

WORLD OF WORK

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University of Nebraska Exhibits Set to 'Inspire Young Nebraskans'

Husker Harvest Days near Grand Island from Sept. 13-15

"Helping grow Nebraska's future, helping meet Nebraska's needs in food, fuel, water, other natural resources and people, is a chief goal of IANR, as part of Nebraska's land-grant university," said Ronnie Green, NU vice president and IANR Harlan vice chancellor.

This marks the fourth year IANR's teaching, research and extension education exhibits focus on a topical area of interest for Nebraskans. Husker Harvest Days participants visiting the Husker Red exhibit building on the south side of the showground at Lot 321 will see many ways IANR and UNL Extension are working to inspire young Nebraskans.

"People may not know that Nebraska 4-H, part of UNL Extension, leads the nation in per capita enrollment and curricula development," said UNL Extension Dean Elbert Dickey. "This year there are approximately 144,000 Nebraska youth involved in various 4-H programs. We work with youth in a variety of ways."

"Helping Nebraska's youth – helping Nebraskans of all ages – grow their knowledge and abilities to contribute to their own and Nebraska's future success is very important to us."

- Ronnie Green

One exhibit focuses on igniting the entrepreneurial spark to develop Nebraska's next generation of business leaders. From 4-H's innovative "ESI" (EntrepreneurShip Investigation) curriculum for youth 10-14 through the Paul Engler Agribusiness Entrepreneurial Program in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources at UNL, opportunities abound for youth to grow entrepreneurial ideas into reality. Another exhibit highlights a program to help high school freshmen & sophomores connect the dots for successful college & career choices, while partnerships between youth & adults in their communities to address community issues and work on community projects is a third. A fourth exhibit focuses on the unique role of teachers in rural communities, providing the optimal environment for learning in rural schools.

"Bots are Hot!" emphasizes how robots generate both enthusiasm and knowledge in science, technology and math. Nebraska 4-H is a leader in this National Science Foundation initiative.

Another exhibit, "Teaching Science through Soybeans," shows how IANR faculty are helping increase agricultural literacy while energizing future scientists and those who teach them.

Nebraska's youngest learners, from birth to age 5, are the focus of an exhibit on helping children learn, with the aim of increasing their readiness for, and success in, school.

There's also an exhibit on how UNL Extension is working with Nebraska businesses to create opportunities for young Nebraskans to gain knowledge for future careers. People interested in Nebraska LEAD (Leadership Education Action Development) program also can visit with a LEAD representative.

UNL Extension's Mobile Diagnostic Lab, with its state-of-the-art tools and information for early detection of potential threats to plant health and yield, will be just east of the UNL building, and IANR's Market Journal team will be there too with information and displays.

"We hope people stop to see us each year to see what's new, and to tell us what they think, and what they see as Nebraska's main challenges and concerns. As the people's land-grant university, our focus is always on how we can best be at work for Nebraska," Green said.