

A Salute To Our Corn Producers

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CommonGround Connecting Farm Women with Urban Counterparts

In most households, women are the decision makers when it comes to food purchases. And more and more women are becoming interested—and in some cases, concerned—about what they are hearing about where their family's food comes from and how it's produced.

Who better to talk with about these concerns than a fellow mom who helps produce that food?

That's the focus of CommonGround, a national initiative in which volunteer farm women interact with urban women in grocery stores, food shows and other events across America. While many CommonGround conversations take place in large urban areas, these conversations are also taking place in Nebraska communities such as Grand Island, Norfolk and Hastings.

The Nebraska Corn Board supports CommonGround through its partnership with the National Corn Growers Association and through support of Nebraska-based activities of the initiative.

"Our goal is to have conversations between women who grow food and women who buy food," said Dawn Caldwell, an Edgar farmer and CommonGround volunteer. "We want them to realize that, in most cases, the media coverage is much more colorful and exaggerated than real life."

According to Caldwell, older women tend to know



Courtesy Photo

Dawn Caldwell of Edgar is a CommonGround spokesperson, helping share the story of agriculture with urban women.

where their food comes from, but have questions regarding the value of organic versus conventional—or the differences between corn-fed and grass-fed beef. Younger consumers are concerned about the use of antibiotics, hormone implants and the general safety of the food they eat.

"We actually tend to do more listening than talking," she added. "Then we explain how and why we do what we do—and that we're very comfortable with the choices we're making as producers."

One of the most memorable experiences was a trip to New York City to meet with leading food editors from national media. "We were the only booth not serving food, but

we were also the only booth with people who actually grow food," Caldwell said. "We had a long line of editors waiting to talk with us—many of whom had never been outside the city."

Caldwell said it's important that urban women understand that their concerns are shared by the farm women who help grow their food. "We're normal people just like them. We shop in the same grocery stores and eat in the same restaurants," she said. "In the end, it's all good—organic, processed foods and conventional agriculture. It really comes down to having the information you need to make the right decisions for you and your family."

New State Fair Building



Courtesy Photo

The new Nebraska Building on the grounds of the Nebraska State Fair will include a 25,000 sq. ft. interactive experience focused on Nebraska's agricultural prowess.

Nebraska agriculture will soon have its own dedicated showcase at the Nebraska State Fair.

The new Nebraska Building, announced by the Nebraska State Fair Board and slated to open for the 2014 Nebraska State Fair in Grand Island, will include a 25,000 square foot exhibit area devoted exclusively to Nebraska agriculture.

This exhibit will be open throughout the year, not just during the Nebraska State Fair. The Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln will provide a full-time extension educator who will staff the site during the year to coordinate presentations to school groups, foreign trade

teams and other visitors.

Concept and design for the Nebraska agriculture exhibit are underway, and those involved promise it will be a major showcase for Nebraska's largest industry. "This will not be a simple agriculture exhibit. It will be an agricultural experience," said Dr. Charles Hibberd, dean of extension at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and one of the lead coordinators of the project. The Nebraska Department of Agriculture is also involved in a leadership role.

The Nebraska Corn Board was the first group to step forward with a contribution to the project, pledging a total of \$200,000.

Key themes in the exhibit

are expected to include the economic impact of agriculture, science and technology, the importance of animal agriculture, water quality and quantity, stewardship, the global leadership of Nebraska agriculture—with all areas highlighting the Nebraska farmers and ranchers who make it all happen.

"We want to help Nebraskans better understand the value that Nebraska agriculture brings to our state—and that Nebraska is well positioned to be a global leader in agriculture research, stewardship and food production," Hibberd added. "We expect that people who visit will walk away not only better informed, but darn proud of the farmers and ranchers in their state."

Nebraska Corn by the Numbers

Nebraska's ranking in cattle on feed

2

Nebraska's ranking in annual corn production

3

Millions of tons of livestock feed produced by Nebraska's ethanol plants annually

6

Nebraska's ranking in ethanol production capacity

2

Farmers in Leadership Roles



Courtesy Photo

Mark Jagels of Davenport is chair-elect of the U.S. Meat Export Federation.

Nebraska's leadership in corn, beef and ethanol production doesn't stop at the state border. Nebraska corn farmers have a long history of serving as national leaders in key trade and membership associations. Currently, two Nebraska Corn Board directors are in the queue to assume the chairmanship of two major organizations.

Mark Jagels of Davenport is the chair-elect of the U.S. Meat Export Federation, a Denver-based association focused on building international markets for U.S. beef, pork and lamb.

Alan Tiemann of Seward has been elected secretary-treasurer of the U.S. Grains Council, a Washington, DC-based group that builds global demand for U.S. corn, sorghum, barley and distillers grains.

Additionally, Jon Holzfaster of Paxton serves on the National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) board of directors. NCGA is a membership association that represents corn industry interests in Washington, D.C., and works to create market opportunities for America's corn farmers.

Other Nebraska Corn Board members serve on a wide variety of national committees, action teams, and other working groups—providing talent, time and commitment to advancing the cause of agriculture in Nebraska and the nation.

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TOP U.S. CUSTOMERS FOR CORN

	Country	Metric Tons	% of U.S. Exports
1.	Japan	11,748.6	31.0%
2.	Mexico	9,537.5	25.2%
3.	China	5,174.1	13.6%
4.	Korea	3,635.3	9.6%
5.	Venezuela	1,280.1	3.4%
6.	Taiwan	1,265.4	3.3%
7.	Costa Rica	575.7	1.5%
8.	Guatemala	549.1	1.4%
9.	Egypt	544.9	1.4%
10.	Canada	487.2	1.3%
11.	Others	3,117.1	8.2%

TOTAL 37,915.0

2011/12 Marketing Year Ending August 31, 2012

Corn Exports Critical to Nebraska

In the not-so-distant past, the prospects for Nebraska's corn farmers hung on the political whims of nations using trade as a power play. Agrain embargo implemented by Russia, for example, could throw grain markets into a tailspin. While trade is still used as a bargaining chip among nations, its impact on grain markets has been lessened somewhat through U.S. corn farmers' focus on adding value domestically through livestock production, biofuels and industrial uses for corn—creating greater demand across a variety of sectors.

