Calendar of Events

March 21: Dept. Seminar with Helena Gomez-Macpherson, researcher and visiting scholar, on "Understanding yield gap across scales in irrigated agriculture in the Senegal Valley," 3:30 p.m. with pre-reception at 3 p.m., 150 Keim.

March 28: Strawberry Open House, 1-5 p.m., Pekarek's Produce Farm, Rt. 15, Dwight, Neb.

April 1: 2014 UNL Plant Breeding and Genetics Symposium, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Nebraska East Union, Great Plains Room.

April 2: UNL Environmental Health and Safety symposium, “Veterinary Services Permits,” 10-11:30 a.m., Nebraska East Union.

April 3: NAIPSC Webinar Series, Diane Larson, USGS Northern Prairie, “A weed is a weed is a … placeholder? Toward a more nuanced approach to restoration & weed management,” noon.

April 3: AHGSA Annual Appreciation Banquet, Lied Commons, 6 p.m. Social Hour with meal and program at 7 p.m.

February/March 2014

By Ana Wingeyer & Kathy Schindler

More than 40 ranchers, conservation service staff, students, faculty, and other clients attended a free Mob Grazing Workshop held on a chilly January afternoon in Lincoln.

Project organizers focused on the influence of mob-grazing herds on rangeland vegetation, water, and soil, according to Dr. Ana Wingeyer, post doctoral research associate at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and a member of the Demonstrating Mob Grazing Impacts project that organized the workshop. Mob grazing is grazing by a relatively large number of animals at a high-stocking density for a short time period.

Chad Peterson, a mob grazing practitioner from Newport, was the invited speaker and shared information and answered questions about his more than 10-years of mob grazing experience in Sandhills meadows. Peterson is also a collaborating rancher for the Demonstrating Mob Grazing Impacts project, which is funded by Conservation Innovation Grants through the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Service.

The event started with a welcome and introduction by Dr. Jerry Volesky, UNL professor and Extension Range and Forage Specialist. Ben Beckman and Miles Redden, range graduate students at UNL, discussed mob grazing management and forage utilization at Barta Brothers Ranch, and Wingeyer gave a presentation on soil organic

Mob Grazing continued on page 2
Calendar of Events

April 4: Retirement reception for Charlene Wendt, 3–5 p.m., Nebraska East Union, Arbor Suite.
April 10: Emergency Preparedness, Mark Robertson, UNLPD, 12–1 p.m., UPOL-University Police.
April 11: FFA Floriculture competition, Nebraska East Union, 7:30 a.m. Check-in with competition from 8–10 a.m.
April 12: CASN Week 5K fun run/walk, 9:00 a.m., East Campus.
April 15: Active Shooter Awareness, Koan Nissen, UNLPD, 12–1 p.m., Nebraska Union.
April 17: NAIPSC Webinar Series with Dirac Twidwell, UNL, on “Fire intensity and mortality thresholds – what is needed to achieve restoration objectives?”, noon.
April 22: Faculty meeting, 8:30–9:30 a.m., 150 Keim Hall.
April 26: Spring Affair, Lancaster Event Center, 9 a.m.–4 p.m. Offers more than 500 varieties of plants for sale with educational talks and garden vendors under the same roof: http://springaffair.unl.edu/.
May 1: Nebraska Game and Parks Safety Briefing, 12–1 p.m., Nebraska Union.
May 1: NAIPSC Webinar Series with Joseph Craine, KSU, on “Drought tolerance in grasslands,” noon.
May 2: Cookout Event, 11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m., 150 Keim.
May 14: Quarterly Staff Meeting, 9–10 a.m., 150 Keim.
July 17: Active Shooter Awareness, Koan Nissen, UNLPD, 12–1 p.m., Nebraska Union.

Safety Zone

The Agronomy & Horticulture Safety Committee would like to encourage you to check out the following link http://news.unl.edu/newsrooms/unltoday/article/public-safety-is-focus-of-unlpd-outreach-series. Several safety awareness and training sessions will be conducted by the UNL Police. Registration information for the safety training sessions is included in the link listed above. The UNLPD public safety training schedule includes:

- April 10–Emergency Preparedness, Mark Robertson, UNLPD, City Campus
- April 15–Active Shooter Awareness, Koan Nissen, UNLPD, City Campus
- May 1–Nebraska Game and Parks Safety Briefing, TBA
- July 17–Active Shooter Awareness, Koan Nissen, UNLPD, City Campus

Also, anyone interested in Automated External Defibrillator training should contact Carol Caha (ccaha1@unl.edu). Once we have an idea of the number of people interested, we will relay training dates and times. Training will be provided by Terry Holt from the Nebraska Safety Council and will be conducted in either Keim or Plant Sciences Hall.

