

# Strengthening & Educating Rural America



The Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA) is happy to partner with NCTA to support and develop their 100 Beef Cow Ownership Advantage program. Both programs encourage the development of the relationship

and a succession plan between those who have been farming and ranching with those who want to begin. Currently, NDA administers the Beginning Farmer Tax Credit Act to encourage owners of agricultural assets (land, machinery, livestock facilities, etc.) to rent to beginning farmers and ranchers as they get started in business.

NCTA's programs have always been linked to Nebraska Agriculture. The Nebraska Cattlemen and the Farm Bureau maintain youth organizations on the NCTA campus and now have endorsed the *100 Beef Cow Ownership Advantage*. They understand the importance of developing the future generation of Nebraska farmers and ranchers. The *100 Beef Cow Ownership Advantage* program will return young men and women to farms and ranches with a substantial asset that will aid them in the vitally important process of farm and ranch ownership.



Nebraska Cattlemen has been a long-time NCTA supporter and through its Foundation has provided scholarship assistance to NCTA students. NC endorses the 100 Beef Cow Ownership Advantage and commends NCTA for implementing another program with such vision.

Farm Bureau has a mission to provide opportunities for young farmers and ranchers that will encourage participation and develop future leaders in Farm Bureau. Farm Bureau also gives financial and in-kind support to the Collegiate 4-H, Collegiate FFA, the Nebraska Agricultural Youth Institute, and many others.



NCTA faculty and students have immediate access to the latest research and technology being studied at the University's Gudmundsen Sandhills Laboratory near Whitman, NE. This working ranch has resulted in advances in range livestock nutrition, beef cattle reproduction, calving, weaning, and grazing systems, rangeland ecology, low cost cattle management, groundwater issues, and wildlife management. NCTA students will also utilize the research, scientists, and facilities of the West Central Research and Extension Center (WCREC) in North Platte, NE. Overall, these partnerships will allow students to hone beef production practices in their future operations.



If you are interested in the 100 Beef Cow Ownership Advantage, please contact us at 1-800-3CURTIS or visit our web site at <http://ncta.unl.edu>



The University of Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture (NCTA) in cooperation with its sister institution, the West Central Research and Extension Center (WCREC), has a long tradition of serving the Nebraska agricultural industry. This service includes agricultural research and the extension of that research information through academic programs located at NCTA and distributed throughout Nebraska through University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension programs. Combined, NCTA and WCREC maintain over 15,000 acres of crop and range land, 650 cows, and teaching facilities that include an indoor arena, horse barn, cattle handling facilities, a conference center, and a large array of classrooms and teaching laboratories. NCTA is dedicated to providing its students with a dynamic education in agriculture and an understanding of vital economic factors that are important to rural Nebraska's future. NCTA's students will continue to make a huge impact on Nebraska agriculture.



The University of Nebraska-Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture does not discriminate based on gender, age, disability, race, color, religion, marital status, veteran's status, national or ethnic origin, or sexual orientation.



## 100 Beef Cow Ownership Advantage



**NEBRASKA COLLEGE OF TECHNICAL AGRICULTURE**

**Curtis, NE**

# Beef Production Facilities



**Livestock Teaching Center**



**LTC Indoor Arena**



**300 Acres of Rangeland**



**Cattle Working Facility**



**Hydraulic Chutes & A.I. Stalls**



**Aggieland Winter Calving Pasture**

## Bringing the Education Home!

NCTA's new *100 Beef Cow Ownership Advantage* program has been created to provide a forum where students, parents, employers, and agencies can come together to create successful business plans and ranch transfer programs. For the past two decades, state and federal agencies, legislatures, and commodity groups have worked hard to develop programs that encourage the transfer of agricultural enterprises to the next generation.

The problem is there have been few, if any, programs focused on higher education students studying agriculture. These students have been taught research based science and technology related to production and marketing, but little time has been spent on actual farm and ranch transfer techniques.

