Europeans and American farmers can help solve the world's growing food crisis, but they need to be able to take full advantage of genetically modified crop technology, one of Europe's leading agricultural officials said while visiting the ARDC. Neil Parish, chairman of the European Parliament's agriculture committee, made his comments while reviewing University of Nebraska-Lincoln research and extension efforts at the Agricultural Research and Development Center. The tour was part of a two-day visit to Nebraska sponsored by the Nebraska Department of Agriculture.

“We want to showcase Nebraska agriculture,” Gov. Dave Heineman said as he introduced Parish next to UNL plots used for tillage and carbon sequestration research. Parish, a member of Britain's Conservative party, was particularly interested in UNL's work on genetically modified crops. He has been a leading advocate for biotechnology in Europe, where the public has been more skeptical.

GOVERNOR & EU LEADER VISIT - Cont. on P. 3

Duncan Recognized for Service to ARDC

Dan Duncan was recently recognized at a reception held in his honor for his service to the ARDC. Dan joined the ARDC as Director in 1991. He is now serving as Assistant Dean and Director in UNL's Ag Research Division, focusing on non-academic issues. He is responsible for intellectual property, Husker Genetics, working with commodity boards, research land development, University of Nebraska Foundation projects and other special projects in the ARD office. The ARDC has seen many positive changes and grown into a world class research facility in the 16 years that Dan served as director. We wish Dan great success in this new position!
Midsummer and Late Season Crop Clinics Offered

Agricultural professionals and crop producers will take a look at field conditions, research and techniques at the Midsummer Crop Management Diagnostic Clinics July 15-16. The UNL Extension clinics begin each day with 7:30 a.m. registration at the ARDC and start at 8 a.m. Participants will meet at the August N. Christenson Research and Education Building.

Participants can attend one or both of the clinics as subject matter will be different each day.

The July 15 clinic topics include: Corn Growth and Development - Who Cares?; Improving Nutrient Management; Irrigation Management; Web Soil Survey; Nitrogen Management Calculator; Soil Test Website; and Wheat - Relay Cropping - Double Crops - Forages.

The July 15 session features Bob Nielsen, a corn specialist at Purdue University and Nebraska native. Nielsen will help participants better understand normal corn growth and development. This information will help participants more clearly identify the symptoms of stress and interpret the potential effects of stress on yield.

The July 16 clinic topics include: Crop Production Jeopardy; Crop Scene Investigation (CSI Nebraska) - The Art & Science of Crop Diagnostics; Liquid Pesticide Application Technology; Nebraska's Potential Biofuels Crops; Nematodes of Corn and Soybeans; and Resistance Management of Weeds and Insects. Participants will also get to see the new syoban cyst nematode containment facility.

Organizers have added for 6.5 Certified Crop Adviser credits; approval is pending. Presenters include UNL faculty and private industry agronomists.

Early registration is recommended to reserve a seat and resource materials. Cost for one clinic is $190. Cost for both clinics is $300. For more information or to register, contact the ARDC CMDC Programs, 1071 County Road G, Ithaca, NE 68033, call (800) 529-8030, fax (402) 624-8010, e-mail cdunbar2@unl.edu or visit the Web at http://ardc.unl.edu/training.shtml.

A late season Crop Management Diagnostic Clinic will be held on Aug. 20. Topics include: Alfalfa Management - Establishment, Diseases, Insects; Corn Diseases; Mobile Plant Diagnostic Clinic Lab - Diagnostics; Precision Agriculture and Nutrient Management Repot Card; and Troublesome Weeds, and Troubleshooting Plant-to-Plant Variability in Corn. Nine Certified Crop Adviser credits are available for attending both days. Costs: for this clinic is $140 for those registering one week in advance and $190 after.

Agrometeorology Research - Cont. from P. 1

Measure temperature, humidity, solar radiation, wind speed and direction, precipitation, soil temperature and soil moisture. These variables are required as input to crop growth models and as inputs to equations that estimate crop water use. The network data is used to update a series of maps on a daily basis so that weather patterns can be observed easily across the region; use your browser and point to http://www.hprc.nrel.colostate.edu/products/awdn.html to see these maps. More details on the AWDN can be found at http://www.hprcc.unl.edu/awdn /home.html. The data from the AWS have proven valuable to a number of research projects conducted in nearby ARDC fields.
about the technology than Americans. Parish said the mood there may be changing with the pressure of higher food prices. Sally Mackenzie, head of UNL’s Center for Plant Science Innovation, said UNL is the nation’s leading university in field testing genetically modified crops.

“Genomics get fed up hearing all the promises from the lab and never seeing it taken to the field,” Mackenzie said. However, UNL is proving the effectiveness of biotech crops in real-farm situations.

The Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources scientist pointed out several aspects of UNL’s biotech research, including development of crops resistant to the broadleaf herbicide dicamba; modified soybean oils for enhanced nutrition, animal-fish feed and biodiesel; and crop male sterility that keeps pollen from genetically modified crops from pollinating with other crops.

Biotechnology also is key in making crops more resistant to disease and pests and more tolerant of cold and drought, Mackenzie added.