Finally, UNL Environmental Health and Safety will be conducting a symposium on “Veterinary Services Permits”, Wednesday, April 2, 2014, from 10–11:30 a.m. at the Nebraska East Union. Anyone that imports or transfers live animals, materials derived from animals (e.g. RNA/DNA extracts, enzymes, blood, tissues, etc.) or livestock associated microorganism will learn WHEN you need a permit, WHY you need a permit and HOW to apply.

Thanks and Stay Safe!
Faculty Awards

Deana Namuth-Covert

Congratulations to Associate Extension Professor Dr. Deana Namuth-Covert who was honored on March 5 with the Holling Family Senior Faculty Teaching Excellence Award.

The Holling Family Award Program for Teaching Excellence in Agriculture and Natural Resources was established to celebrate imaginative educational programming and innovations, presentation and delivery, in Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources or Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture educational programs. Teaching includes college campus, extended campus, or community. This award program recognizes the full continuum of educational programming from college campus to youth, adult and community programming.

Lambe, Reicher and Sutton recognized

Agronomy & Horticulture Associate Professor of Practice David Lambe, and Professors Zac Reicher and Richard Sutton were awarded certificates of recognition for contributions to students at the UNL Teaching Council and Parents Association annual recognition ceremony on Feb. 7. The awards provide positive feedback to campus faculty and staff about the work they do with students. The Parents Association solicits nominations through a mailing, asking parents to nominate a faculty or staff employee who has made a significant difference in their student’s life. This was Lambe’s fifth award and Sutton’s fourth.

UNL Mortar Board honors Lambe

The Black Masque Chapter of Mortar Board at UNL recently honored Dave Lambe, Associate Professor of Practice in the Department of Agronomy & Horticulture, as February Professor of the Month. This honor rewards faculty for upholding and maintaining the society’s ideals of scholarship, leadership and service. According to Mortar Board members Jordyn Lechtenberg and Alex Wach, Lambe invests in his students — not only is he interested in his students’ business ideas, but also their passions, goals and lives.
Stephen L. Young Publishes Book

Stephen L. Young, Weed Ecologist and Assistant Professor, located at the West Central Research and Extension Center in North Platte, was the lead editor of “Automation: The Future of Weed Control in Cropping Systems.” The book was published in December of 2013.

A weed-control book, edited by weed ecologist and assistant professor Steve Young, was published in December.

The book, “Automation: The Future of Weed Control in Cropping Systems” was edited by Young and Fran Pierce. Young explained that the book shifts the paradigm that weeds can only be controlled using broadcast applications of chemical and mechanical techniques in distinct spatiotemporal scales, also referred to as integrated weed management.

In fact, true integrated weed management is more than just diversification of techniques and for the first time could be achieved using advanced technologies. Automated weed control is not the proverbial “silver bullet,” but an entirely new approach in cropping systems where multiple weed control strategies are available for use at the same time.

Technology is rapidly advancing in all areas of society, including agriculture. In both conventional and organic systems, there is a need to apply technology beyond our current approach to improve the efficiency and economics of management. Weeds, in particular, have been part of cropping systems for centuries often being ranked as the number one production cost. Now, public demand for a sustainably grown product has created economic incentives for producers to improve their practices.

An opportunity has been created for engineers and weed scientists to pool their knowledge and work together to ‘fill the gap’ in managing weeds in crops. Never before has there been such pressure to produce more with less in order to sustain our economies and environments. This book is the first to provide a radically new approach to weed management that could change current cropping systems.

Spring Affair Plant Sale is April 26

The midwest’s largest gardening event, will be Saturday, April 26 at the Lancaster Event Center from 9–4 p.m. More than 500 different varieties of plants will be offered at the day-long plant sale, with educational talks, “Talk-abouts” and garden vendors all under the same roof.

Plants are selected for regional suitability, uniqueness and demand and are provided by Bluebird Nursery, Inc. of Clarkson, Neb. Gardeners will find perennials, herbs, native plants, temperennials, vines and a variety of trees and shrubs — something for everyone.

Admission to the sale is free. The plant sale, plant talks and vendors of garden art, sculptures, furniture and other items are all under one roof in Pavilion I, on the northeast edge of the Lancaster Event Center. Plenty of parking is available just north of the building.
The Department of Agronomy & Horticulture is happy to welcome Bulent Sezer, who joined the department on December 30, 2013, as a short-term scholar. He studies Carbon Emissions and Soil Management under the supervision of Dr. Humberto Blanco at UNL. He also focuses on Carbon Sequestration under Short Rotation Woody Crops for Bioenergy. Sezer received his master’s degree from Ankara University and is continuing his Ph.D. study at Ankara University, Institute of Applied Sciences. He works for the International Agricultural Training Center affiliated to Ministry of Food Agriculture and Livestock of Turkey. He teaches Renewable Energy Usage in Agriculture and Agricultural Machinery Management at the center.

He and his wife, Ayse, are from Turkey and have one daughter named Idil Beren. He enjoys outdoor activities, including cycling, running, trekking and sailing.

