

Cedar Trees

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than sixty years, however, the tree has gone from a small population to an invasive species. It is now growing at a rate of more than 154,000 tons per year.

Sleight and Smith estimate that clearing eastern red cedar trees from 2,783 acres of ranchland will open enough grazing to feed up to a 100 cows and calves, which is the same number of beef cows that NCTA sets as a starting point for beginning ranchers in its 100 Beef Cow Ownership program.

The 100 Beef Cow Ownership program is based on the beliefs that ownership and entrepreneurship should be the ambition of young ranchers, and that in order to be successful young ranchers must have an opportunity to own a ranch. Students in the NCTA 100 Beef Cow program develop a partnership and a business plan with established ranchers. When they graduate, they are able to apply for low-interest loans through the USDA-Farm Service Agency Beginning Farmer program. Sleight and Smith argue that helping young ranchers become owners will also slow down the rate at which rural Midwestern communities are declining.

As Sleight explained it to attendees at the National Grazing Conference, ownership is so important to NCTA's 100 Beef Cow program that the college has now instituted a "sweat equity" idea that uses the USDA-FSA low-interest operating loan to purchase a skid-steer and a tree shear, which students can then use to eradicate red cedar trees while working for the rancher with whom they have developed their business plan.

"The 'Sweat Equity' idea is a win-win for both the ranch owner and the beginning rancher," said Sleight. "Through the USDA EQIP program much of the cost of clearing is paid for, making the land more valuable, and the beginning ranch gets free grass for his/her labor."

In 2011, NCTA used funds from the Nebraska Environmental Trust to help convert its heating facility to a red cedar biomass heating plant that burns wood chips for fuel on campus.

For more information regarding this opportunity, call NCTA Associate Dean Scott Mickelsen at 308-367-5200.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January

- 21 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (NCTA Offices Closed)
- 22 Farm Advisory Council Meeting at 4:00 p.m.
- 22 Career Fair Workshop at 7:00 p.m.
- 23 SOFS Meeting at 4:00 p.m.
- 26 4-H Early market Beef Weight-in at 9:00 a.m.
- 28 Dean candidate on campus - Dr. Dann Husmann at 8:00 a.m.
- 28 Open session with dean candidate Dr. Husmann at 10:00 a.m.
- 29 West Central Cattlemen's Workshop at 5:30 p.m.
- 30 Student Senate Meeting at 12:00 p.m.
- 31 Dean candidate on campus - Dr. Ron Rosati at 8:00 a.m.
- 31 Open session with dean candidate Dr. Rosati at 10:00 a.m.

To add an event, contact Eric Reed at ereed2@unl.edu

Things I Think

By Kevin Martin

1. If I was any sicker the last two weeks I would have been dead. Wash your hands.
2. The first two weeks of class is important. Really important.
3. If you don't know how to read a syllabus, learn.
4. Re-evaluating what you are capable of is not a bad thing. Not everyone can be everything.
5. Best efforts leave clear minds. What ifs and partial attempts leave scars.
6. College isn't about instructor driven learning. It's the student driven part that matters.
7. Start that on-line class today.
8. Soups. Stews. Yes.
9. It's keep your hands out of your pockets or fall on your butt season.
10. The days are getting a little longer every day. Amen.



Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture

AGGIE UP!



Available Online

- ncta.unl.edu/aggie-up
- facebook.com/aggieup

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Clearing Eastern Red Cedar Trees Helps Beginning Ranchers



In this photo we can see that the Eastern Red Cedar trees are encroaching on the NCTA campus.

More beginning ranchers could become owners of agriculture operations if ranchers cleared their grazing land of eastern red cedar trees. That is the finding of a new paper delivered by former dean of the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture (NCTA) Weldon S. Sleight and Adam Smith, an employee of Nebraska Forest Service (NFS).

Sleight and Smith delivered their

paper, "Eastern Redcedar Clearing Gives Opportunities to the Next Generation of Ranchers," at the fifth Annual National Grazing Conference in Orlando, Fla., in December.

