

THE AGGIE



Featured Aggie

Lexus Kelsch

Read about her journey on page 2

**What NCTA
program fits
you best?**

Find out inside!

**Get involved
on campus!**

Clubs, Teams & Activities - page 21

Discover
Your Way
at NCTA

Photo taken by Boaz Dov Elkes

Welcome to NCTA!



The Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture is a unique learning community, highly effective at helping students achieve their goals in agriculture. Our campus is small, providing a warm and friendly atmosphere for students to receive individual attention and support.

NCTA has a special role within the University of Nebraska system, with academic programs entirely in agricultural disciplines. We are an open admissions institution. Faculty and staff prepare students to be leaders, entrepreneurs and producers. We focus on tangible learning activities and hands-on education relevant to today's workforce. With goals, hard work and discipline, students achieve success.

College is affordable with lower costs of tuition, plus opportunities to earn a paycheck on campus, in Curtis or regionally. NCTA students can work for tuition, housing, meals and other benefits in our "Earn to Learn" program.

A Bachelor of Applied Science program through UNL's College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources in Lincoln, allows on line studies so students can remain at Curtis. As juniors and seniors, BAS students have access to residential life, support services and campus activities.

We are dedicated to agriculture and workforce readiness in daily experiences. You'll see students on horseback riding across campus and wearing spurs in the dining hall. Students help manage cattle herds and horses, crop plots at our 580-acre farm, and an extensive array of domestic and exotic animals in veterinary technology. Intercollegiate teams feature rodeo, ranch horse, livestock judging, and shooting sports.

This is a dynamic decade for graduates entering a workforce of strong demand. Agricultural industries are challenged to produce even more food for a growing world, to emerge as sources of energy, to address society's health concerns, and to be leaders in resolving global environmental issues. We are partners in meeting that challenge.

Join us at NCTA!

Ron Rosati, Dean



Featured Aggie Lexus Kelsch



Barrel racer Lexus Kelsch of McLaughlin, S.Dak., enters the Fall, 2015 season as a leader for NCTA's Aggie Women Rodeo Team and the Great Plains Region. During her 2014-15 season, Lexus churned out amazing runs, all the way to 9th place at the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association finals in July – a great accomplishment for a freshman from a small college competing against the nation's top collegiate barrel racers.

With talent and years of experience under her belt, there is no doubt her hard work at NCTA continues to pay off. Before her college rodeo days, Lexus earned a spot four consecutive years at the National High School Finals Rodeo. However, she's not taking all of the credit. "Tigger is my main horse throughout the whole year. She can make the same run over and over again. I wouldn't be where I am now if I didn't have her," Lexus admits.

Competing in the North Dakota High School Finals Rodeo, Tigger and Lexus won back-to-back barrel racing championships, holding the title from 2012 – 2014. Climbing to the top year after year, we'd say Lexus and Tigger are quite a dynamic duo! Due to the small campus and hands-on animal science program, Lexus chose NCTA and accepted a full tuition scholarship to compete with the Aggie Rodeo Team. She is now starting her second year at NCTA, majoring in animal science and livestock production. "My favorite part about NCTA is the nice people and how friendly everyone is!" she says.

The Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture is happy to have Lexus on campus and competing as an NCTA Aggie. We expect to see great things out of this student athlete in the classroom and in the arena, and wish Lexus and the entire rodeo team the best of luck for another great season!

Explore the STEM Path

Chart your path with career-building job skills and unmatched experiences in NCTA's hands-on learning environments.

Perform vaccinations at the vet tech complex, ultrasound bred cows, manage NCTA's college farm crops, install an irrigation pivot system, or build computer spreadsheets for business management.

As a STEM institution featuring excellent academic programs in science, technology, engineering and math, NCTA makes learning FUN! You will be well prepared for your career.

Start with learning academies in high school. Take college prep courses, and participate in 4-H and FFA. NCTA's programs provide opportunities in a rural setting, encourage daily responsibilities in the classroom and on competitive teams, and will boost your confidence for the workforce.

Learn from industry leaders, work side-by-side with agricultural partners, receive an internship in agribusiness, at a ranch or farm, and train with professors and staff in on-campus jobs through work-study or "Earn to Learn."

Agricultural employers are demanding well-trained college graduates and they turn to NCTA to hire dedicated employees. Explore a Reinke scholarship for our irrigation technician training.

Enroll as a young farmer or and rancher in NCTA's 100 Acre or 100 Beef Cow Ownership Advantage programs. Consider future online classes through the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Bachelor of Applied Science program while living and studying on campus.



Omaha Urban Ag Courses

The Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture in Curtis and Nebraska Extension are bringing agriculture to Omaha so urban farmers can raise homegrown produce for city consumers.

Adult learners, beginning farmers and even some high school students interested in gaining knowledge of horticulture and farm production can enroll in courses offered by the University of Nebraska Extension and the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture (NCTA) with support from the Omaha Home for Boys (OHB).

Vegetable and small crop plots at the Cooper Memorial Farm serve as the teaching and production ground for urban growers and consumers. The farm, which is 3 miles north of downtown Omaha, is owned by the home, which was founded in 1920 as an orphanage.

“Urban agriculture is for anyone in the Omaha area. It is designed to support locally-produced food, prepare job-ready agricultural graduates, and foster social and economic development for youth and adults,” said Ron Rosati, NCTA dean. “Omaha Home for Boys is a real gem in guiding young men and women on their life path. This wonderful marriage with Nebraska Extension allows us to reach a broad range of constituencies in the city of Omaha including 4-H youth, college students and working adults interested in local food production.”

The tandem University of Nebraska entities (NCTA and Extension) are fortunate to be part of the new academic venture with the Omaha Home for Boys, by providing hands-on learning in gardening, horticulture, and eventually in animal science, he added.

“Increased agricultural literacy is important across Nebraska,” Rosati said. “This initiative will help people have a greater understanding how food is produced and where food comes from.”

