

The DPH Practitioner

“Educating Leaders for Tomorrow’s Sustainable Plant Production Systems”

A Note From Dr. Bradshaw...

I hope that everyone has had a productive fall and were able to achieve some of your 2023 goals as we round the end of the year and begin to set our sights on 2024. Personally, I can say that 2023 went by very quickly! That said I am very pleased with several accomplishments made in the DPH program! I am very proud of our student accomplishments this past year from their work with the Nebraska Forest Service, leadership with the undergraduate crops judging team in the Department of Agronomy and Horticulture, engagement in the B4U Bayer University Mentoring Program, and service and experiential learning they have engaged in at UNL. I am also very pleased that we were able to sponsor the 8th Annual Regional Youth Crop Scouting Competition in September – read more about this and more inside the newsletter. The DPH program participated in a couple recruitment events at the ASA/CSSA/SSSA Annual Meeting in St. Louis in October as well as the Agriculture Future of America (AFA) Leaders Conference in Kansas City, MO in November – a fantastic venue for meeting students and future DPH partners!

This fall was the first time (in a very long time) that I entered the classroom as an instructor – teaching ENTO 817 “Pest Management Systems” and DPH 691 “DPH Colloquium”. It has been an honor for me to teach ENTO 817 and following in the footsteps of Dr. Lance Meinke (Professor of entomology and former DPH Admissions Committee member). It was a lot of work, but I really enjoyed teaching the class and I am very much looking forward to teaching it in the future. Since we have a new cohort of students, I focused on building our student’s network through our DPH Colloquium this fall. As you will see on Page 5 of the DPH Practitioner, we were able to connect our students with a great diversity of people, talents, and roles across the broad spectrum of careers in plant health. Additionally, we are so thankful to have had the opportunity to host two guests for special DPH Lectures: John Berge, State Executive Director for the USDA Farm Service Agency (and current Acting Deputy Administrator of Farm Programs) on October 26th spoke on Farm Bill and associated programs; Keri Carstens, CEO of Jord BioScience challenged us to meet farmer needs and societal expectations through microbial products. To paraphrase Dr. Carstens, chemistry has had its day and it’s time to look to biology and ecology for solutions in agriculture! I am already starting to think about next fall’s DPH Colloquium, so if you have any suggestions for lecturers, discussion leaders, or if you yourself would like to engage with our students, let us know!

Lastly, I want to give a heartfelt “thank you” to all of the faculty and external partners who have given to this program. So many of our graduates still refer to the DPH program as “our program” and their sense of ownership and passion for this program give us clarity of purpose and impact. Note that some of our excellent faculty in IANR have stepped up to serve on the DPH Admissions Committee and early in the new year, you will start to see some new DPH Faculty populate our webpages as our purpose and impact have begun to attract more faculty to engage in the program.



Doctor of Plant Health at the University of Nebraska - Lincoln

279E PLSH P.O. Box 830933 Lincoln, NE 68583-

@UNLDPH



dph.unl.edu



DPH Faculty Steering Committee Members

Dr. Gerard Adams, Emeritus Professor, Plant Pathology

Dr. Chuck Francis, Emeritus Professor, Agronomy/Horticulture

Dr. Loren Giesler, Professor and Head, Department Plant Pathology

Dr. John Lindquist, Professor, Agronomy/Horticulture

Dr. Lance Meinke, Professor, Entomology

Dr. Ellen Paparozzi, Emeritus Professor, Agronomy/Horticulture

Dr. Anne Vidaver, Emeritus Professor, Plant Pathology

Dr. Brian Wardlow, Associate Professor, School of Natural Resources

Dr. Robert Wright, Professor, Entomology

Dr. Gary Yuen, Emeritus Professor, Plant Pathology

Dr. Roch Gaussoin, Professor, Agronomy/Horticulture

DPH Program Staff

Dr. Jeff Bradshaw, DPH Director

Kelly White, Administrative Associate

Welcome to the Doctor of Plant Health newsletter

The Doctor of Plant Health program at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln is an innovative model for educating plant health practitioners. DPH is a professional degree parallel to a medical or veterinary degree, but instead, graduates are prepared to understand and diagnose plant health issues and manage the entire plant production system. Our program provides coursework and internship experiences that prepare you to make a difference in tomorrow's agriculture.



Graduates of the Doctor of Plant Health program are in demand worldwide for their comprehensive knowledge and experience, resulting in 100 percent job placement.

Interested in us? We're interested in you! Contact Dr. Jeff Bradshaw, DPH program director, at jbradshaw2@unl.edu, or call 402-472-3365 for more information. We look forward to visiting with you.

DPH Admissions Committee

As we introduce our new DPH Admissions Committee members, we would like to thank our previous admissions committee: Drs. Ellen Paparozzi, Lance Meinke, and Gary Yuen for their dedication and service to our students.



