Opportunities abound for NCTA’s second semester
By Ron Rosati, NCTA Dean

Our students at the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture are back in the swing of classes and second semester activities.

Their academic experience includes opportunities off campus, as well as in the classroom, for exposure to a variety of agricultural industry venues and interactions.

For example, freshman and sophomore students traveled with Coach Doug Smith to compete and work at the National Western Stock Show and Rodeo in Denver. Ten students who qualified for the NCTA Livestock Judging Team assisted Nebraska producers in some of the cattle pen shows, in addition to gaining experience either judging or assisting at the collegiate livestock evaluation contest.

We also had a dozen students from the NCTA Business Club, under the leadership of Jennifer McConville, agribusiness management systems assistant professor, engaged in the stock show and agricultural experiences. The vendors and forums provide insights and a chance to “rub elbows” so to speak with industry leaders and potential business employers.

This week, 13 students from the crop management class travel to Oberlin, Kan., with Brad Ramsdale, agronomy professor, for the “Cover Your Acres” meeting.

And, next weekend members of our NCTA Ranch Horse Team are entered in contests at the Black Hills Stock Show and Rodeo in Rapid City, S.D. They are coached by Joanna Hergenreder, animal science assistant professor and ranch horse team coach.

These students, instructors and coaches are dedicated. Over the holidays, livestock judges and ranch horse team members returned to campus early, several days before the start of classes to begin workouts for their competitions.

We also had vet tech students and friends or family, several NCTA faculty and some family members travel to Costa Rica for a 10-day educational study trip in early January. They funded this trip themselves and had been planning it for about a year. Judy Bowmaster Cole organizes this in alternating years and provides a study and cultural experience customized to students interested in exotic animals and species which are not found in Nebraska.

I appreciate the enthusiasm and interest of all of our students, and am proud of their representation of NCTA as they travel or compete at these regional, national and even international events. To hear more about their experiences or perhaps have a presentation at your club, classroom or meeting, contact one of the faculty mentioned here.
We do have several events on our calendar in the next few weeks, so know that you are invited to stop by and attend or join us for activities of interest. Our campus is your campus. Please call in advance at 1-800-3CURTIS to let us know of your interest.

And, here’s a reminder for crop producers to register by Jan. 25th for the soil moisture probe workshop here at NCTA on Feb. 19th. Contact Paige with Dawson Public Power District at (308) 324-2386 or e-mail NEWBA2012@gmail.com.

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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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Upcoming events:
Jan. 24 – Market beef weigh-in at LTC
Jan. 26 – Frontier County Extension Board, 6:30 p.m., LTC
Feb. 7-8 – Sherman Tegtmeier Horsemanship Clinic, LTC Arena
Feb. 11 – FFA Career Development Events contest
Feb. 19 – Soil Moisture Probe Workshop, 8:30 a.m.

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Dean's.Column.01.19.15