Farmers and ranchers throughout Nebraska planted the eastern red cedar in windbreaks during the Dust Bowl years of the Great Depression in the 1930s. In less

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Amanda's Column: We Are In the Days of Change

Opinion by Amanda Castle, *Editor*



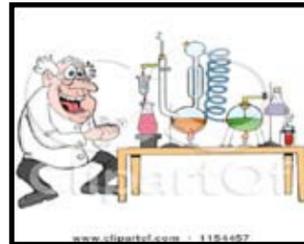
NCTA is back at it. The campus is once again alive and buzzing with busy students and faculty. The New Year brought in changes for everyone. This isn't new, though - change is bound to happen. The New Year is only a measure of time.

Before the New Year there was a frenzy of people running around claiming the world was going to end on December 21, 2012. The theory was supposedly backed by the Mayan calendar, showing that the last day marked was December 21, indeed. When the world didn't end that day people began to investigate deeper into what was meant by the Mayan calendar.

According to generations of Mayans the calendar that ended with the December day was meant as something else. A new world age was going to end and another was beginning. Perhaps the Mayans were on to something.

The Bible talks about the similar thing happening, though a specific time is not told. The Bible teaches that the world has been altered twice in previous times, and it will be altered a third time. The third time will result in an extraordinary change perhaps not so much different than the previous ages.

Looking at the world as it stands today, I would agree with the statement, change is occurring. It is debatable whether or not we are facing a new world age, if what the Bible talks about is actually occurring. However, remarkable and radical changes are occurring. Economies around the world are struggling, even more dramatic than in the past. World politics are rearing their heads in directions not seen or heard of before. One world order seems ever so closer and possible. But the greatest of them all is technology. Technology is the change behind everything in the world. Genetically engineered plants have made remarkable impacts on the crop industry, but discussions of taking the process a step further is where things become morally questionable and downright scary.



I remember the first time I heard of the concept. I was in Ag Finance and discussion of the need for ranching and farming came up. Pushing us for expanding our thoughts, the topic of vertical farming came up. Later, I researched the topic more and what I found was truly mind boggling. The concept is eliminating the need for rural farmers and ranchers and moving everyone to the city. Without anyone in the rural settings the land can return to its native setting. With genetically modified foods, greenhouses would pop up in areas with the ability to supply enough food for everyone in the cities.

Vertical farming claims to be easy on the environment while supplying food for the nation, at the ease of being in a skyscraper type structure. Now, I admit this seems crazy, but it is actually being discussed and backed by some that are supposed to be on the rural producer's sides. Sounds like something you see in a science fiction movie where the mad scientist creates a plant with good intentions. With time the plant grows a mind of its own and has intentions to take over the world.

We are in the days of change. There are new challenges that we are fighting that we have never seen before, and we are looking at the explosion of technology. A couple decades ago people would have never guessed the technology we have today. They would have called the ideas science fiction. Whether we are in a new world age or not, we should be aware of the things going on around us.

Resume & Interview Workshop

January 22, at 7:00 pm
Education Center Auditorium

Come learn some secrets about preparing your resume and yourself to stick out to potential employers that will be here for the Career Fair on February 7.

This workshop is open to all NCTA students. This event is planned and funded through NCTA Student Life! Please direct any questions to Matt Allbright, Residence Life Manager. Phone: 367-5247/ Email: nctahousing@unl.edu

Thoughts from an M&M Jar (Opinion by Megan Streweler)

Reflect, Refresh, Revive



School is back in full swing and some of us are already preparing for our first tests and research papers. As I made the drive down to Curtis the weekend before school started, I took a few moments to reflect on what needed to be improved on and what I thought I did well with on my studies last semester. Did I need to improve my study habits, make more time for homework and read the chapters and not just listen to lectures, did I need to improve my note taking skills, etc. In short I was trying to find ways to improve my ways of learning so that I could achieve that better grade.

