

Letter to the Editor

Hello Amanda,

My name is Janet Johnston and I am a local resident. I worked at the college for about 20 years, retiring in the 1999-2000 school year.

I was in the local grocery store yesterday and on my way out I noticed a stand with a few paper ads and copies of "Aggie Up". I picked up a copy and read it this morning.

I would like to congratulate you on a job well done. What a wonderful idea to have a newsletter and actually put it out for local people to pick up and read. I do hope many people will do as I did and read it. In some ways I think, at times, there is a certain disconnect between the college and the local population. We all live our lives in the same town and area but don't always get to meet each other too often. I think this will help to broaden the locals knowledge of what is going on at the college.

Once again, Congratulations, Thank you and Good Luck to you in your education here at NCTA.

Sincerely,

Janet Johnston

Send your "Letter to the Editor" to Amanda Castle at openam08@yahoo.com

"Never be afraid to try something new. Remember, amateurs built the ark; professionals built the Titanic."

—Unknown

UNIVERSITY OF
Nebraska
NCTA | NEBRASKA COLLEGE OF
TECHNICAL AGRICULTURE

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September

- 13 Flag Football Captian's Meeting at 4:30 p.m.
- 14 Last day to drop a full semester course and receive a 25 percent refund
- 15 2nd Annual Aggiefest Clinic and Contests at 8:00 a.m.
- 16 NCTA Shiny Show at 7:00 a.m.
- 18 Flag Football at 5:00 p.m.
- 19 Student Senate Meeting at 12:00 p.m.
- 19 Flag Football at 5:00 p.m.
- 28 Last day to drop first 8-week course

October

- 1 December Degree Applications Due
- 2 Intramural 6 on 6 Volleyball at 5:00 p.m.
- 2 Medicine Creek 4-H Club Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- 3 Student Senate Meeting at 12:00 p.m.
- 4 Arboretum Tour at 8:30 a.m.
- 6 Open House at 8:00 a.m.

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

Things I Think

By Kevin Martin

1. Funny how when someone screws up they are sorry, but when it's time to face the consequences, it's not their fault.
2. I don't dance much, but I'm guessing if that's what it takes to make it rain, I'd better get my groove on.
3. Dogs should be able to get even with their owners when the owners are idiots.
4. First tests with new instructors are tough. It does get better.
5. If you don't want to have your momma run your life, it's time to have her stop making your phone calls.
6. Do the new birds in the Vet Hospital freak anyone else out?
7. I do like watching bull riding. Never thought I would say that.
8. Rest, nutrition, exercise. I am a believer; just obviously not enough of an active participant.
9. Me: "Quit smoking." Smoker: "Gotta die some time." Ok...it still bothers me. Personal reasons.
10. Experience is what you get when you don't get what you want.



Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture

AGGIE UP!



NCTA Hosts 2nd-Annual Steak Feed and Roping Contest

By Amanda Castle, *Editor*

Winner! Winner!
Chicken Dinner!

In this case, though, it was a steak dinner, and we were all winners.

Thursday night, September 6, was filled with good food and good times, as NCTA welcomed back the annual Steak Feed and Roping Contest.

To start things off, students, teachers and staff met at the cafeteria for a steak dinner provided by the cafeteria. Afterwards, the crowd met in front of the East Traditional dorms. This is when those with roping skills showed off and the spectators took in the experience.

This year, like last year, was a success. Many teams signed up to rope and many people came out to support.

The winning team was Cody Rajdl and Kenton Kircher. Congratulations to the winners and thank you to the supporters for coming out. It was a good time.



Elijah Mora (top) and Cody Rajdl (bottom) compete in the roping contest.

Available Online

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

Inside this Issue

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Aggie Up! Staff

- Amanda Castle Editor/ Photographer
- Megan Streweler Staff Writer/Photographer
- Aaron Couch Guest Writer
- Eric Reed, Faculty Advisor

Amanda's Column:

People Should Know Where Their Food Comes From

Opinion by Amanda Castle, Editor



It's no question that NCTA students know where their food comes from, but for the majority of this country it is a question. Americans, compared

to people in other countries, have it easy. We just load up in the family vehicle and drive down to the local market and purchase our food for the week. When asked if they know where their food comes from, the most common answer Americans say is the market. Very true, but behind the market is a long line of hard work, worry, determination, tears and most of all, faith. With this year's drought, and next year's forecast unclear, the crop supply is a concern.

I recently read an article about the research of making meat in a lab. Arguments for this were it would not require the killing of animals, it would be safer on the environment, and that with making meat in a lab it could be injected with vitamins and other nutrients. For the majority of the population this all sounds great. At the end of the article the author made a statement along the lines of how many people would like to see the little lamb being slaughtered in front of them knowing that is what's for dinner. For many, they do not make that connection—or rather do not want too.

