

# Lewis enjoys new post

## Vice chancellor brings experience to university

BY LINDSAY YOUNG  
Senior staff writer

Rick Edwards, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs.

Before UNL, Lewis worked at Arkansas State University in Jonesboro, Ark. There, Lewis said, he was the executive assistant to the university president. He also was the chief executive and chief financial executive for the Arkansas State University Foundation and the secretary to the trustees.

Lewis spent 14 years in higher education and worked for the Arkansas Legislature. He also is an attorney.

Edwards, chair of the search committee, said Lewis was a well-rounded candidate for the position.

"I think you always hire, in a position like this, somebody who brings both the experience and skills and most importantly the potential for being an outstanding leader," Edwards said.

Lewis lives in Lincoln with his wife, Linda, three dogs and three cats.

It's the University of Nebraska. His answer was that simple when Scott Lewis was asked why he wanted to come to work as UNL's associate vice chancellor for business and finance.

He will work as one of the senior managers to Vice Chancellor for Business and Finance Melvin Jones.

Lewis, who was hired this summer, said the University of Nebraska-Lincoln offered him the opportunity to use his experience.

"When you're here, I don't think you fully appreciate what that means in the rest of the country," Lewis said.

He said UNL is a top land-grant institution and is highly respected in other parts of the country.

Lewis will be working with legal and contract matters, construction, finance, accounting, facilities operations and many other aspects in the office of business and finance, said

# Changes give City Campus a facelift

PLAN from page 1

structure to the campus, Benson said.

Parking will be redirected to parking garages, which will lie on the campus's periphery.

Some of the space that may be used for new recreation fields is now privately owned, including the railroad tracks near Harper-Schramm-Smith residence halls. Benson said the university is in the process of acquiring that land.

Also, Alpha Chi Omega Sorority, which will be relocated, is privately owned, Benson said.

He said the university is looking to relocate the sorority, building a structure with modern amenities while preserving the house's history and decor.

Creating blueprints for the future of NU campuses is done about every 10 years, Benson said.

UNL's plans were last updated in 1990. Some of the modifications presented Thursday also were on the 1990 plan, he said.

The changes will be made in six-year phases until 2011, and some after that date.

A set schedule has not been developed, Benson said. However, in the first six years, buildings will be renovated under a bond issue authorized under

LB1100, passed in spring's legislative session.

The bill gives \$5.5 million a year for the next 10 years to pay for deferred maintenance to buildings on NU campuses, including the replacement of Lyman and Bancroft halls, which are located at 14th and U streets.

An overall cost estimate for the plan has not yet been figured, Benson said.

But students may be affected by the potential changes as early as the next couple of years, said James Griesen, vice chancellor for student affairs.

Facilities such as the Campus Recreation Center, University Health Center, Nebraska Unions, parking structures and housing are not supported by state funds, Griesen said. So, the construction of these facilities are paid for through bonds.

These bonds are then paid off through revenues generated through student fees, Griesen said.

One immediate impact could be the construction of the parking garages, he said, which could result in an increase in the cost of parking permits.

But students don't need to worry about an immediate hike in fees and costs, Griesen said.

"We're not going to jump today or anything like that."

# Farmers face low profits

BY TODD ANDERSON  
Senior staff writer

For Nebraska farmers, the economic effects of sagging grain prices hit hard and direct.

And with the worst yet to come as harvest nears, many can identify the roots of the problem, but few can offer clear solutions.

A year after corn and wheat producers sold an abundant crop at near-record-level prices, this year's harvest likely will bring about large amounts of debt and unused supply for some, and threaten the very livelihood of others.

### Free market vs. price supports

The Agricultural Reform and Improvement Act of 1996 completely restructured how the federal government works with the nation's volatile agricultural markets. The bill, referred to as the Farm Bill of '96, intended to move farmers away from government price supports and toward managing their business in a free market system.

It is set to be phased out by 2002. For some, it's a blatant attempt to shut down small farms.

For others, it's an overdue transition from a government-regulated production scheme to an open market system.

John Hansen is president of the Nebraska Farmers Union, which represents more than 5,000 farmers in Nebraska.

Hansen, who owns a farm near Newman Grove, said the 1996 Farm Bill leaves farmers in the cold at a time when grain prices are lower than they have been in years.

But Nebraska Farm Bureau Federation president Bryce Neidig has a different take on the 1996 Farm Bill and the grain companies.

Neidig, owner of a farm near Madison, said the farm bill offers a sufficient safety net for farmers in trouble.

While the new free market system of management produces more ups and downs for farmers, he said, it's the best way to manage production.

Neidig points out that last year farmers sold their grain for more than \$5 a bushel — well over the cost of production — and didn't need the transfer payments set aside by the government.

