

Director's Note

This month as many of you approach, or have recently completed, your County Fairs, I express my appreciation for the work that you do to represent Nebraska Extension so effectively. Your presence in counties or at the Center to support the residents of our District is amazing.

As I am out and about in the state, whether on campus, at an Extension Board meeting, or in the Scottsbluff community, I frequently hear someone comment on your impact. This impact may be on a

decision they have needed more information for, or perhaps the positive experience they or their child had in 4-H to develop leadership skills, or a myriad of other positive influences that our extension and research teams have provided.

For this and many other components of the work you do, I simply want to say "Thank You" for jobs well done! Have a great month.

Jack

New HPAL building to be dedicated Aug. 11 as Fenster Building

The new office and laboratory building at the High Plains Agricultural Laboratory (HPAL) near Sidney will be named the Charles R. Fenster Building in recognition of Fenster, a pioneering researcher in dryland cropping systems in the High Plains. The dedication will include a new exterior sign and interior plaque, and will take place during the Aug. 11 HPAL field day.

Fenster began with UNL in 1956 as a crop management specialist. Many of the techniques he developed are widely used throughout the world and provide the foundation for today's conservation tillage movement. In 1966 Fenster became a full-time professor and extension agronomist until retiring in 1982. Since retirement he has remained



active in Nebraska agricultural circles and has been a major donor to the university.

Panhandle Extension District Monthly News

Panhandle Monthly News is a newsletter for Panhandle Extension District staff. Its mission is to share information about staff members and their accomplishments, honors, awards, and employment milestones; updates on personnel changes; news about policies; and messages from Jack and the administrative team. Panhandle Monthly News will be

attached as a PDF to the Weekly Happenings once a month, and back issues are archived on the Staff Resources page of the Panhandle Extension website (http://panhandle.unl.edu/staff_resources), where lots of other information can also be found.

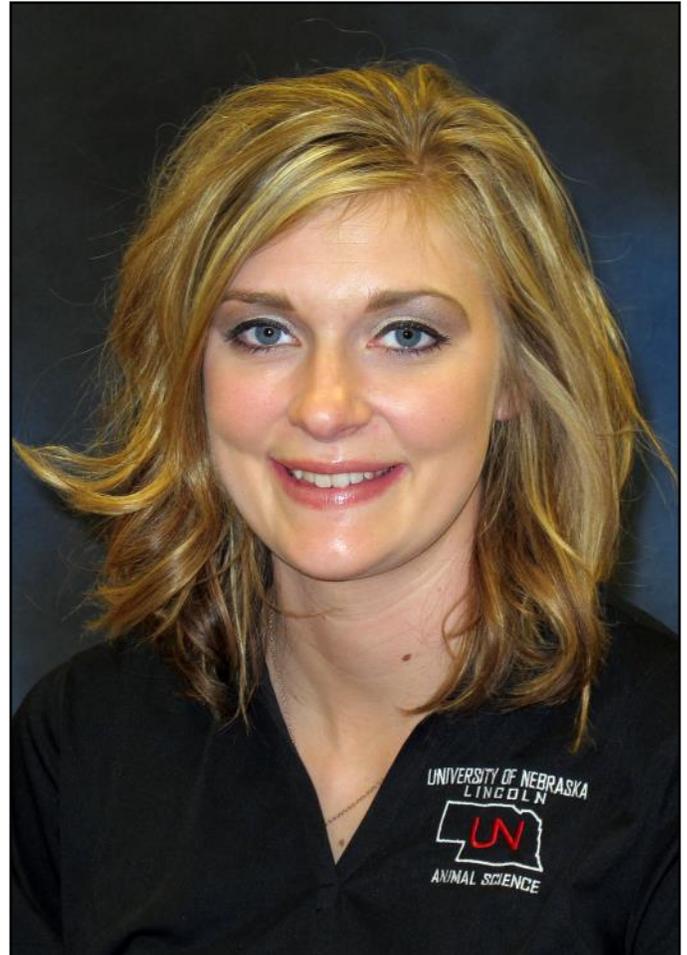
To submit an item, make a suggestion, ask a question, etc., contact Dave Ostdiek or Sharon Holman.