For me though, I say show it. Show the process of killing animals in packing plants. Show the actual process of the rules and regulations being enforced. Show workers treating animals humanely. Show videos of this process without the one-sided extreme animal videos shot by groups such as People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) and the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS).

This isn't Disneyland; people of this country

need a reality check. With all the violence and filth that is allowed on TV these days, I believe if people can "accept" that then they can watch this. I went to Washington D.C. my senior year in high school for a leadership conference through my FFA chapter. When I was there we listened to speakers from Monsanto and ConAgra. The ConAgra speaker was talking about how their company was faced with this same problem. People in urban areas don't have a clue where their food comes from, so as a way to help this ConAgra set up times to go to local schools in cities to talk about food. Taking different foods from each of the food groups, speakers in classrooms, would relate that back to how food in the market comes from food from the farm. When meat came up to subject, the ConAgra speaker at the leadership conference told us, a parent in one of the kindergarten classes they went to asked, "How long does it usually take for the meat to grow back on the animal?" A parent asked this! When I heard this at the conference I was taken back.

Are people really this ignorant about where their food comes

from? For the future of this country and its producers I hope not. We need to take a stand and let our voices be heard. This is not only our future but the future of agriculture in America.

"For me though, I say show it. Show the process of killing animals in packing plants. Show the actual process of the rules and regulations being enforced."

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use it.

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Monsanto Welcomes Farm Bureau Club



Top: Monsanto controlled water plot. Bottom: (l-r) First-year APS students Mike Zorn, Rien Franzen, and Ian Schmeeckle stand in front of an historical corn variety.

The NCTA Farm Bureau Club made a trip to Monsanto's Water Utilization Center near Gothenburg on September 5. Club members were able to tour Monsanto's field demonstration and research plots.

One stop included historical corn varieties (such as the very tall one pictured directly above).

Another stop was to Monsanto's controlled water plots (also featured at top). This building is on rails and completely covers the plots in 2 minutes if rain is about to begin. This allows them to apply precise amounts of water at different levels to study drought tolerance of corn hybrids.

Aggies Speak Out

Where were you when you learned that the 9/11 attacks happened? What were your initial reactions?



"It came on the news at school, and then class was canceled. We all went home and I can remember sitting on the couch with my mom watching it on TV. My dad was supposed to be gone on business so my biggest relief was when I got a call from him finding out his flight was New York was canceled" –Morgan Hoffman, Omaha, Nebraska



"I was at home, sick with the flu. I was shocked when my mom came into my room and told me the news. I was really shocked and scared."—Jimi Pinney, Johnstown, Nebraska



"I was in school when I heard the news. The TV was on and we watched the videos of what was happening there. We were silent and scared. We did that for the rest of the day." – Emily Druyor, Emerson, Nebraska



"I was at my house in Sterling. My mom and dad told us to go outside and play. After a while they came out and told us what had happened. We were scared but we prayed for the families involved." –Montella Foreman, Sterling, Colorado



"I don't remember the attacks that morning they happened, but after school that day I heard people talk about them on the school bus. When I got home my parents and I sat around the TV watching everything on the news. The next day we talked about it in the class. I felt just shocked; I couldn't wrap my third-grade head around it." –Matt Dole, Alma, Kansas

Students Meet Senator Lavon Heidemann



Pictured (back row, left to right): Scott Mickelsen, Mollie Bose, Cory Johnson, Sen. Heidemann, Kara Reimers, Kourtney Smith, Jack Perdue; (front row, l-r): Tana Almand, Katie Nelson, Kaci Schroer.

Eight NCTA students had an opportunity to visit with Sen. Lavon Heidemann at the Nebraska State Fair. Sen. Heidemann represents the 1st legislative district in the Nebraska Unicameral Legislature.

"The visit went very well," said Associate Dean Dr. Scott Mickelsen. "The senator asked the students where they were from and why they chose NCTA." The out-of-state students said they were brought here by the 100 cow program and want to stay in Nebraska and start ranching after graduating, which Dr. Mickelsen said the senator was glad to hear. The common theme for why the students chose NCTA was for its hands-on experience, Dr. Mickelsen said.

Sen. Heidemann was instrumental in helping secure funding for NCTA's recent building projects on campus and is in a contested race for the University of Nebraska Board of Regents.

Senator Mark Christensen, who represents the 44th district, also stopped by.

"If you think healthcare is expensive now, wait until you see what it costs when it's free."

—P.J. O'Rourke, American political satirist, journalist and writer

Sharon Beebe Lytle Scholarship Fund

A \$2,000 scholarship is available for residents of western Nebraska (from the eastern border of Holt County, north and south; or the entire state west of Grand Island).