### Guess-timate

Knowing how to predict the season ahead has proven to be the challenge for farmers and policy-makers alike.

World demand, previous years' supply, crop disease, natural disaster — every part of the picture can change the look and feel of a farmer's season.

Vern Jantzen, a farmer who has been in the business for 12 years near Plymouth, calls this year a "good" year because the crop yield has been high.

But the numbers have been so high that overproduction has driven prices down.

Jantzen said it's more difficult for farmers to adjust to shifts in supply and demand because a farmer's total planting potential first depends on how much grain is planted — a decision made well before it's clear what sort of factors will affect price and in what way.

"A farmer is geared up to produce the maximum all the time," he said.

Lower prices for grain don't necessarily mean buyers are snatching up the goods.

Both Hansen and Neidig agreed troubles in Asian markets, including Russia, have worsened the problem.

U.S. grain farmers produce more wheat and corn than U.S. consumers can use, so farmers rely on export markets to stay in business.

Closing markets coupled with a farm bill moving farmers to the open market equals a difficult situation for many farmers who have a majority of their land invested in one crop.

Jantzen said federal leaders should have made sure foreign markets would remain open before cutting farmers loose from federal protection.

"Right now we're running down the road without a shock on the vehicle," he said.

"When you hit a bump, you fly high; when you run over a hole, you go

way down."

### Short-term/long-term

After 40 years of farming, Bill Rolf of Fullerton said he expected to retire.

But with loan payments mounting, taking another hard hit might extend the length of his farming career.

He said he would have to earn 33 percent more per bushel to break even, without accounting for his own labor.

"I'm always paying interest," he said. "I've paid interest for 40 years and I'm still paying interest."

Neidig predicts a rough ride for farmers as corn harvest time, a short three to five weeks away, draws near.

"I don't think there are going to be any quick fixes," he said.

For now, he said, he encourages farmers to apply to receive their transition payment checks early and tries to offer hope.

"Eventually we'll get those overseas markets back," Neidig said.

Jantzen said diversification — investing in several types of production — has been the key to staying afloat.

Jantzen uses the grain he produces to feed the dairy cows he raises, and he rents out his combines for harvest to make extra cash.

Hansen said farmers are taking on more and more responsibilities, which limits the time they have to involve themselves politically.

Nevertheless, he said he encourages Nebraska farmers to seek active participation in the policy-making process.

"We're trying to get people to somehow make a large commitment in time and resources to participate in the political process where they get swallowed up in it all."

While there are no clear solutions, organizations like the Nebraska Farm Bureau and Farmers Union, with the help of small-time farmers like Jantzen and Rolf, will push to find more remedies to problems posed in an ever-changing world market.

"We've got to do everything we can to make sure we have as many people saved as possible," Neidig said.

# Crash your butt at the Beer Bash!

Come over to Game Day Bar and Grill's Beer Bash--an outdoor concert filled with beer and fun!

- where: 8th and L, in the fenced-in lot just north of Game Days
- when: 8:30-12:30, Friday, September 11
- what: Concert and drinks! Drunk and Disorderly entertainment provided by the Distractions.
- why: No cover and \$2 for 16 oz. draws! Rolling Rock, Coors Light, Killian's Red



## NO INSURANCE?

### Rest Assured. Be Insured.

**Enrollment deadline is 9/20/98!**

NOW is the time to review your current medical insurance and/or consider a plan to assist you with your health care needs! Your University Health Center, together with GM Southwest of Dallas, TX, offers UNL students a comprehensive and affordable medical insurance plan specifically designed to suit the needs of undergraduate and graduate students. The plan offers students:

- An annual premium of only \$399!
- The convenient location and services of the University Health Center (located at 15th & U) for initial treatment!
- Dependent coverage is also available! (see policy brochure for dependent premiums and specific details)

Brochures and applications are available at the University Health Center, International Affairs Office or by mail. Have any questions? Call our 24-hour information line at 472-7437.

**INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS- PLEASE NOTE:** UNL requires mandatory insurance coverage to comply with immigration regulations. International students are required to show proof of insurance or they will be billed for the UNL student insurance on their tuition statements. A charge of \$207.00 per semester will be added to the tuition bills unless a waiver is obtained from the Student Insurance Coordinator at the University Health Center. (Coverage for International Students began 8/7/98)

## Need a Lift? Night Shuttle Service!

NIGHT SERVICE	
City Campus Departure Times (from Lyman Hall)	East Campus Departure Times (from Burr-Fedde)
6:15	6:35
6:55	7:15
7:35	7:55
8:15	8:35
8:55	9:15
9:35	9:55
10:15	10:35

### Free Night Service Between East and City Campus

**6:15 P.M. to 10:35 P.M.**

"A student fee supported service of the Nebraska Unions"