

The DPH Practitioner

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

Testing Ag Performance Solutions (TAPS)

DPH students Chris Chen, Ali Loker, and Zach Rystrom attended the University of Nebraska Testing Ag Performance Solutions (UNL-TAPS) kickoff meeting at WCREC in North Platte, NE. UNL TAPS is an extension program where teams make crop production decisions that are applied to replicated field plots at WCREC. Participants make decisions pertaining to planting, nitrogen, irrigation, insurance, and grain marketing. Teams compete in either the sprinkler irrigated corn, sub-surface drip irrigated corn or sprinkler irrigated sorghum competitions and are awarded prizes for the most profitable, most resource efficient, and highest yielding ‘farms’. The TAPS program is a great opportunity for both participants and observers to learn about sustainable and profitable crop production strategies. Chris, Ali, and Zach will compete as a UNL Doctor of Plant Health team in the 2020 subsurface drip irrigated corn competition.



You can learn more about TAPS here: <https://taps.unl.edu/>

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DOCTOR OF PLANT HEALTH

DPH Faculty Steering Committee Members

Dr. Gerard Adams, Associate Professor of Practice, Plant Pathology

Dr. Roger Elmore, Professor, Agronomy/Horticulture

Dr. Richard Ferguson, Professor, Agronomy/Horticulture

Dr. Chuck Francis, Professor, Agronomy/Horticulture

Dr. Loren Giesler, Professor, Plant Pathology

Dr. John Lindquist, Professor, Agronomy/Horticulture

Dr. Lance Meinke, Professor, Entomology

Dr. Ellen Paparozzi, 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, Professor, Plant Pathology

Dr. Roch Gaussoin, Professor, Agronomy/Horticulture

DPH Program Staff

Dr. Gary Hein, DPH Director

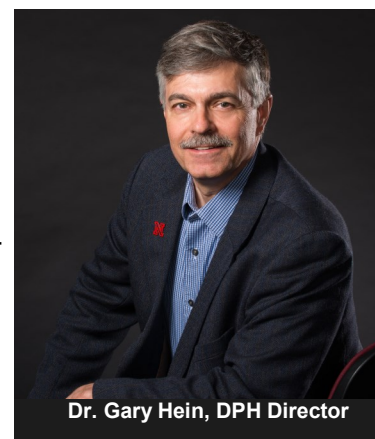
Kelly White, Administrative Associate

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. Gary Hein, DPH program director, at ghein@unl.edu, or call 402-472-3365 for more information. We look forward to visiting with you.



Dr. Gary Hein, DPH Director

A Doctor of Plant Health Seminar: A Conversation with Ted Matthews



Photo from Matthews' website: <https://www.farmcounseling.org/>

Last December, we had the pleasure of listening to Ted Matthews, Director of MN Rural Mental Health, discuss the unique challenges that those in rural communities face, signs of economic and emotional stress to look for, and how best to help when someone is going through a difficult time.

You can listen to the Zoom presentation here:

<https://unl.zoom.us/recording/play/BmB0rHpxpGXVV5BfpCY-soZl28gefjdJ7cGw8WHXr0TtWUco9Z-QlHkHoecFRP43?startTime=1575582479000>

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.

Farm Sci-Ed with Emily Stine

As internet becomes the way the world communicates, scientists are using new tools available to them. One of these tools that is becoming popular is short videos explaining science.

Over the course of the summer of 2019, I worked with six specialists at the University of Nebraska Panhandle Research and Extension Center (PHREC) to create a program to “bring folks to the side of the farm research in the Panhandle.” The project known as Farm Sci-Ed (pronounced “Farm Side”) was created.



Farm Sci-Ed is designed to be an interdisciplinary, multimedia program that highlights the agricultural research done at the PHREC. That is to say, it covers a broad spectrum of research types and shares the information in multiple ways. Currently, it is designed to be available as a captioned YouTube video series, a podcast and have written episode transcripts.

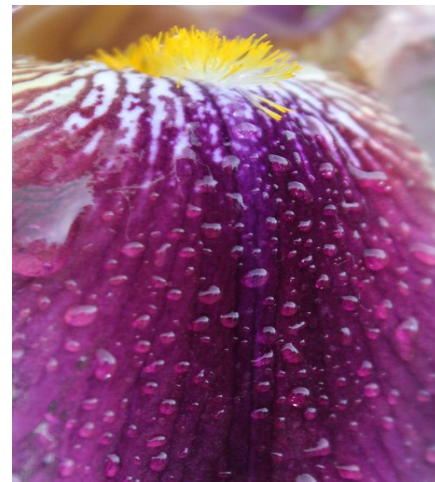
I took on responsibilities as the producer, technical supervisor and editor. As the producer of the show, it was my responsibility to develop the scripts and coordinate interview

times with both the hosts, Dr. Jeff Bradshaw and Dr. Nevin Lawrence, and the researchers. I learned proper film and audio techniques and then applied that knowledge while filming portions. Finally, I took the collected film and audio and began to edit the episodes into the final versions that would be shared.

I was able to use my understanding of agricultural sciences in entomology, weed science, plant biology and breeding to understand the research and convert it into engaging storylines for the audience. The opportunities to follow the researcher into the field and ask questions about what was happening was the best part. The other high point was having the opportunity to talk directly to folks who benefitted from this research and see the influence within the agricultural community. Both of these opportunities expanded my understanding of how science can be effectively communicated.

