

SUMMER Daily NEBRASKAN

THURSDAY
AUGUST 9, 1990
VOL. 89
NO. 163
UNIVERSITY OF
NEBRASKA-
LINCOLN

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Congressman Doug Bereuter talks with Nebraska nut growers Terrence Kubicek (left) and Ted Rethmeier at the 81st annual meeting of the Northern Nut Growers Association on Tuesday. Bereuter ate lunch with the growers in the pecan orchards on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln East Campus at 48th and Holdrege streets.

Michelle Paulman/Daily Nebraskan

UNL may provide research location

Center to test trees

By Jennifer Dods
Staff Reporter

A national center for semiarid tree research may be housed on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln East Campus in less than two years, said Rep. Doug Bereuter on Tuesday.

Speaking in Lincoln at a conference for the Northern Nutgrowers Association, Bereuter said the center would research ways Nebraska and other semiarid states could grow trees commercially.

The Semiarid Agroforestry Research, Development and Demonstration Center was a proposal added to the U.S. House of Representatives' Farm Bill by a Bereuter amendment. The bill is still under debate in the House.

Bereuter said the U.S. Senate already has passed the proposal for the research center. The U.S. Forest Service and the Nebraska State Foresters helped write the proposal.

The research center would be established at the Forestry Sciences Laboratory, operated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service on UNL's East Campus.

The research center, along with federal, state and local government

offices and the National Arbor Day Foundation, also would test varieties of trees compatible with semiarid climates and develop improved shelterbelt and windbreak technologies.

Bereuter said the earliest the funds for the project could be available, depending on Congressional appropriations, would be October 1991.

The congressman said the center would be good for Nebraska, as it would promote using nuts such as pecans, walnuts and chestnuts for a cash crop.

"Someday the (nut) tree may become valuable here," he said. "And who better lead this than Nebraskans, since Arbor Day started here?"

Ted Rethmeier, member of the board of the Nebraska Nut Growers Association, agreed.

"We can't live on corn and beef forever. Trees are necessary," he said.

Bereuter said that about the only commercial trees grown in the state are Christmas trees, although one man from Crete is now starting a commercial walnut tree farm.

The southeast corner of Nebraska, which receives the most rainfall, would be the best place to grow the trees, Bereuter said. But he said Nebraska's varying climate would be the "ultimate test."

For the last 12 years, UNL faculty

members have researched nut harvests from pecan trees on East Campus.

Rethmeier said Nebraska is the northern limit for pecan tree growth, but the trees grown in UNL's Northern Pecan Research Orchards have harvested edible and good nuts.

According to one UNL official, Nebraskan pecans are sometimes tastier than those grown in southern states.

Lloyd Young, director of the Southeast Research and Extension Center said that the pecan trees benefit from the acidic soil in Nebraska.

"It has been amazing that these trees have really done very well, much to our surprise," Young said.

When the pecan orchards were planted, Young said, the biggest concern was if the trees could survive Nebraska winters. But he said the trees have shown endurance in their 12 winters.

Along with the pecan orchards, UNL has several other plots of specialty tree tests, including varieties such as the Persian Walnut, the Shagbark Hickory and the Siberian Filbert on East Campus.

Young said that while Nebraska farmers might not be able to afford switching over to tree nuts as their main crops, nuts could someday be a profitable second crop.

Officials: UNL salaries must remain competitive

By Cindy Wostrel
Staff Reporter

To avoid future shortages, salaries for UNL faculty members must remain competitive, said two associate deans and the director of institutional research at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

By maintaining competitive salaries, UNL's colleges can combat the rising number of faculty members retiring, they said.

Projections of rising numbers of faculty members retiring at UNL by the end of the century are consistent with national trends, said John Benson, director of institutional research planning and fiscal analysis.

Benson said that according to a study from last year, 19 percent of all UNL tenured and to be tenured faculty will be 65 years old by 1995, 31 percent will turn 65 by 2000 and 47 percent will be 65 by 2005.

These numbers, he said, are additive, so that the 47 percent who will turn 65 by 2005 includes the 31 percent that will turn 65 by 1995.

This trend could have a significant impact on UNL, he said, and will make it important for UNL to maintain competitive salaries.

It is projected that the number of students receiving doctorates will not be enough to take the places of all retirees, Benson said.

And an increase in the student population will contribute to problems for universities across the nation, he said.

Associate Dean Morris Schneider of the College of Engineering and Technology said about 30 percent of the college's faculty will reach retirement age by 2000.

But the college just hired 11 faculty members last year and 10 this year, Schneider said.

And if the college is willing to pay a good starting salary, he said he thinks it will be able to compete in the national market.

Once the college attracts teachers, faculty members will be convinced to stay because Lincoln is a good place to live, work and raise children, he said.

Schneider said he's not sure the number of faculty members retiring would encourage students who might otherwise not complete a doctorate to continue their schooling.

"That all depends on the marketplace," he said.

Students who can earn a starting salary of \$40,000 after completing a bachelor's degree would have to decide whether a little more money would be worth continuing their education for a few more years, he said.

Al Kilgore, associate dean of the Teachers College, said that although he is unable to predict how many faculty members will retire, the college "is in a time of transition."

"We've had 18 retire with the university policy on tenure buyout," he said, and the college has hired 12 new faculty members this year, leav-

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Festival turnout pleases 'Summertime' coordinators

By Cindy Wostrel
Staff Reporter

Coordinators of Summertime Nebraska, and managers and owners of Haymarket businesses called the festival "outstanding."

Julie Lattimer, public information specialist for the Citizen's Information Center, said the event turned out great.

"We were delighted," she said. "Of course, the weather couldn't have been better."

"Your first year, you don't really know."

Carol Eddins, festival coordinator, said, "I think it went beautifully."

On Friday, Eddins said, she worried that the weather might be a problem, because as she was marking off room for booths, the tape she was using wouldn't stick to the wet ground.

But the better weather later on encouraged people to stay at the fes-

tival longer, she said.

"The weather was incredibly good," she said.

Eddins said she was pleased with the turnout of about 60,000 to 65,000 people for the three-day event.

Artists and craftspeople told her they had a constant stream of people looking at their booths, she said.

The Children's Fair was "jammed inside and out," Eddins said. And the festival featured something for every age, she said.

"It had to appeal to every taste."

Eddins said those who planned this year's festival will meet and discuss how the festival went, including refinements such as making it easier for people to find specific areas.

Mayor Bill Harris will decide whether Summertime Nebraska will continue next year, she said.

Lattimer said things look good for a festival next year because of this

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