To apply, students must write a brief essay explaining how the scholarship will be helpful to their success at NCTA and how their education and experience will help prepare them for a career in agriculture in rural Nebraska. The essay should also describe the student's experience in agriculture, membership in service organizations, and leadership experience.

Essays should be two pages in length, double-spaced, with a 12-point font and can be submitted to Dr. Scott Mickelsen in Ag Hall. The deadline is September 30, 2012.

Husker Harvest Days

The wind, the rain, and the dust could not hold NCTA students back from having a good time at the Nebraska Husker Harvest Days this year, September 12. A

variety of vendors and equipment was at Grand Island to showcase this year's latest models. Every brand of equipment or close to that was displayed, as well as livestock equipment.

It is definitely safe to say that there was a strong sharing of love and passion for agriculture today.



The latest Case IH models were on display at Husker Harvest Days in Grand Island on Wednesday.



Jesse Bookout and Sawyer Orr stand by the latest Silencer livestock hydraulic chute.

Making the Most of Your College Experience

Opinion by Aaron Couch, *Former Aggie Up! Editor*

College is a great time. In fact, I don't know if I've ever heard that argued otherwise. But what makes it great? Is it simply the memories? Is it the friends? Perhaps, what's great about it to you differs with others... and if you're human it should, since we all have our own likes, dislikes and personalities. While in college you often strive to do this or that and have an ever-growing to-do list. A to-do list that weighs over you and reminds you it's not done every time you try to have some fun. Among all of the college-related tasks in this to-do list of yours, you have three big objectives – to succeed in class, graduate and get a great job. To me, striving for those three things is what made college great.

Succeeding In Class

There's no doubt that I made my fair share of mistakes. I think we all do to some degree, but sometimes it feels like we're just going in circles. But it doesn't have to be hard. In fact, although some classes or even majors may be harder than others, it's all about you. You decide how well you're going to do. Sure instructors do play a crucial part, so they shouldn't be excluded, but you can't control that (as much).

What you can control, however, is how hard you work and how much effort you put forth. It's easy to get caught up with the rigmarole of all that you have to do, all that you're not doing and/or all that you're failing at. These were some of the thoughts that pressed on my mind daily. In turn, I don't feel I focused as much on what I should have been doing, and instead focused on the thoughts themselves. Not healthy. So don't do this. If you simply work hard, do your best and focus on each task to get done, you'll find yourself flying by.

Graduating

This is simple. If you succeed in class you will graduate. And you'll graduate with no regrets. That's the underlying thought within graduating. Not just passing classes, not just getting by and getting a degree. But leaving knowing you did your best. That doesn't start your last semester — that starts now, no matter what semester you're in.

Getting A Great Job

There is a lot of pressure on you right now to get a job. Your family is asking, your friends back home are asking, maybe even instructors are asking. About what? What you want to do, of course. Where you want to work. Your ideal career. Since you're at a technical school, you likely have narrowed down your thoughts on what you want to do, but not necessarily. The message to take away is not to allow the pressure of society and those around to stress you out. There's no use in worrying about what the future holds. Notice I say worry — you should still take it seriously.

There are many methods to pursue and techniques to use, but it wouldn't be practical to cover that in one article. The key is persistence and follow up. Don't quit and don't be afraid to turn down one opportunity in hopes for a better one. By now, you know how to be professional, so be it. From talking on the phone to interviewing even to your presence on social media networks. You should be sending the message that you are someone who takes their career seriously.

Curtis Fall Festival

Fair Theme 2012: Country Paradise

Schedule:

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

8 A.M. – 11:30 A.M. Health Fair @ Curtis Memorial Community Center

8 A.M. to ?? Bake Sale @ Curtis Mall - to donate or help call Sheila Brown @ 367-5668

7 P.M. Team Roping @ Mill Park Arena - call Ronnie Lenz @ 367-6671

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

6:30-10:00 A.M. Fireman's Breakfast @ Community Center

8:00 A.M. 5K and 10K Race Starting at City Park

9:00-5:00 P.M. Quilt Show @ Methodist Church

11:30-4:30 P.M. Food Booth @ City Park

11:30 P.M. Grand Parade Line-up and Judging @

Medicine Valley High School

12:15 P.M. Kiddie Parade @ City Park Lineup at 12 noon on the North Sidewalk

12:30 P.M. Grand Parade

Immediately following parade to 4:30 P.M. Kiddie Rides and Games @ City Park

2:30 P.M. Free Root Beer Floats – northeast picnic shelter (Sponsored by the United Methodist Church)

5:30 P.M. Free Will Donation Barbecue @ NW corner of park (Sponsored by Chamber & served by Rotary)

6:00 P.M. FFA Calcutta @ Mill Park

6:30 P.M. FFA Team Sorting @ Mill Park

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

8:00 A.M. Maywood Lions Club Golf Tournament @ Arrowhead Meadows, call Troy 367-4123 to register

10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M. Sporting Clay Shoot @ Curtis Airport / Gun Club - to register call Eli @ 367-5534

11:00 A.M. Multidenominational Church Service @ City Park

12:30 P.M. Free Kids Movie @ Star Theatre - Rio

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

Where will you be when the world stops turning?