Still, exports remain an important component of the U.S. corn market portfolio. "The equivalent of one in six rows of corn in Nebraska is exported," said Alan Tiemann of Seward, a member of the Nebraska Corn Board and secretary-treasurer of the U.S. Grains Council (USGC). "There is no question that corn prices are enhanced by the demand in the international marketplace."

Through their checkoff, Nebraska corn farmers support the efforts of the U.S. Grains Council in building demand for corn around the world.

Global competition in corn exports has grown significantly over the past four years, driving the U.S. share of the market down to about 50 percent. Since 1990, the amount of corn grown outside the U.S. has increased from 11 billion bushels to nearly 22 billion bushels in 2012.

"Brazil and Argentina are formidable competitors, but other areas such as the Black Sea region, Paraguay, South Africa, Thailand and China are emerging as well," Tiemann



Courtesy Photo

One in six rows of corn grown in Nebraska is exported.

added. "We're using more and more corn domestically, which is creating opportunity for other nations to fill the void. That's why it's even more important that we redouble our efforts to maintain and build international markets for our product."

As emerging nations become more prosperous, their appetite for protein—poultry, pork and beef—grows as well. USGC is working around the world to help farmers grow their flocks and herds, which in turn increases demand for feed grains such as corn. From water buffalo in Morocco to turkeys in Canada to pigs in South Korea, USGC has been extremely successful in demonstrating the outstanding feed value of American feedgrains.

As the ethanol industry has grown in Nebraska and the U.S., so has the supply of distillers grains, a high protein value animal feed that is a co-product of ethanol production. As a result, USGC has also begun build-

ing international markets for dried distillers grains (DDG). A shining example is China, which four years ago imported no DDG—and today is the number one customer in the world for DDG from the U.S. Mexico ranks second.

"Instead of simply shipping raw corn overseas, DDG is a product that adds value here at home," Tiemann said. "DDG exports help build markets for Nebraska ethanol producers as well, and that helps create profit opportunities to keep these plants running and energizing our rural economy."

Tiemann said it's critical that Nebraska corn farmers continue to invest in international market development. "We're going to have more than nine billion people to feed by 2050, and Nebraska can and should play a big part in meeting that demand," he said. "By encouraging fair trade and staying in front of international customers, we can make sure we feed the world—and create economic vitality right here in Nebraska."

Record Corn Harvest Projected for Nebraska

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has forecast Nebraska corn production to be a record 1.61 billion bushels in 2013, based on the second largest yield of 169 bushels per acre.

"Should those production estimates hold through the balance of harvest, Nebraska farmers will produce a bin busting crop following the impact of a couple years of significant drought," said Kelly Brunkhorst, director of research for the Nebraska Corn Board.

Brunkhorst said that USDA increased its yield estimate for Nebraska up from 164 bushels per acre in September. Reports from the field have surprised producers across the state, considering the couple of weeks of hot weather following pollination. The hot weather had many farmers concerned about yields being impacted. Yet, with nearly 80% of the crop harvested, yields have been very good resulting in the USDA estimates for record production across the state.

Nationally, USDA estimated yields at 160.4 bushels per acre, up from last year's yield of 123.4. If realized, that would put U.S. crop production at a record 13.99 billion bushels.

"This record corn production and larger supply of corn, affirms that Nebraska and U.S. corn farmers can produce a corn crop that will fill the needs of our domestic demands of ethanol and livestock, while supplying an increasing world demand," Brunkhorst added.

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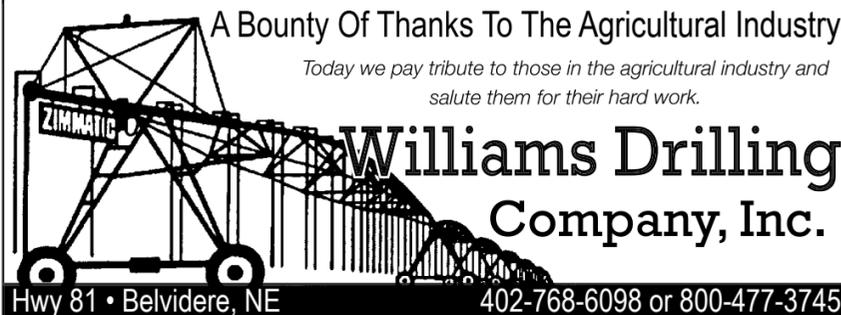


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Corn Farmers Invest Nearly \$3 Billion in Planting Their Crop

As Tim Scheer navigates his combine through cornfields near St. Paul every fall, the millions of corn kernels piling into waiting semis are really little economic powerhouses upon which Nebraska thrives. "Those kernels are pretty small on their own, but together they snowball into quite an economic driver," Scheer said. Once corn leaves the field, everywhere it's used adds value. For example, an ethanol plant takes that corn and makes ethanol and distillers grains, a livestock feed. Fuel blenders add that ethanol to gasoline, while livestock producers feed distillers grains and turn it into beef, pork, poultry and dairy products.

"Corn is not only a predominant crop but a predominant enterprise. It ripples through the economy a long way. The carry through of corn to processing and feed is just phenomenal," said Dr. Bruce



Nebraska corn farmers invest nearly \$3 billion each spring just to put their crop in the ground. Courtesy Photo

Johnson, an economist with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

In an analysis, Johnson and

his colleagues estimated that corn production and its ripple just through the ethanol industry has a value-added impact of \$6.6 billion on Nebraska's gross state product (GSP is comparable to the gross domestic product on a national level). That figure is just the portion attributable to corn and ethanol - livestock and poultry each have their own sizable impact, as well, and rely heavily on corn and distillers grains as an input.

That figure also doesn't include all the products changing hands just to grow a crop. For example, the \$2.8 billion, roughly \$270 per acre, Nebraska farmers invest to get the crop planted includes only seed, fertilizer and other inputs necessary to get the crop off to a good start. Those dollars go to cooperatives, seed dealers and others who sell those inputs and employ thousands of Nebraskans, converting that \$2.8 billion investment into a \$7.0 billion ripple through the state's economy.

