

## Reiley's Rambling

### Those 'Stupid' Housing Rules

Opinion by Reiley Wieland, Editor

During the Spring 2013 semester, all the buzz around campus was focused on students' living arrangements for the summer and the 2013-2014 school year. Many students were excited to take the next step into adulthood: cooking, parties, and no adult supervision. And then came the big announcement: the rules for off campus housing had changed.



Previously, there were only a few stipulations to move off campus: be married, a second-year student, 21 years old or older, or living with a relative. The new rule: a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher. Suddenly the conversation changed to how "stupid" the rule was and that the school had no right to make that stipulation. So I'm going to take a moment and try to shed a little light on the decision.

First off, a 2.0 GPA shouldn't be that hard for any student to achieve. That's a C average, which is barely enough to graduate. Studies show that students that live off campus are more likely to skip class, not do homework or study, and drop out of college than students living in campus housing. My thought: if you aren't pulling a 2.0 while living in the dorms, surrounded by classmates and teachers within easy reach, what do you think will happen when you are all on your own?

Second, those that were the most outspoken on the matter also happened to be those that were unaffected by it. Graduates, for one, shouldn't have been worried about any more college rules. And those that have the good grades are free to leave campus and hopefully beat the statistics. My advice to students: calm down. If it doesn't affect you, find something more important to talk about.

Lastly, many wanted to go to NCTA Residence Life Advisor, Matt Albright, and place blame on him. No one seemed to realize that the decision was not his. UNL Housing Authority established the rule on all University of Nebraska sister schools. Matt's only part in the whole ordeal was to notify NCTA students

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### June

- 24 New Student Registration Day
- 26 NCTA 4-H Horticulture Day

### July

- 1 August Degree Applications Due
- 4 INDEPENDENCE DAY (NCTA offices closed)
- 9 NCTA Community Advisory Meeting
- 12 Professional Surveyors Association of Nebraska Summer Seminar
- 12 New Student Registration Day
- 17 Nebraska Ag Builders Tour
- 20 Frontier County 4-H Horse Show
- 20-21 Vet Tech Pre-Exam Prep Course
- 24 Last day to drop 8-week summer session course

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of the change. So let's cut him some slack.

All I'm trying to say is that NCTA and UNL do, in fact, have our best interests at heart. Both schools want to see every student succeed and graduate. So, enjoy your new freedom of living off campus. You've earned it.

## Things I Think

By Kevin Martin

1. I need a beach.
2. I take #1 back. It's a want, not a need.
3. People do the darndest things under stress.
4. How come new eyeglasses always hurt your nose or ears?
5. By the looks of a few new haircuts on campus, some guys are expecting warm weather. Soon.
6. When you don't consider others, don't expect any consideration in return.
7. Facebook could seriously ruin your life. Be cautious of images and postings. Seriously.
8. If you think you have it figured out, your wrong. You may have done some figuring, but it's not done. Ever.
9. Thinking our dogs new low calorie, bean supplement diet is a mistake. I'm running out of Fabreeze.
10. Make the effort to understand.



Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture

# AGGIE UP!



## Summer Session is in...Session

### Available Online

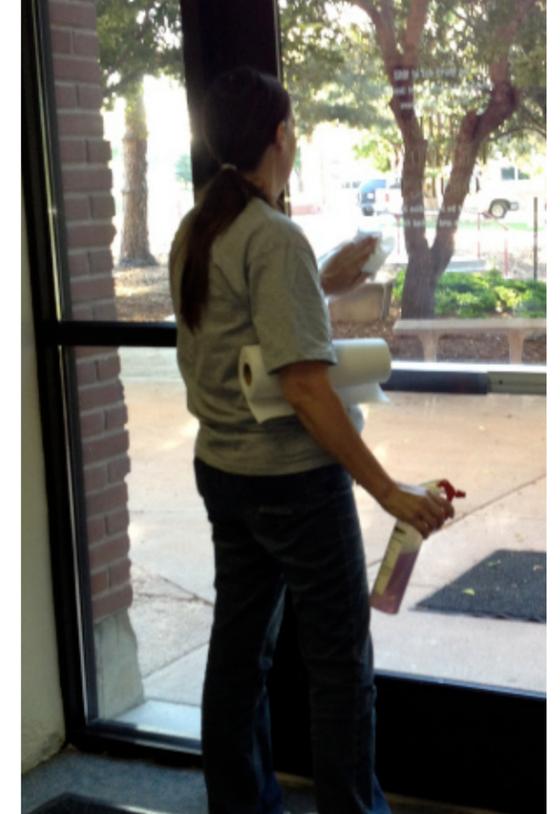
- [ncta.unl.edu/aggie-up](http://ncta.unl.edu/aggie-up)
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- Vet Tech Pre-Exam Prep Course

### Aggie Up! Staff

- Reiley Wieland  
Editor/Photographer
  - Mary Crawford  
Guest Writer
  - Eric Reed  
Faculty Advisor
- See staff for available positions!**



Top left: Lynnsey Riha holds Mopsey the Rabbit. Bottom left: Allie Baehr holds Dave the Cat. Right: Sandy Willis from facilities washes the windows in Ag Hall.

The summer session at NCTA started last week, and both student enrollment and course offerings are up.

There may not be as many people on campus as the fall and spring (many students having gone home to work or to spend time with family and friends), but a lot of students are still on campus, earning credit to graduate early--or just graduate on time.

Most of the students are from the Veterinary Technology Division, but classes are being held in every department.

