foundation Seed production was transferred to UNL’s newly formed Foundation Seed Division (FSD).**
- **The final transfer of assets from Nebraska Hybrid Seed Corn Producers’ Association took place in 1960.**
- **H.R. 67 was passed on March 10, 1961. It gave seed certification legal status in Nebraska.**
- **Foundation Seed Division was under the administration of Dean W.W. Burr designated Nebraska Crop Growers’ Association official certification agency.**
- **In 1943, the name was officially changed to the Nebraska Crop Improvement Association (NCIA).**
- **On November 1, 1949,** all responsibility for Foundation Seed production was transferred to UNL’s newly formed Foundation Seed Division (FSD).
- **Foundation Seed Division was transferred from UNL’s Department of Agronomy to UNL’s Agricultural Research Division (ARD) on Jan. 1, 2000. Within the ARD, the responsibility for the FSD was assigned to the director of the ARDC.**
- **Husker Genetics was created to handle transgenic licensing and production for UNL in 2001.**
- **Husker Genetics day-to-day operations were handled by the Foundation Seed Division through an administrative contract.**
- **Husker Genetics was expanded to include all releases to create brand identity from 2003-2008.**
- **The Foundation Seed Division was merged into Husker Genetics on July 1, 2008.**
Not Just Another Storm

At 4:59 p.m. on Monday, September 13, 2010, powerful straight-line winds ripped through the research center and halliots the size of golf balls pummeled the earth and everything in between. Employees and local residents described the period that the hail fell as "seeming like it lasted forever." At the ARDC, the hailstorm lasted approximately 20 minutes.

The drifts of hail that were left behind after the storm subsided were testament to the fact that it wasn't just a short-lived event. The relentless storm ravaged crops, buildings, vehicles, and basically anything in its path, causing severe damage.

At the ARDC, 3000 acres of crops were damaged plus loss of fall pastures. Valuable research equipment, data, and projects were destroyed or damaged. The storm brought many research projects to a sudden and losing a year or more of research work.

At the carbon sequestration project site, specialized equipment was damaged to the tune of $52,000. "Droits" as deep as golf balls pitted the research golf greens at the turf research area. Features that were to be used for grazing cattle were gone. Slings and fostrusts had to be reburied. Fences were damaged by downed powerlines. A cutting of alfalfa was lost. Two horses and a pig died as a result of the storm.

Forty-eight buildings were damaged. The two onsite residences suffered substantial damages. Even walls deep inside the dairy residence had dents and holes either caused by hail ricocheting through broken windows or thrusting in the 70-80 mph winds. While some damage was very apparent immediately after the storm, surprises will most likely continue. For instance, a pilot that seemed unscathed by the storm had an alignment switch destroyed. An employee noticed the problem when the pivot was started. The irrigation system would have eventually collapsed upon itself had he not noticed. Volunteer corn will undoubtedly be an issue next season with all of the downed crops.

A crop agent commented he has never seen a hailstorm like this one last 30-plus years. But the good news...no one was hurt. An eerie one his 30 plus years. But the good news...no one was hurt. An eerie fog settled in immediately after the storm - followed by a beautiful double rainbow seen in the background of this article. Perhaps it was a reminder that things could have been worse.

On October 21, the President made a disaster declaration for Cass, Johnson, Nemaha, Otoe, Pawnee, Richardson, and Saunders counties as a result of the September storms. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) included the ARDC in the disaster declaration.

More photos online at www.ardc.unl.edu/Sept2010storm.shtml.

In November, 100 Raymond Central students and 30 adults converged upon the ARDC and took part in a fund-raising project.

Research projects and equipment sustained major damage.

Over 30 UNL and personal vehicles took a beating. Windows on vehicles and buildings cracked, broken and shattered. Nearly 100 windows on buildings were broken.

From Farms to Families

Husker Genetics - Continued from Page 2

Marketing and Management

Husker Genetics seeks to find a broader audience for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources’ (IANR) genetic material, to develop high quality genetic material for Nebraska the surrounding region and beyond, and to increase the visibility of the IANR.

Husker Genetics will work with release agreements with UNL for plant varieties that require this type of outlet for commercialization. Husker Genetics also works with license agreements with companies to increase and sell the plant varieties. Jeff Noel and Lisa Moravec are instrumental on the marketing and management side of Husker Genetics. But they also jump in and lend a hand when things get busy in the production plant and field.

Jeff Noel is the Husker Genetics director and started in January 2003. He is originally from Kentucky and graduated from Western Kentucky University with a bachelor's degree in ag and business administration. He grew up on a grain and livestock farm and raised cattle and hogs, corn, soybeans, wheat, barley, and tobacco. He also managed a Co-op Agronomy Division and worked for WILFARM LLC and LEL. He moved to Nebraska from Badger, Iowa.

Lisa Moravec, staff assistant, performs office functions for Husker Genetics, such as taking orders, accounting, and other duties. She has been with the division since 2000 and possesses a bachelor's degree in agriculture with a major in ag education from UNL.

Upcoming Livestock Programs

Beef Course Short-Course Program

Beef producers can tune into NET 2 at home in December and January and join us in UNL Extension's Beef Short-Course Program, "Staying Competitive in an Ever-Changing Beef Cow-Calf Industry.

The short-course series is designed to help cow-calf producers remain competitive in an industry that is constantly changing. The cow-calf enterprise is a complex production system that integrates human, financial, and natural resources. Small profit margins in relation to large capital investments and increasing operating costs require producers to integrate management techniques that optimize output and are environmentally sustainable. Public policy will impact cow/calf producers. These programs will help cow/calf producers in their quest to remain competitive in an ever-changing industry.