This oversight in the higher education agricultural curriculum is about to change at NCTA. **NCTA, in partnership with the USDA Farm Service Agency, the Nebraska Department of Agriculture, as well as farm and ranch organizations, will now develop courses and seminars for students, parents, employers, and land owners with the specific objective of formulating business plans that include a total farm or ranch transfer over a 30-year time period.**

This unique program starts with NCTA's degree program in beef cattle management, which includes the development of a business plan. **This plan will, just prior to graduation, be presented to FSA for consideration for approval of a loan to the student for a cow herd. The plan will also be submitted to the NDA for consideration of a tax credit to the landlord. The business plan could be submitted after the student begins their second year in the program.** This program could also include other livestock and crop production programs offered by NCTA, combined with the financial resources offered by FSA and NDA. In addition to the degree program, students and their parents, employers and landowners will be required to attend a series of seminars to fine tune the individual students' business plans to make them function in the environment in which the graduate will be working. One hundred cows is an arbitrary number, but very feasible within the FSA and NDA financial guidelines.

***"This program will allow me to have an actual chance of success in raising my own cow herd."***  
 -Jeremy Ruzek, Dodge, NE  
 NCTA Beef Production Student

**The key to this program is to have the NCTA graduates return to rural Nebraska with a large enough asset that they will be a viable partner, not a "hired hand," within an agricultural enterprise.** An unfortunate situation within agriculture is that many farmers and ranchers invest most of their lives into a farming operation, and yet they have no ownership control, nor options to buy once the original owner leaves the land. **NCTA faculty believe that the initial cow herd ownership will provide a catalyst and vision for both the graduate and parents or employers to set in place a long range plan that will eventually provide the graduates and their families a profitable beef cattle enterprise as well as offer an opportunity for graduates to retain their heritage with the land.** The NCTA faculty's experience with farm and ranch owners has led them to believe that the owners will aid graduates in multiple ways to enable the younger generation to learn by experience as well as provide opportunities that will serve both the owners and the graduates. This will make it possible for the young rancher to put more profits into additional cattle, and eventually, into land and equipment assets. The huge psychological boost to a student's self-esteem when trusted with a substantial asset will help this program be successful. **That trust alone will allow NCTA students to grow and mature much faster than those that live under the "hired hand syndrome."**

For years, NCTA has been preparing its students to return to rural communities as community leaders. NCTA's new entrepreneurship thrust will add to that leadership potential because students will return home with a business plan that will be fundable through various financial institutions. **At NCTA, we believe that if students become familiar with entrepreneurial concepts, they can help their rural communities once again become economically viable.** The bottom line is the program will increase the beef cow numbers in the nation's Beef State and will add to the economic sustainability of rural Nebraska. **In addition, if NCTA graduates return to their rural communities, establish families, and become entrepreneurial leaders, the rural life we love would continue successfully in Nebraska.**

### REQUIRED COURSES FOR THE AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION SYSTEMS MAJOR Livestock Industry Management Option

A.	COLLEGE CORE	18	
B.	INTERNSHIP	6	
C.	APS CORE	16-18	
D.	<b>LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY MANAGEMENT CURRICULUM COURSES</b>		
	AGR	APS Capstone (P)	2
	ASI	Intro. to Animal Science	1
	ASI	Livestock Carcass & Evaluation	3
	ASI	Nutrition	3
	ASI	Animal Management	3
	ASI	Farm and Ranch Management (P)	3
	MKT	Risk Management	3
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>18</b>
E.	<b>LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY MANAGEMENT SCIENCE FOCUS COURSES</b>		
	<b>Select 9 hours from the following:</b>		
	ASI	Feedlot Operations	2
	ASI	Feeds & Feeding (P)	3
	ASI	Large Animal Diseases & Pharmacology	4
	ASI	Meat Science (P)	3
	ASI	Livestock Anatomy & Physiology	4
	ASI	Beef Production Systems (P)	4
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9</b>
F.	<b>LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY MANAGEMENT SPECIALIZATION FOCUS COURSES</b>		
	<b>Select 7-9 hours from the following:</b>		
	ABM	Finance (P)	3
	ABM	Entrepreneurship (P)	3
	AGR	Natural Resource Management	3
	AGR	Water Management	3
	ASI	Introduction to Animal Marketing	1
	ASI	Advanced Livestock Evaluation & Judging (P)	2
	ASI	Artificial Insemination of Beef Cattle	1
	ASI	Range Management (P)	3
	ASI	Livestock Judging II (P)	2
	ASI	Ration Formulation (P)	3
	ASI	Livestock & Animal Sales Management (P)	2
	ASI	Livestock Breeding	3
	ASI	Feedlot Seminar (P)	2
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7-9</b>
		<b>TOTAL CREDIT HOURS</b>	<b>76</b>