



December 30, 2010

## CASNR ENROLLMENT INCREASES AGAIN

The College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (CASNR) or what many people refer to as East Campus at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln has marked an increase in enrollment again. This Fall semester marked the sixth consecutive year that the College has had an increase with the Fall 2010 enrollment up 7.1%. As of early December 2010, the CASNR applications for the Fall 2011 semester are up 6.6%.

The College's 2010 Fall undergraduate enrollment was 1,882. The highest enrollment in the history of the College was 1,889 in 1980. That was the year I entered graduate school under my major advisor Jack Schinstock, in the Agricultural Engineering Department Mechanized Systems area. Landing an assistantship under Jack was a positive, life changing move for me. In fact, my best grades occurred when changing my major and enrolling in CASNR, a small college atmosphere. It basically boiled down to setting priorities, doing the required work, living off paycheck to paycheck, figuring ways to split living expenses with others and quit killing so many brain cells!

Today, when considering jobs in production agriculture, you have the large versus small scale happening. What comes to mind is big corporations developing new crops, fertilizers, pesticides and other products to produce high yielding crops to meet the food demand of 9 billion people by the year 2030. Small, on the other hand, is increasing on an exponential scale. Interest in organic and locally produced food has exploded in the last decade. Concern for health and the environment has led many people to begin choosing local and organic foods, even if they cost more.

The curricula in agricultural education have changed a lot since 1980. It has broadened with major focus on Life and Physical Science, Animal Science, Plant Science, and Soil Science. Thus, career paths for graduates include knowledge beyond what is required in agricultural production but also about current technologies and applications of agricultural principles. Hence, there is employment available that is related to various agricultural aspects, like research and development, management, marketing, education, business and environmental protection.

However, if one wishes to make a career out of the newer exciting areas of agricultural research and development, a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture Degree will suffice only for the entry level positions in private industries. Future advancements as scientists, which offer top salaries, require a Master's or Ph.D. Degree.

According to Farm Bureau study, food scientists and engineers will be in the greatest demand in the agricultural job market in the next four years. Annual job openings for U.S. food and agricultural graduates are projected to be around 58,000 with an expected number of graduates to fill these positions around 57,000. Thirty-two percent of these openings will be for positions in science, engineering, and related specialties. Jobs in marketing, merchandising and sales will compromise another 28%.



Upcoming Meetings:

- \* January 11th, 8:00 a.m., Crop Production Clinic, Classics/Country Club, Beatrice.
- \* January 12th, 8:00 a.m., Crop Production Clinic, City Auditorium, York.
- \* January 12th and 27th, 6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m., From Farms to Families, Opera House, Bruning.
- \* January 18th, 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., Cow-Calf College, U.S. Meat Animal Research College, Clay Center on Highway 41.
- \* January 21st, 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., Southeast Nebraska No-Till Conference, Hallam Community Center.

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