# UNSTANCTA ALUMNI NEWS January 2006

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# Enrollment Up Another 23% at NCTA

The Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture (NCTA) in Curtis has increased student enrollment once again. Total enrollment is up 23% while freshmen enrollment is up 20% from the 2004 fall semester.

With 263 students on campus, NCTA's enrollment is the largest since 1997. The increase in enrollment this year follows a record 53% increase in freshmen enrollment in 2004.

"If you are not excited about the increase in enrollment, you need to check your pulse," said NCTA Assistant Admissions Coordinator, Larry Cooper. "A 77% increase in freshmen over two years is amazing. The increase in students on campus provides a tremendous opportunity for NCTA, and at the same time, strengthens the college, the community of Curtis and the state of Nebraska."

An aggressive recruiting team including two alumni assistant admissions coordinator and over 20 student ambassadors as well as an intensive follow-up program and an ever-growing list of on-campus activities has contributed to the recent admissions success at NCTA.

"It's an exciting time at NCTA and for Nebraska Agriculture! It's encouraging to see so many young people choosing a career in agriculture and the related fields," said NCTA Assistant Admissions Coordinator, Dana Hall. "It was great to see our campus and the community of Curtis full of action when the students arrived! I'm looking forward to getting back on the road to meet the future students of NCTA."

The Jean Rawson \$3.5 million endowment to be used for scholarships to NCTA has helped recruit more students from Nebraska. A new Associate of Science degree announced in August will help NCTA draw more students interested in transfer opportunities.

"I believe the increase is in part due to new offerings at the college and our dedication to work on enrollment numbers," said NCTA Interim Dean, Jerry Sundquist. "There continues to be a growing demand for our students in agriculture related fields."

Student recruitment and retention remains a high priority for the college. On-campus recruiting opportunities continue to grow with the addition of a club calf sale, career fair and more already added to this year's schedule. A more intensive retention program has been implemented to increase students' academic success.

"As far as future goals for recruiting I hope to continue increasing the amount of on campus activities for potential and current students as well as developing a solid alumni recruiting program," said Hall. "I'd like to encourage any fellow alumni interested in helping with recruiting projects to contact our office."

The NCTA Admissions Office has set a recruiting goal of 150 freshmen for the fall of 2006 with a total enrollment of 300 students. NCTA has not seen enrollment of 300 students since 1983 and the largest enrollment on campus since 1976 was 317 students in 1981.

"This college is very unique and provides students with incredible educational opportunities both on and off campus," said Admissions Coordinator, Jill Koslosky. "We have already started our next recruiting season with potential student numbers of over 1,000. I see no reason why we can't reach our goal of 300 students on campus by the fall of 2006. It takes tremendous team work to achieve what we have already accomplished in both recruiting and retention. Our success both in recruiting as well as in the classroom regarding the educational excellence and dedication to the students continues to motivate our future actions."

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Let us know if you need addresses of your classmates prior to the banquet!

Also be sure to keep us updated if you have a new address, phone number or email address so we have accurate contact information for you in our database!

# Dana Hall Selected as a LEAD Fellow

The Nebraska Agricultural Leadership Council, Inc. announces the selection of Dana Hall from McCool Junction as a recipient of a 2-year Nebraska LEAD program fellowship. As a Nebraska LEAD "fellow", Dana will participate in 12, 3-day, in-state seminars, a 10-day national study/travel seminar and an extensive international study/travel seminar during her second year.

Hall works as an Assistant Admissions Coordinator and is an alumna of the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture (NCTA) in Curtis. She earned her Bachelor's Degree in Agriculture Education from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and is currently working on her Master's Degree in Agriculture Leadership Teaching and Extension. She also raises Maine-Anjou, Shorthorn and crossbred show cattle and breeding stock near McCool Junction, Neb.

"It is a great honor to be selected for the LEAD program," she said. "It is something I have wanted to do for many years. I am excited about the opportunity to learn from my fellow LEAD classmates, the contacts we

will make throughout the next two years and the opportunity to develop my own leadership skills."



Dana Hall takes time in her busy schedule to check her cattle herd. She looks forward to communicating with other producers and businesses during her two years as a LEAD Fellow.

The purpose of the Nebraska LEAD program is "to prepare and motivate men and women in agriculture for more effective leadership". The Nebraska LEAD program challenges participants to develop their

leadership skills, explore issues and trends affecting Nebraska and gain increased global perspective. Practical, hands-on learning experiences enable participants to understand the relationships between agriculture, the economy, environment, society, government and public policy. All in-state seminars are conducted at private and public colleges and universities across Nebraska and in agribusiness establishments. Over the next two years, participants will study various topics such as economics, government, communications, international trade, education, labor, fiscal and monetary policy and more.

