Agronomists help to develop and grow the plants and design the integrated systems that the world will need for its food, fuel, and fiber. They manage soil to enhance its quality for multiple uses from crop production to storing water and carbon. Careers include working with crop producers, in sales of agronomic products, in laboratories, with state or federal agencies, and in international agricultural development. Options within the major can specialize your education to best prepare you for any of these dynamic careers and more.

Fall 2012 Enrollment: 174 students.
If you are interested in soils, crops, and everything to which they are related, the Agronomy Club is for you! Bi-weekly club meetings provide opportunities for you to engage and interact with other undergraduate students interested in agronomy and all facets of production agriculture. Club meetings frequently include informational presentations or recruiting seminars by industry professionals, which facilitate contact between students and potential employers. Other club activities include social events for fun and fellowship both within the club and in association with other campus clubs.

A notable event for 2012–2013 was the creation of an undergraduate Crops Judging team. This group of students organized independently through the Agronomy Club and successfully set their own agenda for practice and competition. The crops team attended competitions in Ames, Iowa and Lubbock, Texas, placing third in the team standings in Lubbock. Other new activities in 2012–2013 included participation in intramural sports through campus recreation, ballroom dance lessons, and organizing a campus-wide sand volleyball tournament. In April, Justin Loefelholz (Riverdale, Neb.) was recognized with the outstanding Agronomy Club initiate scholarship for his work organizing and coaching the UNL Crops Judging Team.

The Agronomy Club has a strong commitment for engagement with the national Students of Agronomy, Soils, and Environmental Sciences (SASES) organization, which is sponsored by the American Society of Agronomy (ASA). Agronomy club members attended the International (Cincinnati, Ohio) and regional (College Station, Texas) conferences of ASA/SASES in 2012–2013, and submitted a successful bid to host the regional SASES conference at UNL in March of 2014. In April 2012, Allison Sickman (Bennington, Neb.) was awarded a Golden Opportunity Scholar Award from SASES. This award paired Allison with a mentor who is a professional plant breeder at Pioneer Hybrids, and subsidized her participation in the International SASES meeting in Fall 2012. 

Agronomy Club Faculty Advisor: Tim Kettler

Greg Rentschler (Atkinson, Neb.) placed 3rd overall in the undergraduate division of the North Central Weed Science Society Summer Contest held near Larned, Kan., and was on the 3rd place overall undergraduate team which included two Brazilian undergraduate interns, Renato Marques and Leo Perez. Faculty Advisors: Dr. Greg Kruger and Lowell Sandell.

Josh Beckman (Elgin, Neb.) won $1,000 in the UNL Center for Entrepreneurship quick pitch competition, which required him to “pitch” his business concept to a team of professionals in three minutes. Josh's business idea was to emphasize and sell micro-nutrient fertilizers and water monitoring sensors in field crops. Both parts of his business idea save money and increase yields to farm operations. Faculty Instructor: Dave Lambe.

In addition to UNL and College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources scholarships, you have several departmental scholarship opportunities available to you. For the 2012–2013 academic year, $44,595 in departmental scholarships were awarded to Agronomy students, representing 51 scholarship awards to 38 students at an average of almost $1,200 per student. For 2013–14, more than $60,000 was awarded in departmental scholarships to Agronomy students. As a new freshman or transfer student, your departmental scholarship application is due the first Monday in April.

$60,000+ in departmental scholarships were awarded to Agronomy students in the 2013–14 academic year.
Have you ever experienced the opportunities outside the United States? Explore the world through faculty led study abroad tours and earn college credit at the same time! Costs range from $3,000–5,000+, and travel scholarships are available to help you defray the costs. Study tours can meet UNL’s ACE 9 (Global Awareness) general education requirement. Study tours taken for credit require students to attend pre-tour meetings and complete reading and writing assignments before and after the tour. Agronomy faculty member Dr. Steve Mason co-leads the study tour to Argentina and Horticulture faculty member Dr. Paul Read leads the study tour to Australia & Tasmania. Additional study tours during 2012–2013 included Puerto Rico, France, England, Costa Rica, and Benin.