The facilities management class is in full swing, taking care of the Vet Tech department's 150 or so animals. Every day, all animals are fed, watered, and have cages cleaned, both morning and evening. With only four "full-time" students, this is

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## 100 Cow Advantage Program

By Mary Crawford, Guest Writer

Young cattle producers planning to build beef herds continue to seek hands-on educational curriculums such as the 100 Beef Cow Ownership Advantage Program at the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture (NCTA) in Curtis.

“Each year, we have students enrolling at NCTA because they want to become cattle owner-producers, or own their own farms,” reports Dr. Douglas Smith, chairman of NCTA’s Agricultural Production Systems Division. Smith says the hands-on training, combined with strong agribusiness and beef production classes, have made NCTA’s 100 Cow and 100 Acre programs appealing. Students want to live and work in rural America.

Dr. Smith points to two enterprising graduates as examples. Dayna Cayer of Wauneta, Nebraska (Class of 2013) and Zach Gimeson of Phillipsburg, Kansas (2013), are each aiming for their own private ownership and production operations.

“At NCTA, we believe that if students become familiar with entrepreneurial concepts, they can help their rural communities remain economically viable,” says Scott Mickelsen, NCTA’s associate dean.

Dayna Cayer recently graduated in NCTA’s Livestock Management Systems, and has worked most Fridays the past five years at the Imperial Auction Market. She owns a small herd of breeding heifers and has been able to pasture them with a mentor/partner’s cattle near Wauneta. Her goal: buy land, and eventually own 400 cows (200 spring calving and 200 fall calving).

“Right now, I am working to build up some income to really start getting my own place going,” Cayer said. She wants to raise Hereford-Angus crossbred calves. “I wasn’t really sure how to get started in the industry, so with the 100 Cow program I got my foot in the door. I wouldn’t have considered asking my friend, to buy some heifers and run them with his cows. The program helped me to develop the plan, punch numbers (financially) and decide if it would work.”

Having an established mentor/partner is also how another 2013 NCTA graduate is able to realize initial success. Actually, Zach Gimeson’s program in the 100 Acre Advantage took him back to Kansas for

farming and custom work. But, he hopes in two years with the help of his mentor, Michael Kats, to have enough pasture lined up to buy cows and start a beef herd as well.

He credits the capstone class in 100-Acre Ownership Advantage for preparing him for the loan application process at the Farm Service Agency office in Norton, Kansas. “What I learned at NCTA certainly helped make it easier.”

Gimeson, originally a city kid from Ogallala, has worked for diversified ag operations in Kansas since he was 16 years old. He chose agriculture over a construction career, because he is passionate about ag production, working outdoors, and with the land.

The 100 Cow Ownership Advantage works like this: NCTA students take 76 hours of coursework, much of which is hands-on including calving, health programs, processing and branding calves in the spring, and working with animals at NCTA’s farm and feedlot. Also, students get a heavy dose of agri-business courses where they outline short-and long-term goals after studying marketing, financial plans, input costs, cash flows, land acquisitions, machinery purchases and more. Field tours and visits directly with cattle producers about their management methods solidify career choices and professional development.

This program is a win-win for all involved: students get a real chance to be successful in the industry, and landlords are often eligible for a tax credit by assisting the young producer. Resources are also available through the Nebraska Department of Agriculture. “Although the relationship between the landowner and the new NCTA graduate is beneficial to both parties,” Mickelsen notes, “in the bigger picture, this catalyst program helps young people return to rural America, to not only be future owners of rural businesses, but also provide building and sustainability to schools, churches, and existing farms and ranches through rural leadership for generations to come.”



Zach Gimeson

## Summer Session Continued

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Megan Brown pets Prissy the Cockatoo.

a huge responsibility.

Another visible presence on campus is the maintenance crew. The cost of regular inspection and maintenance will just go up (not to mention the deterioration of facilities and landscape) if the folks in facilities are not around to continue working over the summer.

Also underway is the next phase of the Vet Tech building renovation and several summer activities. One of the next big activities is New Student Registration Day on June 24. Students will have a chance to talk to each department regarding their fall schedules.

**College Tips:**  
*If you're going to spend that much money on text books, use them for more than a paperweight.*



## Vet Tech Pre-Exam Prep Course offered by NCTA

By Mary Crawford, Guest Writer

Training for veterinary technicians who intend to take the National Veterinary Technician Exam this summer can brush up during a “crash course” in late July, says Barbara Berg of Curtis. Vet techs must register by June 15th for the national exam which makes the timing of the “crash course” ideal.

Berg and Judy Bowmaster-Cole, both licensed veterinary technician instructors at the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture (NCTA) at Curtis, will teach a two-day preparatory course in North Platte on July 20 and 21.

“Come prepare yourself for the National Veterinary Technician licensing exam,” Berg urges individuals who have completed their academic training requirements, yet need to take the national examination to be able to become a licensed veterinary technician in Nebraska.

Individuals are eligible to work in private veterinary practices as veterinary assistants but cannot become licensed veterinary technicians and perform certain medical procedures without first successfully passing the national exam. The next testing period is July 15-August 15, 2013.

Berg and Bowmaster-Cole teach animal health, equine health, companion animal and veterinary technology classes. The NCTA vet tech program has been in place nearly 45 years, and was one of the first in the United States to be accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association in the early ‘70s.

The Saturday-Sunday, July 20-21 course will be from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. Class registration information is available from NCTA at (308) 367-5222, or e-mail to chauptman4@unl.edu. Individuals previously taking the course may return at no charge. The course fee is \$150, of which \$50 is non-refundable. Class size is limited to 12 individuals.



Sharmayne Katzberg studies hard for her summer vet tech classes.