The Department of Agronomy & Horticulture is happy to welcome Emilee Dorn, joined the Pesticide Safety Education Program team on October 26, 2013, as an Extension Assistant working with Clyde Ogg. She received her B.S. in Agricultural Journalism at UNL. Before starting her recent position, she was a Producer Associate in Educational Media at UNL. Emilee’s hometown is Hildreth, Neb. and her hobbies include crafting, sewing, cooking, baking, golfing and photography. Welcome Emily!

Emilee Dorn

The Department of Agronomy & Horticulture is happy to welcome Leonard Kibet, Postdoctoral Research Associate under the supervision of Dr. Humberto Blanco at UNL. He received his Ph.D. in December 2013 from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore where he was also a Graduate Research Assistant. His research is focused on the impact of tillage and cropping systems on soil physical processes and properties, water use efficiency, carbon and nutrient cycling, and greenhouse gas emissions under highly managed agricultural systems. He will also study dedicated bioenergy crops (perennial warm-season grasses, crop residue removal, grazing and baling), cover crops, and other management systems in Nebraska.

Leonard has a 2-year-old daughter named Brianna with his fiancee, Maryanne. He enjoys running, playing soccer and watching most sports during his free time.

The department offers sincerest condolences to Diane Nolan, whose mother, Catherine MacDonald, passed away Sunday, Feb. 9, 2014, on her 94th birthday. She was the co-founder of CliffsNotes, the popular study guides bound in black and yellow. Her obituary can be found at http://journalstar.com/business/local/cliffsnotes-co-founder-dies-at/article_c6091703-6d5b-5fd7-a4a4-ee5007552b4.html

Our sympathy is also extended to Nancy Shoemaker, whose father-in-law passed away on Monday, Feb. 24, 2014, at age 89. Vernon Shoemaker worked as a chemist at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, East Campus for 30 years in wheat and crop research. His obituary can be found at: http://journalstar.com/lifestyles/announcements/obituaries/shoemaker-vernon-walbridge/article_9ca86ada-dead-5170-b73e-2aeef121150c.html

Charlene Wendt is retiring after nearly 30 years of dedicated service to the administration, faculty, and staff of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources and the Department of Agronomy and Horticulture.

Please join us in celebrating on Friday, April 4, 2014, 3–5 p.m., Nebraska East Union, Arbor Suite.

Charlene Wendt
News For and About Graduate Students

Banquet set for April 3 with RSVPs needed by March 21

The Annual Agronomy & Horticulture Department Appreciation Awards Banquet will be held on Thursday, April 3, 2014, at the Lied Commons on City Campus. The event will honor and highlight the activities and achievements of the department’s students over the past year. A silent auction and social hour will begin at 6 p.m. with the program and meal beginning at 7 p.m. A keynote address and presentations will begin after the meal. The Lied Commons is located at 301 N. 12th St. in Lincoln. Parking is available at city garages Que Place Garage, 1111 Q St. and Larson Building Garage, 1317 Q St.

Family and friends are invited and encouraged to come. RSVPs are needed by Friday, March 21. The cost is $10 per person. Checks should be made out to AHGSA Banquet Fund. Questions may be directed to Sam McConaughy at 815-252-3155 or email at samantha.mcconaughy@gmail.com.

Great Plains Graduate Fellows – 2014 Competition

If you are a doctoral student working on a Great Plains-related topic, you may want to apply to become a Great Plains Graduate Fellow.

The Graduate Fellows Program of the Center for Great Plains Studies offers selected doctoral students a place to work, meet, obtain support, learn from fellow students, engage with the Center faculty and staff, and benefit from the Center’s resources as they progress towards their degrees. Graduate Fellows are provided with travel or research funds and enjoy other benefits.

Graduate Fellows may be from any department; current Graduate Fellows come from History, Communication Studies, Anthropology, Natural Resource Sciences, English, Teaching, Learning, & Teacher Education, Psychology, and Geography (to read about them, go to http://www.unl.edu/plains/graduate-fellows-program).

Nominations close on March 28, 2014.

2014 Gerald O. Mott Award

Samuel Bledsoe, M.S. graduate student advised by Dr. Mark Lagrimini, has been selected to represent our department for the 2014 Gerald O. Mott Award. The selection was based on Samuel’s academic achievements, research contributions, leadership accomplishments, service activities and personal qualifications. The award is offered by the Crop Science Society of America and recipients receive a certificate and are recognized in the CSSA News. The award honors the first CSSA President Gerald O. Mott, who trained 75 graduate students during his 45 year career at Purdue University and the University of Florida.

Mentor Program

AHGSA is hosting a mentor program for all graduate students in the Department of Agronomy & Horticulture who would like to be a mentor or who would like to be a mentee. The association will pair students with other students, however, postdoc and faculty are welcome to join as mentors too. The purpose of the mentor program is to help graduate students by providing direction, motivation and advice.

If you are interested, please sign-up by taking this survey! https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/T68COTH