The 2015 Fall courses will be:

- + AEQ 1713 Carpentry
- + AGR 2153 Organic Food Production
- + ASI 1752 Raising Poultry for Profit: Small Scale Production

Dr. Connie Fisk joined the team in March in a split appointment between NCTA and Douglas-Sarpy County Extension. As part of her community education role, she managed the large-scale garden plots this summer at the Cooper Memorial Farm. Consumers can purchase the produce this fall at farmers’ markets.

Urban farmers can also market their produce to retailers, local restaurants or even school lunch programs.

For more information, contact:

Dr. Connie Fisk
Urban Ag Program Coordinator
connie.fisk@unl.edu
402-444-7833



ncta.unl.edu/specialty-programs

CALL US AT: 308-367-5204

Carpentry

Explore the world of beginning construction in the carpentry shop at the Omaha Home for Boys. Learn about materials, tools and techniques for carpentry in an agricultural setting. This course will prepare you with the knowledge to build projects for your farm or home at a fully-equipped carpentry site. Students can earn dual high school and college credits through the NCTA.

TOPICS COVERED:

- + Safety
- + Terminology
- + Tool Usage
- + Material Selection
- + Cost of Materials
- + Project Planning
- + Building Basics
- + Construction Techniques
- + Fasteners and Finishing
- + Project Construction



Are you interested in learning how to start your own farm while living in the Omaha area?

Agricultural carpentry plus other courses offered in the Spring, 2016 (Farm Beginnings - Exploring Agricultural Entrepreneurship) will set you on the path. All ages are welcome, from high school students to adult learners. Carpentry will provide you with skills that will come in handy while working on your farm. For example, you may want to build a chicken coop, or a box to display your produce at the farmer's market. An agricultural construction course is being developed for Spring, 2016.

Please fill out this form and mail it to: NCTA Office of Admissions, 404 E. 7th St., Curtis, NE 69025



NEBRASKA COLLEGE OF TECHNICAL AGRICULTURE INFORMATION CARD

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY/ *REQUIRED

*EMAIL

*First (Legal) Name M.I.

*Last Name

*Birthday / /

*Mailing Address

*City *State

*Zip

Home Phone - -

Cell Phone - -

High School

Grade in School
 Senior Junior Sophomore Freshman Jr. High/Elementary (Grade ___)

Activities: (circle all your interests)
Rodeo Team Livestock Judging Ranch Horse Team

How would you like to receive future contact from the college?: (please circle one or more)
Phone Call Text Message Email Physical Mail



(OVER)



Win an iPad!

Any student who applies before or at the open house will be entered in a drawing to win an iPad. Winners will be announced at each open house.

JOIN US FOR Discovery Days

AT THE
**Nebraska College of
Technical Agriculture**
in Curtis, NE

PICK A DAY

Sept 21, 2015 | **Nov 16, 2015**
8:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. | 8:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

OR

March 7, 2016
8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

<p>QUESTIONS? Call 1-800-3CURTIS (1-800-328-7847) Or, email Tina Smith at tsmith24@unl.edu</p>	<p>PLEASE RSVP BY VISITING: NCTA.UNL.EDU and click on the "open house RSVP" link</p>
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The University of Nebraska is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Institution.



Agribusiness Management

- Management
- Office Systems

Agronomy/Horticulture

- 100 Acre Ownership Adv.
- Ag Equipment Management
(Welding, Diesel Mechanics, Small Engines)
- Agronomy Industry Management
- Diversified Ag Management
- Horticulture Industry Management
- Irrigation Technology

Other _____

Animal Science & Ag Education

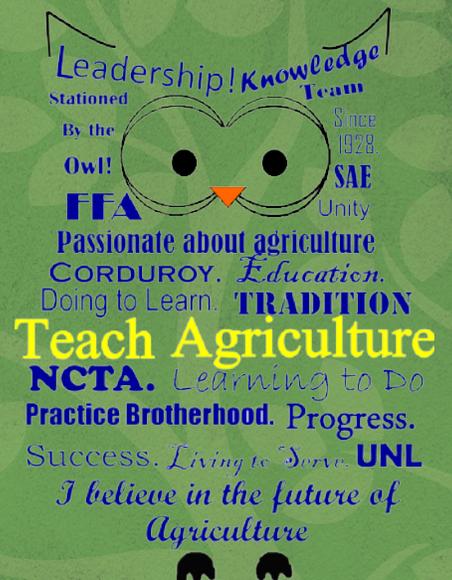
- 100 Beef Cow Ownership Adv.
- Agricultural Education
- Equine Industry Management
- Livestock Industry Management

Veterinary Technology

- Animal Health Management
- Animal Husbandry
- Comparative Medicine
- Equine Health Care
- Veterinary Assistant
- Veterinary Technician

Teach Ag at NCTA

Becoming an Agriculture educator will give you the power to change lives of students in the agriculture industry. You will promote agriculture inside and outside of the classroom by providing hands on activities for the students.



YOUR ARE IN HIGH DEMAND

With your passion for agriculture, you will make an excellent ag educator. There are more than 150 schools with Ag Education programs in Nebraska alone and this number is not declining. Instead, we are creating more programs! Nebraska isn't the only state with a growing Ag Ed curriculum. In the United States, there are approximately 8,200 middle and high school ag programs. This doesn't even count the ag programs offered at community and technical colleges.

Guaranteed transfer to UNL as a junior.

WHERE CAN I GET MY DEGREE?

The Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture can provide you with a hands-on education to give you a great start on your Ag Education degree. With our 2+2 program, you will successfully finish two years of education at our rural campus and then transfer to a four-year institution to finish your degree.

