Revised CASNR Bylaws Approved
The revised CASNR Bylaws that were circulated in January were approved by the email vote of the College faculty. The new version of the CASNR Bylaws may be found at http://casnr.unl.edu/bylaws.

Engler Agribusiness Entrepreneurship Program
Seven of the inaugural class of Engler Scholars are participating in an independent study course to learn business marketing skills by developing multimedia promotional materials for the Engler Agribusiness Entrepreneurship Program. The initial focus has been on creating promotional materials for the State FFA convention in the middle of April. The class will also build a web presence and booth display materials for future events. Three Engler students, taking advantage of the Engler study abroad scholarship program, have signed up for this summer’s France trip where they will visit value-added agriculture businesses and learn about the importance of branding. Exploratory discussions are under way around establishing an Engler Agribusiness Entrepreneurship student organization. A student club will provide greater opportunities to network with each other and with area entrepreneurs as well as develop entrepreneurial related leadership skills.

CASNR Student Advisory Board Survey
The CASNR Student Advisory Board is the college’s official association for the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska (ASUN). The Advisory Board publishes an annual report of students’ perception of the “State of the College”. The 2011 Survey may be viewed at http://casnr.unl.edu/c/document_library/get_file?uuid=5dc64508-ab7d-4e04-b299-0a791df27e1d&groupId=1809

Holling Family Awards
The Holling Family Award Program for Teaching Excellence was made possible by a gift from the Holling family to honor their pioneer parents. John Holling was a 1912 electrical engineering graduate of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and his brother, Gustave Holling, attended the College of Agriculture before farming the family's land in the Wood River Area. The 2011 Award recipients are:

Senior Faculty Award
Kathy Anderson, Department of Animal Science
Scott Hygnstrom, School of Natural Resources
Ellen Paparozzi, Department of Agronomy and Horticulture
Brett White, Department of Animal Science

Junior Faculty Award
Gina Matkin, Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communication
Jennifer Wood, Department of Animal Science

Teaching Assistant
Ben Arentsen, Department of Biochemistry
Andrew Brueggeman, Department of Biochemistry

Enrollment
The College increased 6.4% in undergraduate enrollment from Spring-2010 to Spring-2011 (1675 to 1782, respectively). The UNL campus experienced a 2.5% increase in undergraduate spring enrollment. This is a tribute to all of you who assist in our recruiting efforts and to those of you that make our students feel welcome and successful. Our student retention programs are equally important and their impact is very apparent in these numbers. The College also experienced a 1,200 increase in student credit hours (SCH) for the spring semester. This is a 4.7% increase in the College and accounts for 35% of the total spring SCH increase at UNL.

A New Course Related to Retention
We have initiated a new Spring semester seminar (AGRI 042) to focus on successfully making the transition from high school to college. This class invites students having difficulty with the transition, meets once a week, and involves a combination of outside speakers and personal sharing about the experience of being a first-semester, first-year college student. This seminar is for zero credit, so it will not involve extra tuition. The organizers of the seminar are Sue Voss who is the student counselor and liaison in the CASNR Dean’s Office, and John Markwell, a faculty member from Biochemistry who flunked out of college his first year and has a particular interest in this topic. We are open to participation by other faculty with an interest in this group of students. Please keep this course in mind when advising students toward the end of next Fall semester if they are having difficulty in adapting to college.

ACE Reporting Requirements
Please note that all ACE courses MUST archive all assessment materials defined in the original ACE proposal every semester the course is offered. Failure to provide this archiving may result in decertification and loss of ACE status. This could be particularly interesting for ACE 10 courses which are required for completion of degree requirements. If you have questions, please contact John Markwell.

Policy on Minimum Class Enrollments
The CASNR policy on class size is that undergraduate classes with less than ten students, or graduate classes with less than five students, require permission to be offered. Instructors of such classes should contact their unit administrator requesting that an email be sent to the CASNR Dean seeking permission to offer the class. If permission is not received, the class will not be used for CASNR teaching load calculations. In a recent survey, it appeared that a significant number of classes in CASNR are being offered in spite of low enrollments. Units should consider whether it is possible to offer such classes on a less frequent basis, or move a class with multiple sections to a larger room; such action may help increase curricular flexibility and help with staffing shortfalls.

Update on PEARL Assessments—Consider Combining with ACE
CASNR and the Colleges of, Education and Human Sciences, and Journalism and Mass Communications continue to pioneer the use of the PEARL system for student assessment. With the introduction of the ACE general education requirements, every degree program is now required to carry out assessment in a capstone course. We suggest that units consider whether one of the three assessment questions being addressed in the PEARL program can be combined with the capstone assessment for the ACE program to streamline and simplify your assessment activities. If you would like to talk about this option or have the PEARL Staff visit your unit, contact John Markwell.

