



## PHI THETA KAPPA HONOR SOCIETY

The following students will be honored May 1, 5:00 p.m., at the Induction Ceremony of Alpha Iota Tau, NCTA's chapter of Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society.

### CURRENT MEMBERS

Kaci Schroer – Nelson, NE  
Megan Streweler – Arnold, NE

### NEW MEMBERS:

Fall, 2012

Amanda Castle – Olathe, CO  
Shawna Clement – Lincoln, NE  
Keithan Cochran – Imperial, NE  
April Gibson – Paxton, NE  
Luke Glodowski – Farnam, NE  
Tyler Gruntorad – Lexington, NE  
Lance Johnson – Upland, NE  
Jackson Kummer – Columbus, NE  
Melissa McConnell – Creighton, SD  
Lindy McKinney – Greensburg, KS  
Laura Welch – Grand Island, NE  
Nolan Wilson – Gothenburg, NE  
Patrick Zochol – Alliance, NE

Spring, 2013

Allison Baehr – Firth, NE  
Morgan Bredthauer – Hampton, NE  
Dillon Brown – Maywood, NE  
Alexis Carlson – Kearney, NE  
Daniel Field – Almena, KS  
Montella Foreman – Padroni, CO  
Lynde Frew – Ainsworth, NE  
Jeffrey Hanhardt – Gorham, KS  
Sharmayne Katzberg – Prosser, NE  
Marissa Kohl – Lincoln, NE  
Jacob Laird – Cozad, NE  
Christopher Lutz – Morrill, NE  
Katie Nelson – Ansley, NE  
Sara Peasley – Elk Point, SD  
Kara Reimers – Boelus, NE  
Jacquelyn Schranz – Waco, NE  
Kellie Sholes – Ainsworth, NE  
Jacob Wilgenburg – Fort Morgan, CO  
Michael Zorn – Lisco, NE

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### April

- 16 Student Senate Meeting 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.
- 18 Water Sports Fun 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
- 18 Last Chance! Last Dance! at 9:00 p.m.
- 19 4-H Club Meeting 6:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
- 23 Farm Advisory Meeting 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- 26 4-H Club Meeting 6:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
- 27 Spring Plant Sale 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- 28 Spring Finals Breakfast 7:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.

### May

- 1 Phi Theta Kappa Induction Ceremony at 5:00 p.m.
- 1 Graduation Picnic 6:30 p.m.
- 1 NCTA Awards Night at 7:00 p.m.
- 1 End of Year Dance at 9:00 p.m.
- 2 Spring Plant Sale at 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- 2 Graduation Ceremony at 1:30 p.m.

## Things I Think

By Kevin Martin

1. The old "Red Dawn" is way better than the new one.
2. Trust feels good.
3. Spring cleaning complete. Dog shaved and vacuumed.
4. Go Jack. Yea Huskers. You could lose every game this year and I would still be proud.
5. Be the better person. It's not all about you.
6. Getting complete information before opening one's mouth is a great concept.
7. Ahhh...70's music.
8. Karma. You better believe she's for real.
9. Give your parents something to be proud of.
10. Happy 90th birthday to my Dad. Meat and gravy for every meal didn't hurt him much.

UNIVERSITY OF  
**Nebraska**  
NCTA



Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture

# AGGIE UP!



## NCTA Shaggy Show

By Amanda Castle, *Editor*



### Available Online

- [ncta.unl.edu/aggie-up](http://ncta.unl.edu/aggie-up)
- [facebook.com/aggieup](https://www.facebook.com/aggieup)

### Inside this Issue

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- Editorials by Amanda Castle and Megan Streweler
- Barrell Racing Clinic
- Ending the Tax
- NACTA Contest
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- Aggie of the Month

### Aggie Up! Staff

- Amanda Castle  
Editor/Photographer
- Megan Streweler  
Writer/Photographer
- Jennifer Rittenhouse-McConville, Guest  
Writer
- Eric Reed  
Faculty Advisor

**See staff for  
available positions!**

The annual NCTA Shaggy Horse Show was once again here, Saturday April 13 was a day full of events. The show registration was at 7 a.m. and began at 8 a.m. The cost was five dollars per class entered or \$40 for all day. The NCTA Equestrian Team sponsored the event and the NCTA Safari Club provided concessions.