Staff Profile: Meredith Bremer, Extension Educator, Sheridan County

Background/family: I am originally from St. Edward, NE, where my father, Todd Bremer, runs a 250-head commercial cow herd, and a 2,000-head feedlot, and farms. My mother, Kandi Bremer, is a secretary for the NRCS in nearby Albion. I am the oldest of three children. The middle child, my sister Sydney, is a cosmetologist in Omaha and the youngest child, my brother Beau, is a student at UNK studying industrial distribution.

Education/career: I attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln for my bachelor's degree in Animal Science. Following graduation I did the UNL Feedlot Management Internship Program in Winner, S.D., with Terry Heinle of Winner Circle Feedyard. The internship was definitely the highlight of my undergraduate career, as I learned more about the feedlot sector of the beef industry and most importantly how to work with numerous people from all backgrounds. After the internship, I went to graduate school at UNL, studying ruminant nutrition. Dr. Galen Erickson and Dr. Matt Luebbe were my advisors. My research topic was the feeding value of de-oiled distillers grains in growing and finishing cattle diets.

Hobbies/Interests: Anything to do with cattle, riding horses, and playing guitar.



Grant Award Notices:

\$62,000 from Nebraska Dry Bean Commission for a project entitled “Breeding Great Northern, Pinto, Small Reds, Black, Light Red Kidney, Cranberry and Yellow Beans for Multiple Disease Resistance with High Performance in Western Nebraska.” Term of award: July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2016. (Carlos Urrea)

\$9,500 from Nebraska Dry Bean Commission for a project entitled Evaluation of Dry Bean Cultivars for

Performance in Western Nebraska. Term of award: July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2016. (Jim Schild)

\$150,000 from Department of Agriculture-NIFA for a project entitled Identifying Pest Management Solutions for Problematic Western Bean Cutworm Infestations. Term of award: May 1, 2015, through April 30, 2018. (Jeff Bradshaw)

Continued on page 3

Staff Profile: Ruth Schmaltz, Receptionist, Sheridan County

Spouse: Daniel J. Schmaltz

Children: I have four living stepdaughters and two sons of my own, and several step grandchildren and step great-grandchildren and one grandson of my own.

Background/family: I was born in North Dakota, moved to South Dakota when in second grade to Pine Ridge, S.D. My Father was the Road Engineer for the reservation. I graduated from the Oglala Community High School in Pine Ridge then went to Black Hills State University, earning a BS ED degree in Elementary Education with minors in Library Science and Business graduating in May 1965. On May 8, 2015, my class celebrated our 50th reunion. We were acknowledged at the graduation ceremonies with the class of 2015. I also have some graduate hours from Chadron State College. I had one sister and have one niece and two nephews and several in-law relatives.

Education/career: I taught in school systems in Colorado, Texas, South Dakota and Nebraska, 13 years in all. I worked for the County Superintendent in the Text Book Library for the Rural Schools in Sheridan County, then for the Sheridan County Assessor before coming to Nebraska Extension the past 7 years (but still with Sheridan County, making a total of 21 years with Sheridan County). I also have worked as a special education aide, car hop, waitress, clerk, dietary aide and circulation librarian. At the present time I also am secretary for two churches.

Hobbies/Interests: I like to crochet, work in the



yard with the flowers in the summer, and house plants, read, and watch good TV programs.

Other : I enjoy activities with my family and am proud of all their accomplishments. I watch the HUSKERS and BRONCOS on TV and wait for the time I can go to a game in person.

