

Views from VanDeWalle

Brandy VanDeWalle, Extension Educator in Fillmore/Clay Counties

October 28, 2020

Farmers & Ranchers College

With the numerous challenges farmers and ranchers have had over last few years, I'm excited to announce that the Farmers & Ranchers College committee has decided to proceed by providing continued high-quality programming to area producers and agribusiness professionals with 2020-21 programming. While things will look slightly different to meet directed health measures, Farmers & Ranchers College will kick off with its traditional program featuring Dr. David Kohl with special guest, Dr. Eric Snodgrass.

The 2020-2021 Farmers & Ranchers College will kick off December 10th featuring Dr. Dave Kohl & Eric Snodgrass with the Farmers & Ranchers College Virtual Program. Registration will start at 9:15 a.m. and the program will run from 9:30 to Noon at the Fillmore County Fairgrounds in Geneva, NE. This will allow for those who wish to participate in person to socially distance and practice directed health measures. An online option is encouraged and will also be made available. To participate online AND register face-to-face, go to the website: go.unl.edu/farmersrancherscollege.

December's program is titled Weather & Economics Unplugged. What are two of the subjects most difficult to predict but most compelling to follow? Weather and economics, of course. Join Dr. Dave Kohl and Eric Snodgrass in a tag-team unplugged environment that is engaging, thought provoking and entertaining. Two of the most popular speakers on the agricultural circuit who have often presented together in face-to-face meetings will come to you virtually from Cyberville. Dr. Dave will present the latest information on global trade, government payments, supply and marketing chain disruptors, as well as the U.S. and global recession during the pandemic. Of course, Eric will provide his latest update on weather trends in the U.S. and abroad that impact the bottom-line of your agricultural business.

Along the way, both will provide tips, techniques and take-aways that can be implemented in your business, family and personal lives. In a socially distanced environment, this session will be a great way to get a jump start on planning for 2021.

Speaker Information

Many to the area are very familiar with Dr. Kohl, but if you are not, here are some details about him. Dr. Dave Kohl is an academic Hall of Famer in the College of Agriculture at Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA. Dr. Kohl has keen insight into the agriculture industry gained through extensive travel, research, and involvement in ag businesses. He has traveled nearly 10 million miles; conducted more than 6,500 presentations; and published more than 2,250 articles in his career. Dr. Kohl's wisdom and engagement with all levels of the industry provide a unique perspective into future trends.

A new speaker to the Farmers & Ranchers College series is Dr. Eric Snodgrass who is the Principal Atmospheric Scientist for Nutrien Ag Solutions, where he develops predictive, analytical software solutions to manage weather risk for global production agriculture. He provides frequent weather updates that focus on how high-impact weather events influence



global agriculture productivity. His current research uses machine learning to better understand field-level weather impacts on yields in the US and to increase confidence in long-range weather prediction. He presents his research as a featured speaker at over 120 conferences annually where he provides logistical guidance and solutions to weather sensitive financial institutions, farmers, commodity traders, and other stakeholders. Snodgrass is a co-founder of Global Weather and Climate Logistic, LLC and Agrible, Inc which were both acquired by Nutrien Ag Solutions in 2018.

Before transitioning to Nutrien Ag Solutions, Eric was the Director of Undergraduate Studies for the Department of Atmospheric Sciences at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign from 2006-2019. Each year, he guided over 1800 students through the wild side of weather in ATMS 120: Severe and Hazardous Weather. He taught advanced courses on General Physical Meteorology, Meteorological Instrumentation, while routinely guest lectured for multiple disciplines across campus including the College of Law and the College of Agricultural and Consumer Economics. He also supervised dozens Capstone Research projects that focused on the economic impacts through applied meteorology and seasonal prediction. Snodgrass also taught advanced courses for the Environmental Sustainability Program on Renewable and Alternative Energy. He advised all undergraduate majors and minors in atmospheric science (~100 students) and supervised graduate teaching assistants and master's students. He won many prestigious teaching awards at the University of Illinois including College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Teaching Excellence award, the Campus Teaching Excellence Award and the Campus Teaching Excellent Award in Online and Distance Education. His online version of ATMS 120 was awarded the 2012 "Best Online Course" from the University Professional Continuing Education Association (a national organization). Eric currently serves as the chair of the Alumni Council for the Department of Atmospheric Sciences at the University of Illinois. His presentation will be titled, Weather Risk in Production Agriculture.

In 2021, the Partners in Progress –Beef Seminar (Cow/Calf College) will be at the Clay County Fairgrounds near Clay Center on January 28th. The location will allow us to also socially distance. As always, you and your clients are cordially invited to attend all programs; please RSVP for an accurate meal count. More details will follow as the date nears.

Questions on the Farmers & Ranchers College can be directed to the Fillmore County Extension Office at (402) 759-3712. To participate online and register face-to-face, go to the website: go.unl.edu/farmersrancherscollege.