Reminder on Implementing CIEQ
It is time to start thinking about administering the CIEQ evaluation for the spring semester. For the most meaningful results, the instrument may be administered anytime during the last five weeks of the semester. Do not administer the instrument on the day before an exam, the day of an exam, or the day following an exam. Make sure that students have adequate time to provide feedback on the back of the instrument. Please make sure that the information bubble sheet has the instructor’s correct name. You only need to administer the CIEQ instrument if you were an instructor for five or more weeks of a course. If you have questions about interpretation of the CIEQ results, contact John Markwell.

Reminder on Implementing the Instructional Improvement Plans
A Program for Instructional Improvement is currently being piloted by every unit within CASNR. The purpose of this activity is to improve educational outcomes for our students and provide professional development for our faculty, especially new faculty. The reports for the 2010-2011 Academic Year are due at the end of the spring semester. If you have questions, please contact John Markwell.

Reminder on eARFA
To avoid having to take the time in August to complete the academic portion of your eARFA report (due August 15), you might consider working on it this semester. Staff in the Dean’s Office have found that the total time for completing the input of information is less than an hour. We remind you that if you do not complete the eARFA, your teaching load calculation and the unit’s FTE calculation will be done without your information. Please contact
Scholarship Update
CASNR awarded nearly $900,000 in scholarships for the 2009-2010 academic year. The college awarded $616,897 and the departments awarded $282,949. A total of 822 students received scholarships, which means 46.8% of our student population received some level of support from the College ranging from $950 to $6000.

CASNR Week Activities
Our eleventh annual CASNR Week will be held April 15-21, 2011. Our Theme is: "Oh, the Places You'll Go!" and we are very excited to have Dr. Larkin Powell be our keynote speaker at the CASNR Week banquet on Sunday, April 17 at 6:00 pm. He will have photos of his trip to Namibia, Africa as a Fulbright Scholar. His family will also share their experiences in Africa. CASNR Week Program Council will also be selling his book of poetry and photos after the banquet, all proceeds will go to the preschool that his wife worked at while she was in Africa.

CASNR Week for 2011 (+ denotes held at the Nebraska East Union)
Friday, April 15
- UNL Rodeo - Lancaster Event Center-7:30 p.m.
- UNL Rodeo Dance immediately following the rodeo

Saturday, April 16
- UNL Rodeo – Lancaster Event Center
  - 1:30 – Kid’s Day Performance
  - 7:30 p.m. – Tough Enough to Wear Pink Performance
- Burr Hall Bull Fry 4:30-8:30 pm Green Space on campus/ASCI Complex if it rains

Sunday, April 17
- +Student Involvement Reception-5:00 p.m.
- +CASNR Week International Studies Reception-5:15 pm
- +CASNR Week Recognition Banquet-6:00 p.m.

Monday, April 18
- +Blood Drive-9:00-3:00 pm - Sponsor: Nebraska Community Blood Bank

Tuesday, April 19
- + Lunch on the Lawn-11:00-1:00 pm
- + Community Night-5:00-7:00 pm

Wednesday, April 20
- + Undergraduate TA Luncheon-12:00-12:50 pm

Thursday, April 21
- +Club Adviser Luncheon-12:00-12:50 pm
- Alpha Gamma Rho and Sigma Alpha BBQ 5-8 pm

Justin Morrill Scholars Update
In January, the Morrill Scholars held their Annual Awards Luncheon featuring guest speaker, Dr. Coy Cross (Morrill Biographer) who spoke on his efforts in and the challenges of writing of his book entitled, "Justin Smith Morrill Father of the Land-Grant Colleges". The educational video "The Morrill of Our Story" which documents the inaugural service-learning trip to the Morrill Homestead was also shown at the luncheon. Also, the Scholars held their annual officer elections and cosponsored the Snow Stomp dance along with CASNR Advisory Board. They also participated in a number social activities including attending theatrical presentations of Charles Dickens’ A Christmas Carol and the musical Oklahoma at Nebraska Wesleyan University, and they continued to maintain their sponsored portion of the Mopac bike trail between 33rd and 40th Streets. Currently the Scholars are making preliminary plans for their annual August trip to the Morrill Homestead in Strafford, Vermont. Finally, the Director, Ed Harvey continues to serve on the Friends of the Morrill Homestead Board and is involved in plans for several sesquicentennial celebrations of the signing of the Morrill Land-Grant Act to be held in spring and summer of 2012.

Doctor of Plant Health Update
The Doctor of Plant Health Program is working across the departments of Agronomy/Horticulture, Entomology,
and Plant Pathology, plus additional course offerings through several other departments, to provide this interdisciplinary professional program dealing with plant health and managing plant systems. This semester (spring) we had five full time students in residence in the DPH program with two additional students taking distance courses who intend to start in the fall. Thus far, we have accepted two additional students for fall semester with others in the application process. We continue to receive strong interest from prospective employers who are very interested in the program. Employment areas include seed and chemical companies, ag consulting/contract research companies, horticultural industry, federal regulatory agencies, extension and more.