Dr. Tamra Jackson-Ziems,
Professor in Plant Pathology

<https://plantpathology.unl.edu/tamra-jackson-ziems>



Dr. Louise Lynch-O'Brien,
Assistant Professor in Entomology.

<https://entomology.unl.edu/faculty/dr-louise-lynch-obrien>



Dr. Sam Wortman,
Associate Professor in Agronomy & Horticulture.

<https://agronomy.unl.edu/wortman>

THE MISSION OF THE DOCTOR OF PLANT HEALTH PROGRAM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA–LINCOLN

is to produce plant practitioners with broad expertise and experience across the various disciplines that impact plant health and plant management. These plant practitioners (plant doctors) will integrate from across this expertise to diagnose and solve plant health problems and to develop integrated plant and pest management systems that maximize the system's economic, environmental, and social sustainability.

Alex Angel - New DPH Student!

Alexander "Alex" Angel (DPH '26) comes from West Lafayette, Indiana. He is interested in the nexus of agriculture, trade, and law, and this led to his pursuit of opportunities across the country and the world. Alex worked on policy with the USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service in Washington, D.C., studied cutting edge technology in Germany, practiced organic production systems in Florida, mitigated invasive species in Michigan, and helped create first-of-its-kind regulatory submissions while with a BioTech Startup in Indiana.

An explorer at heart, Alex takes joy in traveling, documenting, and sharing his discoveries with others both in and outside of the classroom. His current mission is to visit all of the counties in the United States, and he takes a couple days a month to visit new areas. Alex hopes to use his DPH training and travel experience to help increase awareness of the practices used in modern pest management with key policymakers around the world.



Prior to joining UNL, Alex earned bachelor's degrees in Plant Science, Biochemistry, and History from Purdue University. He continued his master's work at Purdue, earning a Master of Science in Agronomy after researching the intersection of sustainability practices and public policy. He is a member of the International Fresh Produce Association, American Society of Agronomy, and he collaborates with a number of specialty crop groups.

Alex, Welcome to the University of Nebraska!

DPH Alumnus, Dr. Lee Briese



Dr. Lee Briese came to Lincoln to help lead a discussion during our DPH Colloquium and to meet with UNL faculty. We also took the opportunity to share an evening meal with "Dr. Charlie" Dean and Directory of Nebraska Extension. Both Lee and Charlie know North Dakota very well, but have never had the chance to meet. It was great to spend some time chatting about opportunities for engagement between extension and the DPH program!



DPH External Advisory Committee Members

Paul Carter - Sr. Agronomy Sciences Manager, DuPont Pioneer, Johnston, IA, retired

Glen Franzluebbbers - Director, Professional Ag Services, Central Valley Ag Cooperative, Oakland, NE

Thomas Hoegemeyer - Corn Breeder/Crop Professional Extraordinaire, retired

Billy McLawhorn - McLawhorn Crop Services, Inc., Cove City, NC

Bruce Monke - retired (formerly with Bayer), Kansas City, KS

Brian Olson - Department Head, Western Kansas Research-Extension Centers, Hays, KS

Abby Stilwell - Supervisory Plant Protection and Quarantine Officer, USDA-APHIS-PPQ, Raleigh, NC

Tom Taylor - Twin Rivers Agronomics, Inc., Minden,

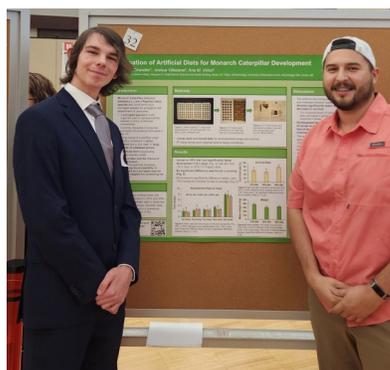
DPH Students

Garrett Kuss: "This semester has been a productive and fast-moving one. My classes this semester have been in topics I have very little background in, so the chance to broaden my knowledge base has been very exciting. Outside of class, I have been working with the undergraduate crops judging team (Department of Agronomy & Horticulture) to prepare for the spring competition season and have begun work with the UNL plant science symposium committee to prepare for our annual conference in April. Life outside of school has been exciting as well. Visits with family and taking every opportunity to go to concerts in the area have dominated my free time.

Next semester, I am excited to take classes more focused on my viticulture and fermenting interests and dive deeper into the entomology field that I have started to engage with this semester. Next summer, I have accepted an internship position with Corteva Agriscience working in grape, citrus, and tree nut production throughout the San Joaquin Valley. I am excited to see what the West Coast has to offer and how it can be compared to our systems here in the Midwest."



