

June 13, 2018

Class of 2018 NCTA Aggies

By NCTA News

Curtis, Neb. – Seventy degrees or 1-year certificates from the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture at Curtis were awarded in agriculture and veterinary technology for the NCTA Aggie Class of 2018.

Associate of applied science (AAS) or associate of science (AS) degrees were conferred in May to 68 students, and two certificates were presented in Agriculture Production Systems, said Ron Rosati, NCTA dean.

With a single ceremony at the campus each year, the May event included students who completed their academic courses and required internships by last December.

“We had an outstanding commencement and recognition for the Class of 2018 with the largest number of honor students (27), to date, for the May ceremony,” Rosati said.

He was joined by University of Nebraska Vice President Mike Boehm in presenting diplomas at the indoor ceremony at the Curtis Memorial Community Center.

And, in another first for the Aggies, the class valedictorian and salutatorian were a pair of lifelong friends and classmates of the same, rural community high school.

Aggie valedictorian Nate Letcher received an AAS in agriculture production and agribusiness management as did his Hay Springs High School friend Riley Abbott who was salutatorian.

The 2016 HSHS graduates are returning to Sheridan County to operate diversified production agriculture enterprises.

“We are very proud of these young men for their leadership in Aggie organizations, the PTK honorary, the agribusiness skills team, and in serving as residence assistants for NCTA student housing,” said Jennifer McConville, NCTA associate dean.

“We will miss having Nate and Riley on campus and know they will be successful producers and community leaders for Nebraska agriculture,” McConville said.

Wheat grower and Nebraska state legislator Dan Hughes of Venango delivered the commencement address. He encouraged graduates to pursue relationships with mentors and continually interact with others in their chosen career.

“Another bit of advice I will share,” Hughes noted, “To be successful, you have to have the ability to recognize an opportunity and also be in a position to take advantage of that opportunity.”

University of Nebraska Regent Bob Phares of North Platte brought greetings from the Board of Regents and applauded graduates for their collegiate dedication and future contributions to Nebraska agriculture.

Class of 2018 graduates listed by division and town, include 27 honor students identified as:



NCTA honor graduates in agricultural careers at Hay Springs, Nebraska include Salutatorian Riley Abbott, Valedictorian Nate Letcher, and Erica Mowery. The three had double majors in agribusiness management and ag production, graduating magna cum laude. (Courtesy Photo)

***Summa Cum Laude 4.0 CGPA, ** Magna Cum Laude, 3.75-3.99 CGPA, or *Cum Laude, 3.5-3.74 CGPA include

Agribusiness Management Systems

Aurora - **Alyssa Novak
Bayard – Maggie Brunmeier (Dec. 2017)
Columbus – Braden Wilke
Hay Springs - **Riley Abbott, salutatorian, **Nate Letcher, valedictorian
Middleburg, Penn. (now Hay Springs) - **Erica Mowery

Agriculture Production Systems

Alliance – Brent Thomas
Aurora – Cole McDonald, ** Alyssa Novak, Jared Sullivan (Dec. 2017)
Bassett – Joseph Calvo, ***Jentrie Maurer
Brewster - **Alan Rooney
Columbus – Braden Wilke
Comstock – **William Kusant
Daykin – ***Tyler Heidemann,
Fairbury - **Trevin Likens
Grand Island – Nathan Montenez
Hay Springs - ** Riley Abbott, **Nate Letcher
Hazard – Mason Jager
Hampden, Maine - **Carly Wade
Hemingford - ** Lee Jespersen
Jewell, Kan. – Wyatt Duskie
Lewellen – Courtney Leach
Lisco – Cash Talamantez
Loomis – Allen Matejka
Long Pine - ***Katrina Clay
Middleburg, Penn. (now Hay Springs) **Erica Mowery
North Loup – Dalton Gydesen, **Katharine Schudel
North Platte - **Dalon Koubek, Devin Lunzman (Dec. 2017)
Ogallala – Cidney Foster, ***Jesse Orr
Ord – Sydney Boden
Sargent – Chandler Ritchie
Sterling – Max Melvin
Tekamah – Thomas Hennig
Thurston – **Karlee Johnson
Valentine – Daniel Cox (Dec. 2017)
Valley City, N.D. – **Austin Schaefer
Verdigre – Rachel Dather (Dec. 2017)
Wausa – Chantelle Schmit (Dec. 2017)
Wood River - **Kaitlyn Thesenvitz

Veterinary Technology Systems

Arnold – Brooke Blowers
Arthur - ***McKenzie Walker
Bassett - ***Bridget Jackson
Bertrand - Brianna Hinson, ***Payton Peterson
Cambridge – ***Kallie Hilker
Clifton, Kan. – Kaleigh Bloomfield
Elba – Torrie Wilkinson (Dec. 2017)
Gering - Kimberly Snelling
Grafton – Cori Knapp

Hastings – Carli Johnson
Grand Island – Courtney Lenner
Holton, Kan. – Rilee VanDonge
Lincoln – **Emily Bauer, Jessica Schumacher
Lyons – Julia Bray
Merriman - ***Eva Oliver
Omaha – Anne Ausdemore
Orleans – Brenden Bose, Laural Christensen
Raymond – Kaitlyn Chubbuck
St. Paul – Brittany Koperski
Valley – Courtney Allen
Wymore – Alexis Dorn

Agriculture Production Systems Certificate

McCook – Scott Fred Smith
Norfolk – Emily Finkhaus

Graduates receiving an associate degree completed a minimum of 74 credit hours of courses in two or more years at NCTA. The APS certificate requires 20 hours.

Ten students are currently completing summer internships in veterinary technology or agriculture production. They are expected to graduate in August and their diplomas will be mailed when names are announced.

NCTA is the only two-year college within the University of Nebraska system. Degrees and certificates are offered in agribusiness management, animal and equine science, agricultural education, agronomy, agricultural equipment management, and veterinary technology. Program are outlined at <http://ncta.unl.edu> or 1-800-3CURTIS.



The Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture honored the Class of 2018 on May 3, 2018 in Curtis. (NCTA photo)

See this article online at: <https://go.unl.edu/h6sm>

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