

NCTA
NEWSLETTER



**RR 3, Box 23A
Curtis, NE 69025**

PRESIDENT
LuAnn Thole
Rt. 2 Box 9
Milford, NE 68405

PRESIDENT-ELECT
Dana Bailey
Rt. 3 Box 23A
Curtis, NE 69025

SECRETARY/TREASURER:
Jerry Sundquist
Rt. 3 Box 23A
Curtis, NE 69025

Check out our website: <http://ncta.unl.edu>

Need Addresses Of Your Classmates??

If you would like to contact your classmates prior to the banquet, please call us and we can provide the addresses.

**Message from
President LuAnn Thole**

I am just about to run out of time before the newsletter goes to the printer so I'd better stop procrastinating. Let me share with you how my experiences at NCTA have helped me this past year. Well, it's mostly the same old story however one difference was that I worked full time for 6 months as a carrier while the regular carrier was ill. Most farmers with off-farm jobs can relate to adjusting to different times to do farm tasks than the "norm" so that was one of many drawbacks compared to working 1 day every 2 weeks. I saw the extended time as a

good opportunity to meet more people on the route and get better at working at the post office. After attending a union meeting, I was able to get additional benefits that I wouldn't have known without being a member of the group. If I didn't have the RCA job, I wouldn't have been able to work for 6 months and if I wasn't a member of a bargaining group, my paycheck would have been smaller... This brief report of my past year shows many opportunities I had and the results of those taken and not taken. I would like to thank the alumni that took the opportunity to keep UNSTA in the forefront of the state's education. Without your initiative and persistent lobbying, NCTA would not have been known to many of the alumni, including me and the president-elect. But the work is not finished. Many high school students and even some of their parents still do not know about UNSTA-NCTA and its alumni. Speak proudly of your good o' college days, even those times you wished you'd forget, to encourage the future farmers, horticulturists, veterinary technicians, and rural business CEOs to enroll in the same college that affects you today.

I would also like to invite all alumni to attend the banquet held on the 12th of March in York to catch up with old friends and make new ones.

**Message from
President Elect Dana Bailey**

Dear Fellow Alumni,

It is an honor to be serving as the UNSTA/NCTA President Elect this year. I'd like to spend a few moments telling you who I am and what I hope to accomplish in my terms as President Elect and then President of our association.

I grew up on a farm near McCool Junction, Nebraska (south of York). At a young age I became interested in our farming operation, especially the cattle. I began my own cow herd at the age of seven and have been raising show calves ever since. I have expanded my herd over the years and offer spring, summer and fall born calves in all price ranges to youth and the young at heart. I enjoy going to shows all over the country meeting people and looking at good cattle!

I became interested in NCTA around my sophomore year in high school and attended a Cattle Fitting and Showing Camp on campus. As you all know and have experienced I found the faculty, staff and campus to be very welcoming and decided NCTA was a perfect fit for me!

I began my education at NCTA in the fall of 1998 in Agriculture Production Systems with an option in Production Health and emphasis in Cow/Calf. I graduated in May 2000 and decided I wanted to earn my Bachelor's degree in Agriculture Education. I stayed at NCTA for a third year and worked on an Agriculture Education transfer program and took some additional business classes, before transferring to the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. I earned my Bachelor of Science degree from UNL in Agriculture Education with the Teaching Option in 2003. Currently I am working on a Master of Science degree at UNL in Agricultural Leadership and Education with a specialization in teaching and extension.

While a student at NCTA I was involved in a variety of clubs and organizations including Student Ambassadors. I became hooked on assisting in recruiting efforts and continued to attend college fairs representing NCTA even while attending college at UNL. I was extremely thrilled to be offered a full time position in the Admissions Office at NCTA in January of 2004.

I thoroughly enjoy working for the college and look forward to spreading the word about the best 2 year agricultural college anywhere! We were excited with our 53% increase in enrollment this fall, and hope this trend continues. We will continue to increase our on campus opportunities for prospective students and their families and hope to expand our recruiting territory in the upcoming years. However as we expand our territories it gets tougher and tougher to get to all the places we feel we need to be.