Shannon Landauer, executive director of the Boone County Development Agency, has seen that impact first hand. "Between late 2006 and the third quarter of 2011

we saw 170 new jobs and more than \$400 million invested in Boone County," she said. "Having such a strong ag economy allowed us to weather the economic downturn pretty well. In fact, our unemployment rate is below 3 percent locally. Corn, livestock and ethanol all come together well for us."

The analysis by Johnson and his colleagues pegged direct and indirect jobs for corn production at 63,900 across the state, plus an additional 10,900 jobs for ethanol. The labor and proprietor income generated from these jobs comes to nearly \$5.3 billion - and that's not even counting the role of corn working through the livestock sector.

"Those are big numbers, important numbers for Nebraska," said Scheer. "The investment corn farmers make every spring is the foundation for the state's economy, thousands of jobs and a lot more. It's pretty incredible when you think about it."

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Japan Market Beefs Up Nebraska Economy

DECEMBER 2003: A case of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE)—commonly referred to as “mad cow disease”—is discovered in the United States. Virtually overnight, America’s number one customer—Japan—essentially closes its doors to U.S. beef. The impact is felt immediately in Nebraska, where beef production and corn farming are key economic drivers for the state.

Ten years later, Japan finally reopened its doors for U.S. beef aged 30 months or younger. Up until January 2013, only 20 month or younger beef was allowed, which severely restricted the amount of U.S. beef available to Japan.

“It has been almost a decade since Japanese consumers have had ready access to corn-fed American beef—and we need to reintroduce them to the quality, flavor and availability of our product, and also thank them for their business,” said Mark Jagels of Davenport, a member of the Nebraska Corn Board and the newly elected chairman of USMEF.

The Nebraska Corn Board helped fund a corn and beef mission to Japan in July 2013, which included Jagels, Nebraska Corn Board chairman Tim Scheer of St. Paul, and representatives of the Nebraska Corn Growers Association and the Nebraska Cattlemen.

For all practical purposes, American beef has been out of the Japanese market in the ten years since the BSE scare. “Australia and New Zealand have been very aggressive in



Some 650 Japanese meat buyers sample U.S. beef during a meat seminar and tasting session in Tokyo hosted by the U.S. Meat Export Federation.

promoting their product into Japan, but their grass-fed beef just doesn’t compare to corn-fed American beef,” Jagels said. “We need to reintroduce Japanese consumers to the robust flavor of American corn-fed beef—and teach them ways to prepare and enjoy convenient, delicious dishes featuring U.S. beef.”

Every pound of beef exported from Nebraska represents 2.6 pounds of corn used to feed that animal. “A strong export market adds value to every pound of beef and pork we produce in Nebraska—and every bushel of corn and soybeans we grow,” Jagels added. “Many of these

international markets have a taste for cuts that simply aren’t consumed here in the U.S. For example, a pound of beef tongue that is sold for \$1.50 here goes for \$7.00 in Japan. That adds value to every Nebraska beef carcass—and those dollars resonate border to border throughout our state economy.”

“Business in Japan is very much about face-to-face meetings, building trust and establishing relationships,” Jagels said. “It is critically important that our customers have the opportunity to see who is raising the beef they consume. It’s equally important that Nebraska corn

and beef producers witness the impact that their investment in USMEF is having on rebuilding the market for U.S. beef in Japan.”

The group returned to Nebraska optimistic about the prospects for regaining market share for U.S. beef in Japan. “It’s clear that Japanese importers are very excited and relieved to have American beef back in the marketplace,” Jagels said. “Since Nebraska is a national leader in beef production, regaining the Japanese market will have a tremendous positive effect on our state’s livestock industry and our state’s entire economy.”

Panel: U.S. Ag Research Spending Lags, But It Must Remain Global Leader

LINCOLN, Neb. — Public investment in agricultural research in the United States is lagging behind other nations, but land-grant university scientists still have the intellectual heft to make the country a leader in the challenge of feeding a growing global population, a former secretary of agriculture said Tuesday.

Dan Glickman, who served in President Clinton’s cabinet, was part of a Heuermann Lectures panel discussing the topic “Regaining the U.S. Lead in Agricultural and Natural Resources Research and Education.”

In 1980, the U.S. was the world’s leader in public funding of agriculture, but beginning in about 2000, China began dramatically increasing its investment and has surpassed the U.S., said another panelist, Catherine Woteki, U.S. Department of Agriculture undersecretary for research, education and economics. Brazil and India also have increased such spending at a time when U.S. spending turned stagnant and even decreased.

“This is not an arms race,” Glickman said. “We’re glad other countries are spending” on agricultural research and education. But the U.S. must stake a place in the effort to feed a population expected to increase from 7 billion to 9 billion by mid-century.

“We have the best scientists. We don’t have to be doing all this work, but we have to be a leader,” he added.

Woteki shared a bit of good news: The farm bill still bogged down in Congress appears likely to reverse the last few years’ decline in ag research spending.

Glickman noted that the lengthy farm-bill debate, though, has done nothing to illuminate the true challenges ahead. Dominated by discussion of farm-program payments and the food-stamp program, the media coverage leaves people “questioning whether agriculture has its act together.”

“We hear very little about the future of agriculture, about the ability to feed the world in a sustainable way, very little about these huge challenges,” Glickman said of the political debate.

“You’ll probably never get great leadership out of the Congress on the issue of agricultural research,” said Glickman, a congressman from Kansas for 18 years. “It

comes from universities, the private sector.”

Within those universities and even among some policy makers, though, this may be a pivotal “moment in history with respect to U.S. leadership and policy” on agriculture, said another panelist, Phil Pardey, professor in the University of Minnesota’s Department of Applied Economics.

Although politicians tend to look only three to five years ahead, many in the ag sector understand the importance of “building new systems in this moment that will outlive them,” Pardey said.

A key attempt to build those new systems recently outlined some recommendations. Among the proposals from the President’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology is a plan for six large, multidisciplinary “innovation institutes” that would bring together public-private partnerships to focus on emerging challenges to agriculture.

