

Ranch Horse Show

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judged the trail course, and after the rider finished the course, he would go straight into the pleasure run, judged by Joanna Hergenreder. After that, TL Meyer judged the reigning class. NCTA would like to thank those clinicians and also the students that put in so much effort to make the show run smoothly. Students were in charge of entries, scribing for the judge, placing the contestants, handing out prizes, getting the arena ready and keeping the trail course set up. They were also in charge of letting the calves into the arena and rounding them up and putting them back into the pen after they were finished being in use. The Vineyard Church in Curtis offered a free supper that evening, and many of those who participated in the show were able to relax and enjoy each other's company with a big plate of lasagna and delicious desserts. The show was quite a success and was a very fun weekend.

*Interested in writing for Aggie Up?
Contact Eric Reed: ereed2@unl.edu*

Top 10 Large Animal Vet Tech Programs

- The University of Nebraska-Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture, Curtis, Neb.
- Northeast Iowa Community College, Calmar, Iowa
- Colorado Mountain College, Glenwood Springs, Colo.
- Alfred State, Alfred, N.Y.
- Vet Tech Institute, Houston, Texas
- Bradford School, Columbus, Ohio
- The University of New Hampshire, Durham, N.H.
- The University of Michigan, East Lansing, Mich.
- La Guardia Community College, New York, N.Y.
- Pierpont Community and Technical College, Fairmont, W.Va.

Source: VetTechColleges.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December

- 16 Ultimate Blow Out at 11:00 a.m.
- 16 NCTA Horse Show Team Stoplight Dance at 9:00 p.m.
- 17 Semester final exams begin
- 19 End of Fall Semester
- 20 Residence Halls close for winter break at 12:00 pm.
- 23 Holiday Closedown (NCTA Offices Closed)

January

- 2 NCTA Opens from Holiday Closedown
- 12 Resident Halls reopen for spring semester at 10:00 a.m.
- 13 Second semester classes begin
- 13 Late registration beings (\$25 late refistration fee assessed)
- 20 Martin Luther King Jr., Day (No classes)

To add an event, contact Traci Bradney at 308-367-5203 or trbradney2@unl.edu

Things I Think

By Kevin Martin

1. Either its been cold or I am losing circulation to parts of my body.
2. Gun sales are up for Christmas. =>
3. Not understanding politics is probably a good thing in my case.
4. I apparently did not teach my daughter how to use the fireplace properly. Smoke.
5. I can't tell if I am more patient or care less.
6. Why do I care what the fox says?
7. I will not be having another root canal without having pliers in MY hand.
8. Graduating from high school didn't take much effort did it.
9. It's Christmas...not Xmas.
10. Have hope.

Nebraska UNIVERSITY OF
NCTA NEBRASKA COLLEGE OF
TECHNICAL AGRICULTURE



Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture

AGGIE UP!



NCTA Puts on Ranch Horse Show

By Jessie Connelly, Co-Editor

On November 23rd and 24th, NCTA hosted a Ranch Horse Show open to the public. Saturday, the 23rd was a clinic that would prepare the riders for the show the next day. Some of the riders were very experienced, whereas others were only beginners. The clinicians for the day were specific for each type of event.

The morning started out with the working cattle class. On one end of the Livestock Training Center's arena, NCTA's own Roy Cole, instructed the riders on working with the flag which would prepare them for working with live cattle on the other end of the arena with clinician Todd Thiesen. After a morning of working cattle, NCTA's Joanna Hergenreder worked with the riders on tips for Ranch Riding or Pleasure on one end of the arena and TL Meyer's walked everyone through the trail course on the other end of the arena. The trail course was set up by students of NCTA, and consisted of a



log to drag, a blanket to rub over the horse, a mailbox to open, logs to trot over and more. After everyone had a chance to go through each of the of the clinics, Rusty and Shelly Wills instructed the riders on reigning and what would be looked for during their ride in the show on Sunday. The day was ended by a potluck dinner.

On Sunday, the show began with the Working Cow class. Joanna Hergenreder was the judge for this class and everyone gave a great effort to show off all they had learned the day before. After that, TL Meyer