The Argentina study tour, scheduled for 12 days over spring break, took students from Buenos Aires in eastern Argentina to Mendoza near the western border of Argentina. During the tour, students participated in the culture, dance, food, geography, history and Spanish language of Argentina. Students experienced soybean, corn, wheat, peanut, wine, fruit, beef and dairy production operations; visited research stations, agricultural high school and universities, on-farm trials, and an export port; interacted with representatives from the farmer’s association; and were exposed to wildlife and natural vegetation, soil degradation issues, and herbicide resistant weeds. Seven Agronomy students participated in the study tour along with 16 other CASNR students from various majors. **Faculty Instructors: Dr. Steve Mason and Dr. Nora D’Croz-Mason.**

The Australia & Tasmania study tour arrived in Sidney, Australia and then visited the Sydney Botanical Garden, the famed Sydney Opera House, enjoyed one of Sydney’s famous beaches and toured the historic waterfront before traveling to Hobart, Tasmania. The 16-day study tour between the fall and spring semesters provided the students an opportunity to explore the agriculture enterprises, wildlife, culture, and geography of the area. During the tour, students experienced the fruit and vegetable industries; commercial tulip, olive, and seafood operations; the rapidly developing opium poppy and grape industries; experimental research stations; dairy production and processing farms; the lamb and wool industry; extensive forestry and natural resources; and had the opportunity to see Tasmanian devils and kangaroos. Exiting through Melbourne provides the students with an opportunity to see another side of the diversity of this wonderful country. Nine students from various majors participated in the study tour. **Faculty Instructor: Dr. Paul Read.**
You can be part of a team and enhance your professional skills by working 10–15 hours a week in an area of your interest. More than 200 undergraduate students are hired in the Department of Agronomy and Horticulture each year. Many students gain analytical, technical, and organizational skills by working with a researcher. Other students gain public speaking, leadership, and time management skills by assisting teaching faculty in the classroom, laboratory, or greenhouse. Below is a sampling of paid positions agronomy students held in the Department of Agronomy and Horticulture during the 2012–2013 academic year.

**Marcus Baier** (Wayne, Neb.) gained experience working in the soybean genetics lab and worked on a UCARE project that looked at root growth and architecture in soybeans. Root biomass was measured on plants grown in a hydroponics system. Measurements were taken of root growth rate using root cases that Marcus designed based on information from the literature and other collaborators. The root cases allowed photo documentation of the growth of the roots corresponding to the different vegetative stages of the soybean. **UCARE Faculty Supervisors: Drs. George Graef & Harkamal Walia.**

**Ethan Barnes** (Brady, Neb.) worked on a soybean and corn research projects looking at different management practices and seed treatments. He counted the number of pods per plant, seeds per pod and measured seed weights, threshed plant samples, flagged plots, and took soil samples. **Faculty supervisor: Dr. Steve Mason.**

**Cody Dorn** (Franklin, Neb.) worked as a research assistant with a soybean breeding and genetics project. He collected field notes, such as maturity dates, plants heights, and stand counts, on soybean research plots and assisted with field harvest. He prepared seed samples for field planting and assisted with greenhouse planting and harvest. **Faculty supervisor: Dr. James Specht.**

**Daniel Friedrichsen** (Palmer, Neb.) conducted field research that quantifies weed phenological response to environmental signals. He was also involved with field research utilizing cover crops for weed suppression on a certified organic research site. Daniel spent his time in the field observing, quantifying and documenting plant response to treatments. **Faculty supervisor: Dr. John Lindquist.**

**Ben Kahlandt** (Waterloo, Neb.) took morphology measurements on corn ears harvested from a field experiment on drought tolerance. Ben also helped organize seed for planting, and prepared planting packets for the breeding nursery small-plot yield trials and disease nurseries. **Faculty supervisor: Dr. Aaron Lorenz.**

**Mason Lien** (Lincoln, Neb.) worked on greenhouse maintenance and evaluation for Soybean Mosaic Virus (SMV) resistance of experimental lines developed in the soybean breeding and genetics program, conducted DNA extractions of soybean samples for molecular analysis, and helped with soybean harvesting and seed handling activities. **Faculty supervisor: Dr. George Graef.**

