

## Aggie Fest

Continued from page 1



Aggie Fest helps young people develop their livestock judging skills.

Ashlyn finds the “giving reasons” portion of the competition to be hardest. “Sometimes it’s hard to remember all the details. This is my second year and I’m getting better, but I still need to work on giving better reasons.” The 12 year old hopes to use this knowledge one day as a veterinarian or vet tech.

Desarae, who has been competing for over four years, wants to improve on her reasoning. “Pigs are my favorite livestock animal to judge, and I think I did pretty good today. I like coming back because I learn something new and different every year.” The reigning Wilsonville Rodeo Queen is thinking of becoming a vet tech, and Desarae stated that NCTA is definitely in the running for potential schools.

The livestock judging team is about to start their competition season by traveling to Manhattan, Kan later this month to compete in the Flint Hills Livestock Judging Competition. The team will also host another clinic on October 19 in Orleans, Neb.

Dr. Smith would like to send a special thanks to those that provided the livestock: Wolf and Sons Show Pigs, Indianola, Neb; Hodson Farms for providing sheep; Clintworth Angus, Bill and Marie Farr, Rocking T Ranch, and TKS Genetics for providing cattle; and Leah Ten Bensel for providing goats.

## CALENDAR

### September

- 20 Team Roping at Mill Park Arena at 7:00 p.m. (Curtis Fall Festival)
- 21 Farmers Market at 9:00 a.m.
- 21 Grand Parade at 12:30 p.m. (Curtis Fall Festival)
- 22 Sporting Clay Shoot @ Curtis Airport/Gun Club at 10:00 a.m. (Curtis Fall Festival)
- 23 Flag Football
- 26 Late Night @ The Barn at 7:00 p.m.
- 28 Shiny Show at 7:00 a.m.
- 28 Farmers Market at 9:00 a.m.
- 29 Nebraska LEAD Program at 1:00 p.m.

### October

- 5 Farmers Market at 9:00 a.m.
- 10 PTK Annual Red Cross Blood Drive at 12:00 a.m.

To add an event, contact Traci Bradney at 308-367-5200 or [trbradney2@unl.edu](mailto:trbradney2@unl.edu)

## Things I Think

By Kevin Martin

1. So Bo flipped out behind closed doors a couple of years ago. Big deal. You would too.
2. South Platte River is a trickle for years and in two weeks’ time a flood of record proportions is on the way. Crazy.
3. People need to respect their roommates. It’s not all about you, even if your mother led you to believe that.
4. Why can 15 yr. olds successfully drive a car but can’t run a weed eater?
5. Telling me you are going to class and then not going does not make any sense. Just tell me you are not going. I’m not paying for it.
6. Take care of your new pickups. The banker is going to get stingy here pretty soon.
7. Review what pictures you put on FaceBook. Please. Don’t be asking for trouble.
8. Burned bridges are the toughest to replace. Think twice.
9. Nothing about the Syria thing involves any common sense.
10. Be nice to people.



Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture

# AGGIE UP!



## NCTA Hosts 3rd Annual Aggie Fest

By Reiley Wieland, Co-Editor

On Saturday, the Livestock Training Center was filled with six production animal species and 50 FFA and 4-H livestock judging contestants. Here for the 3rd annual Aggie Fest Livestock Judging Clinic, youth from around the state gathered with coaches and sponsors to learn about evaluation, judging, and supporting their decisions, with help from NCTA’s livestock judging team.

Coach Dr. Doug Smith has been judging livestock for most of his life, and coaching for the past 16 years. “This clinic will help these kids learn what to look for in cattle,

*“This clinic [helps] kids learn what to look for in cattle, sheep, goats, and swine, when picking out animals for competition.”*  
~ Dr. Doug Smith

sheep, goats, and swine, when picking out animals for competition. Part of the competition is defending their decisions by giving reasons to members of the judging team. Right now, it will help them in competition, but in the future, these skills will help them in picking out livestock for their own herds,” Smith explained.

First year team members Selena Burbach and Darci Samuelson said they enjoyed their experience with the children. Burbach, an APS student from Hastings, Neb., said she joined the team because she enjoyed her many years in

4-H and wanted to continue competing. “I also wanted to learn what the judges were thinking, learn why they chose the animals they did,” said Burbach. Veterinary technology student Darci Samuelson, from Holdrege, Neb., was also an avid FFA member, and wanted to continue learning about livestock. “It’s hard, trying to decide which one is better, looking at the details. It takes a lot of practice, which we are getting thanks

to Doug.” Though her favorite animal to judge is the Angus breeding heifer, Samuelson is enjoying learning the finer points of the other species.

