Since our last meeting...
2023 Highlights:

- Hosted multiple groups of Senators, Representatives, state and federal agency leaders, USDA Undersecretaries and others on campus to showcase IANR students, staff, and faculty.

- Conducted a statewide listening tour with stakeholders.

- Hosted Beth Ford, CEO of Land O’ Lakes, to provide a Heuermann Lecture at the Water for Food Conference.

- Hosted the ABN summer meeting highlighting Northeast Nebraska Education Compact and CASNR educational pathway programs

- Welcomed one of the largest classes of freshmen and transfer students in CASNR history

All while conducting our summer field days, welcoming our new chancellor, and advancing IANR's amazing momentum in research, teaching and Extension.

- And more!
Our people
Tenured and promoted

Andrea Basche
Jinliang Yang
Xin Qiao
Yeyin Shi
Ana Maria Velez Arango
Kaustav Majumder
Jessica Corman
Mark Svoboda
Jiujiu Yu
Karina Schoengold
Tenured and promoted

Nathan Connor
Lindsay Hastings
Patricia Grassini
Amit Jhala
Dipak Santra
Dirac Twidwell
Carlos Urrea
Yufeng Ge
Joe Luck
Amy Schmidt
Tenured and promoted

Tomas Helikar
Troy Anderson
Julie Peterson
Yanbin Yin
Stacy Adams
Sophie Alvarez
Michael Naldrett
Erin Sayer
Bradley Goetsch
Jean Ann Fischer
Tenured and promoted

Kyle Broderick  Sruti Das Choudhury  Ben Beckman  Audra Losey  Beth Nacke

Kathy Burr  Kerry Elsen  Brett Kreifels  Saundra Frerichs
New faculty

Eric Hunt  Saet-Byul Kim  Tatsuya Yamada  Alakananda Mitra  Shannon Sand

Kiyoul Park  Ivo Zution Goncalves  John Nelson  Stephanie Bell  Elizabeth Dunn
New faculty

Nawaraj Shrestha
Greta Kafsur
Ian Peterson
Travis Prochaska
Jenna Gilbert
Ritika Lamichhane
Michael Agron
New leaders

Deb VanOverbeke
Animal Science Department Head

Larkin Powell
School of Natural Resources Director

Mark Stone
BSE Department Head

Wes Peterson
Interim Ag Econ Department Head

Kate Brooks
Interim Ag Econ Associate Dept. Head

Ruben Behnke
Nebraska Mesonet Director

Nicole LeFore
DWFI Assistant Director

Julie Peterson
WCREEC Associate Director

Cheyenne Gerlach
Yeutter Institute Assistant Director
Retirements

Gentry Lewis
Lance Meinke
Jeffrey Bergman
Kempton Horken
Roy Cole
Martha Rowe
Sylvana Airan
Tianjing Zhao
Richard Woollen
Fred Urdiales
Randy Markwardt
Allen Dutcher
Jennifer Nixon
Thomas Garvin
Jill Gifford
Sandra Benson
Ginger Mills
Allison Miller
Michael Zoubek
Bruce Brodersen
Michael Uldrich
Allan Vyhnalek
Rebecca Lamphiear
Gary Hein
Rex Nielsen
Donna Bode
Gary Yuen
Emily Levine
Gary Lesoing
Tommi Jones
Linda Coe
Katherine Ellis
Deborah Weitzenkamp
Rebecca Richardson-Carlson
Kathleen Cue
Archie Clutter
Ron Yoder
Jennifer Schrot
Hoa Nguyen
Marko Djukic
Robert Hurlbut
Michael McCaugherty
Daniel Duncan
Maria Osorio
James Ocker
Patrick Carlin
Joni Piccolo
Craig Potter
Richard Wahl
Ana Domant
Donald Buresh Sr.
Chung Van
Lidia Leija
La vergne Chramosta
Sharon Devor
Patrick Jay Goracke
Distinguished faculty and award winners

2023 honorees:

- Rebecca Roston, Ralph and Alice Raikes Chair in Plant Sciences
- Sathish Kumar Natarajan, Dinsdale Family Faculty Award
- Bryon Chaves, Dinsdale Family Faculty Award
- Xin Qiao, Omtvedt Innovation Award for Extension
- Derek Heeren, Omtvedt Innovation Award for Teaching
- Tomas Helikar, Omtvedt Innovation Award for Research
- The SENSE Fertigation Team, Omtvedt Innovation Award for Team
Andrea Basche
Andreia Bianchini
Humberto Blanco
Cheryl Burkhardt-Kriesel
Bertrand Clarke
Katelyn Coburn
Nathan Conner
Dipti Dev
Roch Gaussoin
Lindsay Hastings
Holly Hatton-Bowers
Gary Hein
Terry Hejny