**Justin Loeffelholz** (Riverdale, Neb.) worked for the soybean breeding program. He assisted graduate student research projects in the field with data collection, plant harvest, and sample evaluations for post-harvest data collection, including seed composition and quality. **Faculty supervisor: Dr. George Graef.**

**Andrew Method** (Decatur, Neb.) worked as a research assistant with a soybean breeding and genetics project. He processed soybean seed samples through a grain analyzer to determine protein and oil content. He also counted and weighed seed for determining seed size. **Faculty supervisor: Dr. James Specht.**

**Jeremy Milander** (Coleridge, Neb.) served as an undergraduate teaching assistant for the Agronomic Plant Science lab (AGRO 132), Uses of Grain (AGRO 437) and Production of Specialty Grains (AGRO 438). He assisted with laboratory setup, teaching labs, tutoring students, assignment preparation and grading. **Faculty Supervisor: Dr. Steve Mason.**

**Jacob Oswald** (Aurora, Neb.) was an undergraduate teaching assistant for Soil Nutrient Relationships (AGRO 366). Jake helped by facilitating two labs each week, providing assistance to students during office hours, and grading papers. **Faculty supervisor: Dr. Martha Mamo.**
Karla Pick (Hartington, Neb.) worked on yield component analysis of corn research experiments. Her work included counting number rows per ear, kernels per row and ear, kernel weight, and grain moisture content. She also recorded and organized data in Excel spreadsheets. *Faculty supervisor: Dr. Steve Mason.*

Michelle Potts (Yankton, S.D.) worked as an undergraduate teaching assistant for the Plant Science (AGRO 131) and Genetics (AGRO 315) courses. She was responsible for giving oral quizzes to students in both of the courses and grading experimental write-ups in Plant Science. *Faculty supervisors: Dr. Don Lee and Professor Leah Sandall.*

Brian Prusa (Howells, Neb.) worked for the soybean breeding program. He assisted graduate student research projects in the field with data collection, plant harvest, and sample evaluations for post-harvest data collection, including seed composition and quality. *Faculty supervisor: Dr. George Graef.*

Skye Sabatka (Weston, Neb.) worked for the corn genetics and breeding project. She conducted controlled pollinations to create seed for future experiments, performed Goss’s Wilt inoculations, and collected plant height and flowering time data to ultimately identify genes underlying these traits. *Faculty supervisor: Dr. Aaron Lorenz.*

Angel Schmidt (Lincoln, Neb.) was an undergraduate teaching assistant for Soil Resources (AGRO/HORT/SOIL 153). She assisted by facilitating labs, preparing materials for lab activities, and grading papers. *Faculty supervisors: Drs. Dennis McCallister, Martha Mamo and Professor Tim Kettler.*

Jared Seier (Petersburg, Neb.) worked as a part-time student employee in the Soil Physics Laboratory. He assisted with processing soil samples for the analysis of physical properties. Specific work involved wet and dry sieving of soil aggregates as well as preparing soil samples for carbon and nitrogen analysis. *Faculty Supervisor: Dr. Humberto Blanco.*

Tyler Sheets (Gothenburg, Neb.) worked for the soybean breeding program. He assisted graduate student research projects in the field with data collection, plant harvest, and sample evaluations for post-harvest data collection, including seed composition and quality. *Faculty supervisor: Dr. George Graef.*

Allison Siekman (Bennington, Neb.) conducted research on the effects of the circadian clock on leaf starch, sugars, and trehalose-specific mRNA in maize plants grown under controlled environment. She monitored growth, collected tissue samples, prepared mRNA, starch, and sugars, and quantified the various components by quantitative RTPCR and capillary high pressure liquid chromatography. *Faculty supervisor: Dr. Mark Lagrimini.*

Scott Speck (Gothenburg, Neb.) assisted with ongoing research in the soybean genetics lab and participated in a UCARE project conducting research on aphid and virus resistance in soybean. Scott helped to develop plant genetic resources with different combinations of resistance genes to be used in future research projects. He worked with graduate student research projects and screened the DNA of the soybean lines using Simple Sequence Repeats (SSRs) and single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs). *Faculty Supervisors: Drs. Jim Specht and George Graef.*

