

## Sara Peasley Named Aggie of the Month

NCTA has announced Sara Peasley of Elk Point, S.D., “Aggie of the Month” for November 2013.



A second-year student majoring in veterinary technology, Peasley holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in biology with minors in religion and psychology from Augustana College in Sioux Falls.

Recently Peasley developed a peer-mentoring program for the NCTA Veterinary Technology Division based on similar mentoring programs at Augustana College. Through the program, qualified second-year students provide mentoring assistance to first-year students should they need help figuring out what classes to take or how to study for tests. Mentors also act as a “sounding board” when students need help with issues in the classroom.

Kevin Martin, Students Services Advisor, said, “Sara has been a dedicated student and worker since day one. There is no doubt in my mind that she will be an outstanding contributor to the animal health industry.”

Peasley plans to work in a small animal veterinary clinic in Sioux Falls after she graduates in May.

**College Tips:**  
*Sit in the front row.*

## CALENDAR

### November

- 11 Registration Begins for Spring Semester
- 11 NCTA Open House at 8:00 a.m.
- 11 Veteran’s Day Program at 11:00 a.m.
- 14 AMS Advisory Council Meeting at 10:00 a.m.
- 14 100 Cow/100 Acre Kickoff at 1:00 p.m.
- 14 FFA/4-H Camo Dance at 9:00 p.m.
- 15-16 Fall Continuing Education Meeting - Vet Tech at 8:00 a.m.
- 15 Strategic Planning Meeting at 8:30 a.m.
- 20 District 9 Livestock Judging Contest
- 21 District 11 Livestock Judging Contest
- 21 Forever Strong Dance at 9:00 p.m.
- 23 Ranch Horse Show at 7:00 a.m.
- 26 Registration Halls close for Thanksgiving at 5:00 p.m.

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

## HORTICULTURE CLUB WINTER PLANT SALE

NEBRASKA COLLEGE OF TECHNICAL AGRICULTURE

CONTACT:  
TEE BUSH  
308-367-5226  
TBUSH@UNL.EDU

All plants help fund the horticulture club and are propagated by horticulture students.



Available plants:

- |                  |                         |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| Christmas cactus | Philodendron            |
| Snake plant      | Spider plant            |
| Devil's ivy      | Weeping fig             |
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| Purple heart     | Boston fern             |
| Aloe vera        | Peperomia               |
| Begonia          | Mixed indoor succulents |

**ALL PLANTS FOR \$2.00!**

Plants are available at the NCTA Greenhouse.

Please call to make an appointment or order plants.



Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture

# AGGIE UP!



## NCTA Announces 100 Beef Cow/100 Acre Farm Ownership Event

By Mary Crawford

Agriculture leaders in the beef cattle and crops industries will highlight a fall “kick-off” of the 100-Beef Cow, 100-Acre Farm Ownership Advantage programs at NCTA on Thursday, November 14 in Curtis.

Ownership Advantage programs assist individuals in preparations and training to operate their own farm or ranch. Producers and students interested in pursuing an on-campus, 2-year degree program or the off-campus, outreach program are encouraged to attend.

Confirmed speakers include: Mark Wilke, Farm Loan Chief, Nebraska State Farm Service Agency; Karla Bahm, Beginning Farmer Program Administrator, Nebraska Department of Agriculture; Brent Robertson, Nebraska Wheat Board; Andy Chvatal, Nebraska Soybean Board; Dennis Gengenbach, Nebraska Corn Board; Pete McClymont, Nebraska Cattlemen; and Del Ficke, Nebraska Farm Bureau.

Dr. Doug Smith, NCTA assistant professor in livestock management, and Dr. Brad Ramsdale, NCTA assistant professor of agronomy, serve as coordinators



Photo by Mary R. Vogt (<http://www.morguefile.com/creative/taliesin>)

for the beginning farmer curriculum and will outline details of both on-campus and off-campus programs.

Farm and ranch owners interested in partnering with beginning farmers or ranchers are also encouraged to attend. The event will be 1 to 5 p.m. at the Nebraska Agriculture Industry Education Center, Siminoe Drive and University Street, on the east side of the NCTA Campus.

No registration required. For further details, contact Dr. Smith at (308) 367-5286 or [doug.smith@unl.edu](mailto:doug.smith@unl.edu). General information about NCTA is available at 1-800-3CURTIS or online at [NCTA.unl.edu](http://NCTA.unl.edu).