For more information visit **NCTA.UNL.EDU** or call **1-800-3-CURTIS**

**TEACH AGRICULTURE,
PROMOTE THE FUTURE**

**Agriculture is more than just a career;
It is a way of life.**

Animal Science & Agricultural Education

Agriculture Production Systems

Imagine a classroom – where you learn by doing. That’s what awaits animal science and ag education majors at NCTA.

As an Animal Science major you will learn the fundamental of livestock production, animal health, and the equine industry that will allow you to become successful in that career field.

+ Equine Industry Management

for a career working with horses and in related industries.

+ Associate of Science (Transfer) Degree Options

Agriculture Education/Extension

Ag Education majors will follow our 2 + 2 program. Beginning their first 2 years at NCTA, with our hands on learning environment they will earn their Applied Science degree. Once completed these students will continue to a four year Ag Education or related degree.

Animal Science

Grazing Livestock Systems

+ Livestock Industry Management

for positions in ranch or feedlot operations, or industries that support livestock production.

+ Bachelor of Applied Science

Receive a well-rounded agriculture Bachelor’s degree without having to attend classes in Lincoln by combining courses at NCTA with the online degree completion program.

CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE IN:

+ Beef Production

Understand economics, nutrition, breeding, and management of beef cattle.

+ Equine Training Management

Prepare for careers in horse training by taking courses from basic equine care to advanced performance training.

+ Equine Care

Learn fundamentals of horse care from basic health and nutrition to marketing and industry management.

SPECIALTY PROGRAM:

100 Beef Cow Ownership Advantage

Learn about the opportunities to own your own herd.

Artificial Insemination Certification

Learn the proper techniques to successfully AI cattle.

Heifer Link Program

Start your own herd with a bred heifer provided by Nebraska cattle producers while learning about successful beef production skills.

ANIMAL SCIENCE

Employment Options

- + Owner/operator of livestock operation
- + Artificial insemination specialist
- + Livestock pharmaceutical sales
- + Feedlot manager
- + Equine breeding facility manager
- + Assistant ranch manager
- + Research technician
- + Many more



LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

- + Climate controlled indoor arena
- + Artificial insemination stalls and hydraulic chutes
- + Cattle and equine handling facilities
- + State-of-the-art laboratories and classrooms
- + Latest computers and equipment
- + 15,000 combined acres of crop and range land at NCTA and UNL West Central Research and Extension Center
- + Online courses available



CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

- + Ranch Horse Team
- + Livestock Judging Team
- + Rodeo Team
- + Collegiate 4-H/FFA
- + Collegiate Cattlemen
- + Women in Ag



REQUIREMENTS

- + High school diploma or equivalent
- + ACT, ASSET, or Compass score

AG EDUCATION

Employment Options

- + Extension
- + Research
- + School teacher
- + College professor
- + Ranch manager
- + Many more

"I was able to take my detailed business plan - that included things I learned from every class - directly to the bank just a few days after graduation and receive an operating line of credit for my cattle company."



ncta.unl.edu/agriculture-education-animal-science

CALL US AT: 308-367-5293

Veterinary Technology

Looking for an exciting profession centered around the health and well-being of animals?

NCTA's Veterinary Technology program is for you.

From cattle to llamas, dogs to exotic birds, you will work with diverse animals and learn in state-of-the-art facilities. Expand your knowledge even more through internships, work at research facilities, or travel with the Safari Club.



Veterinary Technology majors may choose to earn a Certificate or an Associate of Applied Science degree. Those pursuing degrees will choose one of the following Veterinary Technology Options:

+ Veterinary Technician

Hands-on program where you will prepare to work at a companion animal, mixed animal or equine practice, in industry, or at a research facility. Graduates are eligible to sit for the NVTE and become a licensed veterinary technician.

+ Veterinary Assistant

Similar curriculum as Vet Tech Option. Prepare to work in a vet clinic or in industry.

+ Animal Husbandry

A degree that blends animal science, preventative health care, and veterinary medicine.

+ Animal Health Management

Learn to manage personnel, finances, and marketing in the animal health industry.

+ Equine Health Care

Stand-alone option, or use to augment your vet tech or assistant degree. Gain skills in equine diseases, industrial management, artificial insemination, etc.

The Veterinary Technician option is American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) accredited with the curriculum based around the AVMA essential tasks and skills list. Veterinary Technology-Technician Option graduates are qualified to sit for the Veterinary Technician National Licensing Exam to become a licensed veterinary technician.

If you plan to continue your education, the Veterinary Technology Capstone Program provides a transfer option from NCTA to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where you can finish a bachelor's degree in animal science, pre-vet science, etc.



LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

You will work in small-group settings and receive personalized instruction from veterinarians and veterinary technicians. Some online courses are available.

At NCTA you will have access to:

- + *New technical laboratories*
- + *State-of-the-art equipment*
- + *Dedicated facilities for surgery, dentistry, and diagnostics*
- + *Surgery and recovery rooms*
- + *Necropsy room*
- + *Indoor/outdoor large animal, equine, and canine facilities*
- + *Climate-controlled arena*
- + *State-of-the-art animal housing*

CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

Safari Club gets you behind the scenes at zoos, wildlife sanctuaries, and aquariums in the U.S. and abroad. Student Technicians of Veterinary Medicine Association (STVMA) members participate in social, educational, and community service activities.

REQUIREMENTS

Veterinary Technician Option

- + *Minimum ACT Score (or equivalent) of 18. Students with less than an 18 ACT need to speak with their adviser or an admissions counselor.*
- + *Transfer students without an ACT score must receive division permission.*

All Options

- + *High school diploma*
- + *ACT, ASSET, or Compass score*
- + *Transfer students without an ACT score must receive division permission*

"I really enjoy working with animals and if I can help save their lives I will feel very accomplished. My dad went to college here in the Mechanics Program and remembered the Veterinary Technology Program on campus."



ncta.unl.edu/veterinary-technology

CALL US AT: 308-367-5222

Employment Options

- + *Small, large, or mixed animal veterinary practices*
- + *Emergency animal hospitals*
- + *Livestock hospital operations*
- + *Wildlife or exotic animal sanctuaries*
- + *Zoos*
- + *Circus*
- + *Kennels*
- + *Research institutions*
- + *Pharmaceutical companies*
- + *Feed manufacturing*
- + *Many more*

Agribusiness Management Systems

Looking for a career that combines leadership, business, and agriculture?

