



## **EMPOWERING NEBRASKANS (2012)**

**JANUARY** ■ Nebraska 4-H sets a new enrollment record. 143,000 Nebraska young people, representing one in three age-eligible youth, participated in 4-H. Ninety-two percent of Nebraska 4-Hers are pursuing higher education.

**FEBRUARY** ■ Annual 4-H Robotics Expo is held at the Strategic Air and Space (SAS) Museum. In 2012, 48 teams involving 400 youth participated. 77 teams involving nearly 650 youth participated in three regional competitions for the opportunity to attend the 2012 competition at the SAS museum.

MARCH ■ The 2012 Crop Production Clinics engaged 1,501 producers, consultants, and agribusiness representatives. Participants reported directly managing or influencing management decisions on more than half of the crop acres in Nebraska and estimated the anticipated value of \$3.50 per acre from improved irrigation efficiency, reduced impact of pesticide use on health and safety, and opportunities for increased yield.

**APRIL** ■ The Nebraska Agricultural Water Management Network (NAWMN), started in 2005, has continued to expand. Over 800 producers are using ET gauges and soil water sensors for field specific irrigation management. Producer surveys report water savings of 2 inches for both corn and soybeans. For additional information, see <a href="http://water.unl.edu/nawmn">http://water.unl.edu/nawmn</a>.

MAY ■ UNL Extension developed several interactive educational publications that are redefining the online educational experience in the web environment. *Managing Bed Bugs* increases awareness of this emerging public health problem, using easily accessible information, photos, and videos. *Direct Marketing Food Specialty Products* is an online tutorial that supplements discussion of best practices with video clips from successful producers. See <a href="http://www.extension.unl.edu/interactivepubs">http://www.extension.unl.edu/interactivepubs</a> for more examples.

**JUNE** ■ The University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension, Nebraska Corn Board, and Nebraska Corn Growers Association partnered to implement the Nebraska On-Farm Research Network addressing critical questions as they related to modern crop production. In its inaugural year, 27 growers, implemented and completed 37 on-farm research comparisons. The project's goal for the 2013 and 2014 growing season is to increase participation to 75 and 150 growers, respectively.

JULY Eight faculty teams are delivering educational programs designed to help families, youth, crop and livestock farmers and ranchers make well informed decisions and better manage the stress associated with the drought (<a href="http://droughtresources.unl.edu/">http://droughtresources.unl.edu/</a>). Sen. Mike Johanns commented: "Your folks put together a drought briefing for me, and we had some of the best people in the university system around the table. I was so pleased by... their understanding of ... the whole gamut of drought issues, and I think whatever we can do to support those people and build that capacity will pay huge, huge dividends for our state in the future."

**AUGUST** ■ Teaching young people ag literacy and where their food originates is an important role for UNL Extension. For example, 83% of Nebraska 4-H youth understand agriculture is the largest industry in Nebraska. One new delivery method, the Mobile Beef Lab, introduced over 8,000 youth to the importance of science in agriculture with a rumen-fistulated steer and a powerful microscope for studying rumen microorganisms,

**SEPTEMBER** ■ Nebraska 4-H'ers studying weather and climate change through the development of high altitude balloons showcased their learning through the launch of these science projects in front of 85,000 Nebraska football fans with the help of Astronaut Clayton Anderson.

**OCTOBER** ■ Dr. Charles Hibberd joined UNL Extension as Dean and Director. Chuck is familiar to the University of Nebraska, experiencing success in leading the Panhandle Research & Extension Center as director. Prior to returning to Nebraska, Chuck was the Director of Extension, Associate Dean of Agriculture, and Assistant Vice President of Engagement at Purdue University.

**NOVEMBER** ■ Nearly 2,500 Nebraska Medicare beneficiaries saved \$900,000 on their prescription drug costs as a result of education provided by UNL Extension. Over the past seven years, the cumulative savings on prescription drug costs as a result of Extension's work is \$5.6 million.

**DECEMBER** ■ Our Extension websites reached nearly 3.3 million unique visitors viewing 7.1 million pages. Extension's Food, Cropwatch, Backyard Farmer, and Beef websites, just to name a few, are nationally recognized.