Amit Jhala
Shawn Kaskie
Oleh Khalimonchuk
John Lindquist
Joe Louis
Joe Luck (with graduate student co-collaborators)
Kristin Malek
Martha Mamo
L.J. McElravy
Amy Napoli, Jaci Foged, Sarah Roberts, Lee Sherry, Jackie Steffen, LaDonna Werth, Becky Schuerman (with Leanne Manning, Karen Wedding, Tiffany Messer)
Charles Chioma Nwaizu
Katie Pekarek, Carla McCullough, Troy Gilmore
Julie Peterson
Mark Riley
Daran Rudnick (with external co-collaborators)
Amy Millmier Schmidt and Rick Koelsch (with graduate student and external co-collaborators)
Jason Tuller
Mehmet Can Vuran, Amit Jhala, Xin Qiao (with external co-collaborators)
Becky Wachs
Rich Wilson
Yiqi Yang
Leadership transitions

Ron Yoder  Larry Van Tassell  David Jones  John Carroll

Rick Rasby  Bruce Brodersen  Martha Durr
Upcoming leadership transitions

Bertrand Clarke

Curtis Weller
Congratulations!
Timeline:

Aug. 22: Pres. Carter announces he has accepted a position as President at The Ohio State University.

Aug. 25: NU Board of Regents holds special meeting to determine next steps

Sept. 6: Search committee nominations due

Dec. 31: Pres. Carter’s last day
Our strategic direction
IANR Listening Tour 2023

Lincoln - Nebraska City - Beatrice - Clay Center - North Platte - Ogallala - Scottsbluff - Whitman - St. Paul - Lincoln
Our strategic direction

Some key takeaways:

- Everything we do needs a human—or humans—to make it happen
- Relationships are central to what we do
- We need to leverage IANR strengths and increase visibility/impact in urban areas
- We need to identify what makes IANR distinct and different—and how those differences make a difference for our state and its people.
- We must strike a balance between being aspirational and being realistic/practical
- There are significant and serious challenges facing the state and IANR is uniquely positioned to help Nebraska and its people manage them:
  - Soil and water quality
  - Climate change and weather extremes
  - Rural community vitality
  - Workforce development
  - Thriving children
  - Helping Nebraska crop and livestock producers continually improve their management practices, profitability and efficient use of resources.
- What's keeping IANR from achieving its potential impact?
Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources
Next Steps

• Surveys shared last week with IANR leaders and ABN membership

• Discussing with ABN leadership tomorrow

• Assembling internal working group

• Will work with external consultants, working group and leadership to articulate plan

• Distill to 3-5 page document

• Share early 2024
“Higher education as a whole is facing significant headwinds in the years ahead, and we are not immune at UNL. Budgets are expected to be challenging for the foreseeable future, with additional budget reductions anticipated in the coming biennium for the NU system’s fiscal year 2024 and 2025 budgets.”

— Chancellor Green, April 2023
Green approves $10.8 million in cuts across UNL; vacant positions eliminated
Update on IANR Budget

Permanent Reductions

- ($2.5M) 2017/18
- ($10.1M) 2021/22/23
- ($2.8M) 2024
- ($15.4M)
The university faces an estimated $58 million shortfall by the end of the 2024-25 fiscal year

**Short-term measures:**
- A hiring freeze on all non-faculty positions.
- A temporary 4% across-the-board rescission on all departmental operating and supply budgets.

**Long-term five-point vision:**
1) A reinvigorated focus on student recruitment
2) A renewed commitment to raising the University of Nebraska’s academic profile
3) A more proactive process for reviewing the university’s range of academic programs
4) New strategies for communication and transparency around budget planning
5) A focus on operational excellence

Federal relations
USDA Official Visits University to Discuss $25M Grant for Rural Prosperity Nebraska

Nebraska delegation hears from farmers, ranchers, researchers on the next farm bill

BY: AARON SANDERFORD - JUNE 19, 2023  8:41 PM
Why does it matter?
June 22, 2023

**Fischer says $25M has been secured for ag research center at Innovation Campus**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senator Deb Fischer (R-Neb.), a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, announced that she secured $25,000,000 for the construction of a new Agricultural Research Service (ARS) facility at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) in the Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act. Sen. Fischer also secured funding to support both the National Drought Mitigation Center (NDMC) at UNL and the National Ag Data Cooperative that is led by UNL.

