



## EXTENSION

(Continued from C6)

heat/humidity conditions are determined to be an extreme weather disaster event, then livestock losses would be covered by the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP). Livestock producers who lost livestock should document losses in the expectation that they may be covered by LIP and contact your local Farm Service Agency (FSA) to report those losses.

South Central Ag Lab Field Day Aug. 1: View current field trials on improving crop production and profitability at UNL's South Central Ag Lab (SCAL) on August 1 near Harvard. Guests can customize their day to select the tours they're most interested in. Presentation topics include: Cover crops, pollinators and weed management; European corn borer, corn rootworm, and cover crop insect control; Herbicide-resistant weed management; Assessing

injury and management decisions in corn and soybeans; Corn and soybean disease updates; Sensor-based nitrogen management in irrigated corn; Corn stover harvest management and impacts; mobile beef lab and hail machine demonstrations. Registration is at 8:30 a.m. followed by tours through 4 p.m. Lunch and refreshments are included. CCA credits have been applied for. For more info, see the program brochure and register at: <https://go.unl.edu/2019scalfieldday>.

Silage Webinar Aug. 2: With this year's challenging weather and the need for forage, there may be more opportunities for harvesting corn for silage. Aimed at feedlot, cow-calf, and dairy producers, a silage webinar on August 2 at Noon CST will focus on moisture at chopping, chop length, inoculants, proper packing, silage covers and more. Pre-registration for the webinar is necessary and can be done

at: <https://go.unl.edu/vau7>. Trees Losing Leaves: The wet spring and humidity allowed for fungal diseases on leaves of shade trees with flowering pears and crabapples in particular dropping leaves early. I've also had a number of questions regarding red maple leaves (Autumn Blaze and Sunset) suddenly turning brown on trees. These symptoms may also be experienced on ash, tuliptree, and other maples. We think it's environmental stress from having so much cool and wet early to almost a "flash drought" situation in eastern Nebraska prior to this weekend's rains. Sarah Browning has been recommending watering and mulch as the best ways to reduce stress and to prevent additional root death and tree decline. I've been seeing new growth starting to occur on trees so my hope is if your tree is experiencing this, that 10-14 days from now you will also see new growth occurring on your trees.



News-Register/Kurt Johnson

More than 100 people watched the "Dreaming of a Vetter World" documentary at the 12th Street Cinema July 14, with many then sitting in on an hour-long question-and-answer session with a panel of organic speakers at The Ivy.

## ORGANIC

(Continued from C6)

why we have so much chronic disease, then you can focus on fixing that."

Asked if there are quality organic courses being taught at the University of Nebraska, Vetter said yes, and no.

"There are a number of classes that would be good background classes, but they are not necessarily being promoted that way," he said. "There are folks there trying to do it (conduct on-farm research), but it's kind of kept as a behind-the-scenes thing by the administration. When you look at the research dollars coming from the other side, it's awfully hard to get objective research when you are evaluated by how much research money you generate."

Quinn elaborated on that point, saying many organic research efforts are stymied due to congressional representa-

tives' support of what he calls an unholy alliance between large pharmaceutical and chemical companies.

"By in large those people don't believe there is a problem because of the research that is sent to them by the chemical companies who cherry pick what they want the government people to know," he said. "Both of those have much to gain by just keeping everything the way it is. We as citizens are the big loser in that in my mind, health wise. Right now there is not much movement to change anything in Washington about it."

Quinn and Vetter both travel to Washington often, lobbying on behalf of the Organic

Trade Association and others. Quinn said more government support in terms of training and research could make a dramatic difference.

"What I see as a lack of opportunity for transition (to organic methods) is the training," he said. "In Montana, many farmers who would like to convert don't really know where to start and they are afraid, and they are right up against the wall financially. If you are looking for policy change, research in how to better affect organic systems is another way the government could provide professional services for advising."

"Don't stop writing letters," Quinn concluded. "We need to speak out."

**'I've probably received more calls in the last two years (about organic farming methods) than I've received in the 20 years previous.'**

Bob Quinn,  
Organic farmer and author

## AG BRIEFS

### Fly fishing clinic set for July 31 in Grand Island

The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission will offer free instruction for individuals interested in learning the basics of fly fishing on July 31 from 6-8 p.m. at Mormon Island State Recreation Area in Grand Island.

Game and Parks staff and volunteers will lead demonstrations and discussions on techniques, equipment and fly fishing opportunities. Loaner tackle will be available. All participants age 16 and older will need a Nebraska fishing license if they intend to fish. Dry-land casting practice does not require a fishing permit. The event will take place at Lake #1; look for the Family Fishing trailer.

### South Central Ag Day scheduled Aug. 1

A field day is planned at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's South Central Agricultural Laboratory on Aug. 1. The event will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 851 Hwy. 6 near Harvard.

Attendees will be able to choose from multiple field research trials to tour. Topics will focus on improving crop production and profitability. Each year more than 100 applied field research trials are conducted at SCAL by Nebraska faculty and USDA Agricultural Research Service scientists. Trials are focused on irrigation and water management, soil fertility, entomology, weed science, cropping systems and disease management. The field day also includes the mobile beef and science labs and hail machine demonstrations.

The day will begin with registration at 8:30 a.m., followed by tours of research sites through 4 p.m. Lunch and refreshments included. Attendees are asked to preregister by July 29 for planning purposes. Continuing Education Units have been applied for and are pending.

Additional information, registration and a brochure can be viewed at <https://extension.unl.edu/statewide/enre/2019scalfieldday/>.

### USDA cattle on feed update as of July 1

All cattle and calves in the United States as of July 1, 2019 totaled 103 million head according to the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. All cows and heifers that had calved totaled 41.7 million head. Beef cows totaled 32.4 million head. Milk cows totaled 9.30 million head. All heifers 500 pounds and over totaled 16.4 million head. Steers weighing 500 pounds and over totaled 14.7 million head. Bulls weighing 500 pounds and over totaled 2.10 million head. Calves under 500 pounds totaled 28.1 million head.

All cattle on feed fed for the slaughter market in the United States for all feedlots totaled 13.6 million head. The 2019 calf crop is expected to be 36.3 million head. Calves born during the first half of the year are estimated at 26.5 million.

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