Woteki was in Omaha earlier Tuesday for one in a series of listening sessions to get ideas for the institutes, which the presidential panel recommends funding with \$25 million in federal dollars per institute per year.

“We’re early in our thinking,” Woteki said, but the concept has potential to reframe investments and priorities to put the U.S. back in a leadership role.

“We need a grand strategy,” Glickman said. “The United States must be the leader. We are uniquely positioned to lead a global call for action, but we’ve got to put our money where our mouth is.”

Heuermann Lectures in IANR are made possible through a gift from B. Keith and Norma Heuermann of Phillips, long-time university supporters with a strong commitment to Nebraska’s production agriculture, natural resources, rural areas and people.

The lectures focus on providing and sustaining enough food, natural resources and renewable energy for the world’s people, and on securing the sustainability of rural communities where the vital work of producing food and renewable energy occurs. Lectures stream live at <http://heuermannlectures.unl.edu> and are archived at that site soon after the lecture. They’re also seen on NET2 World at a date following the lecture.

Land Sales Remain Strong

Land sales finished strong in 2013, spurred by good farmer demand for additional land, according to Farmers National Company, the nation’s leading farm and ranch real estate company in the country. Farmers National Company is reporting record real estate sales of \$750 million for 2013, compared to \$640 million in 2012.

Activity during the first half of 2013 slowed slightly because of a surge in sales at the end of 2012 prompted by tax law changes. However, sales levels turned upward to round out the year and finished strong, according to Randy Dickhut, AFM, vice president of real estate operations of Farmers National Company. He notes that trends indicate an active pace will continue through the first half of 2014 for most regions.

Within Farmers National Company’s 24-state service

area, there has been continued widespread auction activity at year-end. Farmers National Company real estate agents worked 45 auctions during November alone. Out of 829 properties sold by Farmers National Company in 2013, over 40 percent sold at auction.

While land prices have stabilized compared to the double-digit price increases seen in recent years, levels are at historical highs. Prices per acre for high quality land range nationwide from \$3,500 to as high as \$12,000 to \$13,000 per acre in areas of Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, and Nebraska. Values in the Upper Midwest are also very strong with sales reaching \$10,000 per acre.

“Farms remained profitable in 2013 despite lower commodity prices, in part due to reductions in fertilizer expenses of nearly 30 percent,” said Dickhut. “This is prompting farm owners to continue buy-

ing premium land to expand their operations. Interest in average to medium quality land has waned, slowing activity for such property.”

Prices for pasture land have increased in places like Nebraska as Texas livestock producers transplanted herds due to recent drought. As regions in Texas continue to recover from the drought, land values there are forecast to rise five percent to seven percent, according to Dickhut.

A price drop of 40 percent for sugar beets has impacted land values in the Northern Region (North Dakota/South Dakota/western Minnesota). Income reduction of nearly \$350 per acre in some cases is taking some land buyers out of the market. Despite this pressure, values are fairly stable in this area, Dickhut said.

Farmers continue to be the primary land buyers. Dickhut reports that investor interest in

land has been more guarded as many are not willing to pay high prices without a guaranteed strong return. Recent success in the stock market is generating interest in alternative investments, pushing outside investors to choices besides land.

“The market for farmland overall remains strong, particularly for quality land even though buyers are getting more cautious,” said Dickhut. “The impact of changes in commodity prices, expenses, and interest rates will all play into year-end results.”

News and advertising deadline is Monday noon for The Hebron Journal-Register



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Sports

GAME TIMES
Thursday, January 30:
 BDS BB CRC Tournament
 Deshler BB vs. Kenesaw,
 6:30 p.m.
Friday, January 31:
 BDS BB CRC Tournament
 TC BB at Centennial, 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, February 1:
 TC W at Red Coud, 9:30 a.m.
Monday, February 3:
 TC BB SNC Tournament
Tuesday, February 4:
 BDS BB vs. Meridian,
 6:15 p.m.
 TC BB SNC Tournament

Thayer Central wrestling hosts ten teams at invitational



JR Photo/Regina Bird

Adam Hellbusch wrestles for the Titans at the Thayer Central invite last Friday. He placed fourth in the 160 pound weight class.

At the Thayer Central Wrestling Invite last Friday, ten other teams came to compete. The Titans ended up with a sixth place team finish.

In the 106 weight class, Marshal Holtzclaw (14-11) placed third. Holtzclaw started out with a win by fall over Jonathan Acton (Southern). He continued in the next round with another win by fall over Luke Creek (Southern). In the third round, Cole Jividen (Fillmore Central) won by fall over Holtzclaw. Next, Austin Olson (Minden) won by fall over Holtzclaw. In his final match, Holtzclaw won by fall over Jacob Niemand (Fairbury).

Logan Hellbusch (8-14) placed fourth in the 113 weight class. In the first round,

Dawson Messenger (South Central) won by fall over Hellbusch. In the next round, Jonathan Fletcher (Fairbury) won by fall over Hellbusch. In the third round, Keaton Meyer (Superior) won by decision (7-4) over Hellbusch.

In the 126 weight class, Jady Dightman (10-10) finished with first place. In the quarterfinal, Dightman won by fall over Hunter Frecks (Minden). He continued with another win by fall over Tyler Deboer (Fairbury). In the first place match, Dightman won by major decision (10-0) over Christian Vera (McCool Junction).

Justin Criner (17-6) placed second in the 132 weight class. Criner started out with a win by fall over Everett Bloom (Free-

man). Next, Criner won by fall over Frank Garcia (Superior). In the third round, Criner had another win by fall over Haden Doht (McCool Junction). Criner also won by fall over Lathen Block (Fairbury). In his fifth match, Davis Jacobson (Fillmore Central) won by fall over Criner.

In the 145 weight class, Tyler Hergott (21-9) placed second. Hergott began the day with a win by fall over Bailey Moore (Minden). In the quarterfinal, Hergott won by fall over Lane Morris (Superior). Next, Hergott won by tech fall over Justyn Franklin (Fairbury). In the first place match, Wyatt Schiermeyer (Fillmore Central) won by decision (5-0) over Hergott.

