



“Promoting agriculture & food systems that build healthy land, people, communities & quality of life for present & future generations.”

Spring 2011
Number 130

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The NSAS Newsletter is a bimonthly publication of Nebraska Sustainable Agriculture Society, a private, non-profit organization. Our mission is to promote agriculture & food systems that build healthy land, people, communities & quality of life, for present & future generations. The purpose of this newsletter is to inform its readers about sustainable agriculture issues, resources & activities. Members receive this newsletter as a benefit.

Latter-Day Luther Nails Troubling Thesis to GM Farm & Food Citadels

By Steven McFadden

After trucking across the high plains for five hours, and casting my eyes over perhaps 100,000 acres or more of winter's still deathly gray industrial farmland, I came face to face with the newly famous Dr. Don M. Huber in the cave-dark meeting room of the Black Horse Inn just outside the American Heartland village of Creighton, Nebraska.

On the morning of March 24, along with about 80 farmers and Extension agents, I listened as Huber discoursed with erudition and eloquence upon industrial farming practices that may be impacting nearly every morsel of food produced on the planet, and that subsequently may also be having staggeringly serious health consequences for plants, animals, and human beings.

Huber is emeritus soil scientist of Purdue University, and a retired U.S. Army Colonel who served as an intelligence analyst, for 41 years, active and reserves. In Nebraska, he stood ramrod straight for three hours with no notes and spoke with an astonishing depth and range of knowledge on crucial, controversial matters of soil science, genetic engineering, and the profound impact of the widely used herbicide glyphosate upon soil and plants, and ultimately upon the health of animals and human beings.

Dressed in a conservative dark suit and tie, Huber set the stage for his presentation by observing that he has been married for 52 years, and has 11 children, 36 grandchildren, and a great-grandchild on the way. He then began his formal talk framed by a PowerPoint slide bearing a Biblical quote: “All flesh is grass.” – Isaiah 4:6. With this he emphasized the foundational reality that the biotech grains we eat, as well as the biotech grains eaten by cows, hogs, and chickens, are grown in vast herbicide-treated fields.

For the domineering giants of industrial agriculture — multinational corporations, universities, and governments — Huber's assertions about the impact of glyphosate, and the mounting scientific questions about GMO crops, may be as significant and disrupting as Martin Luther's “heretical” act in 1517.

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Beginning Farmer Support Groups

In 2010, and from comments and ideas from conference attendees we formed a Beginning Farmer Support Group. Throughout 2010 we held numerous meetings and events all geared to encourage and provide support for farmers of all backgrounds and skill levels. In 2011 we have several events planned to expand upon the foundation laid in 2010. Our first meeting was held in January and included a few new faces, and of course our regulars. We also meet informally during the conference after the Friday evening events had concluded. Meetings are generally held once a month on Saturday morning and locations generally rotate. The idea is centered around getting people interested in starting or going back to farming and who are seeking support and assistance, or just an ear to bounce ideas and trials and tribulations off of. It also helps to build a community of practice and support and establish relationships and friendships to help nurture and grow farmers. For information about the next one please send William an email at healthyfarms@gmail.com or call 402-525-7794. Or if you want to start one in your area let us know and we can help get the ball rolling and spread the word.

Farm Beginnings Nebraska Class

We are currently in the middle of our 2010-2011 Farm Beginnings Nebraska course. We have a very diverse group of participants. The course began with presentations by Terry Gompert and Ralph Tate on Holistic Management and Holistic Goal setting. These sessions help to guide participants through as they develop their farm and business plan within the context of the learning group. They constantly refer back to their holistic goal in shaping and grooming their ideas for each of their respective farms. We have also had presentations by Paul Rohrbaugh, Evertt Lundquist, and Dave Welsch to name a few. Participants also were able to tour Jim Bender's farm near Weeping Water. Jim always puts on a great tour! We are scheduled to conclude with a tour and pasture walk of nearby farms in mid to later April. We have began planning the next Farm Beginnings Nebraska class, which will be held in greater Nebraska sometime later this year. For questions and ways to get involved please email William at farmbeginningsnebraska@gmail.com

Sustainability Happy Hour

Shh.... has been meeting off and on for the past 2 years. Sustainability Happy Hour is held on Friday evenings at a local establishment that is known for supporting local farmers and businesses. Recently we met at the Derailer Tap Room in Lincoln which was doing a beer & cheese pairing with Branched Oak Farm cheeses! A main purpose of Shh... is to get people engaged in conversations about sustainability in an atmosphere both relaxing and supportive of the wide range of interests and subjects related to sustainability and these issues! Email William for details about the next one.

Continued from page 1...

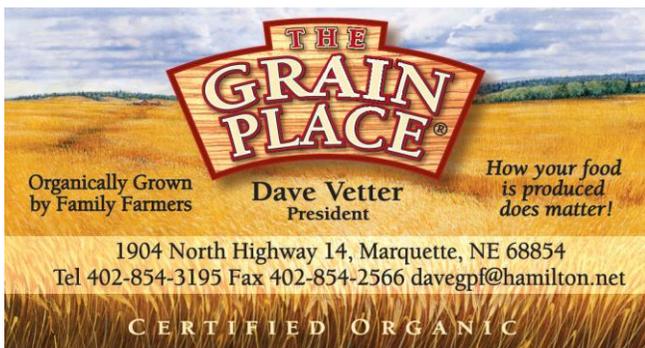
That's when Luther nailed his 95 theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany to challenge the systemic problems in the almighty institutions of his era.

Luther disputed the claim that spiritual forgiveness from sins could be legitimately sold for money. Huber and other researchers say they are accumulating evidence that — along with the [2010 report](#) of the U.S. President's Cancer panel which bluntly blames chemicals for the staggering prevalence of cancers — raises profoundly challenging questions about the chemical and genetic-engineering practices of industrial agriculture. The challenge, if it holds up, has implications not just for agricultural institutions, but also for the primary food chain serving the Earth's population.