Contestants ranged in age from 8 to 18 years old and had many different levels of experience. Rylie Balderston, Ashlyn Balderston, and Desarae Balderston, sisters from McCook, Neb., were at the competition to start preparing for next summer’s 4-H and FFA season. Rylie, the youngest at age 9, was trying her hand at judging for the first time. “I want to learn what the best animal looks like,” she explained. When asked what her favorite animal to judge was she replied, “Goats. I have a goat at home named Si, so I like to see all the other goats.” Rylie is also using this experience to help prepare her to compete at Ak-Sar-Ben.

Continued on page 8

### Available Online

- [ncta.unl.edu/aggie-up](http://ncta.unl.edu/aggie-up)
- [facebook.com/aggieup](https://facebook.com/aggieup)

### Inside this Issue

- Nigerian Friends Visit
- Guest Speaker
- Editorials by Jessie Connelly, Reiley Wieland, and Amanda Castle
- Aggies Speak Out
- Simon Says
- Things I Think

### Aggie Up! Staff

- Jessie Connelly  
Co-Editor
- Reiley Wieland  
Co-Editor
- Dean Erickson,  
Photographer
- Amanda Castle  
Guest Writer
- Eric Reed,  
Faculty Advisor

**See staff for available positions!**

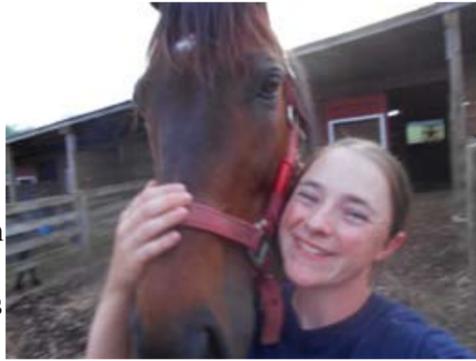
## Jessie's Jumbled Thoughts

By Jessie Connelly, Co-Editor

Just recently I got a letter from my younger brother who is in prep school for the army in New Mexico. It really means a lot to him to have my family write to him as often as we can, especially since he has limited internet access. When my older brother was in basic training for the Air Force and then when he was overseas, he looked forward to our weekly letters. My brothers like to hear about their family and friends, naturally, but they also want clued in on what's going on in the outside world. Sometimes we'll talk about the newest released movies, other times we talk about what's happening in politics. I generally just talk about whatever comes to mind, so it's mostly random stuff that probably has no real importance in life, but the main reason for it is just to make them laugh and to have a piece of me while we're a part.

I never have to specifically talk about how proud I am of them, but they know. Just taking the time out of my day to write to them makes them feel special. Even before my brothers joined the military, my family has been adopting soldiers to write and send care packages to. The excitement that came with our soldiers' replies was pretty great. We'd always gather around mom to hear what our soldier had to say to us, because for us, getting mail was what was really cool. At the time, we were too young to realize just what it was these soldiers were doing and how important it was to them to know that we were supporting them in their fight.

One soldier in particular sticks out in my mind. He was stationed in Afghanistan when I was twelve and all of my siblings and I would write to him every couple of weeks and once every couple of months, we'd hear from him. He'd always send a long letter to us, telling us what he could about



what he did and where he was. And then he'd enclose a short letter to each one of us. It was always so exciting to get our own personalized letters. He'd ask us about what we wanted to be when we grew up, or he'd answer our questions about what it was like to drive a tank and so forth. One time he even sympathized with me in the winter time about how hard it was to keep a snowman up for very long in Nebraska weather.

Now that I'm older, I can't help but think about how much more exciting it was for him to know that there were complete strangers at home in America, thinking of him and how much that must have kept his spirits up and kept him going. Care packages also mean a lot to soldiers, because you can send them things they can't get over there. Mostly all they ask for is the boring stuff like soap, razors and so forth. But sometimes we'd send them movies if they had a DVD player and one time we sent Peeps to our soldier during Easter time.

At the start of this school year, I finally looked into adopting my own soldier. I visited many online sites, trying to find one that would allow me to adopt a soldier to write and send care packages to. Some sites looked a little sketchy, but I did come across a couple that I decided to go with. I was assigned a female marine in the avionics department. I was able to get ahold of her through email, and she replied telling me she was the liaison for her group of marines, and that in adopting her, I adopted all of them, men and women. So once a week, I send out a letter to my group of marines, keeping them up to date on the states and I hope my letters bring them not only support and encouragement, but also joy and a little entertainment.

