



Feb. 20, 2019
By NCTA Dean Ron Rosati, Ph.D.

Waving the red, wearing the blue

CURTIS, Neb. - We laud partnerships and teamwork in education. The Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture shares statewide projects with campus partners at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

As part of our celebration of the University's founding 150 years ago, we just completed "Charter Week" at the UNL campus, across the state at research and extension centers, and at extension offices.

In Lincoln, University buildings, the UNL campus, and even the Nebraska State Capitol glowed with red on Thursday and Friday. Here at NCTA, we play a unique role in the University of Nebraska system as the only two-year college and the sole campus dedicated entirely to agriculture and veterinary technology.

And, we celebrate our special relationship with counterparts at the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources of UNL.

Both colleges strive to provide outstanding academic programs, student leadership opportunities and most importantly, career preparedness in agriculture and related industries.

Our effort in recent years has emphasized greater partnerships in A-to-B Transfers allowing NCTA associate degree recipients to earn a bachelor's degree from CASNR in a timely manner. NCTA students receive mentoring from CASNR faculty and professional advisors to make the transition as seamless as possible.

Some students start earning CASNR credit while on the NCTA campus through online courses or shared academic programming in veterinary technology, animal science and agricultural education.

A Bachelor of Science in Applied Science enables an NCTA student or graduate to enroll in UNL/CASNR courses yet remain working or studying wherever they reside. Online courses are from UNL and students can take their exams or meet with NCTA-based faculty without a commute into Lincoln.

When a shortage of agricultural education teachers at Nebraska high schools threatened agriculture and FFA programs, NCTA stepped up to supply the UNL teaching pipeline with Aggies. Our graduates transferred to CASNR to complete their Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Education, which is required to teach at the high school level.

Dr. Doug Smith, associate professor and chair of NCTA's animal science and agricultural education division, developed the curriculum and launched this program in 2012. Since then, he has advised and taught 31 students dedicated to Agricultural Leadership, Education & Communication.



Nebraska District 11 FFA students identified plants during CDE contests held February 6 at NCTA. (J. Kennicutt / NCTA News)

NCTA worked closely with CASNR in 2018 and plans to continue in 2019 to host CUSP students from Rwanda for a hands-on summer agriculture program. Our community is looking forward to this experience.

Our newest, upcoming collaboration with CASNR and Nebraska Extension is an exciting one to consider.

Consistent with its legislative mandate to provide workforce development for agricultural industries throughout the state, NCTA is adding a feedlot technician program in Northeast Nebraska at the University of Nebraska Haskell Agricultural Laboratory.

NCTA would provide the academic program and curriculum for students who would live at the Wayne State College campus. A new NCTA faculty member would teach the feedlot technician program with cattle housed at the Haskell Ag Lab near Concord.

We still have many discussions to pursue, but the concept is gaining favorable input from the Northeast Nebraska Education Compact.

Thank you to CASNR Dean Tiffany Heng-Moss and University of Nebraska VP Mike Boehm for using their vision and creativity to explore this new program designed to meet the needs of Nebraska's feedlot industries.

Wear your blues

February 16-23 is National FFA Week. NCTA's Ag Ed majors will be staffing a booth and assisting guests at the Nebraska Cattlemen's Classic in Kearney for FFA Day. Watch for our future FFA teachers/chapter advisors at the Classic.

And, an FFA Week campaign calls Friday "National Wear Blue Day." I advise wearing lots of layers this week as the forecast is for more cold temps. Stay warm and safe Aggies!

NCTA Mission: *The Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture is devoted to a statewide mission of preparing students for successful careers in agriculture, veterinary technology, and related industries. The college provides open access to innovative technical education resulting in associate degrees, certificates, and other credentials.*

February Events:

16-23 – National FFA Week

21 - FFA Day at Cattlemen's Classic, Kearney

23 – Livestock Judging Team at Cattlemen's Classic, Kearney

23 – Shooting Sports Team to Brighton, Colo.

25 – Central NE Science & Engineering Fair, NCTA Campus

26 – Adams Middle School visit, 9-12, NCTA Campus

28 – Feeding Cattle & Horses workshop, 5-9 p.m., Ed Center

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