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Available Online

- ncta.unl.edu/aggie-up
- facebook.com/aggieup

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Jessie's Jumbled Thoughts

By Jessie Connelly, Co-Editor



Let it snow, let it snow, let it STOP. This time of year, I turn into that green, fuzzy thing that sits in a garbage can on Sesame Street. I abso-

lutely hate the snow. It sticks to everything, and you can't shake it off. Your siblings will come running through the house with their snowboots on, excited to show mom something, and you happen to be walking by, innocently, and bam! Your socks are now soaking wet. I hate wearing my shoes, and I definitely hate wearing them when I'm supposed to be comfortable at home, but you about have to keep your feet from freezing up or slipping on the floor. When you do decide to go outside and try to play in it, you take your little sister out, and she falls in the snow, and after you get her up, she sees the snow packed on her mittens, and try as hard as she can, it just won't come off. So the next thing you know, you're wiping off tears as you walk back inside to start the 20 minutes process of unbundling. And during the walk back to the house from the site of the fall, you get snow in your boots, and your wish for staying dry, no matter how many tricks you tried, just goes up in smoke. And driving, that's the worst part. If you can get your car to even run, due to the freezing cold, you're fishtailing and skidding on ice, or your tires are spinning like you're mudding, as you try to make it up that big hill. And it really doesn't matter how big your vehicle is, you always end up giving up or kicking it into 4 wheel drive, that magical helper that's everyone's best friend during the winter months. Plans are changed and rearranged as you compensate for the bad weather, and sad little faces know they won't be going anywhere that day. I never look forward to a "White Christmas" I'm totally okay with a green or even brown Christmas, so long as I'm dry and not stuck in a ditch. I will admit that snow does look kind of pretty, but I'm okay with looking at a picture, or watching it on

a youtube video. Every year at this time, I say to myself, "This time next year, I'm going to move to California or Florida." I'd like to ask the Big Guy up there, in charge of the weather, to give us a rain check on this snow, and then...never cash it in.

Moving Time

Several of the NCTA faculty and staff are in the process of moving offices.



*College Tips:
Always back up your files.*

Goat Roping

Collegiate Cattleman held a goat roping, sloppy joe feed, and dance the weekend before final exams.



Food Pantry



Above: Management Concepts class with some of the goodies collected for the food pantry from the Dodge and Donate Tournament last weekend.

“I’m going to college. I don’t care if it ruins my career. I’d rather be smart than a movie star.”
-Natalie Portman

*** FREE SUPPER ***

Ugly Sweater Contest
and
Entertainment

WHO: All NCTA Students
WHAT: FREE Supper
WHERE: VINEYARD CHURCH
111 Center Ave, Curtis
WHEN: DECEMBER 15, 2013 6pm to 8pm
WHY: Just Because

NO CHURCH – JUST GOOD FOOD

BRING YOUR FRIENDS!

*** FREE SUPPER ***

Aggies Speak Out

“What do you want for Christmas?”



Amanda Hill, Broken Bow, Neb.
I want Ugg Boots and...a new car.



Kerstyn “Krutch” Kurcz, Omaha, Neb.
Clothes, makeup, a new car, and...”



John Dunlay
A signed diploma.



“Ropin” Rob Keller
To pass my finals.

“I love being home at Christmas-time.”

-Ashley Tisdale

NCTA named Top 10 Vet Tech College

By Mary Crawford

The veterinary technology program at the University of Nebraska-Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture (NCTA) in Curtis was recently named a Top 10 large animal vet tech program in the United States.

“Students in the vet tech program at NCTA can find a number of opportunities to increase their large animal experience and understanding, including by working with animals located in a horse barn and a cattle facility at the school,” said industry reviewer, VetTechColleges.com, on its website. Barbara Berg, NCTA vet tech division chair, said about 30 first-year and 25 second-year students are currently enrolled in the NCTA’s Veterinary Technology program. Students complete 76-80 credit hours of coursework to achieve their associate of applied science degree. Courses which include production animals as well as equine are Large Animal Techniques, Production Animals, Introduction to Animal Science, Animal Management, Nursing I and Nursing II.

“Students here at Curtis are very fortunate in that each instructor understands the importance of setting up the class labs in a manner which allows students to pursue their particular area of interest and yet ensures each and every student has the same opportunities to

learn the skill sets so important to the real world job,” Berg notes. “Students do not just watch a veterinarian or technician demonstrate the skill. They actually have the chance to practice and perform the skills themselves.”

NCTA’s two-year technical program, long touted for its hands-on application with an extensive array of animals, livestock and horses, as well as expanded

facilities which include surgical operating theater, laboratories, six X-ray bays, and new animal housing and a vet teaching clinic/hospital, is one of few from the Midwest making the Top Ten.



Above: Nursing 2 and Anesthesiology Practical Final: Tess Hughes, Megan Brown and Lanay Esch. Below: Second-year veterinary technology students outside Abaxis plant during trip to Olathe, Kan.



Hometown Christmas - Curtis, Nebraska



Ashley Lawton is NCTA Aggie of the Month for December

The Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture (NCTA) has named Ashley Lawton of Aurora, Neb., "Aggie of the Month" for December 2013.

