

# The DPH Practitioner

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

## Recent DPH Graduates in Nebraska Ag Businesses

Four recent Doctor of Plant Health graduates have taken positions with Nebraska ag businesses in the past year. The 2021 graduates included Jacob Nikodym, Research Lead for Real Farm Research in Aurora, and Callie Braley, Agronomist for Crop Quest in Sidney. This spring, Zach Rystrom began with Midwest Research Inc. in York and Brett Lynn began with Bayer CropScience in Gothenburg. These graduates will be contributing to our goal of assisting Nebraska ag businesses build their capacity to enhance ag efficiency, productivity, sustainability, and will make considerable contributions for their employers over the coming years. We are continuously seeking ag business partnerships to provide educational opportunities to assist them in building their capacity for the future of Agriculture in Nebraska.



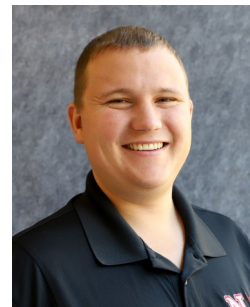
**Dr. Jacob Nikodym**  
Real Farm Research  
Aurora



**Dr. Callie Braley**  
Crop Quest  
Sidney



**Dr. Zach Rystrom**  
Midwest Research Inc.  
York



**Dr. Brett Lynn**  
Bayer CropScience  
Gothenburg

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@UNLDPH

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DOCTOR OF PLANT HEALTH

## DPH Faculty Steering Committee Members

Dr. Chuck Francis, 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 Pappozzi, 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

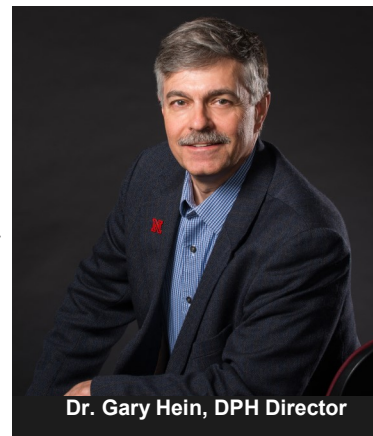
Kelly White, Administrative Associate

# 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](mailto:ghein@unl.edu), or call 402-472-3365 for more information. We look forward to visiting with you.



Dr. Gary Hein, DPH Director

## Jacht: Marketing the DPH Voyage

Over the past year, we have been working with UNL's Jacht Club, a student-run advertising agency guided by industry professionals. They conducted surveys with current students, faculty, and alumni, provided insight on our website and social media accounts, and also put together a 2-minute video that represents the DPH program. A huge thanks to Hunter Reifert and the team!

You can watch the commercial on our Doctor of Plant Health YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tS2tdP3a5NY>

Link to Jacht: <https://www.jacht.agency/>



### 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.

# Alumni Spotlight

## Kenny Roche



Kenny is a 2015 graduate of the DPH program and is the Agronomic R&D Lead at Koppert Biological Systems. Koppert is a company that offers an integrated system of natural solutions to cultivate healthier and safer crops, enabling growers to improve quality and yield.

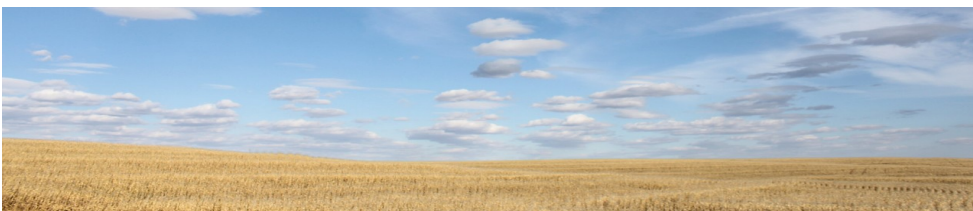
“Some of my major responsibilities include the following: First and foremost the mindset of ‘data driven decisions for market solutions’. I am directly responsible for the management and oversight of all trial work conducted in the US.

These trial requests can come from any one of our 23 global subsidiaries to support global markets. I also am responsible for crafting, implementing, analyzing (thank god for those stats classes!), and reporting on trial work of specific market interests for the US and North America. I am R&D tech support for our sales and marketing team.