You will want to major in Agribusiness Management Systems.

Surrounded by agriculture, you will gain real life, firsthand experiences while you learn the fundamentals of business. Tailor the rest of the program to your goals by choosing one of the following Associate of Applied Science Degree Options:

+ Management

You will be ready for entry-level management positions in businesses that serve ag producers.

+ Office Systems

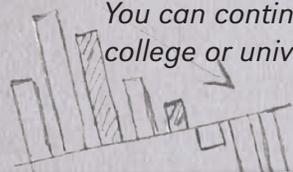
Whether working for yourself or someone else, you will have the organizational and technical skills to run an efficient office.

+ Plus One Option

Plus One Option is for students who have completed a two-year degree in another program and are seeking an agribusiness degree. This can be completed in two semesters.

+ Associate of Science Transfer Option

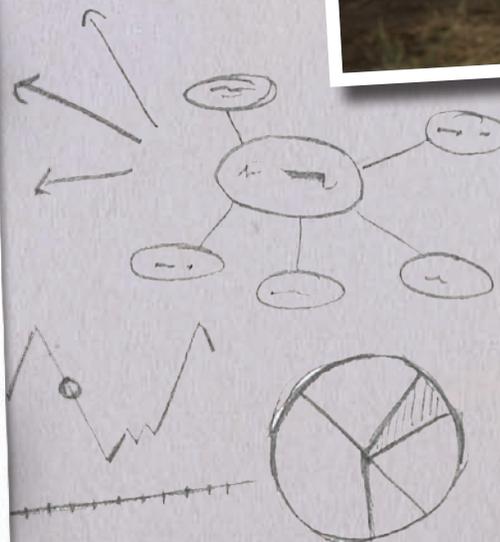
You can continue your education at a four-year college or university upon completing this option.



AG BUSINESS

Employment Options

- + Commodity broker
- + Grain merchandiser
- + Small-business owner
- + Insurance agent
- + Business manager
- + Agriculture sales
- + Loan officer
- + Livestock buyer
- + Many more



SPECIALTY PROGRAMS

Business Builders Program helps students with entrepreneurial goals get into business.

- + *Business Club*
- + *Farm Bureau Club*

LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

You will work in small-group settings and receive personalized instruction.

- + *Classroom and laboratory experiences will enhance your ability to solve real-world problems.*
- + *Excellent job placement services and exposure to companies that support NCTA.*
- + *Online courses available.*

REQUIREMENTS

- + *High school diploma or equivalent*
- + *ACT, ASSET, or Compass score*

"The NCTA business club is an outstanding club to be involved with. You are able to go on fun learning trips and learn how professionals in the industry got started"



ncta.unl.edu/agribusiness-management-systems

CALL US AT: 308-367-5222

Agronomy & Ag Equipment

Agriculture Production Systems

AGRONOMY

The NCTA agronomy program will prepare you for the ever-changing environment of crop production.

Agronomists produce and improve food crops while sustaining soil and water resources essential for crop production. Career opportunities include positions such as:

- + Crop consultant or field scout
- + Elevator or co-op manager
- + Farmer or farm manager
- + Seed, fertilizer, or chemical sales/service
- + Field research technician
- + Crop insurance adjuster
- + Soil conservationist

+ 100 Acre Program

Learn about the opportunities to own your own crop land.

HORTICULTURE OPTION

You will receive your degree in agronomy while taking horticulture classes which prepare you for a successful career in the horticulture field.

As a horticulture student, you will gain hands-on experience to prepare you to step into a career in landscape and turf management, greenhouse and nursery production, or landscape design.

Environmental horticulture is one of the fastest growing segments of the agricultural economy. This multi-billion dollar industry provides almost 2 million jobs, including opportunities such as:

- + Landscape design, installation, and maintenance
- + Greenhouse production and management
- + Retail nursery management
- + Floral design
- + Garden center management

DIVERSIFIED AGRICULTURE OPTION

The Associate of Applied Science degree is a 2-year program designed for students to immediately pursue their career upon graduation. Diversified Agriculture is a very flexible option that allows students to combine coursework in agronomy, livestock management and agricultural equipment.

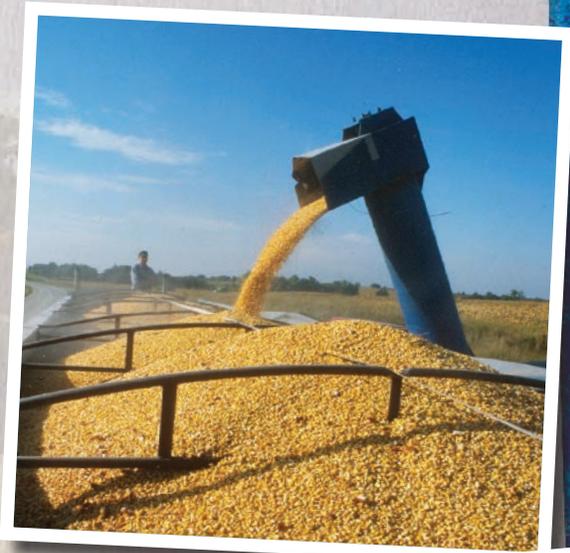


AG EQUIPMENT

Ag equipment is a two-year degree program where you will gain experience troubleshooting, maintaining, and operating agricultural equipment.