It really doesn't take much to adopt a soldier. All they ask is for a letter at least once a week, and you can tell them anything you want to. You don't have to stick to telling them how important they are and how much we appreciate their work, they know, and being reminded is a nice thing and all, but sometimes it gets to be a little much. But just knowing that someone is taking time to let them know they are not forgotten, that's what's

*Continued on page 3*

## Simon Says



On books

I love books. I love to read with my human, especially when he falls asleep and I can lie on the book he was reading!! (Cats are telepathic you know, so I can absorb the material

in the book just by lying on it.)

Our house is full of books—all kinds of books. There are novels of one genre and another, history books, cook books, books on books, even bird books. (Is it lunch time yet?) My human usually has several books he is reading at the same time!! I'm not sure how he keeps things straight.

My 17 Great Uncle Qizmo, who was the family cat when my human was growing up, related how there were always books in the house—there wasn't TV or internet, can you imagine? So books were the human's window on the world. Down through time books have been the conduit of ideas. Written language that could convey the meaning of spoken language appeared around 3200 BC. Early writing materials consisted of wooden or stone tablets, papyrus and parchment paper, and eventually wood-pulp paper. And now we have e-readers!!

Of course, early 'books' were all hand written, making them very expensive and available to only a few. The movable printing press, invented by Johannes Gutenberg in 1450, revolutionized printing and led to the first mass production of books. If you ever get the chance to see a Gutenberg Bible be sure to do it.

Printed pamphlets were early versions of blogs and were used to spread political ideas. Books were prized possessions on the American frontier. Libraries were an important part of communities. They still are. Here at NCTA our library contains some 16,000 volumes; the UNL library system has around 3.5 million. The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign has the largest library in the Big 10 with over 13 million volumes. The Library of Congress, in Washington, D.C., has 34.5 million!! Some many books, so little time!!

I have always marveled at authors that could paint a

verbal picture that the reader can visualize like they were there or related conversations that gave insight to the characters in a novel. To be able to write like that!! You can't write unless you read!! Being able to read and write well is a fundamental life skill. So next time you have some time on your hands, instead of watching 'Real Housewives' or playing "World of Warcraft" go to the library and find a book that interest you. It's a good way to spend some time.

Now about those e-readers—how can they get 1,000 books inside those things? And just how comfortable can they be to sleep on?

## Performance Horse Expert Speaks at NCTA

By Jessie Connelly, Co-Editor

NCTA welcomed a special guest speaker September 9 for students interested in pursuing careers in the equine industry. Darren Barton of Wyoming owns a ranch called Echeta where he raises performance horses.

Most of Barton's horses are used for barrel racing; one of his stallions, French Streaktovegas, has been competing in barrel racing and has been doing extremely well. Streaktovegas is in high demand for breeders wanting to carry on his talent. Barton left four of his mares here at NCTA to be started, and he



Barton's horse French Streaktovegas is now competing at the pro rodeo level under the guidance of Christy Loflin. Total winnings for 2012 exceed \$65,000. Photo courtesy echeta-horses.com

hopes to continue to work with NCTA in this way in the future. He also has plans of taking NCTA students on as interns at his ranch. For more information on opportunities with Darren and his wife Kandy, contact them through email: eph@rangeweb.net or visit their website, www.echetahorses.com.

# Reiley's Ramblings: *Cats: Are they Man's New Best Friend?*

By Reiley Wieland, Co-Editor

As a vet tech student, I am surrounded by animals every single day. Of course, my favorite animal is always a horse, but sometimes a person wants a smaller, more portable animal. Currently, Channie, a water-loving tabby cat, is my favorite little critter. I still hope to be able to adopt him at the end of the year. Here's the weird part: I'm a dog person, through-and-through! I can't wait til I graduate and can finally get my Corgi! But talking to my other collegiate friend, cats seem to be the more popular choice for a pet. This hasn't always been the case, thought. I wonder what's changed?



