

Home for the harvest

Students working on family farms carry two full loads, but they say it's worth it

By Christine Anderson
Staff Reporter

BURR — University of Nebraska-Lincoln students Nathan and Suzanna Watermeier study agriculture. They live it, too.

Like many UNL agriculture students, the Watermeiers travel regularly from school to the farm.

Both are full-time students. Along with attending classes, studying and taking exams, the Watermeiers harvest crops, operate a custom fertilizer business on their family's farm near Burr and work at a family-owned grocery store.

Nathan, a sophomore in mechanical agriculture, said he travels to his Otoe County home about twice weekly. Suzanna, a junior majoring in agribusiness, said she goes home nearly every day.

During harvest season, Nathan said he works 30 to 40 hours a week.

Nathan said at times working on the farm and attending school is tough. But it hasn't hurt his grades.

"It's a good break," he said. Working outdoors on the farm is a change of pace from school, he said.

Ted Hartung, dean of the UNL College of Agriculture, said many UNL students go home from school to work on the farm.

Hartung estimated that "one-third of the students are very active during the harvest period."

Most of the students who travel home frequently to harvest live about 150 to 200 miles from campus, he said.

Doing both farming and studying doesn't seem to hurt students' performances at school, Hartung said.

These students have to be "tough time managers" to make sure they keep up with school while they farm, he said.

Many agriculture professors say they expect some students to miss a few classes during planting and harvest seasons.

Rick Waldren, associate professor of agronomy, said some students may miss

classes because of harvest.

"I deliberately schedule exams on Wednesday," he said, because some students either leave early on weekends or return late Monday.

Waldren said he knows students are needed at home. "Coming from a farm, I can understand that."

"As long as the homework gets done," Waldren added, it's not much

of a problem.

Animal science professor Ted Doane said many students leave school on Thursdays to spend three or four days harvesting.

Students are responsible for getting their work done, he said. "They make their own judgments — they know what their limits are."

On one typical Thursday after-

noon, Nathan and Suzanna left campus life behind, traveling to their 600-acre farm about 35 miles away.

Nathan fixed a door on a grain bin where hundreds of bushels of corn are stored. He harvested much of the grain this fall.

Across the field, Suzanna planted winter wheat.

"There's nothing they can't do," said their father, Junior Watermeier. "Between the two, they could run the farm, grocery store and the fertilizer business."

Junior, an Otoe County commissioner, said Nathan planted all 600 acres of crops last spring while attending school. And he also operated the commercial fertilizer business. This year, he fertilized about 3,000 acres for nearby farmers.

Along with farm work, Suzanna helps her parents run a family-owned grocery store in Burr.

She orders shoes, garden supplies and seed for local customers. On her way home from Lincoln, Suzanna often picks up canned goods, meats and other foods to stock the grocery's shelves.

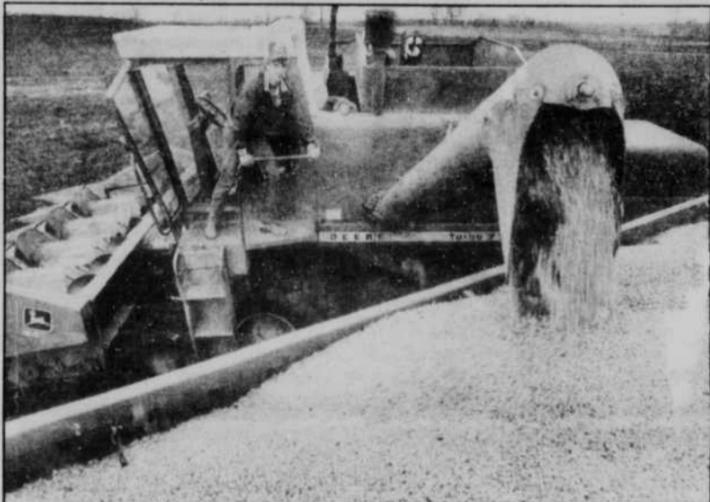
"She does more than I realize," said her mother, Marlene. Suzanna not only stocks the store with supplies, but also does much of the paperwork.

Nathan and Suzanna, like many UNL students, are still devoted to their family's farm. But that's only part of it, Junior said. Working together has also kept the family close, he said.

"I don't know what I'd do without them," he said.

Nathan Watermeier (far left) finishes loading a truck with corn harvested that day.

Suzanna Watermeier (left) helps unload corn into a storage bin.



Justice chosen for his past and 'intellectual curiosity'

By Kip Fry
Staff Reporter

Gov. Kay Orr said Dale Fahrbruch's judicial experience was not the only factor in her decision to name him to the Nebraska Supreme Court.