Benjamin Trampe (Sumner, Neb.) was a UCARE student studying seed dormancy mechanisms in buffalograss, an economically important issue for buffalograss seed production. Ben tested conventional methods along with other treatments to break seed dormancy. His research will contribute to lower production and end user costs and will be the foundation for a future graduate research project. *Faculty supervisor: Dr. Keenan Amundsen.*

Don Treptow (Ithaca, Neb.) was a teaching assistant for Plant Science Lab (AGRO 132) and Resource Efficient Crop Management (AGRO 204). He assisted with laboratory setup, teaching labs, tutoring students, assignment preparation and grading. *Faculty supervisor: Dr. Steve Mason.*

Justin Wadkins-Meyer (Palmer, Neb.) worked as an undergraduate teaching assistant for the Soil Management course (AGRO 269). He was responsible for reviewing and grading assignments and quizzes. *Faculty Supervisor: Dr. Humberto Blanco.*
Internships are key components of your academic experience. They allow you to explore different areas of agronomy, make connections with future employers, and experience professional work environments. One internship is required for graduation, but students often complete more than one during their undergraduate career. Thirty agronomy students completed internships for credit during the summer of 2013. Below is a listing of those internship positions.

**Vincent Aerts** (David City, Neb.) is completing an on-farm comparison trial of twin-row versus single-row corn in Butler County.

**Michael Bock** (Allen, Neb.) is a crop scout intern for United Farmers Coop in Hampton, Neb.

**Bryan Bode** (Petersburg, Neb.) is a crop scout intern for Starman Agronomy in Elgin, Neb.

**Anthony Brandow** (Laurel, Neb.) is a crop production intern for Pioneer in Doniphan, Neb.

**Trent Elsasser** (Oakland, Neb.) is a crop scout intern for Central Valley Ag in Oakland, Neb.

**Jeremy Epp** (Plymouth, Neb.) is a crop scout intern for Mittman Agronomics in York, Neb.

**Marissa Grooms** (Valentine, Neb.) is an agronomy and sales intern for Farmway in Beloit, Kan.

**Seth Gurley** (Milligan, Neb.) is a crop scout and marketing intern for Helena Chemical in Albion, Neb.

**Marcus Harlow** (York, Neb.) is an agronomy, sales, and crop scouting intern for Farmers Co-op in Exeter, Neb.

**Ethan Heser** (Beaver Crossing, Neb.) is a crop production intern with Monsanto in Waco, Neb.

**Molly Hoffbauer** (Valparaiso, Neb.) is a crop scout intern with Cargill in Valparaiso, Ind.

**Brent Jaenisch** (Maynard, Minn.) is a crop scout intern with CHS in Park Rapids, Minn.

**Mary Juranek** (Linwood, Neb.) is a crop scout intern with Aurora Coop in David City, Neb.

**Michael Kennedy** (Cedar Rapids, Neb.) is a crop scout intern with Mid Nebraska Crop Consulting in Genoa, Neb.

**Eric Maple** (Orchard, Neb.) is a crop scout intern with Agricultural Services in Page, Neb.

**Adam McIntyre** (Primrose, Neb.) is a crop scout intern with Country Partners Cooperative in Spalding, Neb.

**Zach Morrissey** (Lincoln, Neb.) is a ranching intern with Lone Creek Cattle Company in Mullen, Neb.

**Brittany Paul** (Denton, Neb.) is an assistant office manager and recruiting analyst for Glock Detassaling in Lincoln, Neb.