Lawton, who also holds a bachelor's degree in K-12 music education, is a veterinary technology major completing her first semester at NCTA. She is described as a good role model and someone willing to help with department and college projects. She is a member of Student Senate, Student Technicians of Veterinary Medicine Association (STVMA), Collegiate FFA/F-H, and the NCTA Ranch Horse team.

Veterinary Technology Professor Dr. Ricky Sue Barnes said, "Ashley is the type of student you wish you had a class full of. She is hard working, actively involved with a lot of aspects of the Vet Tech depart-



ment as well as NCTA as a whole. A wonderful role model for our student body."

Lawton works as a media specialist in the NCTA Admissions Office, producing videos and pictures for publications.

Dodgeball Photos



Safari Club



By Joshua Christianson

So what is Safari Club? It is a place for you to get up close and personal with more than your average farm animal, or tail wagging four legged friend. While there is a heavy emphasis on agricultural animals at NCTA and in Nebraska, in a broader spectrum, veterinary medicine and animal care spans far wider than production animals. If you are interested in getting experience, interaction, and education regarding everything from reptiles and amphibians, to large exotics such as zoo animals, and wildlife rehabilitation animals, then Safari Club is the right place to get it.

One of the club's hallmark activities is long trip over Christmas break to get education and experience with everything from zoo animals, marine life, wildlife sanctuaries, wildlife rehabilitation facilities and much more. The trip itinerary is customized each year to fit the interests of the club members. The current trip being worked on is a trip to Costa Rica over Christmas break 2014. A place the club's advisor, Judy Bowmaster, is very familiar with. She has helped the club plan twelve trips so far, four of which have been to Costa Rica. Depending on what the club scheduled, how much members wanted to spend

on the trip, and logistics, past trips have ranged from eleven to sixteen days. Some trips can be a bit expensive, but individual members raise money through fund raisers during their time at NCTA to help pay for their trip.

Safari Club doesn't just go to Costa Rica either. Past trips have also been to zoos, and wildlife parks in places like Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, and South Dakota. The trips don't go unnoticed by NCTA or the community either. After each trip, the students compile a presentation, open to the public, and get to educate the community on everything they learned throughout their trip. In addition, for all the effort they put in, students receive college credit. You don't have to be a student to attend either. So, if you think taking an exotic trip to Costa Rica next Christmas sounds like fun, it's not too late. Get in touch with a Safari Club member or Judy Bowmaster for more information on how to get involved.

Reiley's Ramblings:

It's beginning to Look a Lot like...Blah

By Reiley Wieland, Co-Editor

Ahhh, Christmas, the Three Month holiday. It started clear back in October, when Walmart first put out the decorations. Then we hit November, when the commercials for Black Friday and all the holiday specials plagued the TV screen. We even skipped that silly little holiday, what's it called? Oh yeah, Thanksgiving. But who cares about that day, right?

Instead, all the focus is on Christmas. But the focus isn't actually on the holiday's true meaning, it's on the commercial aspect of the season. I get it, I really do. Christmas makes businesses money. Between thousands of dollars per family spent on presents, all the food purchased for the multiple family gatherings, and even the plane tickets for the cynical folks to fly to the Bahamas to avoid the whole ordeal, Christmas is a multi-billion dollar industry. If you take away all of that, Christmas would just be another forgettable day like Thanksgiving and Flag Day.

It's so cliché to discuss what the "true meaning" of Christmas is, but it's an underrated discussion. I'm not an overly religious person, but sometimes even I begin to wonder why people even bother with the "holy birth" concept when it's obviously not a big deal anymore. Maybe it's just my cynical nature, but I think the holiday has been tainted beyond repair.

On a brighter note, there are plenty of things that I really love about Christmas. Wrapping gifts is definitely my job in the house. I love sitting down and



boxing up presents for the nieces and nephews, folding the paper nice and neat, and setting them all under the tree in a picturesque scene from a children's book. It's a good way for me to express my inner child wanting the storybook Christmas tree.

Other things I love? The food my mom, Shelly, makes for all of the families. Soups, cookie baskets, and my grandmother's homemade Chex Mix. She is always the hostess with the most-ess, making sure everyone has a good time. My mom, Connie, is the queen of random gifts. Every year she gives all the kids a "stocking," which changes yearly from a bucket, to a shoulder bag, to a laundry hamper. Inside these stockings are the widest variety of things that always show their true potential when I least expect it. And then there's my dad, the ultimate Christmas guru. He collects Santa Claus of all kinds, so it's Christmas year round at our house. He also is Santa Claus. He has the costume, the beard, the jolly laugh. The only thing he's missing is a reindeer, though I'm sure it'll happen one day.

