

NCTA Heifer Link Program

The NCTA Heifer Link program was started at the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture in January, 2015, as part of the 100 Beef Cow Ownership Advantage. Through Heifer Link, students have the opportunity to be assigned a breeding heifer during their fourth semester and upon graduation leave campus with a bred heifer.

This innovative program requiring student management, hands-on sweat equity, a sound business plan and commitment to the Nebraska cattle industry allows the student to get a jump start into the cattle business. With proven success on campus, the student will become owner of a first heifer to call their own and begin their herd.

Application and selection for Heifer Link is based on the following criteria:

Eligibility Requirements

- Sophomore at NCTA (in livestock management, 100-Cow or diversified ag)
- A minimum 2.5 cumulative high school grade point average on a 4.00 scale
- Fulltime NCTA student in good standing
- Significant, demonstrated history of leadership and volunteer service activities related to livestock management
- Nebraska resident or provide strong evidence of Nebraska residency upon NCTA graduation (ex. Letter of employment)

Selection Criteria

- Academic preparation (as demonstrated by college and high school transcripts)
- Activities and talents (college and high school)
- Leadership
- Volunteer service
- Work experience

Steps to be included for full consideration as a candidate:

- Submit a Heifer Link application – February 15
- Complete committee interview – March 1

To obtain more information or an application form, contact:

- Dr. Doug Smith, NCTA animal science division chair, 308-367-5286, or e-mail doug.smith@unl.edu
- See the NCTA web site, <http://ncta.unl.edu/heifer-link-program>

NCTA Heifer Link Application

A new and exciting program has been developed at NCTA – Heifer Link. Under this new program, students at NCTA will have the opportunity to earn a breeding heifer in their last semester and leave campus upon graduation with a bred heifer.

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Please submit the following:

- One copy of your high school transcript
- One copy of your college transcript
- Biographical data
- General information
- Two letters of recommendation
 - One letter from a past employer who can speak to your livestock management skills, and
 - One letter from an agricultural lender who can speak to your ability to be successful in the livestock industry
- Academic Statement

I wish to be considered for the NCTA – Heifer Link program. I hereby verify that the information provided is accurate to the best of my knowledge, and that the essays are my own work. I have included two confidential letters of reference in individually signed and sealed envelopes.

Signature _____ Date _____

Biographical Data:

Last name _____ First _____ Middle _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

E-mail _____ Phone _____ Cell _____

High School(s) Attended: _____

College(s) attended: _____

Father' Name _____ Phone _____
Address (if different from above) _____

Mother's Name _____ Phone _____
Address (if different from above) _____

General Information:

- A. Select your most important high school/college activities (please include things such as FFA, 4-H, student government, student cultural or organizational exchange programs, school publications, sports, rodeo team, livestock judging team, etc.)

<u>Description</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Awards</u>	<u>Offices</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

- B. List public service and community activities in which you have voluntarily participated.

<u>Description</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Number of Weeks or Hours Involved</u>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

- C. List awards, honors or any other forms of recognition you have received not listed above.

<u>Description</u>	<u>Dates</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Letters of Recommendation:

Two letters of recommendation are required; one from a past employer who can evaluate your potential success as a Nebraska livestock producer and the other from an agricultural lender who can accurately evaluate your future success as a Nebraska rancher or cattle owner. In both of these letters the person writing them should also objectively assess your abilities and character. Do not submit more than two letters. Ask your references to provide you with the original letter (and one copy) inside a sealed and signed envelope. Please include the sealed letters with your other application materials.

Instructions for references - letters should address the following:

1. Indicate how long and in what capacity you have known the applicant. Please state your position, title and contact information.
2. Describe the applicant's demonstrated potential success within the livestock industry. Please be specific.
3. Describe the applicant's distinctive personal qualities (particularly with respect to leadership, extracurricular activities and service) which you have personally observed.

Academic Statement:

Describe how you intend to combine your academic interests, collegiate extracurricular activities, and your own personal strengths toward your development as a future livestock producer in the state of Nebraska (400 word maximum).

Application should be sent to:

Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture
Attn: Dr. Doug Smith
404 E 7th St
Curtis, NE 69025
doug.smith@unl.edu