Knowledgeable maintenance and repair of agricultural equipment is a key component in the agricultural industry. Ag equipment career opportunities include positions such as:

- + Center pivot irrigation technician
- + Welder
- + Ag chemical applicator
- + Ag equipment service



LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

- + State-of-the-art laboratories and classrooms
- + 550-acre crop production learning farm and state-of-the-art center pivot system
- + Campus landscape and a Nebraska Accredited Arboretum
- + High-tunnel and commercial-scale greenhouses
- + Ag mechanics and welding shops
- + Precision ag technology



CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

- + Horticulture Club
- + Ag Mechanics Club
- + Crops Judging Team
- + Collegiate 4-H/FFA
- + PLANET Career Days

REQUIREMENTS

- + High school diploma or equivalent
- + ACT, ASSET, or Compass score

Check out all degree options at ncta.unl.edu/agronomy-horticulture

"I really enjoyed my time at NCTA. The hands-on, small classes make an easy and fun learning environment and the staff is always willing to assist you. I also met many lifelong friends during my time in Curtis."

- Darci Sanger -



ncta.unl.edu/agronomy-horticulture
CALL US AT: 308-367-5222

Irrigation Technician Concentration

Irrigation technicians skilled in servicing and installing center pivot and lateral irrigation systems are in high demand as producers replace old systems with more efficient, modern ones. To prepare you for a career in this dynamic field, NCTA has teamed with Reinke Manufacturing Company, a leading manufacturer of irrigation systems.

The 34-credit Irrigation Technician Concentration is an in-depth, hands-on program. You will learn from NCTA faculty and irrigation industry experts key skills in these areas:

- + Electricity
- + Safety
- + Communication
- + Welding
- + Mathematics

In addition, you will learn how to operate the newest control systems used on center pivots.

Upon completion of the program you will be given the opportunity to become certified through the Reinke **PLUS** Certification Program. You also have the option to stay at NCTA for a second year and finish your associates degree in Ag Mechanics.

Required Courses

- + DC Circuit Analysis
- + AC Circuit Analysis
- + Intro to Electric Code
- + Mechanized Irrigation Systems
- + Industrial Safety
- + Ag Math
- + Sales Communication
- + Learning Communities
- + Human Relations
- + Welding
- + Advisor Guided Electives

NCTA and You - What the Irrigation Technician Concentration has to offer:

- + **Prepare**
The Irrigation Technician Concentration prepares you for service technician positions in the expanding center-pivot irrigation industry.
- + **Hands-on**
NCTA is proud to feature hands-on education with access to a seven-tower diagnostic system and brand new center pivot.
- + **Plus**
Graduates may pursue Reinke PLUS (Proven Leaders in Unmatched Service) certification.



ncta.unl.edu/specialty-programs

CALL US AT: 308-367-5204

Agronomy Scholars

The Agronomy Scholars Program integrates curriculum at NCTA with a progressive internship experience. Students pursuing an agronomy or a diversified management option, of the Agricultural Production Systems major are eligible. Current internship partners include Ag Valley Coop and Cargill.

The internship partner will reimburse tuition and fees up to \$2,100 per semester. Scholars will receive 2 paid internships. Students must maintain a 2.5 GPA at NCTA and fulfill all internship obligations. The first internship will occur during the summer between the student's first and second year at NCTA. The second internship will be for a one year period after the student completes their second year at NCTA. During the internships students may be eligible to earn a competitive salary based on the internship partner/employer. Once the second internship has been completed students may also have the opportunity to interview for a permanent position with the internship partner.

If interested, please complete the Agronomy Scholars Program application form and submit it to NCTA's Office of Admissions. Forms are available online at ncta.unl.edu or through contacting the Office of Admissions.

POTENTIAL LOCATIONS FOR THE INTERNSHIP

Ag Valley Cooperative

- + Arapahoe
- + Cambridge
- + Edison
- + Indianola
- + Maywood
- + North Platte
- + Norton, KS

Cargill

- + Alma
- + Arapahoe
- + Elwood
- + Heartwell
- + Oxford

For more information, please contact Brad Ramsdale, Associate Professor of Agronomy
Office: 308-367-5335 Email: bramsdale2@unl.edu



ncta.unl.edu/specialty-programs
CALL US AT: 308-367-5204

Heifer Link

Students at NCTA will leave campus with the goal of a bred heifer as part of a new Heifer Link ownership project. The innovative program, part of NCTA's 100 beef cow capstone course, allows students to get a jumpstart into the industry and leave NCTA with a first heifer to call their own. Students will experience hands-on cattle production while studying beef science and agribusiness management as part of their herd-building program.

Eligible students will have the chance to work with longtime Nebraska beef producers and NCTA professors as advisers. Students are expected to invest their own "sweat equity" in the NCTA Heifer Link herd. All students in the 100 beef cow program are eligible to apply.



+ More Than Ownership

Heifer Link is more than cattle ownership. The program will assist students from Nebraska and give young producers an opportunity to become a viable part of the largest industry in the state. In turn, they will enhance the economic vitality of rural Nebraska and the state's economy as a whole.

+ How It Works

Students submit an application on campus.

Approved students are assigned a yearling breeding heifer for their final semester on campus.

Students assume responsibilities for managing nutrition, reproduction and animal health as they work with NCTA faculty.

+ Help Heifer Link

You can support the Heifer Link program by making a financial gift to the University of Nebraska Foundation. Your cash gift will help the program to purchase a heifer, provide feed or cover other expenses while the animal is property of NCTA. Upon graduation, the student will assume ownership of the heifer as a taxable gift. Contact Ann Bruntz at 402-458-1176 or ann.bruntz@nufoundation.org.

To become a Heifer Link partner-mentor, call 1-800-3CURTIS, or visit Heifer Link Specialty Program at ncta.unl.edu.



ncta.unl.edu/specialty-programs

CALL US AT: 308-367-5204

100 Beef Cow/100 Acre Ownership Advantage Program

Overview of ownership advantage program

NCTA's ownership advantage program has been created to provide a forum where students, parents, employers, and agencies come together to create successful business plans and operation transfer programs. For the past two decades, state and federal agencies, legislatures, and commodity groups have worked hard to develop programs that encourage the transfer of agricultural enterprises to the next generation.