We'd be happy to have any of you help with recruiting efforts, whether it be presenting at your old high school, attending a college or career fair, hanging a poster for us in your clinic or business, etc. I'm currently developing an alumni recruitment plan and we will offer training sessions to prepare and update interested volunteers on all the happenings at NCTA. If you're interested in assisting with recruitment in the future please let us know! I can be reached at (308) 367-5281 or dbailey3@unl.edu

Before closing I want to encourage all of you to attend the UNSTA/NCTA Alumni Banquet on March 12th in York. I look forward to seeing old friends and meeting new ones as we reminisce about our college days!

Thanks for all your help!

With a Smile,
Dana Bailey
NCTA Admissions Counselor
UNSTA/NCTA President Elect

“Dirty Thirties” Alumna Gives \$3.5 Million to NCTA Students

A \$3.5 million estate gift from Nebraska School of Agriculture (NSA) alumna Jean S. (Sullivan) Rawson to the University of Nebraska Foundation will significantly change the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture (NCTA) scholarship offerings by 2006. The Rawson gift is the largest single private donation ever to NCTA. The gift creates the Jean Sullivan Rawson and Richard Rawson Scholarship, a permanent endowment with the net income used for annual student scholarships to aid graduates of Nebraska high schools who demonstrate financial need.

“This gift means a lot to the students of Nebraska who decide to attend NCTA,” said Jerry Sundquist, NCTA Interim Dean.

The youngest of three children born to farmers Jerry and Mary Gertrude Sullivan, Jean Sullivan was born on the Nebraska-Kansas border in Smith Center, Kan., and grew up in Maywood, Neb. She attended NSA, a state agriculture high school, and was active in a number of musical organizations including the Glee Club, Music Contest, Chorus, Band and Orchestra.

Rawson graduated in 1936 from NSA (now NCTA). She continued her education at the Nebraska State Teachers College (now the University of Nebraska - Kearney) and earned a business education degree in 1940. Rawson gave an additional \$3.5 million for a similar endowed student scholarship at the UNK bringing her total gift to the NU Foundation to \$7 million.

Rawson remained in contact with fellow NSA graduates and was a member of “The Dirty Thirties.” The NSA classes of 1933 and 34 planned the first all school reunion in 1968.

“We are absolutely delighted by the Rawson family’s generosity and their great care for agriculture education,” said John Owens, Vice President and Vice Chancellor for Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University. “This gift provides a tremendous boost for the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture and makes the dream of a college education possible for many more Nebraska students.”

After graduating from UNK, Rawson taught at the Nebraska Union High School before moving to California where she worked for the Spreckel Sugar Company as an actuary. Richard R. Rawson, a native of Sterling, Colo., was in the U.S. Army during World War II when he met Jean Sullivan in San Francisco. The couple married and lived in Daly City, Calif. After the war, Richard Rawson enjoyed a career as an engineer for Westinghouse. Jean Rawson died on Feb. 12, 2003, and her husband preceded her in death on Dec. 11, 1998. The couple, who did not have children, enjoyed being near family who also lived on the West Coast.



Jean Rawson

Jean (Sullivan) Rawson as a Nebraska School of Agriculture Senior in 1936.

Andy Knepp Fundraiser at NCTA

In honor of his 50 years of service to the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture school farm, the college faculty have started a fundraiser in Andy Knepp’s name. The first item NCTA hopes to purchase with money raised through the Andy Knepp fund is a portable calving shed. As there have been many campus improvements over the years including the new Livestock Teaching Center and arena, cattle working facilities, AI area and more – some of the older farm buildings have been demolished including a white barn used for calving. State budget deficits have prevented NCTA from being able to construct a new calving facility and with a bad winter predicted, it could cause trouble for the 40 head of cows and heifers set to calve in January.

The college hopes to purchase a portable open-front building, generator and portable panels to provide shelter during calving. Portability allows for disease control as well as additional teaching facilities during the non-calving season. NCTA hopes to raise approximately \$10,000 to complete the project before calving season in early 2005.

This fund raising project is being dedicated to Andy Knepp, UNSTA/NCTA’s long time farm manager. It seemed fitting as Andy is retiring this year after completing 50 years of service to the farm, campus and students. Andy’s ability to hold things together with baling wire and twine, along with his love for livestock

and farming have left impressions on all who have known him over the years. If you are interested in donating to this project please contact Dave Smith at 1-800-3CURTIS.