Working on Farm Sci-Ed gave me the opportunity to increase my capability for science communication in different medias. It also furthered my understanding of agricultural research within the Panhandle of Nebraska. I look forward to seeing what future endeavors are created within this program.

Currently, Farm Sci-Ed is scheduled to air its first series of episodes on July 1, 2020.



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 - Learning Center Manager, Monsanto Company, Gothenburg, NE

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

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

Congratulations to DPH graduate, Salvador Ramirez II on receiving the Holling Family Award for Teaching Excellence.

The award is one of ten Holling Family Awards for Teaching Excellence given to Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources senior faculty, junior faculty, and teaching assistants each year. All three categories honor outstanding teaching with an emphasis on imaginative and creative teaching efforts in carrying out IANR educational programs.



Meet Our New DPH Students



Ali Loker grew up in Madison, Wisconsin and received her B.S. in Community and Environmental Sociology, with a certificate in Global Health, from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2012. Her degree allowed her to take a variety of plant science courses alongside sociology courses, to provide a well-rounded perspective of how people interact with their food system. Ali has production experience from a variety of organic vegetable farms and a small scale goat dairy. Most recently, she worked for the IPM Institute of North America as a project manager, where she collaborated with food retailers to develop and implement sustainability programs for their supply chains. It was through this work that Ali developed the desire to expand and deepen her technical background through the DPH program.

"I am honored to be part of the DPH program and have the opportunity to gain the breadth and depth of knowledge the program offers. I was attracted to the DPH because of the interdisciplinary nature and emphasis on practical application. I see the need for many individuals with this type of understanding to effectively collaborate with others to solve the world's most pressing issues, like food stability and climate change. I believe the DPH will give me a strong foundation to help increase the resiliency of agricultural systems after graduation."



Brett Lynn is an agronomist that enjoys partnering with growers to find practical agronomic solutions that can be implemented at the farm-level. Brett believes in leveraging interdisciplinary knowledge coupled with practical experience to ensure producers remain profitable while reducing their environmental footprint. The desire to bolster his interdisciplinary knowledge drew Brett to the Doctor of Plant Health (DPH) in Fall 2019.

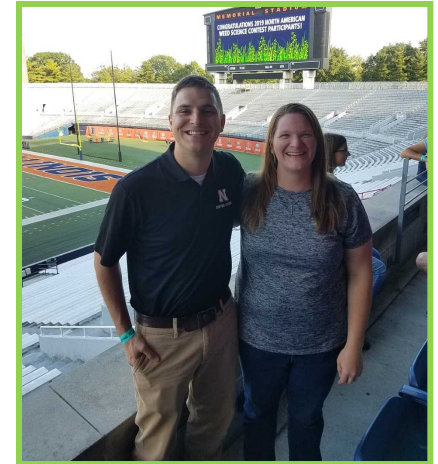
Prior to embarking in the DPH program Brett received his B.S. (2016) and M.S. (2019) in Agronomy from Kansas State University. During his B.S. he interned with Crop Production Services and WinField Solutions. He also worked for Monsanto/Bayer Crop Science while completing his M.S. Additionally, Brett has been a Certified Crop Advisor (CCA) since 2017.

Brett is always seeking opportunities to collaborate with companies and growers that embrace innovation. Following the DPH program Brett intends to work in production agronomy and/or consultation.

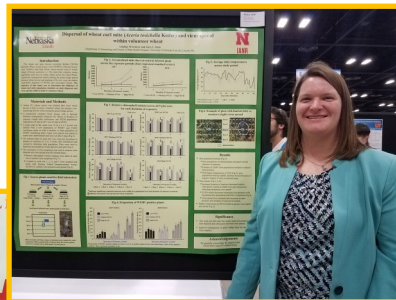
Conferences & Competitions



DPH students: Callie Braley, Lindsay Overmyer, and Jacob Nikodym attended the NAICC Conference this past January in San Antonio, TX.



Adam Striegel & Lindsay Overmyer attended the North American Weed Science Competition in Illinois on July 25, 2019.



Lindsay and Sal also attended ASA, CSSA and SSSA International Annual Meetings last November in San Antonio, TX.

Pictured with Danielle Lopez, Graduate Program Coordinator with UNL's department of Agronomy & Horticulture.



Dr. Hein discussing the DPH program at UNL's School of Natural Resources Career Fair.



Current DPH student, Lindsay Overmyer and DPH alumnus, Sal Ramirez attended the Agriculture Future of America (AFA) opportunity fair in Kansas City on November 8, 2019.

Help us grow the Earle Raun Plant Health Fund



Dr. Earle S. Raun

The Earle S. Raun Doctor of Plant Health Fellowship Fund was created to honor Earle Raun's efforts in establishing UNL'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 (NAICC) and its Nebraska affiliate, Nebraska Independent Crop Consultant Association (NICCA).

Contributions to this fund will enable UNL to offer fellowships for Doctor of Plant Health students. To give, go to nufoundation.org/fundsearch and enter Earle S. Raun into the search window.

For more information, contact Josh Egley at 402-458-1202 or Dr. Gary Hein at 402-472-3345.

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