

## Show Cattle Fitting, Feeding Clinic March 22

By Mary Crawford

Livestock exhibitors know it takes a lot of hard work outside of the show ring to lead a steer or heifer into winner's circle.

The right combination of genetics, animal nutrition, and perfected grooming techniques can create a champion, notes Dr. Douglas Smith, animal science professor at the University of Nebraska-Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture (NCTA).

On Saturday, March 22nd, Smith will be among professional clinicians at the 3rd Annual Honor Show Chow and NCTA Feeding and Fitting Clinic. Hands-on grooming classes and presentations will be from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the NCTA Livestock Teaching Center and Livestock Arena in Curtis. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m.

Instructors will include Kevin Schlake of the North Platte Feed Center, and Bob May of Bobby May Show Steers, Mineral Point, Wisconsin, whose daughter Lauren exhibited the Reserve Champion Market Steer at the National Western Stock Show at Denver in January.

"The clinic is for both first-year exhibitors and seasoned livestock feeders. I am sure students, youth groups, leaders and families will gain from attending the daylong clinic," said Smith.

NCTA Agriculture Production System (APS) students will assist in conducting the clinic, which features nutrition for other species of show livestock as well. Smith chairs the APS Division, coaches the NCTA Livestock Judging Team and is a noted judge and clinician for youth livestock contests.

Participants are encouraged to preregister online with the link at [www.ncta.unl.edu](http://www.ncta.unl.edu), contacting Smith at (308) 367-5286 or [doug.smith@unl.edu](mailto:doug.smith@unl.edu), or calling Schlake at (308) 532-5010.

The clinic is free of charge to all participants. Lunch will be available at the NCTA cafeteria. Honor Show Chow is a registered livestock feed of Purina Mills, Smith said.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### March

- 10 Second 8-Week Session Begins
- 10 NCTA Open House at 8:00 a.m.
- 12 NCTA Faculty/Staff Forum on the Budget at 3:30 p.m.
- 13 St. Patty's Dance at 9:00 p.m.
- 15 Hunter/Jumper Lessons at 7:00 a.m.
- 16 Vet Tech Day at 12:00 p.m.
- 17 Bob Phares Meeting at 1:30 p.m.
- 18 District 44 Legislative Candidate Forum at 7:30 a.m.
- 22 3rd Annual Honor Show Chow and NCTA Feeding and Fitting Clinic at 7:30 a.m.
- 22-24 Spring Break (Student Holiday)
- 27 Farm Safety Day for 5th and 6th Graders at 8:00 a.m.
- 29 PRCA Rough Stock Camp at 7:00 a.m.

To add an event, contact Traci Bradney at 308-367-5203 or [trbradney2@unl.edu](mailto:trbradney2@unl.edu)

## Things I Think

By Kevin Martin

1. 8 weeks left...that went by fast
2. You get older every day. Don't forget to get wiser.
3. Wish I didn't have to look at the yard when the snow melts and all you see is dog crap.
4. Ditto for the mud in house I get yelled at for.
5. Spring is here, attendance is falling. Check yourself
6. Little girls are the best salesmen (women).
7. Don't embarrass yourself on facebook... again.
8. If you're a bad drunk, you're a bad drunk forever. Accept it. Deal with it.
9. Over prepare, go with the flow.
10. Life is good.

**"Education without values, as useful as it is, seems rather to make man a more clever devil."  
-C.S. Lewis**



Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture

# AGGIE UP!



## NCTA Crops Judgers Gearing Up For Competition

By Aaron Doxon

The Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture (NCTA) Crops Judging teams are gearing up for their annual late winter and spring competitions. The first competition was at Iowa State in Ames Iowa on February 8, 2014. The second competition will be at Manhattan Kansas at Kansas State University March 13 through March 15. The third and final competition will be the big districts competition. This one will be located in Maryville Missouri at Northwest Missouri State College starting April 9 and going through to April 12.

There are a total of nine crop judgers at Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture. The teams are coached by agronomy professor Bradford Ramsdale who says "we should be able to compete very well against the other 2-year schools."