**Kyle Rohr** (Tobias, Neb.) is a crop scout intern with Norder Supply in Bruning, Neb.

**Mitchell Schroeder** (Davenport, Neb.) is a research intern with Syngenta Crop Protection in Lincoln, Neb.

**Tyler Sheets** (Gothenburg, Neb.) is an English teacher at La Plata University in La Plata, Argentina.

**Heath Soderholm** (Holdrege, Neb.) is conducting on-farm comparison of sweet corn varietal sales.

**Courtney Spilker** (Beatrice, Neb.) is a sales and marketing intern with Helena Chemical Company in Fremont, Neb.

**Rachel Stevens** (Falls City, Neb.) is a UNL Extension intern in Clay Center, Neb.

**Brock Vitosh** (Oelde, Neb.) is a crop scout intern for Servi-Tech in York, Neb.

**Simon Walker** (Grand Island, Neb.) is a crop scout intern with Pioneer Hybrids in Doniphan, Neb.

**Cole Wojtalewicz** (St. Paul, Neb.) is completing on-farm corn hybrid comparison trials.

**Jay Wolff** (Norfolk, Neb.) is a crop scout intern for Farmer’s Pride Co-op in Battle Creek, Neb.

**Matt Zvolanek** (Wymore, Neb.) is an intern with the Natural Resource Conservation Service in Scottsbluff, Neb.

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**To learn more...**

To learn more about the undergraduate programs in the Department of Agronomy & Horticulture or schedule a campus visit, contact Anne Streich at 402-472-1640 or astreich2@unl.edu.

**Transfer Information**

The transfer course equivalency website is a great resource to identify how courses taken at other post-secondary institutions will transfer to UNL. View the website at: [http://admissions.unl.edu/tequiv](http://admissions.unl.edu/tequiv)
From farming, crop consulting, and sales to continuing your education in graduate school, opportunities for agronomy graduates are abundant. Our graduates are in demand by national and international agricultural companies, hometown local businesses, and state and federal agencies. Below are examples of positions our December 2012 and May 2013 agronomy graduates have moved directly into.

**Jared Aden** (Farnam, Neb.) is an agronomist with CropTech Solutions for North Platte and surrounding areas. This position involves scouting and calculating farm finances.

**Ross Barr** (Liberty, Neb.) is a second lieutenant in the United States Air Force.

**Joshua Beckman** (Elgin, Neb.) is working for Winfield Solutions in Elgin, Neb.

**Ethan Bruland** (Albion, Neb.) is a corn merchandiser and commodity broker for Commodity Solutions Inc.

**Justin Carter** (Hemingford, Neb.) is a crop advisor with Simplot Grower Solutions in Berea, Neb. He will scout fields and make recommendations for treatment of insects, diseases, and weeds and application of fertilizer. Justin will also work in seed, chemical, and fertilizer sales.

**John Driscoll** (Axtell, Neb.) is a self-employed farmer for Driscoll Farm, Inc.

**Tanner Dunbar** (Sargent, Neb.) is farmer near Taylor, Neb. and agricultural education teacher at Anselmo-Merna High School.

**Bryce Ebel** (Falls City, Neb.) is a sale agronomist for Frontier Cooperative in David City, Neb. He sells seed, chemicals and fertilizers.

**Justin Fiala** (David City, Neb.) is a farmer with the family operation, Fiala Farms, Inc. near David City, Neb. and is also a seed salesman.

**Trevor Gorecki** (Dannebrog, Neb.) works for Agriculture Services, Inc.

**Tyler Guthrie** (Wilcox, Neb.) is crop consultant at Ag Tech Crop Consulting in Wilcox, Nebraska. Among other responsibilities, he sells seed and takes soil samples.

**Trenton Haefele** (Hickman, Neb.) is a developmental sales representative for Syngenta in Sterling, Colo.

**Miles Korus** (Monroe, Neb.) is working on the family farm near Monroe, Neb.

**Mitchell Krull** (Hastings, Neb.) is a manager at Meyers Aerial Spraying and farms near Hastings, Neb.

**Jordan Maassen** (Hershey, Neb.) is farming near Hershey, Neb.

**Jeremy Milander** (Coleridge, Neb.) is a graduate student in the Department of Agronomy and Horticulture. He is studying corn yield component research for waxy and normal corn, plant populations and locations (waxy experiment at Mead and North Platte; normal corn study at Mead and Zagreb, Croatia).

**Kelsie Musil** (Wilber, Neb.) works at Nebraska Farm Business, Inc.

**Lon Schoenholz** (Bruning, Neb.) is working on the family farm near Bruning, Neb.

**Justin Wadkins-Meyer** (Palmer, Neb.) is working for Servi-Tech.