Preston Reece (4-7) com-

peted for Thayer Central in the 152 weight class. In the quarterfinal match up, Damion Holt (Superior) won by fall over Reece. In the next round, Reece won by fall over Colton Barton (Minden). Next, Dallas Bruning (South Central) won by decision (4-2) over Reece.

In the 160 weight class, Adam Hellbusch (7-6) came in fourth place. In the first round, Brandon Ward (South Central) won by decision (9-8) over Hellbusch. In the next round, Quin Rutt (Minden) won by fall over Hellbusch. Then, Hellbusch went on to win by fall over teammate Dietric Kenning. In the fourth round, Hellbusch won by fall over Lyndon Block (Fairbury). In their final match of the day, Dan Allgood (Superior) won by fall over Hellbusch.

Dietric Kenning (6-16) also competed in the 160 weight class. He placed fifth. To begin the meet, Quin Rutt (Minden) won by fall over Kenning. Next, Dan Allgood (Superior) won by fall over Reece. In the third round, teammate Adam Hellbusch won by fall over Kenning. Next, Brandon Ward (South Central) won by fall over Kenning. In the fifth round, Kenning won by fall over Lyndon Block (Fairbury).

Hank Harris (4-20) competed for Thayer Central in the 170 weight class. In the quarterfinal match, Jaret Clift (McCool Junction) won by fall over Harris. In the next round, Michael Becker (Minden) won by fall over Harris.

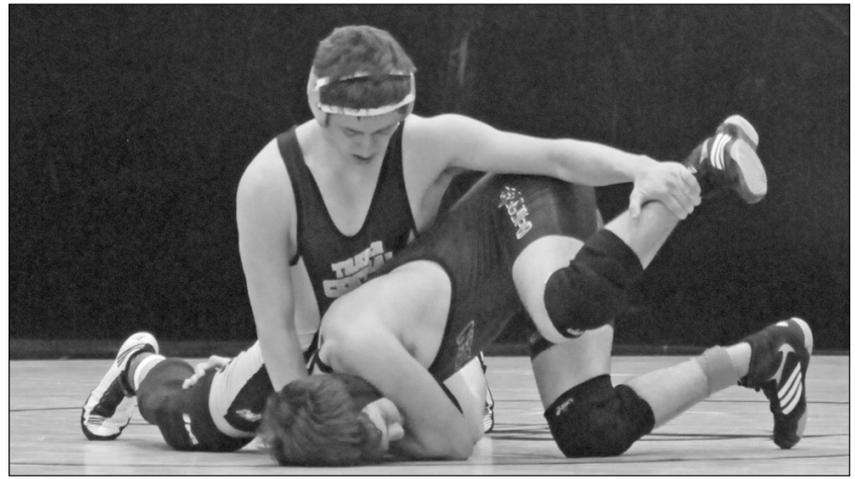
Ryan Koch (4-18) competed in the 195 weight class. In the first round, Gabe VanEngen (Freeman) won by fall over Koch. In the next round, Bryson Holsten (Minden)

won by fall over Koch.

In the 220 weight class, Judd Holtzclaw (1-8) competed for the Titans. In the quarterfinal, Bryce Schweer (Meridian) won by fall over Holtzclaw. In the next round, Peter Zivojnovic (South Central) won by fall over Holtzclaw.

In the 285 weight class, Colton Fangmeier (6-18) competed for Thayer Central. In the quarterfinal match, Caleb Jarchow (Meridian) won by fall over Fangmeier. In the next round, Fangmeier went on to win by fall over Andrew Gasseling (Minden). Next, Paul Mach (Fairbury) won by fall over Fangmeier.

In the 285 weight class, Robert Lindsey (0-5) wrestled for the Titans. In the quarterfinal round, Jarrod Hinrichs (Fillmore Central) won by fall over Lindsey. Next, Jakob Davenport (Fillmore Central) won by fall over Lindsey.



JR Photo/Regina Bird

Tyler Hergott works to pin a Minden wrestler in the 145 weight class at the home invitational last week.

Eagles teams face McCool Junction, Exeter-Milligan

On Tuesday, the McCool Junction Mustangs brought their basketball team to Bruning to face the BDS Eagles in a Crossroads Conference game. The Eagles jumped out to an early seven nothing lead and shot well to end the quarter with a 17-7 advantage.

The hot shooting continued in the second quarter as BDS pushed the lead to 18 with a 36-18 half time score. Cody Garland shot well scoring all 12 of his points before the break and knocking down three three point shots.

Chris Rohr picked up where Cody left off in the third quarter scoring eight of his 16 points while Grant Norder finished off the game with an 11 point fourth quarter for his team high 17 points.

"It seemed like as McCool adjusted to whoever was hot for us, somebody else just picked up the slack," said Kluck.

In addition to those three Riley Tegtmeier scored 11 and had a team leading four

assists, while Kamron Ficken and Ben Elznic contributed two each. Wyatt Schoenholz had six rebounds to pace his team in that category and added two steals as well. The final score was 60-47 as BDS came out on top.

On Friday, the Eagles took their game on the road as they traveled to play the Exeter-Milligan Timberwolves in Exeter in another CRC regular season game.

Both teams started slowly as BDS built a one point 7-6 lead at the end of one quarter of play. Both teams heated up in the second quarter scoring 15 each as the Eagles Riley Tegtmeier hit a three pointer at the buzzer to maintain the Eagles one point advantage.

The third quarter started fast with Exeter-Milligan hitting a three and the Eagles answering quickly on a Chris Rohr lay up, but from there it was all Timberwolves in the third period as they out scored BDS 21-10 to take a 10 point lead into the fourth.

"They really showed us how

a mature team plays when they want to get things done," said head coach Fred Kluck. "They didn't do anything special. They just played calmly, under control and got great shots for about a five minute span."

The Timberwolves were eight for nine on shots and grabbed an offensive rebound on the shot they missed to move from trailing by one to a 13 point lead. Once again Riley Tegtmeier hit a buzzer beater to allow his team to cut the lead back down from 13 to 10 entering the fourth period.