While industry leaders such as Monsanto also are immersed in this research, Mackenzie said UNL’s efforts are key because “universities have relationships with producers that companies don’t have.”

Parish agreed that the unbiased research of land-grant universities such as UNL is more likely to convince Europeans of the safety of genetically modified crops than assurances from industry.

Parish also heard Thursday about UNL research on no-till farming and carbon sequestration, both of which are aimed at making agriculture more environmentally sensitive.

“You want him to understand that farmers are good stewards of the land,” said Dan Duncan, assistant dean of UNL’s Agricultural Research Division. “We’re working hard to conserve water and energy and save carbon.”

UNL Extension Engineer Paul Jasa pointed out to Parish that no-till farming, in which crops are planted in residue from the previous year’s crops, cuts equipment, fuel and herbicide costs; reduces soil erosion; conserves critical soil moisture; and reduces weed competition.

“Yes, there doesn’t seem to be much weed out there at all, does there?” Parish said as he reviewed a no-till university plot that was ready for planting.

UNL’s carbon sequestration research is “a revolutionary project,” said Soil Scientist Dan Walters. On fields in Mead, researchers are monitoring how much carbon is stored in the soil in various cropping systems. The more carbon can be captured in the soil, the less it contributes to global warming, Walters said.

“We’re still creating global warming potential in the agricultural systems we practice today. No doubt about it,” Walters told Parish. “But it’s reduced from what it was in the past. ... We’ve stabilized that loss of (carbon) and we know the components we need to work on to continue to improve.”

A visit to state Sen. Ron Raikes’ farm and cattle operation outside Lincoln included a primer on the feeding of wet distillers grains to cattle. UNL Animal Scientist Terry Klopfeinstien pointed out that Nebraska is well-positioned to take advantage of this byproduct of ethanol production.

“The synergy between corn producers and ethanol and cattle is really important in Nebraska and it puts Nebraska at an economic advantage compared to other states,” he said.

Raikes said UNL’s work is critical to operations like his.

“We rely very heavily on research done at the University of Nebraska,” Raikes said.

Parish said he enjoyed his look at Nebraska agriculture, which included a chance to pilot a tractor pulling a 16-row planter through the field.

“We’ve got more in common than we think” between European and American agriculture – outside of “a hormone or two, perhaps a little GM (genetic modification) here and there,” Parish said.

A UNL official agreed. “While we may have differences, we have many more similarities,” said Steve Walter, dean of UNL’s College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources. “The more we share, the more we communicate, the more we all benefit.”

---

Field Days Offered at Various Locations Throughout State

Soybean Management Field Days

Soybean Management Field Days offer producers unbiased and research-based information to improve their soybean profitability. The event consists of four field stops across the state, each with demonstration plots, lunch and time for questions. Producers can obtain information about the challenges they face in producing a quality crop at a profitable price in today’s global economy. The field days are sponsored by the Nebraska Soybean Board in partnership with Extension in the University’s Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources and are funded through checkoff dollars.


Topics include: Soybean Row Spacing, Plant Population, Planting Date and Water Management; Managing New and Emerging Disease, Insect and Weed Problems; Nutrient Management Issues for Soybean Production; and Making Crop Yield and Price Decisions.

The field days begin at 9 a.m. and conclude at 2:30 p.m. Free registration is available the day of the event. For more information about the field days, visit the Soybean Management Field Days Web site at http://arc4.unl.edu/soydays or contact the Nebraska Soybean Board at (800)852-BEAN or University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension at 1-800-529-8030.

Solution Days

Solution Days will provide practical solutions to the changing agricultural landscape. The annual educational event will be conducted at the Syngenta Learning Center site, which is located 3 miles north of York, Neb., off U.S. Route 31.

Farm operators and professionals supporting corn and soybean production in Nebraska are invited to attend on Tuesday, Aug. 26 or Wednesday, Aug. 27. This event is designed to provide realistic solutions for meeting the challenges of higher crop yields while keeping production costs economical. Each day, participants will hear and see the latest information from UNL faculty and industry crop production specialists.

Solution Days 2008 is sponsored by NK®, Syngenta Crop Protection and the Nebraska Soybean Board, in partnership with UNL Extension. The program runs from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. each day, with in-field presentations.

For more information about Solution Days, call toll free 1-866-796-4368 or visit http://arc4.unl.edu/solutiondays. For more information about the Syngenta Learning Centers, visit www.learningcenters.farmassi.com.
Saunders County Fair 4-H Program

SUNDAY, JULY 26
2:00 p.m. Tractor Pull

MONDAY, JULY 27
8:30 a.m. Fashion Revue Judging - 4-H Building
9:00 a.m. Dog Show - Gayle Hattan Pavilion
9:00 a.m. Open to All Livestock Entries (Beef, Dairy, Sheep, Swine, Goats, Poultry, Rabbis)
10:30 a.m. Check-in for Cats - Open Air Auditorium
11:00 a.m. Cat Show - Open Air Auditorium
1:00 p.m. Favorite Foods Review - 4-H Building
2:00 p.m. Dog Agility - Gayle Hattan Pavilion
5:00 p.m. 4-H Shooting Sports Competition - Gayle Hattan Pavilion
7:00 p.m. Public Fashion Revue - Open Air Pavilion
8:00 p.m. Accordian Players - Open Air Pavilion