NCTA, in partnership with the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA), the Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA), as well as farm and ranch organizations, have developed courses and seminars for students, parents, employers, and land owners with the specific objective of formulating business plans.

This unique program starts with NCTA's degree program which includes the development of a business plan. This plan will be completed just prior to graduation. Students will present their plan to FSA for loan consideration. The plan can also be submitted to the NDA for consideration of a tax credit to the landlord.

The key to this program is to have the NCTA graduates return to rural communities with a large enough asset base that they will be a viable partner within an agricultural enterprise. NCTA faculty believe that the initial ownership will provide a catalyst and vision for both the graduate and parents or employers to set in place a long range plan that will eventually provide the graduates and their families a profitable enterprise as well as offer an opportunity for graduates to retain their heritage with the land.

For years, NCTA has been preparing its students to return to rural communities as community leaders. NCTA's entrepreneurship opportunity will add to that leadership potential because students will return to rural communities with a business plan that will be fundable through various financial institutions. **At NCTA, we believe that if students become familiar with entrepreneurial concepts, they can help their rural communities remain economically viable.**

Students will pursue an Associate of Applied Science degree with an emphasis in either Livestock Industry Management, Agronomy Industry Management, or Diversified Ag Management

Specialized Courses and Requirements, in addition to degree requirements, for the Ownership Advantage program:

- + Ownership Advantage Seminar I (1st semester)
- + Ownership Advantage Seminar II (2nd semester)
- + Ownership Advantage Seminar III (3rd semester)
- + Capstone (4th semester)

Partnerships and opportunities

The Nebraska Ranch Practicum

Participate in an 8-day, hands-on educational program designed to give participants the skills and education needed in today's complex ranching industry. The practicum is held from June to January at the West Central Research and Extension Center (WCREC) in North Platte and Gudmundsen Sandhills Laboratory near Whitman. Participants will develop their ability to efficiently use decision support tools to evaluate management and marketing alternatives dealing with grazing strategies and systems, methods of managing market risk, calving and weaning dates, winter livestock nutrition, cull cow management, feed rations and mineral supplements.

Each year, up to 4 outstanding NCTA students enrolled in the Ownership Advantage Program receive a full-tuition waiver to attend the Nebraska Ranch Practicum (value \$650). The Nebraska Ranch Practicum is an optional part of NCTA's Ownership Advantage Program.

Mentorship Program

Farmers and ranchers from across Nebraska have volunteered to serve as mentors to NCTA Ownership Advantage Program students. The mentorship component of the program focuses on the exchange of knowledge and experiences. Mentors will interact with NCTA students during the pursuit of their education sharing the challenges they've faced, the hurdles they've had to cross, and the successes they have achieved during the development of their farm/ranch operation. We thank Nebraska Farm Bureau, Nebraska Grazing Lands Coalition, and Nebraska Cattleman for providing mentors.

Farm and Ranch Partnerships

A major challenge facing beginning farmers and ranchers is obtaining the necessary land resources. NCTA's Ownership Advantage Program includes providing students access to a growing database of farmers and ranchers who are willing to partner with students and make arrangements for the sharing of land resources. While we cannot guarantee a match for every student, opportunities are available for student to investigate and pursue.



ncta.unl.edu/specialty-programs

CALL US AT: 308-367-5204

Earn to Learn Program

A program designed to cover all standard college expenses.

Those with education plus experience will stand out to employers.

Be ready to take advantage!

In the Earn to Learn Program, you have the opportunity to gain work experience while earning your room and board. Positions include:

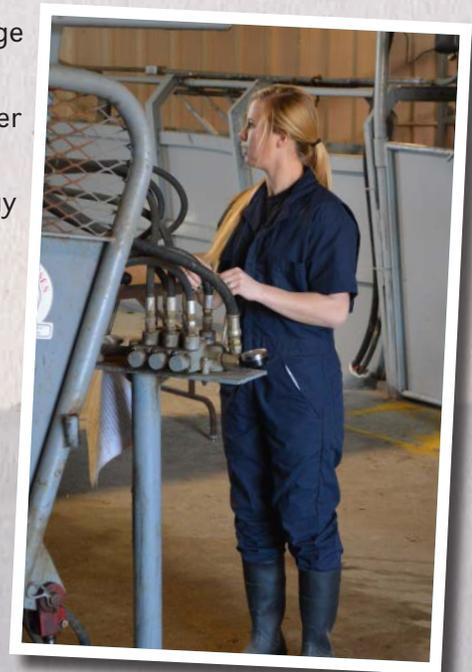
- + Farm Hand
- + Equine Assistant
- + Livestock Assistant
- + Vet Tech Facility Assistant
- + Agronomy Assistant
- + Lab Care Assistant
- + Facility Assistant
- + Grounds Assistant
- + Media Assistant
- + Recruiting Assistant
- + Office Assistant
- + Food Service Assistant

How the program works:

- + Scholarships, Earn to Learn and financial aid will cover all standard college expenses including fees and tuition (up to 17 credit hours per semester)
- + Earn to Learn scholars become NCTA student employees who earn \$8.25 per hour for up to 20 hours per week
- + Scholars will receive a paycheck every two weeks that can be used to pay room and board costs

Next steps to become an Earn to Learn Scholar:

1. Complete the application process:
For freshmen or transfer students: Visit [NCTA.UNL.EDU/APPLY-NOW](https://ncta.unl.edu/apply-now) and complete a full-time student application
For current or accepted students: Visit [NCTA.UNL.EDU/APPLY-NOW](https://ncta.unl.edu/apply-now) and complete the Earn to Learn application form
2. Complete all requirements for the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) by June 1st
3. Students/parents sign a room and board repayment agreement
4. Accept your on-campus employment
5. Begin classes and the on-campus job
6. Pay room and board every two weeks throughout the semester



Combat Boots to Cowboy Boots Campaign

Combat boots to cowboy boots: A beginning farmer/rancher business ownership for military veterans

The Combat Boots to Cowboy Boots (CB2CB) campaign is a collaborative educational alliance with its commitment to strengthening rural America by preparing current military service members and military veterans through higher education to be leaders in agriculture. Your G.I. Bill could cover up to 100% of your course work at NCTA.