Grant Awards (continued from page 2)

\$32,618 from Nebraska Wheat Board for project entitled “Impact of Cultural Control Tactics for Wheat Stem Sawfly Management.” Term of award: July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2016. (Jeff Bradshaw)

\$22,080 from Nebraska Wheat Board for project entitled “A Survey of Current Dryland Production Practices, Crop Rotations, Weed Pressure, and Herbi-

cide-Resistance in Western Nebraska.” Term of award: July 1, 2015, to June 30, 2016. (Cody Creech)

\$15,249 from Nebraska Wheat Board for project titled “Establishing a Long-Term Crop Rotation Study to Evaluate the Benefit of Alternative Crops in Dryland Wheat Production Systems in Nebraska.” Term of award: July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016. (Cody Creech)

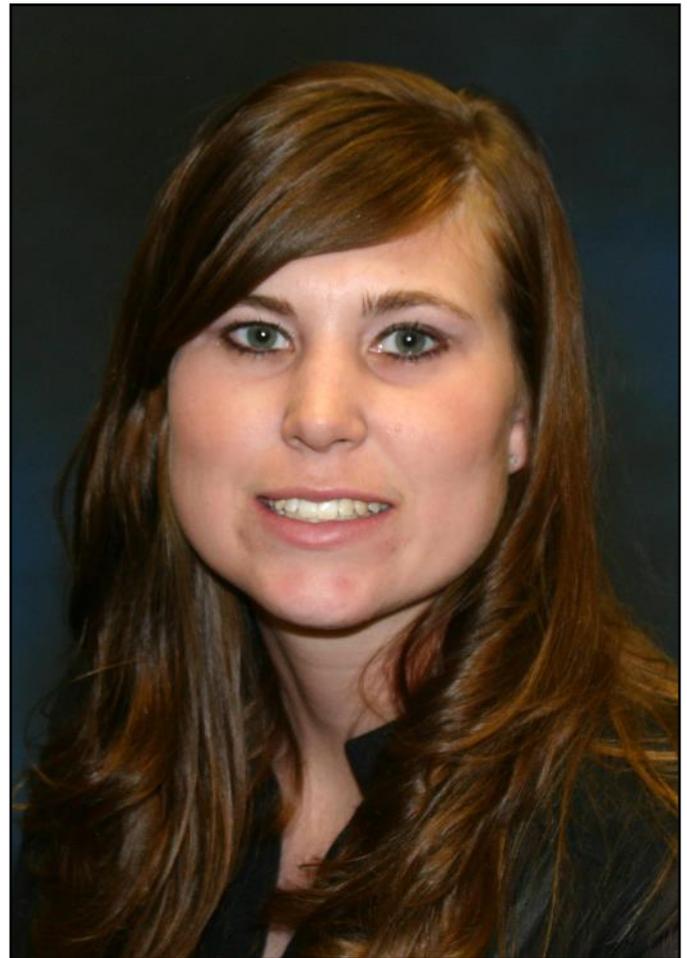
Staff Profile: Melissa Matulka, 4-H Assistant, Sheridan County

Spouse/Significant Other: Jared Mracek (as of Aug. 4, my name will be Melissa Mracek!)

Background/family: I grew up north of Thedford on a ranch, where I loved helping my parents. My parents have worked on the same ranch for 31 years. I have two sisters, Jessie and Valerie. Jessie is my older sister and lives in Deshler, where she is a controller for Reinke. Valerie is my younger sister and she just graduated from UNL in May. She now works at First State Bank Nebraska as a Credit Analysis in and around Lincoln. My fiancé is a feed sales rep for Westco based out of Alliance, where he grew up.

Education/career: I received a bachelor's degree in animal science focusing on equine and in agribusiness focusing on banking. I also had the opportunity to be a member of the Beef Scholars program. I have been at my position in Sheridan County for a year as of June 23rd.

Hobbies/Interests: Moving cattle and helping to care for them; riding horses; going to Husker Football games.



Personnel Updates

OPEN POSITIONS

Panhandle Center

Weeds Specialists – Interviews and seminars scheduled for three candidates on Aug. 12-13, Aug. 23-24, and Aug. 25-26. **HOLD THOSE DATES!**

Panhandle Extension

Garden-Deuel County 4-H Educator – Letter of offer sent

Scotts Bluff Co. Local Project Coordinator — Position open

NEW HIRES

Panhandle Extension

Cecilia Meyer — Learning Child Educator in Box Butte County July 1

Trevor Teichroeb, Extension Assistant for 4-H/family/community engagement in Bayard Schools, June 1

Panhandle Center

Ben Schlitz, research technician for Mitch Stephenson, June 29

Travis Orrell, research technician for Cody Creech, July 17

Staff Profile: Judy Young, Receptionist, Sheridan County

Spouse/Significant Other: Ross Young

Children: Sandy, married with two boys, speech language pathologist on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation; Neil, married with no children, computer software engineer who lives in Chicago; Miss Kitty, our Siamese kitty who has us very well trained.