Classes ranged from English in the morning, showmanship, western pleasure, and reining ran shortly afterward, with trail open throughout the time period. After the traditional events, there was time for an egg and spoon race and then it was on to speed events.

This was an open horse show so the public was welcome as well. There was a

very important reminder for riders to know before going was that the new bio security was in force and still is for anyone wanting to bring horses onto campus. This means that each horse must have current negative coggins and 5-way vaccine. Papers will be checked at by Joanna Hergenreder. For more information you can contact Joanna Hergenreder by email at [jhergenreder2@unl.edu](mailto:jhergenreder2@unl.edu) or by phone at (308) 367- 5291.

Overall, the NCTA Shaggy Horse Show was successful with a lot of competitors. Matt Dole, NCTA Equestrian Club member said this of the show, "Overall the show turned out great; there was a lot of people that came out and had a good time."

## Jeanne Mueller Barrel Racing Clinic

By Amanda Castle, *Editor*

NCTA welcomed back barrel-race expert, Jeanne Mueller, on campus, April 6 and 7. The clinic was open to the public and received a good turnout, considering it had to be canceled and rescheduled priorly because of weather conditions. Riders and their horses were able to be a part of the clinic both days, if they chose, or they could just ride one day. The entry fee was \$75 per day and was in motion from approximately 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.



The clinic first began when the LTC arena was built here on campus. In fact, Jeanne Mueller recalls that her clinic was the first activity to be held in the arena that was open to the public. NCTA professor Judy Cole-Bowmaster, a close friend of Mueller, invited her to come to campus to teach and advise on the sport, saying that was a reason the arena was built. Every year since then the clinic has been held at NCTA, seeing new and past riders coming back for more advice. Besides the help, Jeanne Mueller gives back by donating all the proceeds back to the NCTA Ranch Horse team and the Basic Equitation team.

Riders of all ages and levels of experience are welcomed at the clinic. Mueller says that she tries to focus on each rider and horse as a team with their own individual needs. She designs her clinics as a way for each team to work on their own problems and applies her knowledge to that problem, instead of trying to place each team under one set routine. "Each horse is unique and has their own needs, like today we had a young girl that was having problems getting her horse into his right lead, and in another case we had a beginner that was just learning the ropes of barrel racing. They are all in different places."

Darci Sanger and her horse Doc of Gothenburg made their way down for today's clinic. She heard about it from a couple of friends that attend NCTA.

Sanger, herself attended and graduated from NCTA in 2011. She said she is just starting the sport and wanted to advice on how to get started. She thought the clinic was overall very helpful and had great advice, especially for someone looking for the basics.

Jeanne Mueller has been a part of the barrel racing world since she was four years old. She remarked, "The great thing about this sport is that it is family-oriented. My mom was a past state champion and my father enjoyed the sport just as much. It also offers a lot of great opportunities for riders. Today there are scholarships available, several different awards and prizes as well. It isn't just a spring and summer event anymore, it is open year-round and is available virtually anywhere in the state."

**College Tips:**  
*Don't get senioritis. Finish strong!*

## NCTA Students Place at NACTA Conference

Twenty-four NCTA Students made the trip to Lubbock, Texas, April 2 to compete in the 2013 North American colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA) Judging Conference on April 3-5. The students participated individually and in teams for Ag Business, Ag Communications, Ag Computers, Crops, Horse Judging, Knowledge Bowl, Livestock Judging, Livestock Management and Soils. Several teams and individuals placed in their events.

NCTA scored first place in the Ag Business contest. Individual placements for that event were: Josh Perlinger-2nd Place, Melissa McConnell-3rd Place, Megan Strewler-7th Place and Ryne McDaniel-12th Place. This section included eight teams from two year colleges and 33 individuals. The Ag Business contested consisted of two parts and included knowledge in Economics, Cooperatives, Finance, Entrepreneurship, Agribusiness Management, Sales, Marketing and Business Law.