### Available Online

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

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### Aggie Up! Staff

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Co-Editor
- Reiley Wieland  
Co-Editor
- Mary Crawford,  
Guest Writer
- Eric Reed,  
Faculty Advisor

**See staff for available positions!**

# Jessie's Jumbled Thoughts

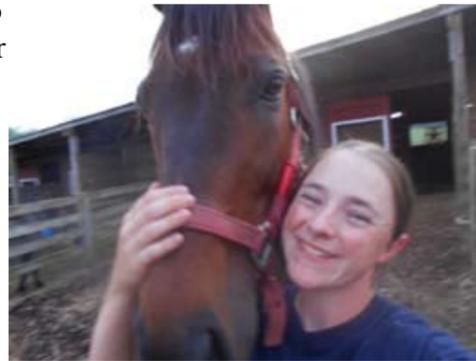
By Jessie Connelly, Co-Editor

It is easy to take liberty for granted, when you have never had it taken from you."

This quote from an anonymous author should be thought about

on this day, Veteran's day. This day is a special day for all Americans, because most if not all families, have veterans as relatives. Some have come home, and some never will. On this day we thank those who have gone and fought for our freedom as well as the freedom of other less fortunate countries.

For me, the military is a big part of my family. Nearly every man in my family has been or is in the military. From my grandfathers fighting in Korea, to my Great Uncle Bill who was killed in Action to my brothers and my adopted Marines, still fighting for us. Each soldier has his own stories, and sometimes these stories are forgotten, or are never heard. I remember my Dad telling me stories about when he was in Honduras and Panama, while he was in the Army. He told me about cardboard houses and holes in the ceiling for the rain to come through that they used as a "natural shower". How much of it was exaggerated, I don't know, but those kinds of stories stuck with me. Just the little things. He'd tell me about the Honduran kids that would come up and play with him, or he'd help them cut the tall Elephant Grass. Sometimes he'd go snorkeling with them. He'd also tell me stories about his uncle that fought in Vietnam. Though his stories aren't always as fun as my Dad's. It's heartbreaking to hear about the rejection those Vietnam soldiers received on their return home. How those boys fought and died over there on foreign soil, just to return home to people who threw things at them and treated them like the bad guy instead of the hero. After that war, many



Vietnam vets won't even speak of that war. My Grandpa on my mom's side has shown me things he got from being over seas during the Korean war, and things Uncle Bill had left for him after he was killed over there. A canteen with Japanese markings on it, probably the name of a Japanese soldier that had fallen, was one of the precious few items that are left of my Great Uncle. One story that sticks with me about my Great Uncle Bill was when he was writing a letter back home, but couldn't say where he was. So he sent a picture of a sloth, and my family was able to look up where this odd creature was from and got an idea

*Each soldier has his own stories, and sometimes these stories are forgotten, or are never heard.*

of where he might be at. My Grandpa on my Dad's side was stationed in the Philippines, and he had a silk jacket that was beautifully embroidered with his name and a colorful dragon. This jacket has been passed down, and is now in my possession. My older brother spent some time in the UAE and my marines are stationed in Afghanistan. Though they can't tell

me much, I'm sure the stories exist and maybe one day I'll get to hear about them.

All of our families have veterans I'm sure, and they all have stories to tell. Let's hope it's not too late to hear them, and let's hope none are ever forgotten. Don't forget to thank a Vet today, because Freedom isn't Free, and it shouldn't be taken for granted.

*College Tips:  
Choose your friends wisely.*

# Campus Events

## Open House



## Bra Race



## Veterans Day



## Reiley's Ramblings: *Veterans Day*

By Reiley Wieland, Co-Editor

On this Veteran's Day, we gather together to pay our respects to those that have served their country in the US armed forces, both past and present. As a current member of the military, I would like to thank everyone that took time out of their day to join us.

When asked to prepare a speech for today, I was asked specifically to give my opinion of the military from the viewpoint of a woman. I thought that would be easy, considering I am a woman, but this proved false. So I focused on my favorite moments in the military:



One of the proudest days of my entire career was my first promotion. It was important to me because it meant that the Army had decided I had met all their criteria. Hardest of all those criteria for me was the Physical Fitness Test. There's nothing more daunting than getting to the end of the first mile of a run and realizing you still had another mile to go. And let's be honest: the only good part of a sit up is the fact that you get to lay down every few seconds. This was a major challenge for me, and knowing I had succeeded, just made the promotion that much sweeter. Another good part about a promotion? Pay raise!