The Eagles made some runs at Exeter-Milligan cutting the lead down to five twice in the final period, but the Timberwolves proved to be too strong ending the game with a 10 point lead 55-45.

"I hope we have a little better idea now of what it takes to be successful against teams that are as strong as Exeter-Milligan is, and how they step up and handle it when things are a little tight in a ball



JR Photo/Regina Bird

Grant Norder pulls up for two against a McCool Junction defender in the Eagles' game on Jan. 21.

game," said Kluck. "As long as we gain some knowledge about how to play in games like this then it's beneficial for us in the long run."

Leading the way for BDS in scoring was Riley Tegtmeier who had 15 points including going 6-6 from the free throw line and pacing the team with six rebounds as well. Riley did this from the point guard spot and finished the game with three assists and no turnovers. Kamron Ficken came off the bench to add eight points and some energy to the team's performance. Chris Rohr also finished with eight while Grant Norder added seven. Sam Christensen added four and Cody Garland had three.

BDS Girls

To start out the week the Lady Eagles faced McCool

Junction on Jan. 21.

The team came out with a strong start and continued in that fashion to come out with a big time win. The final score of the game was BDS 63, McCool Junction 10.

Last Friday, the team went on to face Exeter Milligan.

Both teams kept it close to start out with a tied game at the end of the first quarter. In the next quarter, the Lady Eagles were able to edge ahead with a four point lead to go into the break.

In the final half of the game, the Exeter-Milligan stuck around, but BDS were able to slowly extend their lead to win the game by eight points.

BDS coach Shana Gerberding noted that Jaycie Hoins hit a three which was followed by back to back threes by Catherine Mick in the fourth quarter.

This helped the Lady Eagles get a more comfortable lead in the final quarter of the game. The final score was BDS 46, Exeter-Milligan 38.

"The Timberwolves defense provided problems on the offensive end for the Eagles forcing the Eagles into turnovers," Gerberding said. "Defensively I didn't think we were as sharp as we needed to be and that made EM hopeful for a win. The girls kept fighting and knocked down some timely shots."

Matyson Kleinschmidt and Catherine Mick led the Lady Eagles with 12 points each. Jennifer Mick also contributed 10 while Jaycie Hoins added six. Also scoring for BDS were: Kalli Schroeder with three, Christy Swartzendruber with two and McKenna Schardt with one.



Photo by Greg Scollin

Eagle Matyson Kleinschmidt (right) passes around an Exeter-Milligan defender in their match up on Jan. 24.

Sports

Thayer Central plays three road games

Thayer Central started out a busy week of basketball with a road game at Friend.

The boys team pulled ahead with a seven point lead to finish out the first quarter. They then continued to extend their lead to nine at the half. Friend rallied back to cut down the Titan's lead in the third quarter, but Thayer Central went on to score 18 to Friend's eight in the last quarter to win the game. The final score was Thayer Central 60, Friend 45.

Jay Cottam was the Titan's leading scorer against Friend with 24 on the night. Ben Baden also had nine and Landon Schmitt and Cameron Asche added eight points each. Also scoring for Thayer Central were: Jared Marsh with six, Trev Mumm with four and Ben Hintz with one.

Last Thursday, the Titans traveled to Doniphan-Trumbull. Doniphan-Trumbull

came out of the first quarter with an eight point lead and Thayer Central wasn't able to battle back. The final score of the game was Doniphan-Trumbull 57, Thayer Central 36.

Jay Cottam led the Titans once again with sixteen points on the night. Trev Mumm also had seven points. Cameron Asche and Landon Schmitt added six points each and Jared Marsh had one point.

To finish out the week, Thayer Central faced Sandy Creek last Saturday. The Titans pulled ahead in the first quarter to lead by four points and held the lead to go into the break. In the final half, Thayer Central was able to extend their lead to finish out with a 64-51 victory over Sandy Creek.

Leading the Titans in points was Jared Marsh. He had fifteen on the night. Landon Schmitt wasn't far behind with 13 points while Trev Mumm

and Heath Fink also contributing 11 points each. Jay Cottam added 10 points. Also scoring for the Titans were Tanner Mumm with three and Ben Hintz with one.

Thayer Central Girls

The Lady Titans had a busy week with three match ups.

"We played three very tough teams this past week," said Thayer Central coach Andy Long. "Plagued by turnovers, the girls dug a hole we couldn't climb out of in these games."

In their first of three away games, the Lady Titans faced Friend. Thayer Central fell behind 20 points in the first quarter then couldn't catch up.

The final score of the game was Friend 53, Thayer Central 15.

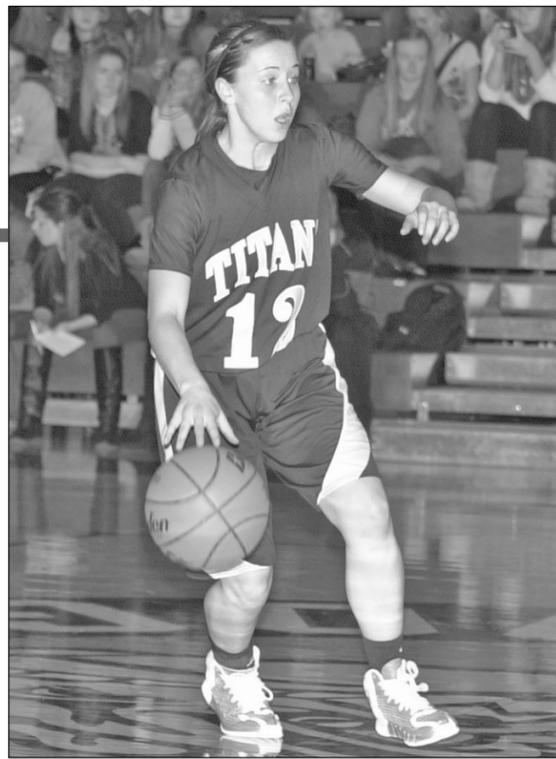
Megan Bulin led the Titans with eight points. Maddy Reece contributed three while Mariah Hintz and Tiffany

Walsh had two each.