The Crops judging team also took 3rd place over all with some impressive individual results. Luke Glodowski was 7th high individual overall; was 1st in the Lab Practical; 6th in Plant ID; and 7th in Knowledge Exam. Michael Zorn was 9th high individual overall; he had the 3rd highest Knowledge Exam score; and the 5th highest Lab Practical Score. Other team members for Crops Judging were Tyler Gruntorad and Andy Nickell.

The competition included over 40 students and 8 two year colleges. The competition includes 4 categories that students compete in individually; Plant and Seed ID Exam, Lab Practical Exam, Math Exam, and Agronomic Knowledge Exam.

Other placements at the competition were:

- Ag Computers-Samantha Yonkers took 2nd place in the overall competition.



Luke Glodowski placed first in the Lab Practical and was the 7th high individual overall.

- The Ag Communications team took fourth place with their social media presentation.
  - Horse Judging Team finished in 8th place
  - Livestock Management- Samantha Yonkers placed 3rd
  - Livestock Judging team placed 15th
- Congratulations to everyone at NCTA who competed on behalf of our school!

## New Staff Named for 2013-2014 Aggie Up!

Aggie Up! has announced its staff for the 2013-2014 year: Agriculture Production Systems major Jessee Connelly will serve as Editor and Veterinary Technology Systems major Reiley Wieland will serve as Staff Writer.

Current staff members, Editor Amanda Castle and Staff Writer Megan Strewler, are graduating in May and transferring to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Castle will major in Ag Business and Strewler will major in Agriculture Education.

Connelly is a member of ApHC. On campus, she is a member of the horse show team and Women in Ag. Just about every she does involves horses. She can often be found in the arena or at the horse barn.

Wieland is a medic in the National Guard as well as a 4-H Horse Show judge. On campus, she is the President of STVMA, an Resident Assistant in Aggie Central, a tour guide, and a tutor. She likes to ride her Mustangs, Sweet Pea and Felina, for fun.



The 2013-2014 Aggie Up! staff. Top: Editor Jessee Connelly; bottom: Staff Writer Reiley Wieland.

## Water Fun Night

By Amanda Castle, *Editor*

As a way to bring together the students of NCTA before the finals week sets in, there will be a Water Fun Night Thursday, April 18 at 5:30 p.m.

You can find it at the Sand Volleyball

Activity Area. The activities will include a Slip N' Slide and a Water Balloon Fight. There will also be a special picnic meal at the Cafeteria. Also, NCTA will be shooting a video for the NCTA Harlem Shake!



Photo courtesy <http://www.thehousethatbuiltus.com>

## Thrift Shop Dance

By Amanda Castle, *Editor*



Photo courtesy <http://adamsrescuemission.org>

The NCTA Business Club is hosting another dance on Thursday, April 18, from 9 to 12. For a fun twist, the theme will be centered around the Macklemore and Ryan Lewis song, "Thrift Shop." So, be a part of the fun by dressing up in your craziest thrift shop finds. There will be water available and the cost for couples is five dollars and for singles its three dollars.

Also, NCTA will be there to shoot a video for the NCTA Harlem Shake. It is going to be a dance that you definitely want to be there!

## Aggies Speak Out

*"What is your favorite thing to do in the warm weather?"*

Dillon Brown: Hayes Center, Nebraska



"My favorite thing to do in warm weather is to ride my horse out in the pasture with the cattle."

Jacob Trausch: Roseland, Nebraska



"I like to be outside but when I am done with work and am really bored I enjoy doing garden work."

Andrei Rodriguez: Imperial, Nebraska



"If I am not working then I enjoy to go fishing or I like to rope the dummy."

Jenna Schilke: Imperial, Nebraska



"On warm, sunny days I like to go hang out with my friends at the lake, go boating and get my tan on."