The sessions are from 7-8 p.m. and will be followed by a question and answer session. Dates and topics include:

Dec. 16 - Animal Identification and Using Ear Tag New Technology as a Management Tool
Jan. 27 - Managing Calving Interval and Its Impact on Profit Potential and Estrous Synchronization Protocols for Beef Cows and Heifers
Jan. 31 - Optimizing Cow Size: Matching Cow Size and Milk Production and Your Resources and Getting You Bulls Battery Ready for the Breeding Season
Feb. 27 - Managing Calving Interval and Its Impact on Profit Potential and Estrous Synchronization Protocols for Beef Cows and Heifers

UNL Extension is providing Beef Profitability Workshops that are scheduled to be held on February 3 at the August N. Christenson Building at the ARDC. Cost is $25 per session or $45 for both sessions. Price includes all materials and a light supper. Registration deadline is Feb. 2 for session 1 and Feb. 15 for session 2.

To register, contact UNL Extension educator, Sara Elliott at (402) 624-8030, (800) 529-8030, or email sellicott2@unl.edu.

What Else is Coming Up?

Visit saunders.unl.edu or call us. (800) 562-1576 or (402) 472-0638 on the nights of the sessions.

UNL Extension will also host a Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) Training. Producing beef following BQA guidelines assures consumers that beef is safe, wholesome, and of high quality.

For more information, contact UNL Extension educator, Sara Elliott at (402) 624-8030, (800) 529-8030, or email sellicott2@unl.edu.

Details will be posted on the web soon at saunders.unl.edu.
Connecting with Area Schools

Ag Awareness - A Different Perspective

Since its inception in 1996, the Ag Awareness Festival held at the ARDC has provided hands-on ag education to almost 11,000 youth! This fall, over 700 fourth-grade students visited the ARDC to learn about agriculture and farming practice. The festival is a great opportunity for kids to learn about agriculture, and it allows them to see science and agriculture become really exciting.

Students participating in the “Mighty Mouse V Super Pet” session learned about genetic engineering in animal agriculture through a lab activity with UNL’s Animal Science unique mice.

Pesticide Applicator Training

UNL Extension will provide training for private pesticide applicators with expiring certification and those seeking first-time certification in 2013. February training dates include:

- February 1 - 4 p.m.
- February 2 - 6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

4-H Calendar

- Jan. 15 - Market Beef Weigh Day, 1 p.m.-3 p.m., Wahoo Sale Barn
- Feb. 24 - Quality Assurance Train the Trainer, 7 p.m., ARDC
- Mar. 19 - Market Beef Weigh Day, 1 p.m.-3 p.m., Wahoo Sale Barn

Science Festival - A Rewarding Experience

Who says science can’t be fun? Take 70 junior high students out of the classroom and provide them with hands-on learning projects - they might not have the resources or time for at their schools - and science becomes really exciting.

The science festival was sponsored by UNL Extension and coordinated by Karina Dam, UNL Extension educator. Schools attending included: North Bend Central, Wahoo Public, Wahoo Bishop Neumann and Douglas County West.

Students were selected by their science instructors to attend this special event. The youth learned about potential career paths which will help them look at science from a variety of new perspectives.

Students selected two science tracks. Each track provided hands-on learning and opportunity for investigation. Topics included Meteorology and Climatology, Mighty Mouse V Super Pet, Beekeeping as a Science, Power of Wind, LEGO Mindstorms NXT Robotics.

North Bend Central science instructor, Bob Feurer, says that he uses the festival as a high ability learner activity and limit participation to the 5 highest grades in each class on the days selections are made. He said, “The students get to do activities that they wouldn’t or couldn’t in the regular classroom. The robots are too expensive, the bee to difficult to deal with, the equipment in general unavailable. They get to work with other adults over an extended period of time in a non-classroom setting.” He added that some got to meet students from other schools. “They won’t have a similar experience anywhere in their junior high experience here at North Bend,” he said.

“Topics are also outside the normal realm of the standards.” Tricia Meduna of Bishop Neumann Jr./Sr. High School commented, “Connecting with Area Schools.

Nebraska No-Till Conference

UNL Extension will provide corn and soybean producers information on how to be successful with no-till farming practices at the Nebraska No-Till Conference.

The conference is from 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. on Feb. 15 at UNL's Agricultural Research and Development Center near Mead, Feb. 16 at the Loup Valley Ag Complex in Ord, and Feb. 17 at the Ag Center in Holdrege. Registration begins at 9 a.m.

Science Festival is important for the students, they need to know about our state and the Festival teaches about our agriculture," she says.

Teresa Luers of Ashland-Greenwood said that fourth-grade students are able to make a connection to what they read about and then see it for themselves. She says, "I know the students learned a lot from the presentations because I had them write in their journals about what they learned. Here are some of the students' comments:

- I learned that a cow has four different stomachs.
- I learned that corn and soybeans are made into many different products.
- I had the chance to pet baby piglets and eat ham.
- I saw a baby calf that was only 4 days old!
- I learned that a cow can only give milk after having a baby.
- I learned that you have to be extra careful around farm machinery or you can get hurt really badly.

Keith Glewen, Extension Educator & Unit Leader, University of Nebraska–Lincoln Extension in Saunders County, University of Nebraska Agricultural Research & Development Center, Gifford Farm Education Center, Dairy Council of Nebraska, Farmers National Company, and the Nebraska Beef Council.

Keith Glewen, Extension Educator & Unit Leader, University of Nebraska–Lincoln Extension in Saunders County

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