



Summer 2007

2007 State Fair Ag Families of the Day

Five Nebraska farm and ranch families will be honored as the State Fair "Ag Family of the Day" in a new program sponsored by Nebraska Farm Bureau at this year's state fair.

Honored families were selected by a committee of representatives of Farm Bureau, the State Fair Board, State Fair Foundation, State Fair staff and KLNK TV Channel 8, media partner for the program. The nomination process was open to all Nebraskans and many excellent nominations were received; membership in Farm Bureau was not a factor in selection.

"We've been pleased to see the renewed emphasis on agriculture at the State Fair in recent years. The Ag Family of the Day is a new way to showcase our Nebraska farmers and ranchers and we hope to also show the diversity of agriculture across Nebraska," Farm Bureau President Keith Olsen said. "We received many nominations and the committee selected excellent representatives of Nebraska agriculture," he said. "We hope to see this program expand in future years."

Each family will be honored at a ceremony on the Ag Hall stage, highlighted in a Channel 8 newscast and featured in the daily State Fair parade. They also receive gate and midway passes and reserved parking at the fair, lodging, a plaque and other prizes.

These are the honored families:

Aug. 25: **Craig and Jan Frenzen, Fullerton**; ceremony time: 11 a.m.

Aug. 26: **Sullivan Family of Wallace: John & Donna, Michael & Terry, Douglas & Michelle**; ceremony time: 5 p.m.

Sept. 1: **Terry and Beth Rasmussen, Arlington**; ceremony time: 5 p.m.

Sept. 2: **Thorpe and Shelley Thompson, Whitney**; ceremony time: 5 p.m.

Sept. 3: **Bud and Maylo Knuth, Royal**; ceremony time: 11a.m.

Friends of the honored families may walk in their parade – gather near the intersection of Farm Bureau Blvd. and Henry Brandt Ave. 10 minutes before the parade starts. The parade begins one hour after the awards ceremony.

Kylie Kinley of Blue Hill FFA Wins Ag Communications Award

Kylie Kinley of the Blue Hill FFA Chapter was the 2007 Nebraska FFA Agricultural Communications Proficiency state winner at the Nebraska FFA Convention, held in Lincoln in April. The Nebraska AgRelations Council sponsors the contest each year.

Kylie is the daughter of John and Jill Kinley. Her agricultural communications skills include working for the Blue Hill Leader newspaper writing and editing articles and taking photographs. She also designs advertisements and sale bills for local businesses. Kylie's ag ed instructor is Melissa Bonifas.

The Agricultural Communications Proficiency is based on a student's Supervised Agricultural Experience Program. Students are required to keep financial and skill-based records in an electronic record book system and submit an application for award recognition. To become a state proficiency finalist, a student's application is reviewed at the local, district and state level and then three finalists are interviewed during the state FFA convention to determine a state winner. The individual's application selected as the state winner is submitted as Nebraska's representative for national competition.

NAC Leadership

	Term Expires
Craig Buescher <i>Deweese, president</i>	2007
Cheryl Stubbendieck <i>Lincoln, president-elect</i>	2009
Ted Hartung <i>Lincoln, executive secretary</i>	
Larry Bitney <i>Lincoln, treasurer</i>	2009
Nancy Eberle <i>Bradshaw</i>	2007
Larry Hudkins <i>Malcolm</i>	2009
Gary Bergman <i>Lincoln</i>	2007
Duane Eversoll <i>Lincoln, ex-officio</i>	
Eddie Biber <i>Omaha</i>	2008
Paul Hay <i>Beatrice</i>	2008
Lowell Schardt <i>Wayne</i>	2008

The Nebraska AgRelations Council works to promote the importance of agriculture to all Nebraskans. NAC is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, volunteer-run organization that serves as an umbrella to bring together organizations and individuals to speak out on behalf of agriculture.

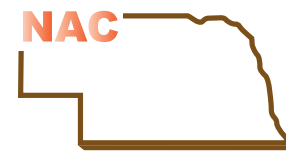
NAC's mission is "To Communicate the Story of Nebraska Agriculture Through the Maximum Use of Media."