And while thinking about that, I also thought about how to relieve the stress better this semester. Last semester I was ill and was in and out of the hospital so much that everything was a blur to me, but I have made a point to become a healthier and happier me. I could start with eating healthier, trying to work out at least five times a week, take the stairs and not the elevator in Ag Hall, and walk to all of my classes instead of hopping in my car and driving. Sounds like that's just focused on exercise. And it is but there is some kind of chemical reaction that takes place when you workout or exercise that helps relieve stress, anger, and depression. It makes you feel good to know you are becoming healthier and it's almost like your body is not only burning fat but also anger or stress. They both seem to melt away. That's not saying the issue that made you angry or stressed is resolved, but you might be able to approach it with a clearer mind now.



Photo courtesy of tumblr.com

FIRST COMES WANTS
THEN COMES GOALS
FOLLOWED BY INSPIRATION
THEN COMES SETBACKS
ONE STEP FORWARD
HALF A STEP BACK
BUT WITH PRESERVERANCE,
BLOOD, SWEAT AND TEARS

WE CAN ACHIEVE ANYTHING.

FTTisthenewbeautiful.tumblr.com

It may take a few weeks to get back into "school mode" as we have new schedules, new classes, and different professors to adjust to. Maybe some of us have moved to a different residence hall or a new room, maybe we have a new job, or just have a heavier load this semester. Whatever challenges you face this upcoming semester, look at it with the newly gained knowledge you have acquired, a fresh mind and don't be afraid to ask others, as a different perspective helps us solve our problems and our friends help us carry our burdens.

Springtime is the time for renewal and life. Let us embrace this semester with new ideas or maybe old ideas that need dusting off and tried again as we are wiser, stronger and better than before. Each day is a new day to start fresh and it doesn't have any mistakes in it yet. So reflect on the past and what we have achieved, refresh our minds and bodies and revive our dreams.

Search for New NCTA Dean Underway

The following candidates will be on the NCTA campus in the next few weeks for a seminar, interview, campus visit, tour of the city of Curtis, reception and dinner. Students, faculty, staff and the public are invited to meet the candidates on the following dates and times in the auditorium of the Nebraska Agriculture Industry Education Center.

For more details please contact Traci Bradney at 308-367-5200 or tbradney2@unl.edu or Zaneta Hahn at 402-472-2871 or zhahn2@unl.edu.

Jan. 28, 10:00 a.m.
Dann E. Husmann,
Associate Dean
College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Education: Ph.D. in Community and Human Resources from University of Nebraska, 1991

Jan 31, 10:00 a.m.
Ronald Rosati,
Provost
Southeast Missouri State University
Education: Ph.D. Agricultural Education from Iowa State University, 1984

Feb. 7, 10:00 a.m.
Peter K. Camfield,
Dean
School of Agriculture
Oklahoma Panhandle State University
Education: Ph.D. in Animal Breeding and Genetics and Meat Science from University of Arkansas, 1996

Feb. 11, 10:00 a.m.
Jack C. Whittier
Professor and Extension Beef Specialist
Colorado State University
Education: Ph.D. in Ruminant Nutrition from University of Nebraska, 1985

Aggies Speak Out

What are you looking forward to most in the New Year?



Cody Soukup: Exeter, Nebraska
“Graduating college and being able to start my new job.”



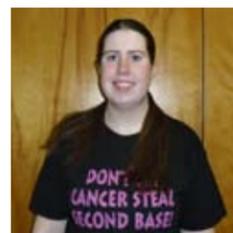
Ashley Berg: Curtis, Nebraska
“I am looking forward to getting an apprenticeship and learning a new language.”



Faith Stroup: Benkelman, Nebraska
“In the new year I am looking forward to learning new things and being done with my first year of college.”



Mike Suhr: Holdrege, Nebraska
“Coming back to school and earning a degree in the future. Also, I am looking forward to hopefully more rain this year.”



Janelle Love: Blissfield, Michigan
“I am looking forward to graduating and starting my career. I want to start my career somewhere West of the Mississippi River.

If you He brings you to it, He'll bring you through it. “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.”(Proverbs 3:5, 6 NIV)

Flu Season

Influenza is a contagious respiratory illness caused by a virus. According to the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, 200,000 people are hospitalized from flu complications and about 36,000 Americans die from the flu every year. Nebraska is one of thirty states now reporting high levels of flu-like illness this season.