**"The person, who risks nothing, does nothing, has nothing, is nothing, and becomes nothing. He may avoid suffering and sorrow, but he simply cannot learn and feel and change and grow and love and live."**

~ Leo F. Buscaglia

## Ending the Tax on a Lifetime of Success (U.S. Senator for Nebraska Mike Johanns)

Summer after hot, dusty summer, many of our parents and grandparents worked in the fields, raising their crops. Winter after icy winter, they braved frigid corrals, helping to grow their herds. They often worked the same ground for decades—first as children, learning the trade. Over time, they may have added new land and new equipment here and there—whenever they found an opportunity to expand their life's work. It takes a lifetime to grow a farm or ranch.

These stories are bountiful in Nebraska. But not all of them have a happy ending. Farmers and ranchers are often vulnerable to one of the federal government's most egregious policies that can reverse a lifetime of work in an instant, and at the hardest time for a family. The estate tax, or death tax, is a staggering 40 percent tax levied on inherited property following the death of a family member. This tax disproportionately affects rural America because of the cost of owning and operating farms and ranches. The average price for an acre of farmland has ballooned more than 140 percent, from \$746 to \$2,425 in the last decade, with little sign of slowing down, according to the University of Nebraska Department of Agricultural Economics.

Land is not the only part of the equation. Equipment and structures from center pivots to combines to grain bins can be valued well into the millions of dollars. Indeed the cost to own and operate a farm or ranch requires a substantial investment in land, buildings and equipment,

but significant cash to pay the estate tax can be difficult or even impossible to produce. Although the tax exempts the first \$5 million of each estate, the remaining tax burden leaves many rural farm families deep in debt. As costs continue to climb, the number of agriculture operations impacted will also increase.

I have met with families over the years who fear the estate tax will take away their family farm—their livelihood and the product of generations of hard work—to pay Uncle Sam after the death of a loved one.

I believe that repealing this tax is in the best interest of our nation's farmers, ranchers and business owners. That's why I am cosponsoring legislation being introduced this Tax Day that would repeal this arduous fee for families in the midst of mourning. The legislation would not only end the government's twisted idea of a sympathy card, but would do much to give our economy a much-needed boost. Studies indicate that repealing the estate tax would create 1.5 million additional small business jobs, add \$119 billion to our economy and boost workers' income by \$79 billion. Similar legislation received bipartisan support during the Senate's budget resolution debate.

A lifetime of work should not become a tax liability. It's time we return to the fundamental principle that hard work and achievement is worthy of reward, not penalty. It's time we repeal this tax on success.

## Trevor Oxford Named Aggie of the Month

Trevor Oxford of Imperial, Neb., is the NCTA Aggie of the Month for April.

Oxford is a first-year student majoring in Ag Business. He is a member of the Business Club, Collegiate 4-H and FFA, and a representative on the Student Senate.

After graduation Oxford wants to return home to work in an agriculture-related field. He says he picked NCTA because it directly focused on what he wanted in



an education—namely, a greater understanding of the agriculture field along with the leadership and people skills to be successful. "Agriculture is what I grew up around, and it's really important," he says.

Assistant Professor Jennifer McConville said: "Trevor is always willing to go above and beyond his classroom assignments to be involved with NCTA. After each Student Senate meeting he stops by my office to fill me in on what is going on, and what activities the Business Club needs to be involved with. He has never missed a business club meeting, and I can count on him to be there if I need someone to decorate or move a ginger bread house, decorate for the dances, hang up signs or deliver treat sacks. Trevor is very deserving of 'Aggie of the Month.'"

## Amanda's Column: "My Sunshine Pony"

Opinion by Amanda Castle, *Editor*



He makes me happy and in an instant he can make me frustrated. He makes me smile and in an instant he can make me cry. He makes me relaxed

and in an instant he can make me stressed. In an instant I realize he makes me complete. My horse is the light of my darkened days, he is my sunshine pony.

Now, I can just picture some of you right now rolling your eyes and going, "oh boy we have another one of those horse people" because I would be saying the same thing if I didn't know my horse. My horse, Fa~Daz is a horse

of a different color in some ways, right down to his name.