The idea of training a dog is very enticing to me. I keep imagining taking my dog to horse shows and family gatherings and being complimented on how well behaved my young pup was. I also want a running companion to make my workouts seem less like work and more like play time with my dog. And let's face it, a Corgi puppy could still probably out run me. I do think of the drawbacks, I just choose to ignore them. Like the fact that I will be working full time and be gone for 10 or more hours during the day. A dog can't go that long with out being let outside to relieve him or herself, especially not a puppy. Or the fact that, on average, it costs over \$16,000 to raise a medium size dog to the age of 15. This is the total average of food, vet care, shots, minimal toys and accessories, and spaying or neutering a dog, but does not count any training or obedience school. Even choosing a breed is tough: Corgi's fit all of my qualifications, except that they shed way more than I'd like. So should I go with a different breed because of that one detail? I'm not sure.

Cats, however, are much more versatile than dogs. First of all, cats can survive without constant attention. If they have a clean litter box, plenty of food, and fresh water, cats can be left alone for days at a time. Cats are also less expensive to feed and maintain, and have far fewer health issues than dogs. Cats are also a perfect size for a small starter home. Their litter box, food, and water take up very little room, and a cat won't hog the whole bed the way a dog can. It

can also be easier to choose a cat because the decision is based mostly on color, not on breed. Cats, unfortunately, don't fulfill my fantasies of having the most obedient pet. I can't take a cat running with me, either. But these are minor details that can easily be overlooked.

My favor still lies with dogs, and I'll always consider myself a dog person. When I was going to school in Lincoln and living in an apartment on my own, I relinquished my desires and got a cat, Minion. This decision was practical and economical. I loved having someone greet me when I got home after a long day at school and work. Minion was also good company at night, never complained about my cooking, and did an excellent job of clearing the mice out of my apartment. Minion lives at my parents' house now since I can't have a cat in the dorms, but I still comes running when I pull in the driveway at home. So I'll just keep on enjoying his company as I count down the days til I get my puppy. Next big issue: NAMES!

## Equestrian Team to Host Shiny Show

The NCTA Equestrian Team is hosting "Shiny Show," an open horse show on September 28. The show has various events such as Trail, Western Pleasure, Reining, Barrels and Poles, as well as some English riding classes. For a full list of classes, please contact Jo Hergenreder at [jhergenreder2@unl.edu](mailto:jhergenreder2@unl.edu) or give her a call at 307-220-2183 or 308-367-5291. Each class costs \$5 to enter, or \$40 to ride all day. Registration is at 7 am and the show starts at 8 am. Remember, when bringing a horse to the NCTA arena he must have papers proving an up-to-date coggin's test and vaccinations.



# Jessie's Jumbled Thoughts

*Continued from page 2*



Above: Sean Connelly, United States Air Force

important to them. And then you can use a regular stamp, no extra postage is necessary, especially since you're not allowed to even know where your soldier is stationed.

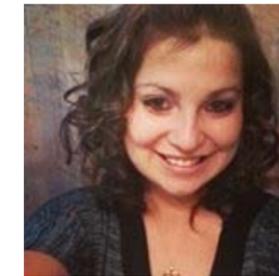
Supporting our troops is very important to me, and I encourage everyone to do the same. I'm not saying you all need to go out and adopt your own soldier, but there are many ways of supporting them for their great sacrifices. But if writing them is something that appeals to you, you could look at a couple of sites such as: [adoptausoldier.org](http://adoptausoldier.org) or [adoptahero.us](http://adoptahero.us). These sites are very helpful in getting you started in helping out a soldier overseas. It means a lot to them to know we support them and care for them. God bless our troops and bring them safely home.

**College Tips:**  
*Don't cite Wikipedia in a research paper.*



# Aggies Speak Out

*Do you think NCTA's campus should have a gun locker, since we're not allowed to keep guns in our dorms?*



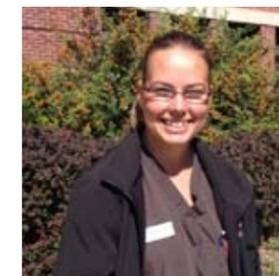
LaNae Dial, Norton, Kan.  
"Yeah, that'd be cool!"



Evey Choat, St. Edward, Neb.  
"Yes, as long as people are responsible with the guns, then we should be allowed to have one here."