Background/family: Born in Milwaukee, WI, with one brother and one sister; we retired in 2003 and sold our house, our furnishings and most everything that would not fit in our motor home. We spent a lot of time in Georgia and Louisiana working as camp hosts. We really enjoyed the times we had and the people we met. We now live in Rushville. Our daughter and her family live in Gordon.

Education/career: I graduated high school in Suring, WI, as valedictorian. I graduated college with a BBA with a major in accounting in 1963. I had my share of trouble getting a job as a woman entering a "man's field." I worked as a bookkeeper, assistant manager, executive assistant, etc., but always enjoyed the "numbers" the most. I have worked for the Sheridan County Extension for over five years. I only work one day per week, Friday. I do work the county fair and also fill in whenever it's needed.

Hobbies/Interests: I manage to keep myself too busy. I sew, make quilts and curtains, knit, crochet, counted cross stitch and anything else that pops up. I currently am helping my grandson build a rocket for 4-H. We also have a good size



vegetable garden and several flower beds which take up most of our summer.

Other personal information: We will be married for 50 years in October. I am a "people person." I worked for a marina and really enjoyed meeting people from all over, helping them solve problems and have an enjoyable time.

Adopt-a-School Update

Because of the consistent involvement of our center, the Panhandle Research and Extension Center was awarded the Outstanding Adopt-a-School award for the 2014/2015 school year.

During the 2015-16 school year we will have the

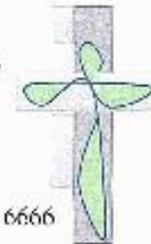
opportunity to work with Minatare Public Schools. We are in the process of planning experiences for students in kindergarten through 12th grade. More details will be available soon.

Opportunity to donate

A special request has been received for an opportunity to donate various items or cash to children in need in the Dominican Republic. The request comes from Eduardo Valentin Cruzado, dry bean research technician. His wife's uncle is a friar of the Franciscan Friar's Order and

is dedicated to helping the children in Santo Domingo. The letter below has more information. A complete list of items needed and how to contribute financially will be shared later.

FRATERNIDAD DE HERMANOS MENORES FRANCISCANOS, OFM



AVENIDA ESPAÑA, ESQUINA CALLE PROYECTO, VILLA DUARTE TEL (809) 592-6666

7/7/15

Dear Colleagues:

I hope everyone is doing great this summer. I give you this letter to ask you a favor. In the Dominican Republic I have my uncle in law helping 160 kids between 6 to 11 years old, that don't have money to buy anything, even food. These kids live across the capital (Santo Domingo) in a community called Villa Duarte. My uncle in law who is a friar of the Franciscan Friar's Order is dedicated to help people that live in misery, broken families were the drug is their food, kids that have nothing to eat or drink, and any person that lives in misery.

I'm asking you a gesture of charity and compassion to help these kids in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. They need \$5,000.00 in order to give this kids food, shelter, school supplies, and materials. I really appreciate all the help you can give them. It doesn't matter how much you can help, it only takes a little of everyone to help this kids.

If you can't help with money, I can send them whatever you can donate. Here is a list of some articles they need: Bed sheets set- Twin size, Fans, Ball pens, Pencils, Sharpeners, and School pouch.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and for any help you can bring them.

For more information:

Fray Eddie 1-809-876-9048
Fraternidad Franciscana
Avenida España Esquina
Proyecto #118 Villa Duarte
Santo Domingo Este
República Dominicana

Mail Address: Fray Eddie Caro Morales
Apartado 2272
Santo Domingo
República Dominicana

Gratefully,


Eduardo Valentin Cruzado