As a medic, my unit, The Nebraska Medical Detachment, sees every Soldier in the state for their yearly physical assessment. My favorite of all the medic skills is drawing blood. Over the years I have had a lot of practice, and have taken on the challenge of some pretty tough draws. Let me tell ya, it's an amazing feeling to be successful on a task that has trumped several other people with way more experience.

Even the seemingly little things have been rewarding, such as being made the chairman or member of

committees, being asked to update procedures, and many other special tasks.

After reminiscing and talking with other females in my unit about all the interesting moments we've shared over the last five years, we kept coming back to the same question: what does being a woman have to do with it?

Yes, I am a woman, and yes, I am a Soldier. But the two aren't connected. Women in the military are done no favors, given nothing for free. Women have the same standards for receiving promotions. Women go through the same rigorous training for their chosen jobs. Just recently, it was decided that women would be allowed in line units such as Cavalry and Infantry units. Before, only men were deemed capable of such positions in the military. It's just one more example of how the playing field has been leveled between men and women.

Being a good soldier is not decided by gender, or build, or even age. It is decided by the Soldier. By the Soldier's experiences and upbringing. By the reason for joining: to make a better life for one's family, to do something important, to defend our freedoms. Most importantly, to me, is by how a Soldier interprets the values set down by all branches of the armed services: honor, courage, respect, and selfless service. These are the qualities that make a good Soldier.

So, please, thank the women that made the choice to join the military. But don't forget the men, the new recruits and the retired, the officers and enlisted. This day is for all of us.

**College Tips:**  
*Student loans do not equal free money: Study and expect to graduate.*

Wherever you go, no matter what the weather, always bring your own sunshine.

Anthony J. D'Angelo

## 2013 Halloween Rough Stock Rodeo Bash

By Jessie Connelly, Co-Editor

On the weekend before Halloween, a Rough Stock Rodeo was held at Mill Park, this was the first rodeo held at that park in quite a few years. The rough stock was brought by Corey and Lori Hughes, Eggleston Bucking Bulls, and Cox Timed Event Cattle. The judges that were hired were Vince Connelly of Arnold, NE and Brett Phipps from Whitman, NE. The bull-fighters were Chad Connelly, of North Platte, NE and Chase Freeman from Sumner, NE. The announcer was Travis Shotta of Broken Bow, NE.

The events held were Ranch Saddle Bronc Riding, Saddle Bronc, Bull Riding, Barrels and Team Roping. Contestants ranged from NCTA students to people from the community and surrounding areas. Before the adult events, there was Goat Tying, Stick Horse Bronc riding and Stick Horse Barrel riding for the kids. The rodeo was a huge hit, and many of the people that came to the rodeo expressed hopes that there would be another rodeo held at Mill Park. Preliminary planning has already begun on Spring Bash that will be held on Saturday, May 3.

NCTA's students and faculty also held games for kids to play that pertained to Halloween. From pumpkin bowling to face painting. Concessions were also run by the students and faculty, they worked hard to serve all of the many visitors coming out to see the rodeo. A big thank you goes to NCTA for their hard work keeping the rodeo an entertaining and successful event.

A special thanks to the sponsors: NCTA, Laird Feed, MVVH, Lexington Livestock Market, Scott Mickelsen Family, Western Nebraska Bank, Browns, Old West Realty & Auction, and Town & Country Market. And a very big thanks goes to the planning committee that organized the event: Chad & Marilyn Rajdl, Cody and Lacey Rajdl, Ryan and Darci Sanger and Scott Mickelsen. We were very grateful for their hard work, time and effort to make this rodeo the great success that it was.



## Aggies Speak Out

*Are there any veterans in your family that you would like to acknowledge on Veterans Day?*



Lynnsey Riha  
Kenneth Riha  
Air Force  
Staff Sargent  
Years- August 1948 - July 1952  
Korean War

Reiley Wieland  
Jim Jacobs, Army, Korean War  
Jack Wieland, Marines  
Seth Jacobs, National Guard, Operation Enduring Freedom  
Chance Widener, Army Reserves



JP Schoeffield dressed up as Paul Clark, AMS Division Chair, for Halloween.

## A Simple Truth

By Deb Fischer, U.S. Senator for Nebraska

*Editors' Note: The following Column originally appeared October 11, 2013.*

It's a simple truth that a government should not intentionally make life harder for its people. The bad habit of governing by crisis management and the failure to get our fiscal house in order have made life difficult for Americans.