To sum it up, I'm not all dark clouds about the Christmas. I think it can be a great time for family and friends to get together. Heck, if nothing else, it gives college students a chance to go home and eat some home made food! I just wish it didn't have such a commercial hold on people. I wish people could just be happy to be with the ones they love, and I wish that it didn't overshadow every other thing that should be important about the season.

So, with that, I wish everyone a nice break filled with good food, better people, and little bit of time to relax. See you all next semester!

College Tips:
Never leave your clothes in a washer or dryer after the cycle is over.

"Instead of telling the world what you're eating for breakfast, you can use social networking to do something that's meaningful.

- Edward Norton

“Collegebound Nebraska” Includes Ag College Students

By Mary Crawford

Tuition assistance through “Collegebound Nebraska” will now include students planning to attend the University of Nebraska-Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture (NCTA) in Curtis, NCTA Dean Ron Rosati recently announced.

“An important part of the mission of NCTA is to provide easy access to higher education services for the residents of Nebraska,” said Rosati, who joined the two-year technical agriculture school in July. “NCTA is pleased to offer the Collegebound Nebraska program as another way to remove financial barriers to college participation.”

Through the program, the college guarantees that all Nebraska residents eligible for a Federal Pell Grant may attend the college tuition free, Rosati said. Eligibility criteria and further details are outlined at <http://collegeboundnebraska.com/>, where NCTA’s participation will be added to other college campuses within the University of Nebraska system.

Over the past three years, 91% of NCTA students have received financial aid, Rosati said. On average, Nebraska residents getting financial aid have

received grant and scholarship awards that exceeded the cost of tuition and fees by \$700 per year.

“After paying their bill for tuition and fees, most in-state students received a check for more than \$700 to be used to pay for rent, food, transportation, books and other expenses associated with living and going to college,” Rosati explained.

NCTA offers an Associate’s degree or Associates of Applied Science degree in four majors: Agri-Business, Agriculture Production, Horticulture, and Veterinary Technology. Some Nebraska high school juniors and seniors also are taking NCTA classes through the Dual Credit program and earning credit for high school and college concurrently.

Additionally, NCTA and UNL’s College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources recently announced that NCTA students can now earn a 4-year degree while at Curtis, through UNL Online programs. In 2014, students can receive a Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) degree.

Information about the NCTA is available at 1-800-3CURTIS or online at NCTA.unl.edu.

Intramural Volleyball Season Ends



Intramural volleyball winners: Front row (left to right): Marissa Kohl, Carley Lobeda, Tess Hughes, Tori Preisendorf; back row (left to right): Eric Senff, Taylor Rossenbach, Gus Peterson. Intramural basketball begins Jan. 28.

NCTA to offer horticulture classes in North Platte in winter

Plant propagation and pesticide certification classes for area high school students and the general public will be offered in North Platte starting in January by college professors from the University of Nebraska-Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture at Curtis.

“For the first time with fulltime faculty as instructors, NCTA is coordinating these offerings with our University of Nebraska partner at the West Central Research and Extension Center,” said Scott Mickelsen, Ph.D, NCTA associate dean. “We want to bring this valuable information to high school students and any adults interested in continuing education.”

The college-credit classes begin Monday, January 13, and Tuesday, January 14 at the West Central REC Auditorium, 402 West State Farm Road, North Platte. Plant propagation offers 3-credit-hours taught by Tee Bush, NCTA horticulture instructor, and consists of plant cuttings, budding, grafting, layering and propagation by seed. The course meets Tuesdays and Thursdays, January 14 to May 1, from 6-8 p.m.

Brad Ramsdale, Ph.D, NCTA assistant professor of agronomy, will teach pesticide certification which prepares individuals for taking the commercial/non-commercial applicator’s license exam in turf and ornamental horticulture. The class, providing 1 college credit, will be Mondays, from 6-8 p.m. The course begins January 13, and concludes March 10.

“The courses offer good foundational knowledge for horticulture, overall,” Ramsdale said. “Students can use the courses for college elective units, and the general public may want to learn more about pest problems in general, particularly for ornamental plants and turf management.”

Information is available from NCTA, Lincoln County Extension Service, and WCREC, said Mickelsen. Enrollment is a two-step process:

1) Applications are due by January 8, 2014. The online application for NCTA admission is at <http://ncta.unl.edu>.

2) Register for the course by contacting Vicky Luke at (308) 367-5204 or vluke1@unl.edu. Course tuition will be \$116 per credit hour for the general public, and \$43.75 for high school students (including those taking it as dual credit, for both high school and college credit). For financial aid information, contact Vicky Luke.

College Tips:
If you're having issues with your roommate, talk about them.