NSA - UNSTA - NCTA Memorabilia Has A New Home

The Nebraska School of Agriculture and UNSTA/NCTA memorabilia finally has a “home” on campus. After the Alumni house on 7th street was moved from campus about five years ago, high school and college photos, annuals, scrapbooks, and historical artifacts were moved from location to location on campus until this past fall when the renovation of a room on the ground floor of Ag Hall was initiated. This room has become the designated “Alumni Room” that will house the historical artifacts that document the history of this campus from its inception as a state high school to its current status as an accredited two-year degree granting college. Bookcases have been added and plans are in the works for displaying a number of photographs as well as special memorabilia on lighted, glass-fronted shelves. Organization of this room will offer an opportunity for returning alumni to reminisce and research information from their years on campus. With such a rich history on campus, pictures and artifacts must be preserved. If you have pictures or artifacts to donate or questions regarding this project, please contact Kim Krull at (308)367-5257 or kkrull2 @unl.edu

Aggie Tradition in the Works

Aggie Tradition! Campus pride! Both were in abundant supply at commencement in early May at NCTA. Perhaps you remember the day you turned your tassel as an UNSTA or NCTA grad and commenced a new career and an exciting life adventure. More than 6000 students have posed on the front steps of Ag Hall for their traditional graduation picture since this campus’ first high school graduating class in 1915. In those 89 years, the face of campus has changed along with the educational offerings, but much of the original mission remains. Connecting with all the alumni and making you a part of the future of the College is a priority. The strength of this campus reflects on the value of your degree and on your participation. In the future, we want to keep you informed about developments on campus, building and remodeling projects, alumni happenings, current student successes, activities and organizations, and alumni reunion functions to name only a few. Plans are being made to send quarterly newsletters to all high school (NSA) and college (UNSTA/NCTA) graduates. They will contain “Then and Now” pictures of campus, an alumni feature article, a faculty or staff bio so you can get to know the current faces on campus, and “What’s Happening on Campus”. Right now, we need your assistance! Help us by updating your address, family and career information, finding former graduates and classmates with whom you are in touch, and helping to identify an active representative from each class that can assist with reunion information and classmate happenings. Please fill out the form below and send it to the address on the back of the newsletter or include the same information via email to Kim Krull at vluke1@unl.edu . I will look forward to hearing from each of you.

Name: _____

(Please include maiden name)

Email: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone #: _____

Work #: _____

Graduating Class : _____ Major: _____

Career Highlights:

Family Information: _____

If your spouse is a graduate, please include their corresponding information.

Annual Banquet and Reunion Saturday, March 12, 2005

Holiday Inn – York, NE

3:30 UNSTA/NCTA ASSOCIATION BUSINESS MEETING

6:00 Social Hour (cash bar) Banquet Room

Registration at Table

7:00 Dinner (\$20.00 per person) Banquet Room

Registration & Reservation Information

Banquet Registration Fee/Membership Fee \$15.00

The Registration Fee is the same as a membership. This fee when paid will be considered your membership dues for the 2005-06 year. Each person or family will be paying this to attend.

Advance Registration only!!

Register now! Return the registration form below and your check(s) by March 2, 2005. No refunds will be made for cancellations received after March 4, 2005. No registrations will be taken over the phone>

Lodging

A block of rooms are reserved at a special rate (\$57.00) for UNSTA/NCTA Alumni. To reserve, please contact the Holiday Inn – York (1-800-934-5495) and tell them you are with the UNSTA/NCTA Alumni Association. Reservations need to be made four weeks before the banquet to assure getting a room.

Registration Form

UNSTA/NCTA Alumni Banquet & Reunion

Please return this form and check(s) payable to UNSTA/NCTA Alumni Association by March 2, 2005 to UNSTA/NCTA Alumni Association, C/O Jerry Sundquist, RR3, Box 23A, Curtis, NE 69025.

Please reserve _____ dinners at \$16.00 per person plus \$4.00 per person Banquet Expenses and Tractor Raffle.