"LEAD is important to the state of Nebraska as it is an opportunity for those in production and business to work together to strengthen their communities and agriculture," said Hall. "This experience will benefit not only my personal production operation, but agriculture across the state."

For more information concerning application, call the Nebraska LEAD program at 402-472-6810.

# A Message from your President

Dear Fellow Alumni:

It's been a busy year both at NCTA and in my personal life. The most significant change this year as you may have noticed is my last name. On July 16th, Jason Hall ('99 NCTA graduate) and I were married in York, NE. It was a fun event and was great to see many alumni, faculty and staff from NCTA.

Jason and I are living on a farm near McCool Junction. He's employed by Plains Power and Equipment (John Deere) in parts and I'm still working here at NCTA as the Assistant Admissions Coordinator. I feel extremely blessed to be working with the best Admissions Team in the country.

I keep extremely busy with on campus activities and running up and down the road telling students in Nebraska, Kansas, Iowa and Colorado about the best kept secret in Nebraska.

We were very pleased when all of our hard work paid off with a 23% increase in enrollment bringing our two year increase to 77%. We really appreciate all the help from the faculty and alumni with recruiting efforts throughout the year.

Jason and I also keep busy with our spring and fall calving cow herds. We were pleased with the success our customers had in the show ring this year and look forward to the 2006 show season and calf crop.

The last item I'd like to touch on is my selection in the Nebraska LEAD program. I would first like to thank the alumni association for their support in sponsoring a por-

tion of my participation fee.

Secondly, I would encourage you to consider applying for the Nebraska LEAD program if you have an interest in Nebraska agriculture and it's future leadership. The experiences we have had since September have been tremendous and I look forward to the next year and a half of the program. I know several alumni have already had the opportunity to be involved in the LEAD program and I look forward to visiting with you about your experiences! If you'd like more information let me know or contact the Nebraska LEAD program at the number listed above.

See you at the banquet on March 11th! With a Smile,

President Dana (Bailey) Hall

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# NCTA to Offer New Associate of Science Degree

The Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture (NCTA) in Curtis will offer a new Associate of Science (A.S.) Degree to all students starting in the fall of 2005. This A.S. Degree is an addition to the Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) Degrees offered in four majors – Agriculture Production, Agribusiness, Veterinary Technology and Horticulture. The A.S. Degree is available in the four majors and will require a minimum of 63 credit hours for graduation. The A.S. Degree will allow students to be better prepared for baccalaureate work and an easy transfer to a four-year institution.

"This degree is long over due and provides our students with the same opportunities all of the two year colleges in the state currently offer in terms of a transfer program," said NCTA Interim Dean, Jerry Sundquist. "NCTA's Associate of Science Degree will offer students the uniqueness of a transfer degree rich in agriculture, business, horticulture and veterinary technology curriculum."

The NCTA Associate of Applied Science degrees are those that focus on the application of knowledge and skills. Although some course work within these degrees is transferable, the degree is usually not intended for transfer to a four year institution. Fewer general education courses are required than for the Associate of Science Degree. The new NCTA A.S. Degree is one that focuses on the academic areas of the sciences. A number of general education courses are required and the degree is designed to transfer to a four year institution.

"We expect 16 students enrolled in the A.S. Degree this fall and believe that number will grow to 35 or more students by 2009,"

said NCTA Admissions Coordinator, Jill Koslosky. "NCTA's small class sizes and increased academic rigor will provide an excellent opportunity for students who wish to remain connected to agriculture while pursuing advanced degrees.

Over the past two years 34 percent of NCTA graduates planned to continue their education and earn a bachelor's degree. Given the increased demand for bachelor degrees in the workplace, this percentage is expected to continue rising and created the demand for the new A.S. Degree. There are no comparable programs in the state in terms of the agriculture offerings included in the NCTA Associate of Science Degree. NCTA is part of the University of Nebraska system and students do earn a University of Nebraska Degree.

# New Calving Shed Arrives at NCTA

"It's better than anything I've had in the last 50 years," said Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture (NCTA) Farm Manager, Andy Knepp, as he watches a new 12x50 foot calving shed slide off a truck and onto Aggie Land.

The portable calving shed is the culmination of the first fundraising project developed to honor Knepp's 50 years of "holding things together with bailing wire and twine" on the NCTA farm. Knepp's love of livestock and farming left an impression on all those who have known him and it was those alumni and college supporters who helped raise the \$10,000 for the building, generator and paneling.

"The fact that the alumni helped fund this project speaks volumes of their experience on this campus," said Agriculture Production Systems Division Chair, Dr. Clyde Cranwell.

The calving shed provides the college with some flexibility. With lights and a generator, if a calf must be pulled it can be done in the shed, not transported to the local veterinary clinic. The facilities include a nursing gate, head catch and calf gates.