Newsletter courtesy of
Nebraska Farm Bureau
Cheryl Stubbendieck, editor
Tara Rieck, graphic designer

Send news for NAC members to:

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P.O. Box 80299
Lincoln, NE 68501
or (preferably) cheryls@nefb.org

www.neagrelations.org



Nebraska AgRelations Council

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Summer 2007

Farming in 2017 – Not Your Father's Agriculture

2007 Agriculture at the
Crossroads Conference
Nov. 1, 2007

Sponsored by NAC and UNL
Ag Economics Department
East Union – Lincoln

This year's Ag at the Crossroads Conference is looking ahead to the year 2017 – because half of all U.S. farmers and ranchers will reach retirement age in the next 10 years. How will agriculture, the environment it operates in, and ag producers themselves be different 10 years from now? Conference speakers have been asked to look ahead 10 years, but to emphasize the first five years and focus on Nebraska. We'll hear from outstanding presenters, and from the next generation of Nebraska farmers and ranchers.

Ag Futurist Dr. Michael Boehlje of Purdue's Center for Food and Agricultural Business will be our keynoter. A frequent contributor to "Farm Futures" and "Top Producer," he will focus on new products, technologies, business models and strategies we can expect to see in the next decade.

For example, while acknowledging the

importance of ethanol, Boehlje thinks producing carbon-based products from ag feedstocks rather than petroleum will be the sustainable star of the bio-economy. Look for plastics, ceiling tiles, carpets and wall coverings from agriculture to be significant crop consumers by 2015, he says.

"We're moving away from growing 'stuff' to bio-manufacturing specific raw materials for nutritional, industrial and pharmaceutical end-uses," he said Aug. 3. "That's a very different agriculture than growing 'stuff' just for food."



Dr. Michael Boehlje

CONFERENCE/continued on page 2

Retired Agronomy Prof. Is AgRelations Honoree



Dr. Dale Flowerday

Dr. Dale Flowerday of Lincoln, retired UNL professor of agronomy, will receive the Nebraska AgRelations Council's 2007 AgRelations Award at a dinner in Grand Island, Sept. 12, scheduled in conjunction with Husker Harvest Days.

Flowerday taught the introductory crop production course to many hundreds of students before his retirement from UNL in 1983 after 27 years with the University. He received a distinguished teaching award and was also honored for his work in extension, including service as

superintendent of UNL's Northeast Station in Concord. From 1983 to 1994, Flowerday was the agronomy supervisor for Pioneer Seed in Kansas, Nebraska and Colorado. Now 80, he does independent consulting and crop insurance adjusting and teaches youth about agriculture in informal education programs.

The AgRelations Council will "toast and roast" Flowerday on Sept. 12, at the Grand Island Midtown Holiday Inn, with a reception at 6 p.m. and dinner at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$20 and may be reserved by contacting the Nebraska AgRelations Council, P.O. Box 830918, Lincoln, NE 68583; 402/472-2821. Or use the form enclosed with this newsletter. Casual dress is appropriate for the dinner.

NAC Calendar

Aug. 25

NAC Interactive Ag Quiz
10 a.m. & 2 p.m.
Ag Hall Stage
Nebraska State Fair

Sept. 3

NAC Interactive Ag Quiz
11 a.m. & 2 p.m.
Ag Hall Stage
Nebraska State Fair

Sept. 12

AgRelations Award
Reception and Dinner
6 p.m.
Honoring Dale Flowerday
Mid-Town Holiday Inn,
Grand Island

Nov. 1

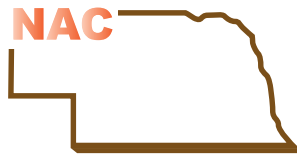
2007 Ag at the Crossroads
Conference, 8 a.m.
UNL East Campus Union,
Lincoln
(Registration deadline is Oct. 26)

Dec. 11-13

Nebraska Ag Classic
Conference
Holiday Inn Convention
Center, Kearney
NAC hosts the conference
luncheon on Dec. 12 featuring
J.B. Milliken

Dec. 12

Nebraska AgRelations
Council 2008 Annual
Meeting, 9:30 a.m.
The official annual meeting of
NAC members, held as part of
the Ag Classic Conference



President's Message

I hope this finds you with plenty of moisture and in good health. In south central Nebraska where I live, we had been getting the short end of the rain this summer but we did get 2.5 inches in late July, which really helped the dryland crops. As far as health goes, I know I am doing better this summer than last because I don't have my arm in a sling like last year.

NAC has a lot going on in the next few months and I hope you have your calendar handy to write down the schedule and help out whenever you can. Remember that with your help, NAC can really make a difference in promoting agriculture at our various activities.

Last year we played our ag information "Who Wants To Be a Millionaire?" game with State Fair go-ers on the Ag Hall Stage. It went over really well and we are on track to do it again at this year's fair, but with some new twists. We'll be presenting an "Interactive Ag Quiz" thanks to board member Paul Hay and the wireless technology he's providing. Audience members will have hand-held devices that will enable them to play along with the contestants on stage.