The senior team consists of: Mitch Poss, Sara Alber, Cody Vana, and Andy Nickell. The junior team consists of: Casey Walkup, Austin, Jakubowski, Desarae Catlett, Dan DeVries, and Aaron Doxon. These nine student have been taking time out of their days to come into the school at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays to practice to become a better team and out-do the competition

of the other two year schools.

There are two different categories of schools at the competitions. The first category consists of four-year schools. The second category consists of two-year schools and is the category in which the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture participates.

Even though the schools are divided into four-year and two-year schools, the tests are all the same. In one respect, the tests are actually harder in the two-year division because many students in the four-year division have had three or four years of classes.

The tests in which the students compete are all agronomy based. Students complete a total of four one-hour tests. The first of the tests is an Agronomy Exam that has 75 random questions over agronomy. The next test is a Math Practical that is very tough and contains things from pesticide rates to feeding livestock. The third test is a Plant and Seed Identification where contestants walk around tables with 75 plant samples on them that have to identify the seed or premature plant. Finally, the last test is a Lab Practical where competitors again walk around a table of 75 items ranging from pesticide labels to farming equipment and have to identify and know the answers to.

### Available Online

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

### Inside this Issue

- Show Cattle Fitting, Feeding Clinic
- Editorial by Jessie Connelly
- Aggie of the Month
- Science Fair
- Aggies Speak Out
- Things I Think
- And more!

### Aggie Up! Staff

- Jessie Connelly  
Co-Editor
- Reiley Wieland  
Co-Editor
- Mary Crawford,  
Guest Writer
- Aaron Doxon,  
Guest Writer
- Eric Reed,  
Faculty Advisor

## Jessie's Jumbled Thoughts

By Jessie Connelly, Co-Editor



The first eight weeks are finished! And for some of us, that means only eight weeks until graduation! Even though I'm looking forward to getting that piece of paper that says I'm qualified

for working with horses, I'm really going to miss this place. I have changed so much since that first day I practically pushed my parents off campus, telling them I'd be fine, I wanted to do this on my own now. Right off the bat, I was able to develop a good reputation for being responsible, helpful and smart, though to this day, I still wonder why everyone assumes I'm so smart. I've never been in the habit of showing anyone my test scores, and honestly, I was just as new to the material as everyone else was, but I suppose there are worse things to be called. A good reputation is really important, even though you're not supposed to be bothered by how people perceive you, admit it, we all really do care about what others think of us. And even though I've lost some friends, I keep gaining more and that means a lot to me. Most of my relationships were started because someone needed help with homework and thought that I was the best bet for it, but they've become more than just study help, and that means a lot. I really have learned a lot since coming here, and I can thank the amazing teachers for that. The good relationships with the teachers that we have here is something I think the big schools are missing. Every teacher knows you by name, and they treat each student like an individual, not just a clump of people they're paid to teach. I'd say that's the best thing about NCTA, even though we sometimes get mad at our teachers for assigning things we think is unnecessary, really the relationships we have with them are so important. I don't think I would have succeeded as well had I been in a big school where the teachers didn't have the time or energy to get to know everyone. So I want to thank those great teachers that I've had for helping me make the Dean's list both years that I've been here. I also want to thank those fellow classmates that expected me to know the answers which

pushed me to try harder so that I wouldn't let them down or make myself look dumb. Even though it's a lot of pressure being the "smart one", being pushed is what makes us succeed. I'll never regret choosing this school, or meeting the friends that I have. I look forward to graduating, but my time here has seriously been pretty legit.

## Aggies Speak Out

*"What do you like best about college?"*



Anna Fischer, Maywood, Neb. I like the hands-on experience of college and learning useful things I can apply to the real world. Meeting new people is also a plus.



Christy Bacon, Arthur, Neb. Not being under my parents' thumb.



Emily Rumley, Jefferson, Iowa. Meeting new people and learning new things.

