Shaping the Future

For the University of Nebraska
NEBRASKA COLLEGE OF TECHNICAL AGRICULTURE

2001 - 2006 Strategic Master Plan
Introduction

The College of Technical Agriculture (CTA) at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln is a leader in agricultural education and is recognized among the premier providers of agricultural educational opportunities. Within the University of Nebraska system, the Nebraska Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources (NIAR) is a component of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The College of Technical Agriculture (CTA) is responsible for shaping Nebraska's role as a leader in secondary education. As such, CTA has an essential role in the development of agricultural education in the state.

The College is a national leader in agricultural post-secondary education, preparing students for successful careers in the agricultural industry. The College offers a variety of programs designed to meet the needs of students and employers, including degrees in agriculture, animal science, and natural resources.

The College is committed to providing students with a well-rounded education that prepares them for success in the agricultural sector. The College also provides opportunities for students to gain hands-on experience through internships, research, and extracurricular activities.

The College of Technical Agriculture (CTA) is a part of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and is located on the campus in Lincoln. The College offers a range of programs in agriculture, animal science, and natural resources, and is dedicated to providing students with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in the agricultural industry.

In order to meet the needs of the industry, the College provides students with the opportunity to work closely with faculty members who are experts in their fields. The College also offers a range of extracurricular activities and internships, allowing students to gain valuable experience in their chosen fields.

The College of Technical Agriculture (CTA) is recognized as a leader in agricultural education in the state of Nebraska, and is dedicated to providing students with the best possible education in agriculture, animal science, and natural resources.
NCTA Mission

The mission of the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture is “To lead in the development and facilitation of educational opportunities by providing students the technology skills, business understanding and scientific knowledge needed to shape the future.”

The college will provide certificates, associate of applied science degrees, 2+2 transfer programs, capstone baccalaureate programs, international opportunities and distance education. NCTA will provide clients with the required science-based knowledge, professional preparation, and practical experience to reach their potential.
The college will continue to upgrade existing curricular offerings and implement new educational programs.

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- The college will provide an assessment-based instructional program to assist students in math, science, and communication skills.
- The college will maintain its instructional delivery system that is student-focused, awareness, and career success.
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A commitment to academic and instructional excellence is the primary objective of the College. The College is committed to producing students for successful careers in a highly technological and changing environment. The College offers a variety of programs that will provide students with skills to enter the workplace.

Academic Agenda
Academic Action Plan

TECHNICAL ASSOCIATE PROGRAMS
- The college will develop additional industry-linked technology-focused instructional areas including:
  - Information Technology
  - Precision Agriculture Technology
  - Irrigation Technology
  - Chemical Applications Technology
- The college will offer degree opportunities delivered through experiential learning and distance education.

ASSOCIATE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS
- The college will develop additional management based instructional areas including equine industry management and grazing systems management.

BACCALAUREATE TRANSFER PROGRAMS
- NCTA will continue to maintain and enhance current transfer programs for students wishing to obtain traditional baccalaureate degrees.
- The college will expand the development of baccalaureate capstone programs.
- The college will study the advisability and potential of developing and offering selected collaborative technology focused baccalaureate degrees.

INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY
- The college will increase its emphasis on basic and natural science instruction.
- The college will over the next 5 years develop a computerized instructional campus complete with student laptop availability, 100% classroom terminal availability and distance learning capability.
- The college will provide the opportunity and encouragement for faculty to develop and implement research programs with a special focus on student involvement.
- The college will continue to develop partnerships and program collaborations with other institutions of higher education.
- The college will sustain an “embrace change” instructional philosophy.
The college will provide additional opportunities for students from multicultural and diverse backgrounds. The college will develop effective retention strategies that will increase the success rate of NCTA students. The college will develop effective retention strategies that will increase the Nebraska and encompassing the entire Mid-Plains region of the United States. NCTA will develop and implement an extensive recruitment program emphasizing college image. The college will implement a marketing program designed to enhance the image among selected audiences and determine why students select NCTA. The college will conduct a series of studies to examine/determine the college’s graduates, non-traditional students, and agriculture industry. NCTA will effectively market the opportunities that are available.

Marketing Agenda
Marketing Action Plan

- The college will significantly increase resources necessary to aggressively market the programs of NCTA.

