The Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture

Heifer Link Program

2016 Nebraska Grazing Conference

August 9, 2016
Ron Rosati
Doug Smith

**Agenda:**
- Introduce NCTA broad overview
- Discuss 100 Cow program
- Discuss Heifer Link program
- Present an opportunity for questions, input into our NCTA programs

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**NCTA - the big picture:**
- Unique unit of the University of Nebraska
- Independent accreditation & state line-item appropriation
- Two-year degrees, one-year certificates
- College of opportunity & access - financial & academic

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**Hands-on learning – an NCTA trademark!**

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NCTA Stock Dog Club

- Official Club formed in 2016
- Outback Stock Dog Association and NCTA Vet Tech Division
Nine top places for NCTA teams, individuals
- Livestock, dairy, equine, crops judging and agribusiness contests

2016 National Agriculture Contest – Minnesota

NCTA Ranch Horse Team

2016 NCTA Rodeo Team

2016 Crops Judging Team
- NACTA Nat’l Contest
  - 2013 – 3rd Place
  - 2014 – 3rd Place
  - 2015 – 2nd Place
  - 2016 – 1st Place

2016 Shooting Sports Team

2016 NCTA Safari Club
Ecuador/Galapagos Islands study
2016 Livestock Judging Team

Livestock Judging Team, Houston

2015 Nebraska Range and Conservation Endowment Award

Nebraska Cattlemen Foundation’s Industry Endowment Award

Presented by:
Barb Cooksley, NC president

to
Jo Bek, NCTA professor
Animal Science

NCTA Collegiate Cattlemen

100 Beef Cow Ownership Advantage Program

Goals:
- Help young people get started in farming and ranching from an ownership capacity
- Create successful business plans and operation transfer programs
- Provide a forum where students, parents, employers and agencies create transition

Results:
- 90 graduates since 2007
- Nearly 30% as owners in production agriculture
100 Beef Cow Ownership Advantage Program

Semester 1:
- Students develop realistic long-term enterprise goals
- Students learn about USDA’s Farm Service Agency loan programs
- Students present their formal career plan and discuss with colleagues

Semester 2:
- Students learn requirements of various lending institutions within the agricultural sector
- Students learn types of business professionals and resources utilized for agricultural business resources and ownership transitions
- Students learn legal aspects of farm and ranch ownership and transfer
- Students learn practical models of transition from peers and successful program graduates
- Program participants sign up for internships

Semester 3:
- Students meet with FSA representatives to discuss Beginning Farmer/Rancher applications
- Students research the marketing strategies appropriate for their business plan
- Students explore practical intergenerational strategies for a business transition
- Students write a first draft of business plan
Evaluating ranch resources

100 Beef Cow Ownership Advantage Program
Semester 4 - Capstone:
- Students develop complete financial business plan
- Students develop detailed business management plan
- Students develop competence in detailed legal issues:
  - Estate planning
  - Corporations and partnerships
  - Real estate law
  - Fence law
  - Water law
  - Banking regulations
  - Livestock and income taxes

Heifer Link Program
- Expansion of the 100 Cow Program
- Enables student heifer ownership
- Student managed herd - nutrition, reproduction, health care
- Two students received bred heifers in May 2015;
  Four students received bred heifers in May 2016.

Heifer Link Education
- Hands-on
- Student herd
- Near campus

Heifer Link Program
- Animal Science Division
- Specialty Program
- Students majoring in:
  - Livestock Management
  - Diversified Agriculture
  - Agricultural Education

http://ncta.unl.edu/heifer-link-program

Heifer Link Program
- Application process
  - Eligibility requirements
  - Student selection criteria
  - February application

- Student selection process
  - Department advisory committee
  - Industry advisory committee

- Acquisition of student heifers
  - Donated funds or animals
  - Animal selection criteria
  - Solicitation process

2016 Heifer Link Scholars

Nick Kunz
with NCTA
cow-calf pair
Heifer Link Education

Management of student herd

- Nutrition
- Reproduction
- Healthcare
- Facilities

Evey Choat’s heifer

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