The program is based on these critical facts:

- + Rural America, veterans, agriculture and the economy of the United States are tied together
- + The American agriculture enterprise is aging and in crisis
- + Members of the armed forces bring with them unique insights into agriculture issues
- + A healthy Heartland means a healthy America
- + Rural America needs an influx of diversity, creativity, and leadership to sustain itself
- + Rural America and agriculture need entrepreneurs

This campaign aims to produce a new generation of young business-oriented farmers and ranchers by creating a migration of service members and leaders back to rural communities. CB2CB builds upon NCTA's solid agricultural education programs and its successful entrepreneurship programs, such as the 100 Beef Cow Ownership Advantage Program and 100 Acre Farm Advantage Program initiatives to give our students support to succeed in today's business world.

- + Service members can start through distance education while still in the military
- + Upon the completion of the service member's enlistment or service obligation, they can join an on-campus education program that couples ownership opportunities with hands-on experience



ncta.unl.edu/specialty-programs
CALL US AT: 308-367-5204

Clubs, Teams & Activities



Aggie Rodeo Association

Support the College Rodeo team, participate in and attend livestock shows, roping club events.



Business Club

You will build awareness of business activities important to the economy, and establish a network of business contacts.



Collegiate Cattlemen

Stay current on issues affecting the beef industry through guest speakers and tours of beef facilities. As a club member you may attend the Nebraska Cattlemen's convention.



Collegiate FFA

Develop your leadership skills through service to local high school chapters. Participate in local projects, professional growth, and travel opportunities.



Women in Ag

Open to all first- and second-year students who wish to support women who are studying agriculture and planning ag-related careers. Guest speakers cover personal and professional growth, and social issues. Members may attend the annual Women in Ag Conference.



Collegiate 4-H

Continue your interest in 4-H and expand your leadership skills by helping local clubs, assisting at the county fair, and attending regional collegiate 4-H meetings.



Farm Bureau Club

Become knowledgeable about issues affecting agriculture and ag policy development, and attend Farm Bureau's annual meeting, and the Young Farmers and Ranchers conference.



Horticulture Club

Activities include campus landscaping projects; and plant and vegetable sales throughout the year to raise money that club members can use to attend professional meetings, seminars, and workshops.



Safari Club

Interested in exotic animals, wildlife, or ecology and want to travel? The Safari Club plans an educational trip each year, and shares the experience through a public presentation.



Student Technicians of Veterinary Medicine Association (STVMA)

Vet tech majors engage in social, educational, and community service activities to help prepare for active participation in state and national technician organizations.



Phi Theta Kappa

Phi Theta Kappa is an honorary society for community and junior college students with an emphasis in nurturing academic excellence, hosting opportunities for leadership training, providing an intellectual climate which promotes an interchange of ideas and ideals, and encouraging scholars with a desire for continuing education.



Livestock Judging Team

Join this academic-based activity to enhance your communication and decision-making skills while improving your ability to evaluate livestock. The team competes throughout the year, and travel is required.



Ranch Horse Team

Compete against your own skill level, whatever that may be, at American Stock Horse Association shows. Besides showing horses, you will attend horse training workshops to improve your skills.



Rodeo Team

Allows college-bound cowgirls and cowboys to have the best of both worlds – boots and books! The NCTA Rodeo Team competes in the Great Plains Region of the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association.



Intramurals

Student interest generates the sports that are played in the NCTA Intramural Sports. Men and women participate in basketball, volleyball, flag football, and softball every year. Other activities like ladder golf, bocce ball, Texas Hold ‘Em, Wii, and Xbox 360 tournaments are also held.



Aggies Trap Club/Team

Aggie trap athletes practice weekly and sponsor contests such as the “Top Shot” event at the Curtis Shooting Range east of town. Any NCTA student can join the Aggies Trap Club, participating for recreation and sport or as a competitive member of the traveling squad. Team members will travel and compete for NCTA as student athletes across the state.

Other Opportunities

Go to ncta.unl.edu/clubs to learn about:

- *Student Senate*
- *Student Ambassadors*



ncta.unl.edu/clubs-teams-activities

CALL US AT: 308-367-4124

Dual Credit Enrollment

The University of Nebraska – Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture (NCTA) strives to reach out to high school students at schools throughout Nebraska and surrounding states. Through our Dual Credit Enrollment program, we provide high schools choices of additional courses designed to allow students to earn high school and college credits concurrently. Many of the NCTA college credits will transfer to other colleges as well. The courses are specifically for high school students interested in agribusiness management systems, animal science and ag education, agronomy and horticulture, and veterinary technology.

Designed to provide a positive experience during a 16-week semester, these ready-to-use classes are prepared by NCTA faculty for delayed delivery using the Blackboard system, which provides flexibility to teach with minimal effort at a time of day best suited to the student and school. The Blackboard courses contain lectures with voice-overs, lab assignments, homework assignments, online quizzes and tests. A few distance learning math and horticulture courses are taught in “real time” through various venues of delivery (class times are Central Standard Time).

