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SPECIAL PULLOUT SECTION:
UNL Extension in Lancaster County 2005-2006 Annual Report



UNL College of Ag and Natural Resources Turns Talents into Rewarding Careers

Gary C. Bergman
Extension Educator

For high school graduates, deciding on what to do in life can be a difficult decision. The cost of a post-secondary education — and the time required to earn a degree — makes it a major economic decision as well. Arguably, continuing your education is the best investment you can make. Studies on career earnings typically demonstrate the rewards of a better paycheck and quality of life are tied directly to a person's level of education.

It has been said if you find something you love to do, then you will never have to work a day in your life. With that in mind, it makes a lot of sense to explore college majors and career goals which align with your interests, talents and passions. Participating in 4-H or FFA projects is one way youth can discover their talents. Youth can also turn to adult mentors for guidance.

"Find something you love to do and you'll never have to work a day in your life."

Harvey Mackay, author

Norris FFA Advisor Doug Malone emphasizes career exploration in his classroom lessons and takes students to career shows. "We talk about careers which are ag-related beyond ag production," says Malone. "Norris is basically an urban school — we have close to 80 kids involved in FFA and only 10 to 12 are farm kids."



High school senior Brandon Lesoing (right) had help choosing a college and major from Norris FFA Advisor Doug Malone (left).



Jessalyn Schrock (right) is a sophomore at UNL College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources. She has a student job assisting Professor Rosemarie Nold (left).

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (CASNR) offers a wide variety of majors which can lead to an endless number of career opportunities. CASNR can help students identify their talents and choose a career pathway.

Brandon Lesoing, a high school senior at CASNR, has decided to major in Agribusiness at CASNR. "I knew I wanted to go into something ag-related, and I also had an interest in business and banking," says Lesoing. "When I went to an open house on UNL East Campus, they had information about Agribusiness, so that made the choice easy. I met Professor of Agricultural Economics Ron Hanson, who helped me. He told me some of the benefits of the major and what careers it could lead to."

Jessalyn Schrock is a sophomore at CASNR with double major in Agricultural Journalism and Animal Science. Her previous involvement in numerous 4-H activities as a youth helped her feel at home on UNL's East Campus. Last summer, Schrock did an internship with UNL Professor Rosemarie Nold, assisting with the annual Premier Animal Science Events (PASE) and working on statewide animal identifications.

"The University is not just about school and homework, but connections with students, faculty and people in the industry," says Schrock. Schrock's goal following graduation is to work in the public relations field for a cattleman's or breed association.

see CASNR on page 11

Career Opportunities Are Endless for CASNR Graduates

The agricultural industry is very important to Nebraska as well as the rest of the world. Located on UNL East Campus, the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources offers 24 majors and two pre-professional programs to help students prepare for careers in agriculture or natural resources.

CASNR College Relations Director Laura Frey can help potential students discover what CASNR can offer them. "Our college has a variety of majors for just about everyone," she says.

Professor Rosemarie Nold says, "Career opportunities in the food and agriculture industries are actually increasing due to an increased emphasis on life science-based careers, combined with steady needs in the more traditional fields of ag businesses, animal management and sales."

CASNR takes great pride in educating and preparing its students. CASNR's outstanding faculty advisors provide one-on-one guidance to students. Career Services can help students explore career choices and prepare for a job.

CASNR has an "Ensuring Your Future Guarantee" — if students follow guidelines for academics, involvement and experiential learning, CASNR guarantees they will have a job offer in their area of expertise within six months of graduation. Statistics from UNL show that nearly 96 percent of CASNR graduates receive job offers within six months after graduation.

Graduates of CASNR have gotten jobs in the private sector, with the government and at various universities — locally and internationally! Recent examples include: Grain Merchandiser, Research Soil Scientist, Sales Representative, Birdkeeper & Aquarist, Landscape Designer and Veterinary Technician.

Jill Brown of Career Services for CASNR says, "We feel that the career opportunities are literally endless with a degree from CASNR, and our graduates are living examples of this."

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Lancaster County 4-H Council
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Extension in Lancaster County
444 Cherrycreek Road, Suite A
Lincoln, Nebraska 68528-1507

Check Out UNL and CASNR



UNL ADMISSIONS

• 472-2023 • <http://www.admissions.unl.edu>

CASNR

- Recruitment contact: Laura Frey at 472-4445 or 1-800-742-8800 (ext. 2541)
- Career Services contact: Jill Brown at 472-8273
- <http://casnr.unl.edu>

CAMPUS VISITS (call ahead to schedule)

- Red Letter Days — All-day, open house program for high school seniors and their families. When registering, you can indicate an interest in CASNR. Upcoming dates are Jan. 19 and Feb. 19 (from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.)
- Personalized daily visits are available most weekdays at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. Some Saturday visits are available.