I work collaboratively with our sales force to address the needs of growers by conducting demo or trials within grower operations, indoor/protected, and outdoors in a variety of high value crops. Also insect and pest identification. I am given free rein to play with our product catalog and think outside the box to develop solutions for new, unseen/underutilized market potential. In short, I get to “Science the (expletive) out of this” on a daily basis!! So kind of a mix of researcher/extension/sales and market support/entrepreneur. I have the very good fortune to work with a select team of over achievers both locally and globally, and I love that!! I get to work with nature in the agriculture space. And I am exactly where I need to be.

The course work and opportunities for teaching and research assistantships at the DPH program while I was there really gave some fundamental skills that I use to this day. I know most graduates are just happy to be employed, but I think all would benefit from this type of knowledge going in. While the tuition costs may seem cumbersome it is doable. paid off students loans in just under four year after graduation...

I am truly grateful and appreciative of what the DPH program has done for me!!”



### 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

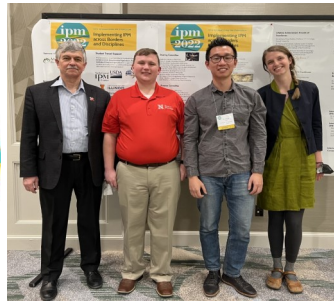
Abby Stilwell - Supervisory Plant Protection and Quarantine Officer, USDA-APHIS-PPQ, Raleigh, NC

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

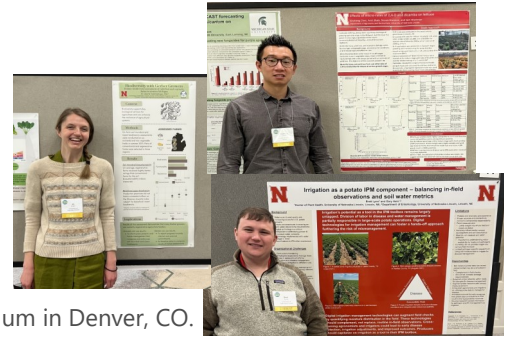
# Conferences, Career Fairs, and More!



Dr. Gary Hein visiting with Al Averitt at NAICC in Orlando, FL



Dr. Hein and DPH Students at the IPM Symposium in Denver, CO.



Be sure to subscribe to our DPH YouTube channel:

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

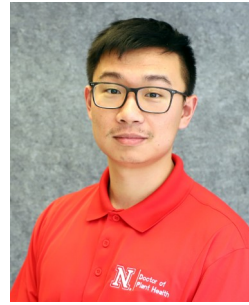
*DPH Conversations with Dr. Anne Vidaver, Dr. Roger Elmore, Dr. Tiffany Heng-Moss, and Dr. Lee Briese are available to watch on our YouTube Channel.*



# 2022 Summer Internships



I will be doing my summer internship as the Carbon Science Intern with Arbor Day Foundation here in Lincoln, NE. I'll be working with the carbon team to develop a carbon offset project methodology. I'll also help to identify additional income sources for land included in carbon projects, like biochar, agroforestry, wood products, and more. I'm looking forward to applying my coursework to a whole new system (forestry) and learning lots about carbon!



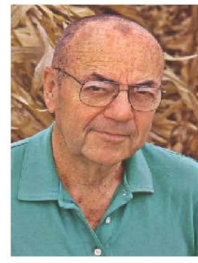
This summer, I will be working with Research Designed For Agriculture (RD4AG) in Yuma, Arizona as a Research Biologist Intern. I will be in charge of small trial research testing different products for big-name chemical companies. This includes experiment setup, application, data collection, data analysis, and writing reports at the end of the trial. For the summer, I am expecting to be involved with growing melons and testing different sensors such as temperature sensors, and height sensors.

**If your company or organization would be interested in creating an internship opportunity for our students, please contact DPH Director, Dr. Gary Hein at [ghein1@unl.edu](mailto:ghein1@unl.edu)**

## ***Congratulations, DPH Graduates!!***



# 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 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, Nebraska Independent Crop Consultant Association. Contributions to this fund will enable UNL to offer fellowships for Doctor of Plant Health students. To give, go to [nufoundation.org](http://nufoundation.org) and enter Earle S. Raun in 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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