"We've never had indoor calving facilities," said NCTA Faculty member, Dave Smith. "I've always been concerned that we would have a bad storm and have no place but the arena to put the cows."



NCTA Agriculture Production Systems Faculty including (L-R) Dr. Clyde Cranwell, Jo Bek, Dave Smith and Farm Manager, Andy Knepp stand proudly by the new college calving shed.

The new calving shed is added to a long line of improvements to the campus over the past few years including the new Livestock Teaching Center and Arena, cattle working facilities, AI area and more. The portability of the building allows for disease control as well as additional teaching facilities during the non-calving season.

"The support from the alumni and industry people means they have faith in our future," said NCTA Faculty, Jo Bek. "Most of the donors are involved in industry and understand what we needed and why. They know it will be used on a regular basis."

NCTA will calve out 40 head in January and February. A formal ribbon cutting ceremony will be held at that time. The Andy Knepp Fundraising project will remain open and the funds used to continue improvements in the Animal Science and farm areas of the NCTA Campus. For more information on how to donate, call 1-800-3CURTIS.

# March Annual Business Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order on March 12, 2005 by President-Elect Dana Bailey at 2:00 P.M. at the York Holiday Inn in York, Nebraska. Present were Mike Stewart, Jerry Sundquist, Gene Heller, Dave May, Stephanie Vogt, Dana Bailey, Connie Stewart, Randy Brehm, Dave Bruntz, Ann Bruntz, Jerry Nissen, Clayton Maah, Tim Hegeholz, and Dan Stehlik.

The minutes of the March 13, 2004 and November 26, 2004 meetings were read and approved.

### **Treasurers Report**

Current balance = \$4,443.90. \$2,300 CD in the Farmers State Bank in Maywood.

### **Old Business**

LEAD program – we donated \$200 to buy a table at their March annual function.

Stephanie reported on license plate frames. Can buy 300 for \$250 and sell for \$5 or \$6.

Stephanie moved to buy 250 plate frames at

a cost of \$320. Motioned seconded by Jerry Nissen. Motion carried.

### **New Business**

Tim Hegeholz moved to continue the \$250 scholarship and \$200 for the Alumni Picnic. Motions seconded by Dan Stehlik. Motion carried

It was asked that we put a note in the diploma covers about the UNSTA/NCTA Alumni Association. Dana will take care of that.

Jerry reported on a hort project where they are selling fertilizer as a fund raising project. Thought some of our alumni might be interested.

Ann Bruntz, Director of Development – IANR, University of Nebraska Foundation gave a report from the NU Foundation. She reported that the Andy Knepp fund had raised \$1,550 to date. These funds are to be used for the purchase of a portable calving

shed for NCTA.

Below is Ann's address if you would like to contact her.

### Ann K. Bruntz

Director of Development - IANR University of Nebraska Foundation 1010 Lincoln Mall, Suite 300 Lincoln, Nebraska 68508 (402) 472-0372

No date was set for the fall board meeting.

2006 Banquet – Jerry will be getting bids from York and other motels for 2006 banquet and report at next meeting.

Meeting adjourned.

Jerry Sundquist Sec/Treas.

# **November Annual Business Meeting Minutes**

The meeting was called to order on November 25, 2005 by President Dana Hall at 2:00 P.M. at the Stewart residence in Lincoln, Nebraska. Present were Mike Stewart, Connie Stewart, Stephanie Vogt, Jerry Sundquist, Dave May, Clayton Maahs, Dan Stehlik, Dana Hall, Dave Bruntz, Ann Bruntz, and Randy Brehm,

The minutes of the March 12, 2005 meeting were read and approved.

### **Treasurers Report**

Current balance = \$2,530.44 (Lincoln Alumni account) and \$2,300 CD in the Farmers State Bank in Maywood.

\$5,336.25 profit from tractor sales.

### **Old Business**

2006 Banquet - March 11, 2006.

Dave May moved to have the banquet in York for 2006. Dan Stehlik seconded. Motion carried.

The Andy Knepp fund has reached it's goal of \$10,000. \$10,200 was the total raised. The fund will remain open to raise funds for other projects. The alumni association contributed \$2,000 to the fund.

Dana thanked the group for their support with the LEAD program.

License plate holders will be here in 6 weeks. They will sell for \$5.00 + shipping.

Jerry was instructed to get a bid from North Platte motels for next years banquet.

### **New Business**

Ann Bruntz, IANR Development Director, reported that the NU foundation had opened an account for the NCTA Residence Halls.

We need to raise 1.5 million dollars to start the construction.

Caterpillar, Inc. has donated 5 engines to NCTA for their use in class room instruction.

Alumni Picnic - Alumni Association will give \$200 for the picnic as they have in the past.

