NCTA Welcomes University of Nebraska President Hank Bounds
By Ron Rosati, NCTA Dean

This week marks the official arrival to Nebraska of Hank Bounds, the incoming president of the University of Nebraska. He begins his tenure as the seventh president of the University on April 13, and will spend his first week on a “Getting to Know Nebraska” tour.

His leadership includes that of the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture at Curtis and campuses at Omaha, the Medical Center, Lincoln and Kearney.

You may recall that our linkage to the University of Nebraska is through the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources. However, all campuses, programs, staff and facilities of the University of Nebraska system fall under the purview of the Board of Regents and the University President.

During his “Getting to Know Nebraska” tour which includes a visit to Curtis next Tuesday, Dr. Bounds will be joined by Board of Regents Chairman Bob Phares of North Platte, Ronnie Green, NU vice president and vice chancellor of IANR, and Brian Hastings, president and CEO of the University of Nebraska Foundation.

I look forward to hosting them to NCTA, introducing our students, staff and faculty, and showcasing the NCTA campus on a beautiful spring day.

NCTA is proud to be a part of the University. And, I am honored to be an administrator of the University’s sole agricultural college with a two-year mission. Daily, here in Curtis, and through our high school and distance learning linkages, we are preparing students for a future in Nebraska agriculture and related careers.

When he came to Nebraska for early visits and interviews, Dr. Bounds shared his appreciation for our mission at NCTA. I am confident the University will be in good hands during his tenure. You will appreciate his understanding of agriculture production and a day of hard work on the farm.

Hank Bounds understands agriculture. He grew up on a small farm in southern Mississippi, where his family raised pigs and cows and he was expected to do his share of the daily chores such as hauling hay. His sweat equity and native roots in agriculture bodes well with Nebraskans.

Students in veterinary technology, equine studies, livestock production, agronomy, agribusiness and agricultural education will have opportunity to converse with our guests and share a bit of their background with the new President.

Dr. Bounds started his post-secondary studies at a two-year college, relying on his service in the Army National Guard to help pay for college. He earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the University of Southern Mississippi and a doctorate from the University of Mississippi.
Having spent 25 years as an educator, Dr. Bounds is coming to Nebraska from Mississippi where he had served as commissioner of higher education since 2009. His career began as a high school teacher, then principal, superintendent and state superintendent.

Dr. Bounds and his wife, Susie, have two children, Will and Catherine. They will reside in Lincoln.

I extend my appreciation to Interim NU President James Linder, M.D., who has served since May, 2014. He helped guide our institutions after the departure of J.B. Milliken.

Please join me in the following weeks in giving President Hank Bounds a hearty “Welcome to Nebraska and NCTA!”

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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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