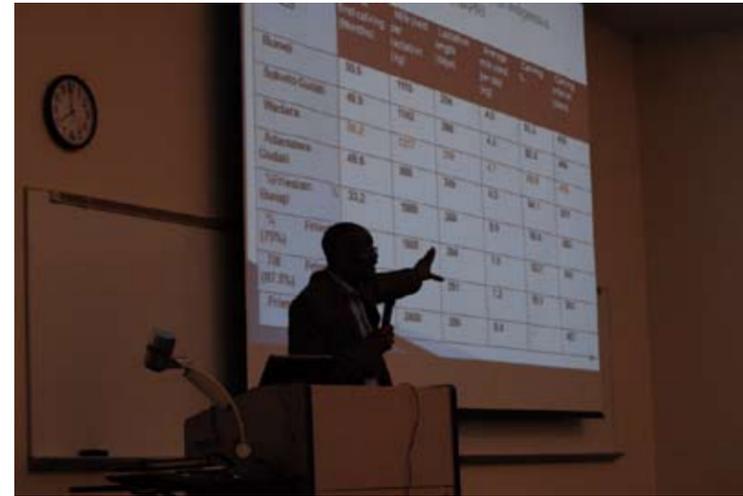
Christy Bacon, Arthur, Neb.  
"It's annoying to have to drive all the way home to get a gun to go hunting, so yes, I think we should have one on campus."



Megan Brown, Blue Hill, Neb.  
"During hunting season, yes, and definitely if we get a trap club."

**For a copy of the NCTA Weapons Policy see page 31 of the 2013-2014 Student Handbook.**

# Nigerian Friends Visit Photos by Dean Erickson



The Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture welcomed a group of Nigerian professors, agriculturalists and businessmen last week to explore the development of future partnerships with the college. Professor Jerome Gefu, Executive Director of the National Animal Production Research Institute in Nigeria gave a presentation on Nigerian agriculture and Samuel Okereocha Iheanacho, Executive Chairman and CEO of Greenville Development, also spoke.

Nigeria is a country of more than 170 million people and a gross domestic product of \$455 billion. The government is working to improve the country's infrastructure and agriculture as well as the lives of citizens.



# A New Place, a New Journey

By Amanda Castle

As I stand in the midst of the crowd of buzzing chaos, I try to catch my breath but my breath isn't there to catch.



People, all kinds of people, move in every which direction, reminding me of ants marching off in the frenzy of today's tasks. I try to keep focused but my mind keeps lingering to places of familiarity: home, family, friends, even my time at NCTA. This new place... well, it's just plain crazy.

No longer do I find myself in a class of 50 at the most; no, now it's a class of 50 at the least and in some scary cases it's my marketing class of 250 students. Professors don't know me, to them I am just another number, and it is up to me to distinguish myself, and in a positive way. I no longer have the luxury of time. I don't have the time to get used to my settings, I don't have time to be shy, and I sure don't have time to not ask questions. Skipping a night of homework isn't an option, reading chapters prior to class is a must and taking notes on everything the professor says in class is just as important. But I knew that coming into this situation, I knew that hard work was what it was going to take to make it. What I didn't know was how strong and independent I had to be.

A couple of things I have to point out since my short time here that might provide some help to future transfer students of NCTA is this: First, reach out. Don't be afraid to reach out for help. Reach out to friends that might have already transferred before you, reach out to current and new professors. Reach out to your transfer advisor; I know that I was the biggest pain for my transfer advisor and probably made her life not the greatest for a while, but I kept in contact with her to make my transfer as smooth as possible. Second, don't be afraid of having a hard time. It is a constant battle for me to stay here, to keep going through the daily trials. It would be so much easier to pack up my stuff and head west, back

to my safe comfort zone. My biggest tormentor is myself, I let my fears and frustrations get the best of me and when that happens there is a lot of tears and a lot of calling home.

At NCTA, a family is built within the student body, I gained friends that I will call life-time friends. Virtually every single class I had was with at least two of my friends; now it is a sea of unknown faces. Maybe that is the con of transferring, everything is new and you're the odd one out.

Just know that when you transfer to a new place it won't be the same as your previous experience. But also know that with the bad, the scary, and the downright weird stuff you see, there is also some good. That blissful moment when you hear someone yelling your name from across East Campus and you turn to see a fellow NCTA student and all you want to do is hug them, or that occasional meeting with a couple of students from NCTA on the crowded bus travels to and from East and City campuses, or even the feeling that this is where you belong floods over you because you meet a professor from back home and they know you and understand your goals and intentions.

Yes, this is a change, and with change there is bound to be times of hardship, and times of good. But with a new place there is a new journey to be experienced.

**College Tips:**  
*The best test preparation is a good night's sleep and a good breakfast.*

**"Don't let anyone ever make you feel like you don't deserve what you want."  
- Heath Ledger**