We'll be giving away gift certificates for the Beef Pit, and the Kiwanis Kitchen and "Grow Nebraska" stores (both located in Ag Hall). So plan to come to Ag Hall and try your luck on Nebraska Ag trivia. We will be doing two presentations on Aug. 25 and two on Labor Day, so make plans to take part because it will be a lot of fun.

Husker Harvest days is just around the corner and we will again be presenting our Nebraska AgRelations Award on Wednesday evening, Sept. 12 at the Grand Island Midtown Holiday Inn. If you're planning a day at Husker Harvest Days, make it Wednesday and come for the reception and dinner and the "toast and roast" as we honor Dr. Dale Flowerday. Remember that the dress code is casual. See the enclosed insert for details.

The annual Ag at the Crossroads Conference, which is a joint project of NAC and the UNL Agricultural Economics

Department, is Nov. 1 at the East Campus Union in Lincoln. This year we have an outstanding lineup of speakers and presenters on the topic of generational change in agriculture. Fully half of today's farmers and ranchers will reach retirement age in the next 10 years. The next generation entering agriculture will face new challenges and opportunities.

We feel this is a very timely topic and one that has not been addressed in the depth we are giving it. We are especially happy to have Dr. Michael Boehlje from Purdue University as our keynoter. You will find the agenda for the conference inserted in this newsletter. You will definitely want to attend! Please register by Oct. 26 to help us plan for the "Nebraska



Craig Buescher
NAC President

Foods" buffet luncheon. And to finish out the year, we are again one of the sponsoring organizations for the Nebraska Ag Classic Conference, Dec. 11-13 at the Kearney Holiday Inn Convention Center. The Ag Classic Conference committee has been meeting monthly, getting everything organized for this event and it should be another great conference. The LEAD Alumni Association is planning a tribute

to Dr. Allen Blezek, retiring director of the Nebraska LEAD Program, on Tuesday evening, Dec. 11, at the start of the conference. You'll want to attend that event, too.

The Nebraska AgRelations Council Annual Meeting will be held during the Ag Classic on Dec. 12 at 9:30 a.m. Plan to attend to give us your input on what activities NAC could be doing in 2008 and to vote in the board member elections.

As you can see, we have a lot planned in the next few months so I hope you are able to attend these activities and help us out when you can. Remember that with all of us pulling together, we can accomplish so much more toward the goal of promoting agriculture throughout the state.

See you at the Fair!!!

Craig Buescher
NAC president

Conference

continued from page 1

He also predicts new alliances and joint ventures, and farmers buying businesses, not assets, much as corporations do.

The conference also will have presentations on changing relationships with agribusinesses, innovations in finance, what the younger generation of ag producers wants and needs, technology predictions, and more.

The conference will also take a look at the impacts of the animal rights movement on agriculture and its customers. Paul Shapiro, director of the Factory Farm Project for the Humane Society of the U.S., will discuss the goals and activities of animal advocates in seeking to change farm animal care practices.

All this, and a Nebraska products lunch, for only \$40! See the insert for details of the program and the registration form. Registration deadline is Oct. 26.

Thanks to the Conference Planning Committee, which has been working since March:

Dr. Ted Hartung, chair, NAC executive secretary, Lincoln.

Dr. Allen Blezek, director, Nebraska LEAD program, Lincoln.

Craig Buescher, NAC president, farmer, Deweese.

Dr. Dennis Conley, UNL professor of agricultural economics, Lincoln.

Nancy Eberle, NAC board member, farmer, Bradshaw.

Dr. Mark Gustafson, Nebraska Rural Initiative, UNL, farmer, Mead.

Paul Hay, extension educator, Gage County, Beatrice.

Dr. Bruce Johnson, UNL professor of agricultural economics, Lincoln.

LaDene Rutt, farmer, Chappell.

Cheryl Stubbendieck, NAC vice president, Nebraska Farm Bureau, Lincoln.

Roger Wehrbein, farmer, Plattsmouth.

Thanks, too, to Nebraska Farm Bureau, for being a financial sponsor of the conference.

Ag Adventure Tour Is 'Reversed' This Year

Typically NAC gives financial support to the annual Ag Adventure Tour sponsored by the Nebraska LEAD Alumni Association. The tour takes members of the Leadership Omaha and Leadership Lincoln groups on a two- or three-day motor coach tour of ag sites in Nebraska, with commentary and discussions on the bus in between times, along with much good food and fellowship.