Orr announced Fahrbruch's appointment at a Friday press conference. A district-court judge for the past 15 years, Fahrbruch was the only applicant with judicial experience. He will replace William Hastings, who was promoted to Supreme Court chief justice by Orr in September.

"I was impressed with his overall background and character," Orr said. She added that she appreciated his "intellectual curiosity" and that he loves what he does.

Fahrbruch, 63, who has applied for the Supreme Court twice before, said a mild heart attack he suffered earlier this year should not hinder his performance. He said he feels better than he has in 20 years.

Fahrbruch said he has never smoked marijuana, and Orr did not ask him that during the interview

process. Orr said she has never smoked marijuana, but she said she wasn't sure if that information should be exposed.

Fahrbruch is a graduate of Lincoln High School and has received degrees from both the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and Creighton University Law College. He also has experience as a reporter and city editor for the Lincoln Journal.

Orr said she didn't know if it would have been more popular to name a woman to the court.

In other business, Orr said she is not really concerned about the possible storage of low-level nuclear waste in Nebraska. While Nebraskans may see the dump as a risk, she said, there is also a risk in drinking water, crossing the street and driving down the highway in Nebraska.

Nebraska has a responsibility to help solve the waste problem, she said.

South Carolina has had similar dumps for the past 30 years, she said. The governor of South Carolina has told her there have been no problems, Orr said.

Candidate 'speaks to the future'

Dukakis hopes to imitate JFK

By Dave Weber
Staff Reporter

Democratic presidential candidate Mike Dukakis vowed to inspire youth in a speech to 50 colleges nationwide and 15 University of Nebraska-Lincoln students Friday afternoon by way of a closed-circuit broadcast.

The Dukakis campaign has gathered momentum in universities across the country because "he speaks to the future," said Ariela Gross, an election assistant in Boston. Massachusetts itself has 120 colleges. Two hundred campuses in 40 states have active campaign committees, but only those with the appropriate satellite equipment could receive the broadcast from

Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas.

"Like JFK inspired my generation, I hope I can do the same for yours," said Dukakis, governor of Massachusetts for nine years.

Many, including students who gathered at the Nebraska Union, got a chance to ask Dukakis their questions.

Pete Castellano, a state coordinator of the youth campaign, dialed for about 15 minutes before he got through.

In response to Castellano's question about Dukakis' financial aid policy, Dukakis said he would "end the annual assault to Pell Grants and loans which we've been getting every year from the current administration and institute tuition waivers in public col-

leges and income withholding." Dukakis said income withholding would be the automatic withholding of a small percentage of a student's income after graduation to pay back the loan. The money then would be put back into a revolving fund to be used for new loans and assistance.

Dukakis said the United States should not be committing itself to a trillion-dollar Star Wars proposal "when the Treasury doesn't have two nickels to rub together."

"We don't want to nuclearize the heavens at a time when we are finally beginning to make some beginning progress toward a reversal of the nuclear arms race here on earth," he said. "I want the U.S. to abide by its own ABM treaty."

NSSA seeks reunion with UNL's ASUN

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organization and then set the student-fee amounts. The organization has \$25,000 in reserve from "underspending the budget," McMorrow said. That money will be put in a trust fund to use for some of the organization's overhead expenses, he said.

McMorrow stressed the importance of having a statewide lobbying agency solely for higher education institutions in the state.

"I think it's very important that students work together in a statewide advocacy group," he said. "The student opinion isn't even going to be

considered if a student group isn't there to say it."

Ilg said he thought ASUN's chances for voting to join NSSA were pretty good since the major reasons for leaving the organization in the first place — the Legislative Assembly and the student-fee amount — have been changed.

Education, empathy, honesty stressed at AIDS forum

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A member of the audience asked what the single most important thing each person could do in their profession to make a significant difference in the AIDS epidemic by the year 2000.

Wagner said the church should focus its concern on compassion for AIDS patients rather than on morality.

Carveth agreed that compassion, honesty and openness are essential.

Several other panelists stressed the importance of education.

Shugrue said calm, reasoned education would slow the spread of AIDS.

Wright said high-risk groups should be educated about the dangers of infection.

Wesely said people should be educated to stop high-risk behavior through responsibility,

confidentiality and compassion.

Owens-Nauslar said teachers should have current information to give students straightforward answers.

Wesely said AIDS victims will realize their social responsibility and be honest about the disease if they are treated with compassion and shown that people care about them. People who have been tested positive for the virus should warn partners of the possibility of contracting

AIDS, he said.

"It's a tough situation," Wesely said. "I could be wrong, but my gut reaction is to test voluntarily."

Wesely said that if voluntary testing doesn't work, mandatory testing may have to be implemented. However, if mandatory testing were used first, he said, fewer people would admit to having the disease.