Next, the Lady Titans went up against Doniphan-Trumbull. Doniphan-Trumbull pulled ahead in the first quarter scoring 19 to Thayer Central's four points. Although they couldn't regain a lead, the Lady Titans hung tough and scored 30 points and held Doniphan-Trumbull to 36 points the remaining three quarters. The final score was Doniphan-Trumbull 55, Thayer Central 34.

Megan Bulin led the Titans once again with 15 points on the night. Kelsey Long also contributed five while Tiffany Walsh and Kenidee Miller had four each. Rachel Heitmann, Cheyanna Tietjen and Rachel Johnson also added two points each.

In their final game of the week against Sandy Creek, the Lady Titans fell behind in the first half, but were able to keep Sandy Creek's scoring down



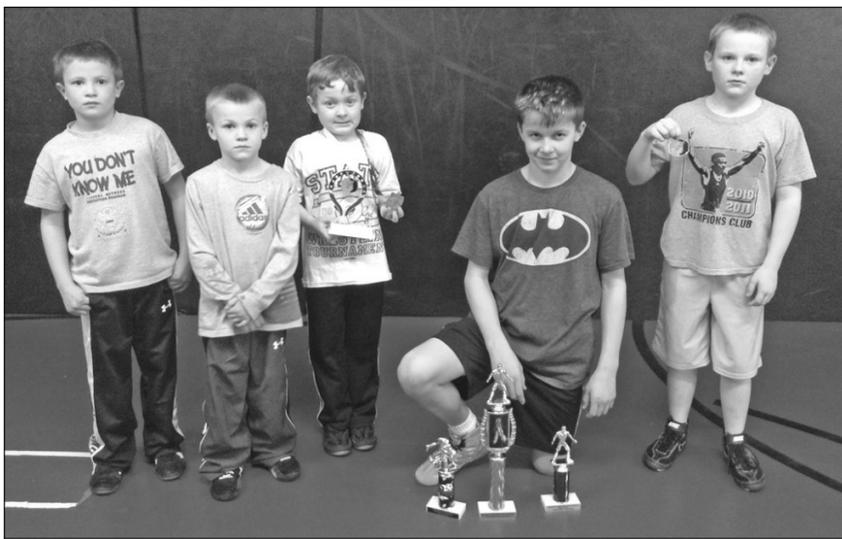
JR Photo/Lauren Edgecombe

Cheyanna Tietjen brings the ball down the court in Thayer Central's game against Friend on Jan. 21.

allowing only five points in the fourth quarter. The final score was Sandy Creek 66, Thayer Central 25.

Megan Bulin had 12 points on the night and Rachel Johnson had six. Other scorers for

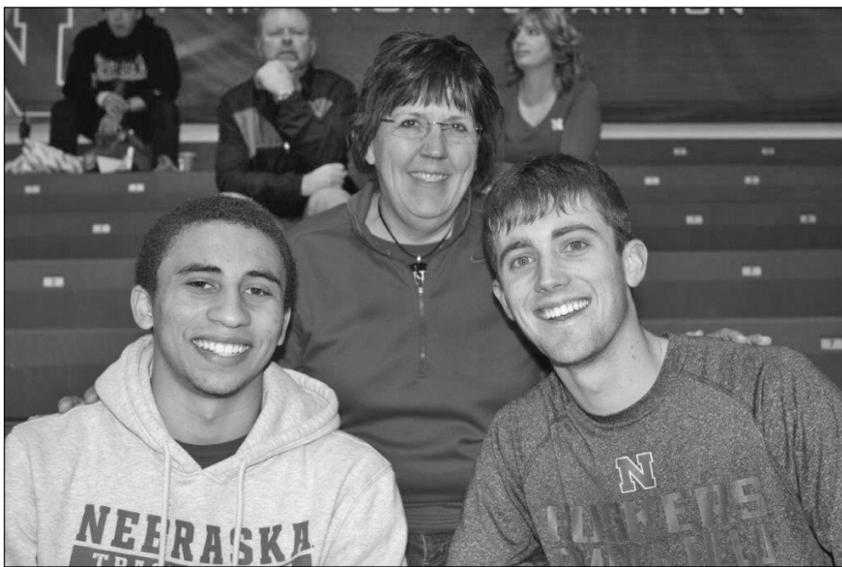
Thayer Central were: Kenidee Miller with two, Tiffany Walsh with two, Rachel Johnson with two and Cheyanna Tietjen with one.



Courtesy Photo

Thayer Central Club wrestling begins season...

Thayer Central Club wrestling got off to a strong start to begin the season. Pictured above are the wrestlers that placed this week (l-r): Ashton Sinn - 3rd Place Beatrice; Colter Sinn - 1st Place Beatrice; Avery Drahman - 2nd Place Beatrice and 4th Place Crete; Jackson Feulner - 1st Place Lincoln Warriors, 1st Place Beatrice, and Champion of Champions in Beatrice and Dominic Stewart - 2nd Place Beatrice.



Courtesy Photo

Thayer Central graduates compete at meet in Lincoln...

Seth Wiedel and Greg Dightman, graduates of Thayer Central, are members of the University of Nebraska Track and Field team. Pictured above are Greg, Seth and Deb Vorderstrasse, their high school jumps coach who was in attendance at the Mark Colligan Memorial Track Meet in Lincoln this past weekend. Seth finished first in the long jump with a leap of 24-5.75 and Greg finished fifth with a personal best jump of 22-11.75.



Courtesy Photo

BDS Junior High Boys win CRC Tournament...

The BDS Junior High boys beat Giltner in the CRC Championship at the York Auditorium on Saturday, Jan. 25. BDS had won their side of the conference and met up with Giltner for the championship. Pictured above is the team including (l-r): Back row: Coach Russ Reinsch, Taylor Anderson, Kellen Reinsch, Jacob Swartzendruber, Anthony Beavers, Holden Stengel, Thomas Mick, Caden Norder, Garrett Schardt, Preston Sybrant and Coach Fred Kluck. Front row: Logan Schroeder, Caleb Hendrickson, Isaac Baysinger, Isaac Kamler, Glenn Meyer, John Christensen, Josiah Kamler and Jackson Grote.