Tyler Prow began working for the Nebraska Forest Service as a part-time intern during the semester. His main responsibility is serving as the teaching assistant for the undergraduate Dendrology course, grading, and teaching a lab section. Tyler is also working on improving the SNR tree identification website with better photos, accurate information, and consistent formatting. He also helps out with the Forestry Club. Going into next semester, Tyler hopes to continue assisting Ann Powers & Dr. Lord Ameyaw in the Regional & Community Forestry program, as well as become more involved with NFS's agroforestry, wildland fire, and timber product operations.



DPH Director **Dr. Bradshaw** with DPH students **Tyler Prow** & **Garrett Kuss** at the Graduate Fellowship Luncheon. Both Tyler and Garrett are recipients of the William J. Curtis Fellowship.

Mason Chandler (REEU student), mentored by **Josh Villazana**, was awarded best poster in the Entomology Department & REEU beneficial insects division.

DPH Student, Josh Villazana, attending the Homecoming football game with Lise Pingault & Liang Chen.

Fall 2023 DPH Colloquium Guest Speakers

Our students grew their professional networks, expanded their opportunities, and gained greater direction on their pursuit to being practitioners in plant health because of your discussions and insights.

THANK YOU!



Dr. Helen Fagan
Founder at Helen
Fagan & Associates
Asst. Prof, ALEC



Dr. L.J. McElravy
Asst. Prof. ALEC



Dr. Ali Loker
Science & Technical Lead at
Arbor Day Carbon.



John Berge
State Executive
Director, USDA, Farm
Service Agency.



Dr. Keri Carstens
CEO
Jord BioScience.



Dr. Brett Lynn
Crop Protection Tech.
Dev. Rep.
Bayer



Corby Jensen
Regional Tech. Dev.
Lead, Central Plains
Bayer



Dr. Rayda Krell
Global Tech. Ed.
Specialist
Corteva



Dr. Tom Field
Professor of
Animal Science & Dir. of
Engler Agribusiness
Entrepreneurship
Program at UNL.



Robert Lawson
NE State
Conservationist
NRCS-USDA



Steven Jara
Asst. Forester/Deputy
Director Nebraska
Forest Service.



Dr. Abby Stilwell
Management &
Program Analyst –
Project Coordinator
USDA-APHIS-PPQ



Dr. David Nielsen
Plant Health
Safeguarding
Specialist,
USDA-APHIS-PPQ



Dr. Lee Briese
Crop Consultant
Central Crop
Consulting



Dr. Josh Miller
Head of New Business
Dev. Author/Speaker/
Consultant
Linx Systems
Roundtable Consulting

Future Agronomists at Work

Brandy VanDeWalle - Extension Educator

Five states competed at the 8th Annual Regional Youth Crop Scouting Competition on September 18, 2023, at the Eastern Nebraska Research and Extension & Education Center near Mead, Nebraska. Teams of youth participated by completing nine crop scouting exercises in field plots. This educational, hands-on program provided students an opportunity to learn crop scouting and principles of integrated pest management (IPM) for corn and soybeans, obtain knowledge and skills that will be helpful in future careers and to demonstrate newer crop scouting technologies.

The top two teams from Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois, Minnesota, and Indiana qualified for the competition. Extension faculty from Nebraska, Iowa, Minnesota, and Illinois served as judges for the program and tested the teams' knowledge on the basics of scouting corn and soybean fields. This included crop staging; looking for patterns of crop injury; disease, insect and weed identification, precision ag exercise, cover crops; etc.

Results from the 2023 competition were as follows:

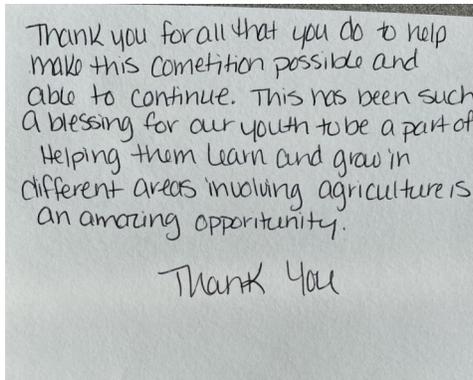
- **First place** – Iowa Team, Clayton County #1 (Ben Gibson, Amelya Weigand, Keaton Klingman & Jacob Schilling)
- **Second place** – Nebraska Team, Colfax County #2 (Callen, Cody, & Daphne Jedlicka & Justin Eisenman)
- **Third place** – Indiana Team, Cascade FFA (Will Thompson, Zach Benter, Adryanah Hendershot, Ethan Tames, and Evan Fishel)
- **Fourth place** (tie) Nebraska Team, Colfax County #1 (Josh Eisenmann, Rylan Nelson, & Hayden Bailey) & Iowa Team, Clayton County #2 (Mindy Keehner, Henry Reimber, Cora Keehner, & Carter Hillers)

Also participating was Indiana Team, Heritage Hills FFA Chapter with Megan & Riley Steinmetz, Dani Beier, Trenten VanHorn & Owen Foertsch. From Illinois, was Wesclin FFA with Camren Ferri, Michael Anderscavage, Lilly Biggs, Cole Friederich and Carson Richter and Pontiac FFA with Jared Bressner, Brock Clement, Chancey Haas, Cole Rapp, and Landen Wilson. Rice/Dakota County from Minnesota consisted of Nick Bayer, Molly Albers, Garrett Ostermann and Lucas Deplazes and Sebeka FFA with Mindy Keehner, Henry Reimber, Cora Keehner and Carter Hillers.