- NCTA will make an attempt to visit every high school agriculture program in the state of Nebraska and participate in (a minimum of 50) career fairs within Nebraska and surrounding states.

- The college will increase professional staff and involve faculty to a greater extent to meet established recruiting goals.

- The college will redesign its existing web page and dedicate adequate resources to keep it current.

- NCTA will enhance its high school agriculture teacher and industry contacts and utilize groups such as the Nebraska Agriculture Educators Association, the Agriculture Builders of Nebraska, the South Platte United Chamber of Commerce and other industry association groups as potential recruiters.

- The college will actively recruit students from multicultural and diverse backgrounds.

- NCTA will expand athletics and other programs including varsity sports, leadership activities and student life programs.

- The college will develop and build a student life center complex including new housing, student union, cafeteria and fitness center.
Institutional technology.
Relevant curriculum using state-of-the-art technology and implementing technological change and innovative programs.

The college will anticipate an accelerated rate of technological programs.

NCTA will be committed to sustaining state-of-the-art programs.

NCTA will develop strategies to prepare and

Train individuals in highly technological

Technology Agenda

NCTA will embrace the ever-increasing rate of change in technological advances and provide cutting-edge education.
Technology Action Plan

- In March 2000 the Board of Regents supported providing funds for an Education Center program statement for NCTA. This Center must include state-of-the-art instructional technology.

- NCTA will pursue a larger network connection to the University of Nebraska network.

- NCTA will solicit funding support from the Foundation and other external sources to help provide state-of-the-art technology.

- NCTA will continue to update its existing technology in the land lab, computer systems, distance education and instruction.

- The college will provide students cost effective opportunities to purchase/lease personal computer technology.
To fully utilize all existing buildings and facilities, NCTA must improve

- Improve its instructional land laboratory.
- In order to remain technologically current, the college must expand and
  infrastructure upgrades.

The college will aggressively pursue and support instructional facilities and
the 2001-2006 era include the Education Center and Student Life Center.

Elements of the 2001 long-range master plan that need to be implemented in

- Removal of existing facilities.
- Renovation of new facilities and laboratory expansion and improve-
- In order to meet its mission, NCTA will require the construction
  or require substantial maintenance and renovation. In order to
  the operation of the campus, the buildings need to be replaced
  buildings that are 30 to 50 years old are currently essential
Local resources to fulfill its 21st century mission. Older
- Laboratory in Curtis, Nebraska. The college will need add-
- Located on a 50-acre campus supported by a 570-acre land

Facilities Agenda
Facilities Action Plan

• NCTA will improve campus accessibility in the next 5 years with the development and hard surfacing of roads, sidewalks and access points.

• The college must replace the existing heating system steam line, improve the existing internal electrical systems, install an elevator in Ag Hall and continue campus landscaping projects.

• The college will pursue funding to upgrade the existing horse barn, construct new calving and hay storage facilities, purchase state-of-the-art irrigation equipment and purchase additional crop acreage.

• The college will pursue funding to enhance the living conditions of students with the development of a Student Life Center and remodeling of the existing dorms. The Student Life Center will include residential units, a student union and cafeteria improvements.

• The college will design and remodel sections of Ag Hall for use as a Tutorial Center.
The college will expand its use of contracted professional services.

In Nebraska, community and economic development NCTA will support and positively affect collaboration and partnerships. The college will seek industry advice.

NCTA will streamline faculty development to encourage and support professional growth and enhanced programs. NCTA will launch an enhanced program external sources of funding. The college will aggressively seek continuously reevaluate its operating priorities.

Operating Agenda
Operating Action Plan

- In cooperation with the UN Foundation, NCTA will initiate a campaign drive for a Student Life Center.

- In cooperation with the UN Foundation, NCTA will continue to solicit scholarship funds.

- NCTA will launch an enhanced program to encourage and assist professional development opportunities including the implementation of individual professional development programs for each faculty member.

- NCTA will maintain individual program industry advisory councils. Additionally there will be a statewide advisory council consisting of leaders and significant constituents who have a vested interest in the programs at NCTA.

- The college will participate in activities that enhance economic development in Nebraska through liaisons with the Nebraska Rural Development Commission, the South Platte United Chamber of Commerce, the Ag Builders of Nebraska, the Medicine Creek Chamber of Commerce, the Medicine Creek Economic Development Association and other appropriate organizations.