In Nebraska and in so many other states across this nation, we actually work together – and not just on small bills, but also on the big issues. While I served in the Nebraska Legislature, we dealt with a major budget shortfall. We didn't go on TV and Twitter and fight – we legislated. We fixed the problem.

That's the Nebraska way – we roll up our sleeves, cut through the talking points, and get to work. Nebraskans are pragmatic and they are well informed. So when Nebraskans look at the dysfunction in Washington, they're frustrated – and I am too.

A furloughed federal worker from Omaha called my office to say, "We're all tired," he said. "We're tired of not getting a budget to the last minute. We're all tired. You guys need to do your job."

I agree. That's why I am talking with my colleagues – not publicly in front of cameras – but privately to see if we can forge a way forward. But I believe we have to do more than just open the up the government – that's just the basics. We also have to address our \$17 trillion debt – it's smothering our country, it's jeopardizing our national security, and it's a threat to our children's future.

Congress will soon vote on increasing the debt ceiling – the sixth debt limit increase in the past five years. Our national debt has almost doubled since 2006 and our debt limit has grown twice as much as our economy in the past two years.

Shouldn't the opposite be true?

Meanwhile, our economy's recovery continues sluggishly along at a rate of 1 to 2-percent. This is unacceptable. But instead of growing our economy by reducing spending, cutting regulations, and overhauling the outdated tax code, Congress has continued spending money we just don't have.

I didn't run for office to shut down government. I ran for office to help hardworking Americans get

back to work. Nebraskans want to know that they can provide for their families. I don't think that's asking too much.

Make no mistake: high public debt depresses economic growth, which in turn dampens job creation.

Ironically, our country's debt crisis comes as the Congressional Budget Office is predicting that tax revenues will be at an all-time high – \$2.7 trillion. The problem isn't that we have too little revenue. The problem is that we are spending too much.

Several of my colleagues have offered a number of commonsense proposals that have broad support. These ideas include repeal of the medical device tax, which was adopted by the Senate as an amendment to its budget resolution by an overwhelming vote of 79-20 in March. Another proposed measure requires verification of eligibility to participate in health insurance exchanges.

Other ideas include a commitment to reducing spending – as required by the law – but we would increase flexibility for federal agencies to make smarter cuts. It's a matter of setting priorities so we can make wise decisions. That's the Nebraska way, and that's what we need to do in Washington as well.

Even the president has put forth ideas to cut spending by \$400 billion over the next ten years. These offers could set the framework for a real discussion. I am willing to work with any of my colleagues to find a reasonable solution.

Let me close with some good news. We recently received word that Jack Hoffman's cancer is in remission. While there is still a long road ahead for the Hoffmans, we Nebraskans who know and admire this family are thrilled with the good news. For so many of us, Jack's remission is an answer to prayers – and I for one am very grateful.

Thank you for participating in the democratic process, and I'll visit with you again next week.

Education is a progressive discovery of  
our own ignorance.  
Will Durant

## Rural Futures Conference



AMS faculty Jennifer McConville and Krystle Friesen and Dean Dr. Ron Rosati pose in front of a poster on Rural Community Career Development presented by NCTA. (Courtesy Photo)

Krystle Friesen and Jennifer McConville presented a poster at the Rural Futures Conference in Lincoln, NE November 2-4, 2013. The poster was a visual representation of the Rural Career Community Development course that is available through NCTA. The Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture (NCTA) believes that if students become familiar with entrepreneurial concepts, they can help their rural communities maintain and once again become economically viable.

The creation of the Rural Career Community Development course was made possible with support by USDA Rural Development, and was administered as a pilot program in Garden County and Perkins County in Nebraska. It was completed by 11 students in two schools in fall 2010. Through the course, these two rural counties have been introduced to the importance of bringing their youth home after college as business partners and professionals. The process begins with a college level course delivered to high school juniors and seniors. The course helps students investigate what their career aspira-

tions are and what career options are available in their community. Then, with the help of a teacher and an economic development specialist, the student identifies a mentor who will help them develop a career path that will bring them back to the community after college.

The partnering of students with mentors within the community exposes students to career opportunities and potential for returning upon completing their education. It is important to bring these two groups together to create investment in the future of every rural community, it can have a positive impact on main street businesses,

professional services, farms and ranches in any rural community. The curriculum helps them discover a positive outlook on the future of the community and explore the changes they may encounter as an owner or manager in their home community as an adult.

**College Tips:**  
*Fight stress by exercising.*

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