We request that advisors and all faculty who know of highly capable students (graduating seniors and Master’s students), with career interests in applied plant health and management, inform students of the opportunities in this new and developing area. For more information on the DPH program, visit the website www.dph.unl.edu or contact the Dr. Gary Hein, Program Director at 402-472-3345 or ghein1@unl.edu.

Scholarships are Available for Study Abroad
CASNR-led study abroad for 2012 will include:

**Summer 2011**
- **Group study:** in France for two weeks in May (led by Rosalee Swartz, 472-5234)
- in Costa Rica, two weeks in May (check with Jack Schinstock, 472-1629)
- In Croatia, two weeks in May (check with Mark Balschweid, 472-8738)
- in Germany for two weeks in August (led by Dennis Schulte, 472-3930)

**Fall 2011**
- **Group study:** in Australia (led by Paul Read, 472-5136)

- **Group study:** in New Zealand Dec. 2011 - Jan. 2012 (led by Steve Jones, 472-5566)

**Spring 2012**
- **Group study:** Spring Break in Puerto Rico (led by Dennis Ferraro, 472-8248)
- **Group study:** Spring Break in Argentina (led by Steve Mason & Nora D’Croz-Mason, 472-1523)

**Summer 2012**
- **Internships:** in Croatia for seniors and graduate students.

In 2010 there were 93 CASNR students who visited 10 countries on study abroad. Nebraska Foundation funds allowed CASNR to provide over $25,000 for study abroad scholarships. Other individual internships, semester study or short-term travel can be arranged with time and patience. For questions about those programs, call CASNR at 472-2201.

**Faculty Fulbright Fellowships**
Fulbright Fellowships provide funding to faculty for teaching, research or outreach, at a university in virtually any country in the world. The generous stipends are awarded through the U. S. State Department and bring honor to the individual faculty member, the departments and the universities involved. UNL hosts visiting Fulbrighters and sends Fulbright Fellows abroad every year. A new “senior specialist” program allows faculty to consult on a short-term basis (two to six weeks). For more information about Fulbright opportunities and procedures, go to www.cies.org or call Darlene Esser at 472-3076.

**Beyond Borders**
In 2009 CASNR International Studies Interns Azureen Erdman and Nora Spath organized a student organization whose full name is Students Involved in Global Agriculture and Natural Resources Connecting Beyond Borders. The focus of the club is to connect CASNR students with international students, faculty and issues important to CASNR, and to help students with fund raising for study abroad. In September, 2010, we hosted the second annual CASNR international welcome picnic. Then in January, 2011, we hosted the second annual CASNR Holiday Buffet and Mixer for those interested in international agriculture at UNL. The club continues to encourage more participation from undergraduate foreign students. We also welcome assistance from faculty to help the Beyond Borders club to diversify its membership and carry out activities of interest to the CASNR international community.
Alumni News
The CASNR Alumni Association Board of Directors held their February 2011 meeting in Kearney in conjunction with the Cattlemen’s Classic show. Following the meeting an Alumni Roundup was held for CASNR alumni in the Kearney area. Refreshments were available and the event provided a good venue allowing alumni members to meet their board and other alums to reconnect with the College.

Planning for the CASNR Alumni Association Football Reunion and Silent Auction benefit is underway. Eighty football tickets have been requested for the event and auction donor contacts are being made. The silent auction benefits freshman scholarships. The 2010 reunion and auction generated $9200 including the eBay sale of a donated motorcycle and a related cash contribution from a generous donor and strong College advocate.

Salute to Graduates
The December 16, 2010 Salute to Graduates was attended by 71 of 145 graduates and an audience of over 400 family members, faculty, staff and guests. The Salute to Graduates ceremony, moderated by Vice Chancellor Ronnie Green and CASNR Dean Steve Waller, continues to receive praise from attendees. Frequent comments tell us that those attending appreciate its personalized focus and individual recognition. Over 800 graduates and 4,000 family members and friends have experienced the vibrant East Campus environment to attend Salute ceremonies each May and December in the Nebraska East Union since its inception in 2005. The May 2011 Salute promises to be slightly larger than the Salute a year ago which brought record-setting attendance.

Emeriti Faculty
Emeriti faculty are a rich resource in the College and their contributions are highly valued. In 2009 CASNR emeriti faculty were brought into the CASNR Alumni Association as Honorary Emeriti Life Members as a way to keep them informed of activities in the College. New emeriti are brought in each year. As a result they receive The Sower and Class Acts spring and fall, and those who have provided e-mail addresses receive the quarterly Sower Online newsletter. The Award for Engagement of Emeriti Faculty, recognizing the department that best nurtures and accepts the contributions of emeriti, was awarded to Biological Systems Engineering at the CASNR Week Banquet in April of last year.