**Sent on behalf of Associate Dean Dann Husmann – September 15, 2014**

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To:                          CASNR Unit Heads and Undergraduate Advisers

From:                    Dann Husmann, Associate Dean in CASNR

Subject:               AGRI 103 for the 2015 Spring Semester

**NOTE: AGRI 103 will not be taught during the 2015 Spring Semester!**

The college course, AGRI 103 – Issues in Agriculture and Natural Resources, is being piloted this fall by Jenny Dauer, Cory Forbes, and Dennis Ferraro. The overall course objective for students is that they would be able to evaluate socio-scientific issues that are relevant to agriculture and natural resources using issues in Nebraska as examples.

The course is arranged in a unique format involving considerable active learning in their lectures with 4-5 graduate students serving as learning assistants. The roles of these learning assistants are to attend lectures and engage students in in-class discussions and activities. They will also evaluate around 30 students’ individual works throughout the fall semester, and give critical feedback to the students on their final projects that will prepare them for the course poster session.

With this effort being a total change from the past AGRI 103 purposes, considerable effort will be expended in formative and summative evaluation techniques to capture student insight and feedback, learning assistant analysis of course processes and delivery methods, and instructor understanding and analysis on the lessons and assessment instruments used in the course.

To ensure the course is meeting the overall and specific objectives of the course, AGRI 103 will not be taught in the spring semester. This will allow all involved in the course this fall time to effectively analyze the course from multiple perspectives that will provide considerable insight on the direction of the course for the 2015 fall semester. The spring semester will allow individuals to collect the necessary information and to allow feedback from campus faculty and staff on the future direction of AGRI 103.

For AGRI 103 to be the flagship course of the college, we need to implement and provide an extensive evaluation and assessment of all its components. There will be feedback loops through the CASNR Curriculum Committee this fall and into the spring. Various individuals will be collecting data and the findings will be communicated through the CASNR Curriculum Committee. Departmental representatives on the committee will share these findings with their departmental colleagues. At the close of this pilot, a final report will be provided to all faculty for guidance, direction, and faculty input.

As you advise your undergraduate advisees this October, be aware that AGRI 103 will not be taught in the spring. Please keep this in mind as your advisees are constructing their spring schedules.

If you have questions, please let us know.

Thank you, in advance, for all you do for our undergraduate students in CASNR!

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Dann E. Husmann Professor and Associate Dean College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources 103 Agricultural Hall Lincoln, NE 68583-0702 Phone: (402) 472-7908 FAX: (402) 472-7911 Website: [http://casnr.unl.edu](http://casnr.unl.edu/), E-mail: dhusmann2@unl.edu