TUESDAY, JULY 28
8:30 a.m. Haller horses checked in prior to 8:30 a.m.
4:00 p.m. 4-H Horse Show - Judging Halter Classes, Showmanship - Rodeo Arena
11:00 a.m. Performance horses - checked in by 11 a.m.
TBA that day
4:00 p.m. Check-in for 4-H Rabbit and Poultry - Poultry/Rabbit Barn
2:38-8 p.m. Home Ec and 4-H & FFA Exhibits Entry - 4-H Bldg
5:45 - 7:15 p.m. Weigh-in 4-H and FFA Sheep & Goats - Swine Barn
7:45 - 9:15 p.m. Weigh-in 4-H and FFA Beef - Swine Barn
8:00 p.m. All Livestock, Poultry and Rabbit Exhibits in place (including swine)

WEDNESDAY, JULY 29
6:00 a.m. Weigh-in & Ultra Sound Swine Exhibits - Swine Barn
8:00 a.m. ATV Safety Training - Gayle Hattan Pavilion
9 a.m.-4 p.m. Judging of 4-H Exhibits & Interview Judging by Appointment - 4-H Building
12:00 p.m. 4-H Tractor Driving Contest (or immediately following 4-H Tractor Driving contest)
6:00 p.m. 4-H Bicycle Safety Contest - (or immediately following Tractor Driving contest)
Meet at Gayle Hattan Pavilion
5:00 p.m. 4-H Building Open to Public
6:30 p.m. 4-H and FFA Hay Hauling Contest - Gayle Hattan Pavilion
7:00 p.m. Open Barrel Racing - Rodeo Arena

THURSDAY, JULY 30
8:30 a.m. 4-H Sheep Lead Class - Gayle Hattan Pavilion
1 a.m.-9 p.m. 4-H Building Open to Public
9:00 a.m. 4-H Sheep Show - Judging Breeding & Market – Gayle Hattan Pavilion
(or 15 minutes after conclusion of Lead Class)
10:30 a.m. Dairy Cattle Show - Gayle Hattan Pavilion
(Only Milking Dairy Cattle released following the show)
12:00 p.m. 4-H Dairy Goat Show - Gayle Hattan Pavilion
(or immediately following the Dairy Cattle Show)
1:30 p.m. 4-H Meat & Poultry Show - Gayle Hattan Pavilion
8:00 p.m. Saunders County Fair Parade - Downtown Wahoo
10:00 p.m. Best Dressed Goat - Gayle Hattan Pavilion

FRIDAY, AUGUST 1
7:00-8:30 a.m. Check-in Jr Bulls, Fender & Bucket Calves
8:30 a.m. 4-H Rabbit Show - Judging - Open Air Pavilion
9:00 a.m. 4-H & FFA Livestock Show - Judging Breeding & Market - Gayle Hattan Pavilion
9 a.m.-9 p.m. 4-H Building Open to the Public
8:45 a.m. Register for Ice Cream Rolling - Open Class Patio
9 a.m. Ice Cream Rolling Contest - Open Class Patio
12:00 p.m. 4-H Poultry Show - Open Air Pavilion
7:00 p.m. Figure 8 Races - Rodeo Arena

SATURDAY, AUGUST 2
8:30 a.m. 4-H Swine Show - Gayle Hattan Pavilion
9 a.m.-9 p.m. 4-H Building Open to the Public
9:00 a.m. 4-H Small Pet Show - Open Air Pavilion
10:30 a.m. Clover Kids Show (or after Small Pet Show) - Open Air Pavilion
1:00 p.m. Livestock Round Robin Showmanship - Gayle Hattan Pavilion
(or half-hour following Swine Show)
5:00 p.m. Semi/Pickup Pull - Rodeo Arena

SUNDAY, AUGUST 3
8:00 a.m. Release of all 4-H and FFA livestock, rabbits and poultry
11:00 a.m. 4-H Building Open to the Public
1:00 p.m. Demo Derby - Rodeo Arena
4:00 p.m. 4-H BBQ - Gayle Hattan Pavilion
5:00 p.m. Meritouriou Award Recognition - Gayle Hattan Pavilion
5:00 p.m. Livestock Sale - Gayle Hattan Pavilion
5:30 p.m. Home Ec Exhibits released
8:00 p.m. State Fair & Ak-Sae-Ben entries due

ANNOUNCEMENT - Wahoo Saddle Club would like to announce that Saunders County 4-Hers can attend the rodeo at the County Fair on Thursday evening, July 24th for free. Parents will pay the normal admission. Rodeo will start at 8:00 p.m. Tickets for 4-H'ers can be picked up at the Rodeo Arena Box Office 4-H window starting at 7 p.m.
All 4-H'ers are asked to wear their 4-H T-shirts.