(The \$4.00 per person helps pay for the banquet guests and additional expenses)

Membership Fee (if not already paid) \$ 15.00

Enclose is my check(s) for Total. . . \$ _____

Name _____ Department _____ Year _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Telephone Number (_____) _____

Honored Alumni Reunion

This year you and your classmates are being honored as graduates of UNSTA or NCTA. We will be honoring the classes of 1970, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95, and 2000 You will be honored at the UNSTA/NCTA Alumni Reunion Banquet being held in York, NE at the Holiday Inn on March 12, 2005 (check the registration form for more information about the motel rates, phone number, etc). We are sending you this notice so you will have ample time to make plans for the reunion. In this newsletter you will find the information giving details about this year's banquet. Send your reservations to me by March 2, 2005. No refunds will be made on cancellations received after March 4, 2005. Call or email (gsundquist1@unl.edu) me if you have any questions. We hope you will be able to attend. Contact your classmates and also encourage them to attend. If you want the address of any of your classmates, please let me know.

Annual Board Meeting

The meeting was called to order on November 26, 2004 by President LuAnn Thole at 6:00 P.M. at the Holiday Inn in York, Nebraska. Present were Stephanie Vogt, Jerry Sundquist, Gale Wellmann, Dave May, Judy Wellmann, Clayton Maahs, Dan Stehlik, Dana Bailey, Gene Heller, Dave Bruntz, Ann Bruntz, LuAnn Thole, and Randy Brehm,

The minutes of the March 13, 2004 meeting were read and approved.

Treasurers Report

Current balance = \$4,996.48 (Lincoln Alumni account) and \$2,300 CD in the Farmers State Bank in Maywood.

\$5,336.25 profit from tractor sales.

Old Business

Ebay tractor sale netted \$26.00.

The entertainment for the 2005 Banquet will be the Yo Yo Guy. Clayton Maahs will make the contact. We will pay \$150.

The schedule for the Banquet will be Annual Membership Meeting – 3:30, Social – 6:00 and Dinner at 7:00.

New Business

News letter will remain the same format.

Gene Heller moved to donate the Postage \$149.46 plus \$2,000 to the Andy Knepp Fund as needed to meet the goal of \$10,000. Seconded by Dan Stehlik. Motion Carried. There was discussion about a plaque being attached to the building noting the donation.

Stephanie Vogt moved to donate \$200 to the Lead Program to sponsor a table at their spring event. Dan Stehlik seconded. Motion Carried.

Other

Banquet Bids will be gotten from Kearney, GI, York, Sidney, Ogallala, North Platte Holiday Inn Express.

Meeting adjourned, 7:30 P.M..

Jerry Sundquist Sec/Treas.

Annual Business Meeting

The meeting was called to order on March 13, 2004 by President Connie Stewart at 2:00 P.M. at the Howard Johnson Motel in Grand Island, Nebraska. Present were Mike Stewart, Jerry Sundquist, Gale Wellmann, Gene Heller, Dave May, Tim Hegeholz, Stephanie Vogt, Dana Bailey, Dan Stehlik, Lynn Yates and Connie Stewart.

The minutes of the November 29, 2003 Annual Board meeting were read and approved.

Treasurers Report

Current balance = \$6,260. (banquet expenses have not been taken out of this) and \$2,300 CD in the Farmers State Bank in Maywood.

Tractor Sales

\$5,482.25.profit from tractor sales.

Gene Heller moved to accept the treasurers report. Dave May seconded. Motion Carried

Old Business

Did not sell a tractor on EBay. Will continue to check on this to see if there are others on and the price.

Need to get all of our tractors collected (Brian Anderson has some).

New Business

Dan Stehlik moved to continue our support for the Alumni Picnic with \$200. Mike Stewart seconded. Motion carried.

Will continue to do some checking on locations for the 2005 banquet. North Platte, Kearney, Grand Island, York, and Lincoln will be checked.

Entertainment for the Banquet, Yo Yo Man, Dave May will check.

Fall board meeting will be November 27th at the Steward Complex.

Newsletter Report

Board members generally agreed that the newsletter was fine in its new format. Did save about \$200 in printing cost doing the newsletter in house with the new format.