The bill, which must still be voted upon by the Senate and House, was advanced today by the Senate Appropriations Committee by a bipartisan vote of 28-0 as a first key step.

“Nebraska is becoming a world-renowned leader in agricultural research. I’m proud to have pushed for these critical projects, which will cement our state’s position as a hub for ag innovation and support family farmers and ranchers. I will continue to use my position on the Appropriations Committee to champion high-impact investments that empower producers and aid rural communities,” said Sen. Fischer.
Budget and Timeline Update for USDA ARS National Center

Secured (in hand) Congressional Appropriations
FY2021 Omnibus - $11.2M (Fortenberry) for Phases 1 + 2 design appropriated
FY2022 Omnibus - $20M (Fortenberry) for construction appropriated for Phase 1
FY2023 Omnibus - $0

Actively In Play Congressional Appropriations
FY2024 Senate Appropriations Bill - $25M (Fischer) for construction Phases 1 + 2
FY2024 House Appropriations Bill - $3M (Flood) for construction Phases 1 + 2

Anticipated future Congressional Appropriations
FY2025 - $25M (Fischer/Flood) for construction Phase 2
FY2026 - $25M (Fischer/Flood) for construction Phase 2
FY2027 - $25M (Fischer/Flood) for construction Phase 2
FY2028 - $25M (Fischer/Flood) for construction Phase 2

Construction Timeline
- Site Preparation Begins Fall 2023/Winter 2024
- $2.5M to $2.8M from NIC + UNL
- Construction of Phase 1 Begins Summer/Fall 2024
- $20M to $28M in secured appropriated funds Occupancy Summer/Fall 2026.
- Planning for Phase 2 finalized in 2029
- Construction on Phase 2 begins 2029/2030 after all Phase 2 appropriated funds secured (~$120M - $130M)
- Occupancy 2032
USDA ARS National Center for Resilient and Regenerative Precision Agriculture & Nebraska Ag-Tech Innovation Accelerator
Two Proposed New ARS Research Units with 19 New Scientists (SYs)

Existing
Agroecosystem Management Research Unit – 1 new scientist
  • Agronomist
Wheat, Sorghum and Forage Research Unit – 3 new scientists
  • Forage Geneticist, Bioinformatics Biologist, Wheat & Barley Pests

NEW
Water, Climate, & Resilience Research Unit – 5 new scientists
  • Hydrologist, Soil Ecologist, Micrometeorologist, Landscape Ecologist, & Research Social Scientist
Precision Production Research Unit – 10 new scientists
  • Ag Engineer, Precision Animal Management, Plant Physiologist, Digital Rangeland Ecologist, Entomologist, Computational Biologists/Ag Engineer, Agronomist, Precision Irrigation Specialist, Soil Physicist, & Economist
Leaders and agencies are supporting our statewide work

• $25M for the Heartland Regional Food Business Center
• $10M for the NFS and Statewide Arboretum
• $4M for bioenergy research  (on top of $12.8M last year)
• $6M to partners including the High Plains Regional Climate Center for climate adaptation planning and action
• $1M for the National Ag Producer's Data Cooperative  (on top of $2M previously appropriated)
• $1M to ARD and ARS for data solutions for climate smart and resilient agriculture  (with continued funding through FY28)

And more in the pipeline...  TBA
Annual faculty reporting

Activity insights to be phased out this fall.

New process will include:

• Two-page summary of goals and accomplishments
• Impact statement
• Narrative statement of other contributions
On the horizon
Extension fall conference

The Power of Programming

November 14-15, 2023
Save the Date
AG RESEARCH DIVISION
ANNUAL MEETING
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
EAST CAMPUS UNION
GREAT PLAINS ROOM
Beef Innovation Workshop
12-13 OCT 2023
Nebraska East Union
beefinnovation.unl.edu
Government shutdown averted after Senate passes bill with just hours to spare

Updated September 30, 2023 at 9:53 p.m. EDT | Published September 30, 2023 at 9:35 a.m. EDT

Just hours before a potential government shutdown, Republicans and Democrats in the Senate passed a roughly 45-day continuing resolution with disaster relief funds, an extension of a federal flood insurance program and FAA reauthorization — but no Ukraine aid. Saturday’s passage in the Senate ended a weeks-long House debate over government funding that Friday night appeared to be headed toward a shutdown. The Senate eventually ditched its own stopgap bill to pass a House version that was introduced Saturday morning.
“The strength of the team is each individual member. The strength of each member is the team.”

— Phil Jackson