**"Be more concerned with your character than your reputation, because your character is what you really are, while your reputation is merely what others think you are."  
-John Wooden**

## Aggie of the Month



Patrick Zochol of Alliance, Neb., was named the NCTA Aggie of the Month for March. Zochol is described as a person who goes "above and beyond" in helping students and teams on campus. He is an Agriculture Production Systems major with an option in Livestock Management. He also works as a Student Facility Manager on campus for the Livestock Teaching Center.

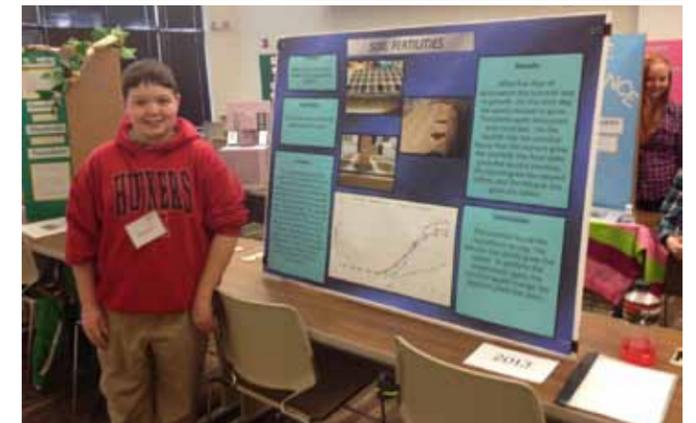
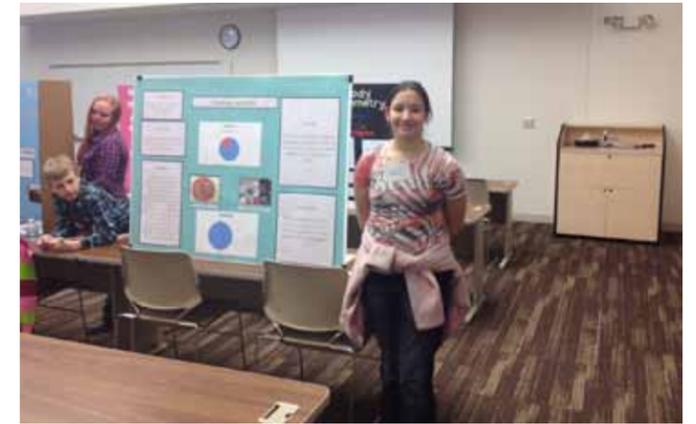
Joanna Hergenreder, APS assistant professor, said Zochol takes his role in the LTC seriously and has made dramatic improvements on the arena, coming in early to drag the arena, managing water rotations, managing practicum students in areas of cleanup and maintenance, and helping move hay for the horses when the need arises.

Pat is a member of Phi Theta Kappa honor society and treasurer of the equestrian team. He has served as a student senate representative for the equestrian and ranch horse teams. He shows competitively on a national level as an Advanced Performance Training rider and participates on the Aggie Rodeo Team as a team roper.

As for after graduation, Zochol is in process of applying to the Peace Corps.

**College Tip:**  
*Do not ask the professor if she did anything important the day you missed class.*

## NCTA Hosts Science Fair



Top: Cassandra Lister of Eustis-Farnam Public School presents a project on microbiology. Bottom: Spencer Pleschourt, also of Eustis-Farnam, presents a project in life science.

NCTA hosted the Central Nebraska Science and Engineering Fair on March 1 in the Agriculture Education Center. The fair allowed students to showcase their research projects to various judges, other students, and the public. Students not only do the research, they must present their research in a visual display, describe it in a written scientific paper, defend it orally to the judges, and justify the conclusions they come up with.

NCTA science instructor Dan Widick said, "I know of few other school projects which allow students to practice so many skills which they will use throughout their lives. I am a strong believer in students doing science fair projects and I look forward to having the fair, hosted at NCTA, grow over future years to include students from many more schools than were represented this year."

The winner of the senior division will be eligible to compete at the international level in Los Angeles later this year.