I remember the day clearly; several of my classmates along with myself had just sat down in our wooden desks from stating the pledge of allegiance, as we did every morning. A warm breeze came through our classroom windows and all

seemed like it was going to be just another warm sunny day at school. 8:07 AM. Our school's guidance counselor briskly came into our room and whispered something into the ear of our classroom instructor. They both left the room quickly only to return with a borrowed television from our school's library. The guidance counselor nervously stated a few words to the entire class about how something catastrophic had occurred to our country and she thought we were mature enough to understand what we were about to see. She turned around, pushed the power button on the old black T.V. and the color flickered as the picture became clear. The picture I saw was the first jet that had slammed into one of our twin towers and smoke was billowing out into the atmosphere.



I will forever remember that day and how I felt as I heard the news reporters covering the details of the tragedy. As we mark the 11th anniversary of 9/11/01, I can't help but think of how our nation was brought together because of this event. American citizen's stood tall and proud of our elite, beautiful country. Now it is crazy to think that in 11 short years, we are facing a different kind of tragedy and one we may not be able to stop.

When I flip on the television to watch the news, the focus seems to be of one main theme: recession. Now, this is not an unfamiliar term to us due to the

fact that we have heard we have been in a recession for more than 3 years. Our economy has been declining at high speed and with no hope to save it. We hear promises of jobs, tax cuts and federal aide, but have these promises been broken? I think so. Being from an agriculture background, sometimes I have to pull myself out of my dream world and realize given possibly 18 more months of our current situation with no solutions in action, we may not be a part of "America the Great" anymore. We will no longer be known as the elite but more likely the weak.

A lot of you may be thinking, "I'm a college student, how does this affect me? Even if it does affect me, how could I make a difference or make my wishes be heard in a political system?" Well, this does affect you and me. It affects our futures as individuals, entrepreneurs and as households. Economic depression will not only affect Wall Street, but it will affect our school systems, agriculture industry, banks and I could go on and on, but the point remains being that our generation has an opportunity. We are of legal age to vote and even though our votes might not make much of a difference, it is one of our only chances to start protecting what we love and what we do in rural America because soon enough our chance may be gone. We have a voice and it does need to be heard once again, some how and in some way we need to stand together and protect our lifestyles and freedoms.

"A government big enough to give you everything you want is strong enough to take everything you have."

—Gerald Ford, 38th American President

Amanda Castle Named Aggie of the Month

By Eric Reed, Faculty Advisor

Amanda Castle of Olathe, Colo., was named the September Aggie of the Month. Castle was selected for her work ethic, academic skills and service to the college.

"Amanda is a very conscientious student," said Eric Reed, Division Chair of General Education. "She strives for excellence and has the potential to be a leader and advocate in the agriculture industry."

Paul Clark, Division Chair of Agribusiness Management said, "Amanda is always prepared for class and doesn't hesitate to answer questions or participate in class discussions."

Castle plans to transfer to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in August 2013 and possibly attend law school after that. She works part-time at Schroeder and Schroeder PC Law Office in Curtis.



Her on-campus activities include serving as President of the Business Club and Editor of Aggie Up! student newsletter. She will be formally inducted into Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society in the spring.

NCTA Adds USDA Mural in Education Center

The Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture (NCTA) has a new mural added to its collection at its new Nebraska Agriculture Industry Education Center. The USDA mural depicts the various projects that can be accomplished through the programs and funding offered through the USDA Mission Areas.

Rural Development State Director Maxine Moul was in Curtis last week with Dr. Dean Sleight of NCTA, who gave her a tour of the mural and the Education Center. Moul serves as the chair of the Nebraska Food and Agriculture Council, whose membership includes the USDA agencies located in Nebraska. Coordinating the creation and installation of the mural were USDA Agencies of Farm Service Agency (FSA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Rural Development.

"USDA would like to thank NCTA for the opportunity to tell our story by providing an overall look at how USDA contributes to local communities through



our mission areas. USDA offers a wide range of services. The mural helps to get the word out to NCTA students and visitors to the campus," said Moul.

The Education Center and three other major projects completed on the campus of NCTA over the last two years were dedicated last November.