Choose from:

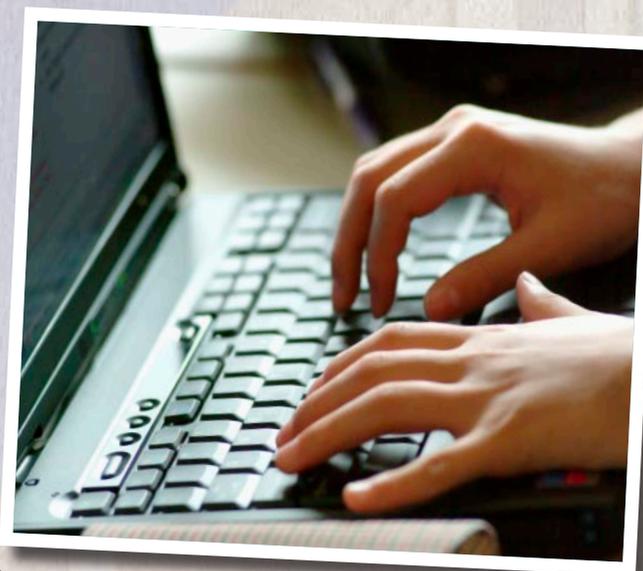
- + Agribusiness Management Systems
- + Animal Science and Ag Education
- + Agronomy and Horticulture
- + Veterinary Technology
- + General Education Courses

Apply Online

Follow these 3 simple steps:

1. Visit ncta.unl.edu
2. Click on the “Apply Here” tab
3. Fill out the appropriate NCTA application

At this time you will receive your NU ID # and create your password. Save this information as you will need it to access MyRed for your blackboard user name, registration, student accounts, and to view your grades.



To Enroll

To enroll in the NCTA Dual Credit enrollment program, a prospective student must:

1. Be a junior or senior in a Nebraska high school (or have special permission from both NCTA and the host school);
2. Have a 3.0 GPA or greater (if not, the student’s counselor should call Tina Smith at 308-367-5267);
3. Complete the online Dual Credit Enrollment application found at <http://ncta.unl.edu/apply>; and
4. Supply evidence of completion of all course requirements or prerequisites listed under the individual course description.

Dual Credit Tuition Cost is \$59.00/Credit Hour



ncta.unl.edu/high-school-dual-credit

CALL US AT: 308-367-5204

Tuition & Financial Information

Tuition costs:

Per credit hour

- + Resident: \$118.00
- + Non-resident: \$250.25

Per semester (based on 17 credits)

- + Resident: \$2,006.00
- + Non-resident: \$4,254.25

Fees per semester:

- + Registration fee \$ 20.00
- + Consolidated student fee (per credit hour) \$ 19.62
- + Parking permit (yearly) \$ 20.00
- + Estimated books and supplies \$ 500.00

Meal plans (per semester):

- + 5 meals/week \$ 525.00
- + 14 meals/week \$ 1,470.00
- + 18 meals/week \$ 1,890.00
- + 21 meals/week \$ 2,205.00

Residence hall fees (per semester):

- + Traditional residence halls starting at \$ 1,103.00
- + Aggie West residence hall starting at \$ 1,367.00
- + Aggie Central residence hall starting at \$ 1,579.00



SCHOLARSHIPS

Academic Scholarship

The Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture Academic Scholarship and Financial Aid Program provides competitive, merit-based financial assistance to students who enroll for full-time study. These scholarships are based solely on academic achievement and promise.

Activity Scholarship

The Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture Activity Scholarship Program was created for students involved in team activities. To be considered for an Activity Scholarship, students must show excellence in their respective areas of activity. Activity scholarships may be awarded to students competing in rodeo, livestock judging, and Ranch Horse Team. Scholarship recommendations are made by the head coach of his or her team.

Non-Resident Tuition Scholarship

Students who are non-residents will be awarded this scholarship if they have a high school cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher. This scholarship helps cover tuition costs for out of state students.

Scholarship Requirements

- + ACT, ASSET, or Compass Score
- + High school transcript
- + Paid application for admission
- + File the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

Earn to Learn

In the Earn to Learn Program, you have the opportunity to gain work experience while earning your room and board. For more information see page 20.



ncta.unl.edu/financial-aid-scholarships

CALL US AT: 308-367-5207

Discover Your Way at NCTA

NCTA MISSION STATEMENT

The Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture is devoted to a statewide mission of preparing students for successful careers in agriculture, veterinary technology, food and related industries. The college provides open access to innovative technical education resulting in associate degrees, certificates, diplomas and other credentials.

NCTA VISION

The Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture will be an effective and nurturing student-centered learning community with a national reputation for producing graduates who are in high demand by cutting-edge industries.

NCTA Values

- + Dedication to student development
- + Demonstration of personal integrity and responsibility
- + Practical and applied educational activities
- + Student engagement in the learning process
- + Commitment to seek and teach the most recent and accurate academic information
- + Educational activities that lead to student lifelong learning and gainful employment
- + Respect for the contributions, perspectives and personal worth of all members of the college community

NCTA Key Characteristics

Important and distinctive features of the NCTA experience:

- + Practical, applied, experiential education activities
- + Career-applied technical education
- + Programs relevant to job attainment and career development
- + Dedicated and caring faculty and staff
- + Low student-to-faculty ratio
- + Accessible land and animal resources for hands-on learning
- + Interaction and support from agricultural industries and employers
- + Close working relationship with the UNL Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources (IANR) and the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (CASNR)



As an institution, NCTA is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission. Additionally, the NCTA Veterinary Technology Program has been accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Committee on Veterinary Technician Education and Activities (CVTEA) since the early 1970s.

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CALL US AT: 1-800-3CURTIS

Veterinary Technology

in Curtis, Nebraska at the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture



Gain experience working hands on with small animals, exotic animals and livestock at NCTA!



Programs Available

- + Vet Tech
- + Veterinary Assistant
- + Animal Husbandry
- + Animal Health Management
- + Equine Health Care



- + New state-of-the-art technical laboratories
- + Surgery, recovery and diagnostic facilities
- + Climate controlled animal housing

See page 9 for more details