Election of Officers: (Election will take place at the Banquet)

President Elect – Stephanie Vogt and Dana Bailey were nominated.

Secretary Treas. Jerry Sundquist was nominated.

*Dana Bailey was elected at the banquet

*Jerry Sundquist was elected at the banquet

Meeting adjourned.

Jerry Sundquist Sec/Treas.



Andy Knepp

Marks 50 Years at NCTA

It was November 1954 and a young Andy Knepp stood in the Nebraska School of Agriculture heating plant shoveling coal into the furnace. It was his first job on what is now the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture (NCTA) campus. Not three months after he shoveled his first load of coal into the heater, one of the biggest blizzards of the year hit. It was Sunday morning when Knepp braved the cold to take care of the 400 head of cattle on the campus farm. He has been on that farm ever since.

Early in his career as farm manager a man by the name of Red Lane visited from Lincoln. He wanted to try a new farming practice called “no-tillage” and he was unable to try it at the University of Nebraska – Lincoln. “All the neighbors thought we were so dumb and what a mess we were making,” said Knepp. “Now no-till is what everyone does.”

In 1965, when the campus changed from a state high school to the college, Knepp began employing an average of three students each year. More than 100 students have worked with Knepp over the past 39 years.

“Those cattle and that farm ground are here for education,” said Knepp. Educate is what Andy did, or attempted to do, with each student he worked with and he has plenty of stories to tell. From post party findings in the canyon and the evolution of rodeo on the campus to wrecked equipment and loose critters, Knepp has seen just about everything.

Machinery was one thing, animals were another for Knepp. “The quickest way to get my dandruff up is to mistreat the animals or not work them right,” he said. “If you study cattle long enough – they can just about tell you the weather. Some people think I’m crazy.”

As the word spread about Knepp’s impending retirement, alumni have called him to express what a difference he made in their lives.

“He always had a little joke he would tell us every day,” said NCTA alumni, Brandon Schultz. “He would say – ‘we do things three ways – the right way, the wrong way and the government way’. It was always fun and eventful working for him.”

Knepp has spent 50 years at NCTA because, “I enjoy students, agriculture and livestock. I was a workaholic more than anything.”

Knepp’s future holds working with his cow/calf operation and doing a little sight seeing. He will remain at NCTA part time for a while.



**Sundquist Named
NCTA Interim Dean**

Assistant Dean and Registrar, Jerry Sundquist, was named the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture (NCTA) Interim Dean following the resignation of Dr. Don Woodburn. Sundquist assumed the position in May and will remain the Interim Dean through the search and hire of a new college dean – a process that may take as long as a year. Sundquist graduated from the University of Nebraska School of Technical Agriculture (UNSTA) (now NCTA) in 1968 with an Associate of Applied Science degree. Following a brief period working for the Department of Roads as an engineering aid, Sundquist returned to NCTA and has remained there for the past 35 years. During his time at NCTA, Sundquist earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Education from Kearney State College and a Master’s Degree in Education from the University of Nebraska at Kearney. Although his position has varied throughout the years from faculty to administration, Sundquist looks forward to the challenges of Interim Dean.



2004 NCTA Graduates

The Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture graduated 79 students on May 6. Chairman of the University of Nebraska Board of Regents, Dr. Don Blank, addressed the class and encouraged them to count their blessings as they begin the next stage of their lives. For the first time in two years graduation ceremonies were held outside on the field in front of NCTA’s Ag Hall.

UNSTA/NCTA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
 RR 3, Box 23A
 Curtis, NE 69025
 APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Name _____ Department _____ Year _____
 if married, include maiden name

Name _____ Department _____ Year _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Home Telephone Number (_____) _____

Work Telephone Number (_____) _____

ANNUAL FAMILY MEMBERSHIP DUES \$15.00

LIFE MEMBERSHIP DUES \$150.00

Enclose check payable to :
UNSTA/NCTA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Return to:
UNSTA/NCTA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
RR 3, Box 23A
Curtis, NE 69025

***** HELP THE FUTURE BY SUPPORTING THE PAST *****
PLEASE ENCLOSE NEWS ABOUT YOU AND YOUR FAMILY.