He is the first horse I got to claim as mine on the ranch, I am the only one that can ride him. He was born and raised on the ranch where we have his mother and grandmother and now his sister. All of the generations are proving to be great grade horses.

I remember the day he was born, and I watched him grow up. When he was a yearling he was quite the "ugly duckling," as he had it hard going through that "awkward stage." But soon after he broke through and flourished into a chromed-out Cadillac. He developed muscle in the front, in the back and everywhere in between. His name was thought of when we noticed how big his posterior was, some would say he has a fat... well, you catch where I am going with this.



Caption: Photograph taken by Main Street Photography out of Montrose, Colorado

We embarked on many new adventures together. We entered the competitive county fair horse show, where we won several classes much to my surprise. But the important thing is Fa~Daz is just a ranch horse, born and raised to be with cows.

I am pretty sure the first two years of his life he thought he was part cow. You see, when we wean our colts we turn them out by themselves to roam with the cattle in the summer mountain permits, so they can grow up with the cows and learn the fundamentals of being on their own and facing challenges. It also helps them become more aware of their surroundings. Fa~Daz would follow the cows around and the cows didn't seem to mind his company. When we went to trail the cattle home, Fa~Daz wasn't interested in the other horses but trailed in the middle of the cattle.

This made Fa~Daz quiet, hardly ever whinnying to other horses or interested in their business. Also, he came to respect a cow and her calf. If it is one thing my Dad says it is he can't stand a horse that disrespects a cow and her young calf.

Last year my Dad brought my

horse up for my birthday so I could show in the Shaggy Show. I didn't place all day against those "show horses" but then at the end of the day we went out and got first in trail. It made the trip worth it for both my Dad and me, Fa~Daz however, wasn't thrilled because he had to ride in the back of the trailer with a load full of hogs in the front.

This year though I brought him back after spring break. Any free time I get, you can find me out with

*Continued on page 5*

## Amanda's Column Cont'd

Opinion by Amanda Castle, *Editor*



Caption: Photograph taken by Main Street Photography out of Montrose, Colorado

him. We will be showing again this year at the Shaggy Show, how we will do is up in the air, but it will be a great day just having my horse here.

College is more tolerable when you have something to look forward to. Being with my horse and being able to ride is something I look forward to because he makes me happy, makes me smile and makes me relaxed. After all he is my sunshine pony.

## End-of-Semester Checklist

1. Check syllabus and finals schedule.
2. Check MyRed for any notices regarding classes or financial aid.
3. Enroll for summer or fall 2013 classes. Meet with advisor.
4. Meet with landlords if living off campus.
5. Complete housing accommodations for next year.
6. After finals, be sure to check out of dorms before leaving campus.
7. If boarding animals, meet with your boarder.
8. Clean up all local debt with businesses.



## Thoughts from an M&M Jar: The Value of Life

Opinion by Megan Streweler, *Staff Writer*



Over the last few weeks, calving season has hit full swing on the ranch. An experience I feel every person in agriculture, at least the production side of agriculture, should experience. The value of life and death and

the contemplating questions of which calves do you keep trying to help live and how do you let them go?

Last week, back on the ranch, we had an ice storm that lasted a day and then it snowed for three days with winds gusting and the wind chill below zero. We had over 60 calves born in three days. We put in long days and even longer nights, doing nightly checks every half hour to every hour, and sometimes running on no sleep. It truly is amazing what the human body is capable of when it is serving a purpose in life, such as saving animal lives.

Many times we had the men bring in calves that were icicles, lay them down on the warm kitchen floor, and we would spend hours trying to warm them up and save them from possible brain damage and frozen cores.

There were times when we were successful and they would come out of the frozen coma and want their momma and milk. Other times, all we could do is comfort them and hold their precious lives in our hands as they lay curled up in our lap as their short life slipped away.

It's times like those when I often wondered, "Is there anything else I can do to save its life?" It makes you appreciate the short time we have on this earth and to make everything we do have a purpose and to live life with no regrets. To know that in this life, we gave it everything we had to offer.



Caption: Photo courtesy of Megan Streweler