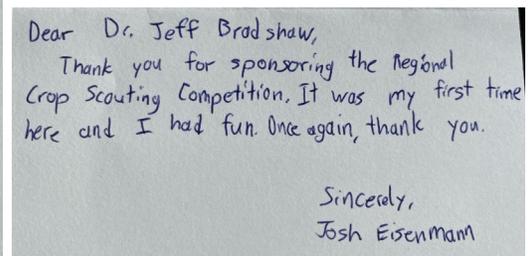
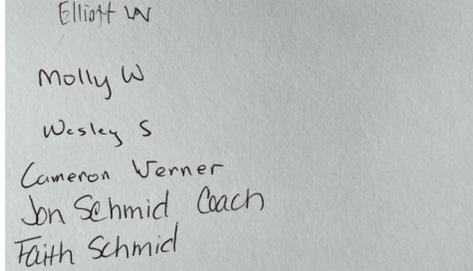
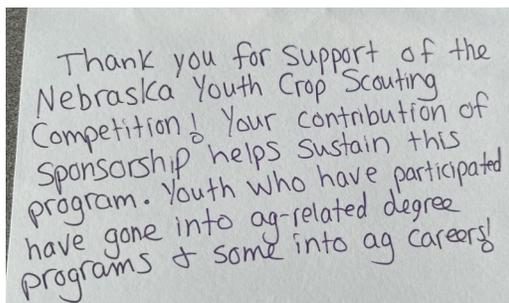
More information about the crop scouting competition is available online at cropwatch.unl.edu/youth. Click on the link that says, "Crop Scouting Competition". This program was sponsored by the Nebraska Independent Crop Consultant Association, Nebraska Soybean Board, Ward Laboratories, & UNL's Doctor of Plant Health Program in collaboration with Nebraska Extension. For more information about the program, please contact Brandy VanDeWalle, Nebraska Extension Educator at brandy.vandewalle@unl.edu



1st Place - Clayton County #1 - Iowa



2nd Place - Colfax County #2 - Nebraska



Dr. Bradshaw coordinated a North American Wheat IPM symposium at the Annual Meeting of the Entomological Society of America. Scientists and students from Canada and the U.S., university and government along with wheat growers from Nebraska, Montana, North Dakota, and Colorado all gathered together to discuss current challenges and opportunities for wheat IPM in North America in National Harbor, MD. Also, I took the opportunity to lead some of the conference participants on a walking tour around the National Mall (images center and right). Some of you may also notice Dir. Hein in the photo as well! (image on the right). The DPH booth at the AFA meeting in Kansas City (image below).



Help us grow the Earle Raun Plant Health Fund



Earle S. Raun, Ph.D.



To give, go to nufoundation.org or scan this QR code.

The Earle S. Raun Doctor of Plant Health Graduate Student Support Fund was created to honor Earle Raun's efforts in establishing the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's plant health program and his professional contributions to crop consulting and agricultural education.

In addition to his work at UNL, Dr. Raun created Pest Management Company — the first independent crop consulting firm in the Midwest specializing in research and advice on pest management and crop production — and was instrumental in founding the National Alliance of Independent Crop Consultants and its Nebraska affiliate, the Nebraska Independent Crop Consultant Association. Contributions to this fund will enable UNL to offer fellowships for Doctor of Plant Health students.

For more information, contact Doug Carr at doug.carr@nufoundation.org or Jeff Bradshaw, Ph.D., at jbradshaw2@unl.edu.



Upcoming Events

Commencement: December 15th & 16th
 Holiday Closedown: December 22nd - January 1st
 Spring Pre-Session: January 2nd - January 19th
 NAICC Annual Meeting (San Antonio): January 15th - 20th
 Spring 2024 Semester begins: January 22nd



Be sure to subscribe to our new DPH YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCKtHPIiaMMJLpTmVPoX34Xw>



DOCTOR OF PLANT HEALTH

University of Nebraska–Lincoln

279E Plant Sciences Hall

PO Box 830933

Lincoln, NE 68583-0933

Address Service Requested

PLACE
STAMP
HERE