



Fall 2022

Headlines from the REEC



President Ted Carter and Chancellor Ronnie Green have approved adding the word "Education" to the names of the Research and Extension Centers to more adequately reflect the activities that take place there and represent the increased programming by CASNR. The centers will now be called Research, Extension and Education Centers.



ENREEC Soil Monolith Display Provides Unique Opportunity to Learn About Soil Structure

What started as an extension educator's passion for learning about soil has cumulated in a unique educational display for all to learn about soils. A new soil monolith display spearheaded by Emeritus Nebraska Extension educator Keith Glewen is now on display at the Eastern Nebraska Research, Extension and Education Center (ENREEC) near Mead, NE. The display is the result of a cooperative effort by Nebraska Extension, the United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS), and ENREEC.

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Summer 2022 Programs & Visits at ENREEC

The summer of 2022 was extremely busy as we jumped back into in-person programs and visits at the Eastern Nebraska Research, Extension and Education Center. Here's a brief look at some of the visits and learning opportunities that took place at ENREEC in the last few months - often in back-to-back or sometimes same-day occurrences.

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Westra Named New Director

John Westra has been selected as the new director of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Panhandle Research, Extension and Education Center in Scottsbluff.

Westra joined UNL in 2017 as the associate director for the southeast research and extension district and since then, has served in a variety of roles, including program leader for two interdisciplinary teams and professor of agricultural economics. In those roles Westra was able to see firsthand the importance of the university's facilities and offices across the state.

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Soil Health Research used by U.S. Ag Committee

[Motivation and Challenges in Adopting Soil Health Practices](#), written in part by PREEC faculty Bijesh Maharjan and Saurav Das, on soil health was cited in the U.S. Ag Committee Congressional Hearing memo in September.



HPAL Honored by National Weather Service

The High Plains Ag Lab is being awarded the National Weather Service Honored Institution Award for 100+ years of Service. The HPAL location has been a recording site for 150 years. The award was presented on October 24, 2022 during the COOP Virtual Award Ceremony.



Nutrient Management Research at WCREEC

Nicolas Cafaro La Menza, Assistant Professor and Cropping Systems Specialist at West Central Research, Extension and Education Center is studying the nutrient dynamics and management in the cropping systems as influenced by crop sequence and water availability, and nutrient dynamics impact on yield and quality. He is currently developing an integrated research and extension program with a long-term goal of ensuring the economic and environmental viability of irrigated and rain-fed cropping systems in West Central Nebraska.

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Welcome New Staff



Dylan Mangel is an Assistant Professor and Extension Field Crop Plant Pathologist in UNL's Department of Pathology. He started April 2022 and has been conducting research at the South Central Ag Lab and the Haskell Ag Lab. He has also been presenting about plant pathology issues at many Extension programs. [Learn more about Dylan.](#)



Saleh Taghvaeian has joined the Biological Systems Engineering faculty as an Irrigation and Water Resources Engineer and will be conducting research at the South Central Ag Lab. His areas of academic interest include remote sensing applications, irrigation scheduling technologies, the design and maintenance of irrigation systems, and sustainable approaches to alternative water resources. [Learn more about Saleh.](#)



Abia Katimbo, Assistant Professor has been selected as the Irrigation Engineering Specialist. He will begin this position January 3, 2023, at WCREEC.



Nicolas Cafaro La Menza is located at WCREEC and is a Assistant Professor and Cropping Systems Specialist. [Learn more about Nicolas](#)



Tyler Smith joined the ENREEC team as Research Manager this spring.



Alejandro Casella, has been selected as the Feedlot Manager at the Panhandle Research Feedlot. He started on October 1, 2022. [Learn more about Alejandro.](#)



Saurav Das has been selected as a Research Assistant Professor in Soil Health at PREEC and started in September 2022. [Learn more about Saurav.](#)



John Westra is the new director of PREEC. His appointment took effect on September 1, 2022. [Learn more about John.](#)

Student Spotlight



Emily Hanson is no stranger to the Eastern Nebraska Research, Extension and Education Center (ENREEC). From Mead, Nebraska, Emily is a junior at UNL majoring in Plant and Landscape Systems (Agronomy Option, Agronomic Crop Production Emphasis) with a Mechanized Systems Management minor. She plans on graduating December 2023. [Learn more about Emily.](#)

Vinicius Zuppa is a Ph.D. student at PREEC and will graduate in May 2025. He is focusing on wheat stem sawfly and is working on a project named “The Effects of Wheat Stem Characteristics and Wheat Stem Sawfly Infestation on Yield, Residue Longevity, Soil Water, and Soil Health”. [Learn more about Vinicius.](#)



Milos Zaric is a Ph.D. student focusing on industrial hemp and hops. Through his research, Milos examines the impact of herbicide drift on the plant and hopes to find the best herbicide option for industrial hemp. The goal of the hops research is to better understand pesticide penetration through the plant canopy, protecting the plants from insects, disease, and weeds, ensuring a quality product. Along with hops used in the craft beer industry, there are alternative uses for hops including topicals for skin care. [Learn more about Milos.](#)



Upcoming Events

November Events

- Nov. 1: [Cover Crops Grazing Conference, ENREEC](#)
- Nov. 2: Ag Careers Day (for invited FFA groups), PREEC
- Nov. 3: [Hunting Leases and Legal Considerations, Gering Civic Center](#)
- Nov. 4: [Husker Beef Nutrition Conference, ENREEC](#)
- Nov. 7-9: [Farm and Ranch Estate and Transition Planning, Panhandle locations](#)
- Nov. 9: [Weed Science School, ENREEC](#)
- Nov. 29-30: [Cow-Calf Cost of Production Workshop, Kimball](#)

December Events

- Dec. 3: [Winter Fest, Haskell Ag Lab](#)
- Dec. 6-7: [Cow-Calf Cost of Production Workshop, Arthur](#)
- Dec. 7: Ag Careers Day (for invited FFA groups only), Haskell Ag Lab
- Dec. 8: [Women in Agriculture Book Club, online](#)
- Dec. 12-14: [BQA Trainings in Norfolk, Beatrice, St. Paul, McCook and Thedford](#)
- Dec. 15: Nebraska Soybean Day and Machinery Expo, Saunders County Fairgrounds

January Events

- Jan. 9: [ABC Budget Workshop, Haskell Ag Lab](#)
- Jan. 11: [Crop Production Clinic, ENREEC](#)
- Jan. 14: [TAPS Award Banquet - Younes Conference Center, Kearney](#)
- Jan. 18, 25: Women in Ag Series, Haskell Ag Lab

February Events

- Feb. 1, 8: Women in Ag Series, Haskell Ag Lab
- Feb. 9: [Soil Health/Cover Crop Conference, ENREEC](#)

Learn More about the Research, Extension & Education Centers

[ENREEC](#) - Eastern Nebraska Research Extension and Education Center



[PHREEC](#) - Panhandle Research Extension and Education Center



[WCREEC](#) - West Central Research Extension and Education Center



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