This year, Leadership Omaha said it would like to host a tour of Omaha for rural people to showcase its diversity and strengths. The tour is set for Nov. 8-10, with bus pickups scheduled for Kearney and York. Plans include a dinner at the Old Market with city leaders, the Latino Festival, an insider's tour of the Qwest Center, visits to different neighborhoods and a focus on Omaha's history. Cost per person is \$100. Contact Nancy Eberle for more information, at neberle@mainstaycomm.net.

New Newsletter Focuses On Republican River Basin

Nebraska Farm Bureau has launched a new newsletter about Republican River issues.

"With all of the discussion about what could and should happen to address water shortages in the Republican River Basin, we think it will be helpful to have the current situation summarized in one place periodically," Jay Rempe of Nebraska Farm Bureau said.

The newsletter will be issued three or four times a year, as developments warrant. The first issue contains information on the 1943 Republican River Compact with Kansas, the 2002 settlement of a 1998 lawsuit Kansas filed against Nebraska under the compact, and LB 701, this year's water management funding bill. A chart shows water use in the basin from 1995 to 2005.

Future issues will focus on the compact's certification of allocations and consumptive use in the basin, and compact compliance activities. The newsletter is at www.nefb.org. Click on "forms, reports, studies."

J.B. Milliken Scheduled for Ag Classic's Luncheon

University of Nebraska President J.B. Milliken will be the featured speaker at the Dec. 12 luncheon during the 2007 Ag Classic Conference. NAC hosts this event as part of the conference. NAC President Craig Buescher will be the emcee for the luncheon.

Milliken, president since Aug. 1, 2004, will discuss his vision for the future of the University. The cost of the luncheon is included in the Ag Classic registration fee. For more on the conference, visit <http://www.neagclassic.org>.



J.B. Milliken

Teachers Receive Ag in the Classroom Honors

Melissa Ramsour, a third grade teacher at North Bend Elementary School, and Sandy Dorn, a fourth grade teacher at Meadowlane Elementary School in Lincoln, were named the 2007 Nebraska Agriculture in the Classroom Teachers of the Year this spring.

The award is presented by Nebraska Farm Bureau's Ag Promotion Committee and the Nebraska Agriculture in the Classroom program. It recognizes excellence in incorporating agriculture into a school's curriculum.

Ramsour was recognized for her cross-curricular unit on pumpkins. Her students planted, observed, cared for, harvested and learned about pumpkins, in what the judge

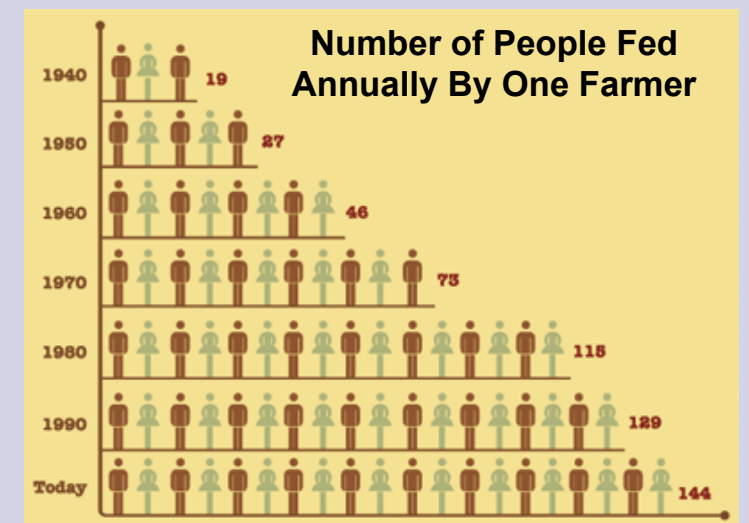
es called an engaging fashion. Students learned science, math and language arts skills through the project.

Dorn secured a grant to enable her students to visit their Ag Pen Pal, Erma McGill of Waverly, to learn about agriculture and the free enterprise system. The students learned how business and economics can improve the quality of their lives while achieving state content standards in reading, writing and social studies.

The two teachers received an all-expense-paid trip to the 2007 National Agriculture in the Classroom Conference, held June 6 - 9 in New Orleans, La.

American Farmers Feed the World

America's farmers are the world's most productive. Today, each U.S. farmer produces food and fiber for 144 people.



American Farm Bureau Federation* Graphic
Sources: American Farm Bureau Federation; National Agricultural Statistics Service