Growing global food needs
By Ron Rosati, NCTA Dean

I had the opportunity last week to attend the 2014 Water For Food global conference in Seattle, Washington, sponsored by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

The conference was organized and conducted by the University of Nebraska’s Robert B. Daugherty Water For Food Institute, a research, education and policy analysis institute created to address the global challenge of achieving food security with less pressure on water resources.

Researchers, government officials and industry leaders from around the world discussed the latest advances in technology that are being employed to assist our ranchers and farmers in continuing to produce high-quality, low-cost food in a sustainable manner.

Our challenge of continuing to meet this goal is significant since it is predicted the world’s population will grow by 2 billion people by the year 2050, requiring 60 percent more food than is produced today.

Experts at the conference expressed optimism at the ability of the world’s producers to meet this global challenge. Speakers noted the emergence of a second Green Revolution fueled by new precision agriculture technology made possible expanding data. Plant genetics developed through a variety of new and traditional techniques were also discussed as a significant part of the solution.

A practical model of how this new mechanical and biological technology can help solve water and food security issues was presented by a team of faculty from NCTA, University of Nebraska-Kearney, and the University of Wisconsin at Whitewater.

Many of the presentations from the conference were recorded and are currently posted on YouTube. The Water For Food Institute home page (http://waterforfood.nebraska.edu/) contains a link which will take you to these plenary presentations.

By visiting this webpage you will have the opportunity to listen to some outstanding presentations by world-class experts discussing the latest information on global water and food security. I encourage you to take advantage of this excellent opportunity.

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NCTA events:
Oct. 30    Halloween Dance, Student Activity Center
Nov. 1    Stock Dog Clinic, Livestock Teaching Center
Nov. 2    Frontier County 4-H Achievement Celebration
Nov. 3    Frontier County Extension Board, Ag Hall
Nov. 4    Election Day – Vote
Nov. 5       NCTA Student Resume Workshop
Nov. 6       NCTA Student-Employer Career Fair
Nov. 6       UNL Heuermann Lecture, Orion Samuelson televised at NCTA Ed Center

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NCTA Mission:

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.

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