Continue the Newsletter the same as in the past.

Meeting adjourned, 5:00 P.M..

Jerry Sundquist Sec/Treas.

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	Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture			
	☐ Enclosed is my check for \$ payable to the Uni ☐ Please charge \$ to my: ☐VISA ☐MasterCar	d Discover DAmerican Express will match t	panythis gift. The company closed. (If you or your	
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Α	Since 1936, the University of Nebraska Foundation has played a significant role in the success of the University of Nebraska A nonprofit, independent corporation, the University of Nebraska Board of Regents designated the Foundation as the primary fundraiser and manager of private gifts to the university. The Foundation exists to raise and manage gifts to further advance all campuses of the University of Nebraska.  University of Nebraska Foundation 1010 Lincoln Mall, Suite 300 Lincoln, NE 68508  For more information, call 402-472-2151 or 1-800-432-3216 or visit our website http://www.nufoundation.org  Innual Banquet and Reunic Saturday, March 11, 2006 Holiday Inn-York, Nebraska	The University of Nebraska Foundation is a 501(c)(3) tax-exen soliciting tax-deductible private contributions for the benefit of Nebraska. The Foundation is registered to solicit charitable con appropriate governing authorities in all states requiring registraturent financial statement is available by writing to P.O. 86 68501-2555, by calling (402)-472-2151 or if you are a resident states, you may obtain registration and financial information dis MARYLAND: For the cost of postage and copies from the State, State House, Annapolis, MD 21401, (410) 974-5534, 1-86 NEW JERSEY: Information filed with the Attorney General charitable solicitation may be obtained from the attorney gene New Jersey by calling (973) 504-6215.  NEW YORK: Office of the Attorney General, Department of 120 Broadway, NewYork, NY 10271.  WASHINGTON: Secretary of State at 1-800-332-GIVE.  REGISTRATION WITH A STATE AGENCY DOES NO OR IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL OR RECOMTHAT STATE.	mpt organization of the University of ntributions with the ation. A copy of the 22555, Lincoln, NE of the following rectly by contacting: flaryland Secretary of 00-825-4510. concerning this eral of the state of Claw, Charities Bureau,  DT CONSTITUTE MENDATION BY	
3:30	UNSTA/NCTA Alumni Association Board/Business Meeting			
	v	tion by March 2, 2006 to:	Please return this form and check(s) payable to UNSTA/NCTA Alumni Association by March 2. 2006 to:	
6:00 7:00	Social Hour (Cash bar) held in the Banquet Room  Dinner (\$20.00 per person) held in the Banquet Room	UNSTA/NCTA Alumni Association C/O Jerry Sundquist RR 3 Box 23A		
	Registration & Reservation Information	Curtis, NE 6		
Banque	et Registration Fee/Membership Fee \$15.00	Please reserve dinners at \$16.00 per pe	erson plus \$4.00 per person Banque	
conside	gistration fee is the same as a membership. This fee when paid will be ered your membership dues for the 2006 year. Each person will be payin	Expenses and Tractor Raffle.  (The \$4.00 per person helps pay for banquet guests and additional expenses)		
this to a	Advance Registration Only!!	Membership Fee (if not already paid in '06)	<u>\$15.00</u>	
Registe	er now! Return registration form below and your check(s) by March 2,	<b>.</b>	m . 1	
2006. No refunds will be made for cancellations received after March 4, 2006. No registrations will be taken over the phone.		Enclosed is my check (s) for  Name	Total	
	Lodging	Department	Grad Year	
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A block of rooms are reserved at a special rate of \$67.00 for UNSTA/NCTA Alumni. To reserve please contact Holiday Inn –York at 1-800-934-5495 and tell them you are with the UNSTA/NCTA Alumni Association. Reservations need to be made four weeks prior to the banquet to assure getting a room.		AddressCity/State/Zip		
	Honored Alumni			
	Honored Atomia  Il be honoring the classes of 1971, 76, 81, 86, 91, 96, and 2001. You wil	Telephone ()		
he har	ored at the Annual Banquet. Gather up your classmates and plan on get-			

### **UNSTA/NCTA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

RR 3 Box 23A Curtis, NE 69025

Phone: (308) 367-4124 1-800-3CURTIS

President Dana (Bailey) Hall McCool Junction, NE E-mail: dbailey3@unl.edu

Secretary/Treasurer Jerry Sundquist Curtis, NE Email: gsundquist1@unl.edu





Students Today. Alumni Tomorrow. Aggies Forever.

# Aggie Merchandise For Sale





# Hats \$8.00 License Plate Frames \$5.00

Both items sell for price listed plus shipping & handling unless purchased at the banquet or on campus.

For more information contact Jerry , Dana or any board member.

