

March 20, 2015

## HALL OF AG ACHIEVEMENT

The Nebraska Hall of Agricultural Achievement, formed in 1916, is dedicated to preserving and improving Nebraska agriculture. Each year, the group recognizes at least one honoree and elects new members. Two of the new members this year have had influence on my career.

Paul Jasa of Lincoln, UNL Extension engineer, has developed and conducted educational programs related to no-till equipment and system management since 1978. He manages research and demonstration projects at UNL's Rogers Memorial Farm; most notable is the long-term comparison of no-till to other systems, now in its 35th year and more recently soil health and cover crop research in no-till cropping systems. Over just the past eight years, Jasa has made 760 presentations about no-till farming practices to more than 51,000 people.

Jack Schinstock of Lincoln, emeriti professor of Biological Systems Engineering, served as assistant dean and associate dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources. Jack was my major professor when obtaining a master's degree in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (CASNR) back in 1980 to 1982. Jack was one of the best teachers that I had on East Campus, led a successful Mechanized Agriculture program and student club and had a lot of influence on my career path. The recipient of many teaching awards, Schinstock helped students obtain financial aid, created scholarship programs for community college transfer students, and developed the CASNR study abroad program. Kudos to both Jack and Paul and the other eight members inducted into the Hall and their honoree this year, former Nebraska U.S. Senator Mike Johanns. You can see and read about the entire list of honorees at: <http://cropwatch.unl.edu/nhaa-honorees>

### **MARCH 31 DEADLINE ON BASE AND CROP ELECTIONS AND PAYMENT LIMIT EFFECT**

If producers haven't done it yet, by the end of March, there is a selection to make through the 2018 crop year for the 2014 Farm Bill. Most know that there are three choices of programs, Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC) with either individual coverage, ARC with county coverage, or Price Loss Coverage (PLC).

There is a payment limit of \$125,000 for the covered commodities (as well as marketing loan gains and loan deficiency payments). Generally speaking, payment limit for a person and a spouse is \$125,000 for each, provided both are actively engaged in the farming operation. In Saline County, maximum payments for ARC-County cannot exceed \$104.90 for irrigated corn, \$64.01 for dryland corn, \$74.85 for irrigated soybeans and \$47.85 for dryland soybeans. Payments are on 85% of the base acres.

One can easily paint a scenario in Saline County for the 2014 crop there will be MAX pay for irrigated corn or \$104.90 per base acre (times 85%), for irrigated soybeans a partial payment approximately \$36 per base acre (times 85%), little to nothing is expected for dryland corn base acres and soybean base acres for ARC-CO in Saline County. ARC-County calculations still depend on summer price through August 31 paid to farmers across the U.S. and small changes by FSA certifying a county yield per planted acre. ARC-County corn, if we extend the current low prices out in future years, is expected to pay little in 2017 and 2018 or at least probabilities become much lower.



A large farm legal entity would hit the limit with 1,402 irrigated base acres of corn in Saline County under one legal entity. This puts a new light on ARC-County everything on corn for some large operations, not to have all eggs in one basket. To view a file that a UNL specialist recently made on ARC-CO across Nebraska, go to our website at: <http://saline.unl.edu/farm-bill>

Finally, I would like to publicly thank Sharon Kastanek and Kelsey Homolka who worked so hard in inputting data at the Saline County Extension Office the past 2 ½ months on 824 FSA farms in and around Saline County utilizing the Texas A&M decision aid, an educational tool in statistical analysis. They made a big difference in helping landlords and operators in our area.

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