Deshler sweeps Harvard

The Deshler basketball teams faced Harvard last Tuesday.

The boys team came out strong in their first quarter scoring 21 points and holding Harvard to five points. The second quarter held much of the same with Deshler extending it's lead to 33.

In the second half, the Dragons came out strong again to finish with a 44 point victory. The final score was Deshler 61, Harvard 17.

"We played with great focus and energy early in this game," said Deshler coach Josh Nash. "Our leadership really showed and I am very proud of the way our guys finished the game with great poise and confidence."

Kyle Dlouhy led the scoring effort with 32 on the night. Caleb Vonderfecht also contributed 12 points while Logan Schultz and Jared Pohlmann had six each. Ashton Oakman added five points as well.

Jared Pohlmann led the team with seven rebounds and one steal. Kyle Dlouhy had five steals, three assists and two rebounds. Caleb Vonderfecht had two rebounds as did Noah Burger. Burger also had five assists on the night. Logan Schultz came up with four rebounds during the game as well while Ashton Oakman had one rebound and one assist.

Girls Team

In their first game of the week, the Lady Dragons faced Lawrence-Nelson. Deshler came out strong taking an early 24-5 lead to end the first quarter.

"We wanted to get off to a good start which is always a big key to our success," said Deshler coach Heath Birkel. "We got off to a good start but they kept battling. I give our girls a lot of credit as we made some changes defensively in the middle of the game and we were able to execute them which slowed them down offensively."

The scoring slowed down throughout the game, but Deshler still came out with a big win. The final score was Deshler 58, Lawrence-Nelson 24.

Jenscena Hansen led the Lady Dragons with 26 points while Lauren Schmidt contributed 12. Katie Roth also had seven points on the night. Other scorers for Deshler were: Leah Werner with four, Brigett Effenbeck with three, April Maschmann with three and Mikaela Hansen with three.

Jenscena Hansen also led the team in rebounds having 15, but Lauren Schmidt wasn't far behind with 13 rebounds on the night. Leah Werner also had five rebounds. She led the team along with Lauren Schmidt in assists with three each. Schmidt also had seven steals.

Next, Deshler faced Harvard. The Lady Dragons came out with another strong first quarter leading by 19 points. Deshler continued in this fashion and were able to get a 77-19 victory over Harvard.

"We did a good job of playing up tempo which forced them to play fast as well and they took some quick shots on offense," Birkel said.

Jenscena Hansen had 30 points to lead the Lady Dragons. She also had 11 rebounds and four steals during the game. Lauren Schmidt also added 14 points, 14 rebounds and five steals. April Maschmann contributed nine

points and had five assists and five steals. Also helping out for Deshler were: Leah Werner with eight points and five rebounds, Katie Roth with six points and three assists, Brigett Effenbeck with five points, Mikaela Hansen with three points and three steals; and KyLee Nutsch with two points.

JV Girls

The Deshler Girls Junior Varsity team also competed in a tournament at Harvard last week.

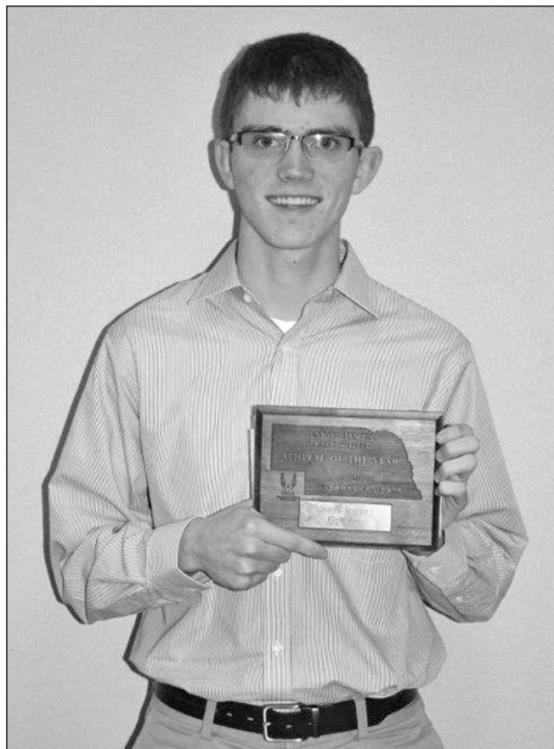
In the first game, the Lady Dragons faced Silver Lake. They were able to come up with 44-15 victory over Silver Lake.

"Sometimes it's hard to beat a team twice in a season, especially playing early in the morning but the girls were up for the challenge," Birkel said.

Katie Roth led the Lady Dragons with 23 points. Elle Baker also had 12 points during the game. Other scorers for Deshler were: KyLee Nutsch with four, Braelyn Isernhagen with three and Brigett Effenbeck with two.

This win put the Lady Dragons in the championship game against Adams Central. In this game, Deshler won with a final score of 32-25.

Katie Roth led the team in points again with 16. Braelyn Isernhagen added seven while Brigett Effenbeck had five. Other scorers for the Lady Dragons were Elle Baker with three and KyLee Nutsch with one.



Courtesy Photo

Wiedel honored at 2013 Season Award Banquet for USA Track and Field Nebraska...

Simon Wiedel, son of Kurk and Kris Wiedel of Hebron, was in attendance at the 2013 Season Award Banquet for USA Track and Field Nebraska. Simon won the Junior Olympic Track and Field Athlete of the Year for the 15-16 Age Division. He was recognized for his performance in Greensboro, North Carolina last summer where he competed in the National Junior Olympic Meet placing sixth in the triple jump.

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2013-2014 Deshler Dragons Boys Basketball Team...
 Members of the team pictured above include (l-r): Front row: Heath Finke, Ben Hoops, Tyler Brabac, Sean Jones, Laethion Brown, Noah Mosier and Garrett Mees. Back row: Chandler Jacobe, Jeff Grummert, Jonah Vonderfecht, Kyle Dlouhy, Jared Pohlmann, Logan Schultz, Hayden Loontjier, Caleb Vonderfecht, Ashton Oakman and Noah Burger.

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