Preventing the spread of the flu is important not just for yourself, but for others. This year, twenty-nine children have died as a result of the flu.

Flu season can be especially hard on college campuses, where students share close living-quarters and restrooms and are expected to attend class every day. If you begin to show flu-like symptoms (such as fever, headache, extreme tiredness, dry cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose) contact your instructors by e-mail or phone right away.



Graphics courtesy of nationaljewish.org and homeopathiclosangeles.com.

FLU PREVENTION TIPS



Holiday Season Recap



The New Year has rung in and a new journey begins. There were several people that partook in last year's holiday festivities around NCTA. This is a moment to take a look at the past and recognize the individuals that had that holiday cheer. Congratulations to the NCTA Business Club for placing first in the

Gingerbread House contest. Jacob Wilgenburg was the mastermind behind the creative construction of the gingerbread farm. Also, Mollie Bose, Trevor Oxford, Jacob Wilgenburg and Amanda Castle decorated a donated tree for the NCTA Business Club. The tree was given back to the NCTA Horticulture Club.



Clockwise from Top Left: Students hung stockings for roommates, the winners of the tree decorating contest (Mollie Bose, Trevor Oxford, Jacob Wilgenburg), the winning gingerbread house and the ornament for Chandra Castle that was hung.

Want to write for Aggie Up? Send your articles and ideas to Amanda Castle at openann08@yahoo.com



a career as a necropsy technician when she graduates from the NCTA veterinary technology program in May. She enjoys traveling and has been to South America, Europe, and ten different countries in Africa alone. Most of her journeys have involved volunteer work of some sort.

Aggie of the Month

Shawna Clement of Malcolm, Neb., is the NCTA Aggie of the Month for January. Clement is described by vet tech faculty and staff as a student who shows great leadership, work ethic, and maturity to her fellow classmates.

Clement helps tutor veterinary technology students in various classes on campus. She also maintains a 4.0 GPA, helps the faculty and staff when needed, and always comes to class with a positive attitude. Last semester she started a running club with other students and they arrived early in the morning nearly every day to take some of the vet tech kennel dogs out for a run.

Clement has a bachelor of arts degree with a double major in English and sociology and a minor in philosophy from Doane College. She plans to pursue

One Last Goodbye

By Amanda Castle, Editor

As NCTA looks back on the year of 2012 and all of its finals as it came to an end, it is only necessary to mention them and say one last goodbye. Saying goodbye is hard sometimes; it requires us to give up something and let it go. As this last year ended, we had to say goodbye to many good people in hopes someday our paths will cross again.

Friends, that we grew close to in our years here at NCTA, that we had to say farewell to as they graduated at the end of fall semester. It reminds us of the goodbyes to be said to many more friends in the spring at graduation. At NCTA we grow together, spend so much time together and you begin to realize just the depth a friendship can go.

The retiring of Dave Smith was another final NCTA had this last year. The impact that he had on NCTA was beyond any words that can be found to describe. Thirty-nine years is truly a great dedication and there have been hundreds of students that have been affected by his words of wisdom.



L-R: Terri Jo Bek, David Smith, Dean Weldon Sleight, and Doug Smith

The farewell of Dean Sleight was another goodbye that affected greatly. His passion for the future of agriculture and NCTA is truly inspirational. Dean Sleight's steady commitment to agriculture and passion for entrepreneurship has allowed NCTA to educate the future of tomorrow's leaders.

Many attended the retirement/celebration

party held for both Dave Smith and the Dean. It was great to see all the people that have been touched by these two great men. Irony could be seen in the Red Cedar tree branches that decorated the tables, as both men were avid researchers against the invasive species.

As we look back, though, steps forward must be taken. Remember the past, learn from past acquaintances, keep in touch with old friends and meet new ones. With last year's goodbyes, may we welcome the hellos in this New Year.



Winter Formal Dance

The Business Club is hosting the Winter Formal. Get dolled up, splash on some smell good and put on your good boots!

*When: January 24th, 2013
Where: The Barn
\$3 for a single person, \$5 for a couple
There will be Water and Pop available for a \$1.00*