Not an altogether new controversy, the complex matters of industrial agriculture, genetic engineering and the far-flung use of herbicides has been ominously and exponentially accentuated in the last year by virtue of its ominous context: last summer's epic oil catastrophe in the Gulf of Mexico, the nation-ripping 9.0 earthquake in Japan earlier this month, with its subsequent tsunami and nuclear meltdown which is contaminating the nation's water and food chain, in combination with the statistical reality that on our planet of nearly seven billion people, [over a billion human beings](#) — one of every six of us — is hungry.

All of this was brought into prominent public focus — both sharp and fuzzy — in January of this year by the unlikely matter of alfalfa.....

Read the rest of the recap by our friend Steven McFadden at, <http://thecalloftheland.wordpress.com/2011/03/29/latter-day-luther-nails-troubling-thesis-to-gm-farm-food-citadels/>



Jessica Jones joins the NSAS Board of Directors!



Jessica G. Jones grew up in Lincoln, NE. Although a “city girl” she has been directly or indirectly involved in agriculture most of her life. She attended the University of Wyoming where she received a BS in Animal and Veterinary Science and Colorado State University where she received a MS in Rangeland Ecosystem Science. She has been with UNL Extension for the past five years as an Extension Educator in Johnson County (Tecumseh). Her main area of focus is sustainable livestock production systems. Through her education and experience she has developed a passion for making agriculture more sustainable. In her free time she enjoys spending time with family and friends, traveling, and many outdoor pursuits. She looks forward to becoming more involved in the Nebraska Sustainable Ag Society.

Goat Milk

We are looking for a source of goat milk in the Lincoln area. A temporary fix would be welcome - just enough to try it out for now. A more reliable long term solution/source can be addressed down the road.

Rhonda McClure, Wahoo
rhondamcclure@gmail.com

Auction Donors 2011

We would like to thank the following individuals and businesses who donated items or their time to make the NSAS fundraising auction a great success again this year. We raised over \$5,950 thanks to your support!

UNL Extension - Norfolk
Acres USA
Bluff Valley Farm – Thiltges Family
Branched Oak Farm – Krista Dittman
Buy Fresh, Buy Local Nebraska
Ruth Chantry
All Things Natural with Ralph Tate
Terry and Connie Gompert
Ingrid Kirst
Jim Crandall
Matt & Elaine Cranford
Chuck and Barb Francis
Frontier Cooperative Company
Grain Place Foods
Bill Hawkins
Slow Food Nebraska
Jim Hersh
Tom Thomas
Jo Lowe

Bread & Cup
Blue River Hybrids
Lucky Bucket Brewing - Zac Triemert
Liz Sarno
ShadowBrook Farm – Kevin and Charuth Loth
The Mary Riepma Ross Media Arts Center
Billene & Richard Nemec
Donald Vetter
Wattermann Family Farm
William and Crystal Powers
Joe Mazour
Nebraska SARE
Open Harvest – Jackie Barnhardt
Platte Valley John Deere Imp.
Adam Schole
Scott Willet
Ben Schole
Harvest Health

A Special Thanks also goes to our Food Sponsors & Contributors

We would like to thank the following individuals and businesses who donated food items for the breaks and meals during the conference.

Back Alley Bakery – John Hamburger
Hollenbeck Farm – J.R. Hollenbeck
Coffee Emergency – Jason Grossman
Nebraska's Finest Meats – Kelly Rosberg
Erstwhile Farm – Larry & Lanette Stec
Vicks Organics – Marty Lorenzen

North Star Neighbors – Jim Knopik
Harvest Valley Foods – Don Stoltenberg
Branched Oak Farm – Doug & Krista Dittman
Clear Creek Organic Farm- Bob & Kristine Bernt
Spilker Ales – Sam Spilker
Wise Oven Bakery – Todd & Susan Rivers

Special Thanks to our Food Sponsor, the Nebraska Food Cooperative, NebraskaFood.org



Events, Opportunities & Listings

21st Century Grazing with Greg Judy

Come spend a couple days with us learning how to make your grasslands more productive. Together we will discuss Planned Holistic Grazing—what it is and how to implement it on your grassland; benefits of multi-species grazing; and the Greg Judy “No Risk Ranching” model. You will get to enjoy networking with like-minded producers during the class as well as the Thursday evening pasture walk and barbeque with Greg Judy. May 26-27, 2011, 4-H Building, Johnson County Fairgrounds Tecumseh, NE. For information contact: Five Rivers RC&D, PO Box 626, Tecumseh, NE 68450. Phone: 402-335-3347

Dr. Paul Dettloff's Organic Veterinary Workshop

April 27-29, Viroqua, WI. Let Dr. Dettloff's more than 40 years of veterinary experience help you become a better livestock manager. This is a unique opportunity for you to learn from & interact with world-class veterinarians while gaining knowledge about organic herd health techniques & tools. Contact: Edward Lemar, 608.625.3130, edward.lemar@organicvalley.coop.

Permaculture Design Certification Course

June 19-26, 2011. Modovi, WI. Register now for a hands-on Permaculture Design Certification Course. Learn about sustainable food production, renewable energy, water harvesting, natural building, earthworks, animal husbandry and much more, all geared to give you the skills to practice Permaculture on any scale, from a city lot, to suburban yard to country homestead. Presented by Wayne Weiseman of The Permaculture Project at Crazy Rooster Farm. Early-bird registration is \$1,300 by April 15; regular registration is \$1,500. Registration includes 8 days of course work, materials, all meals and a campsite.

<http://www.crazyroosterfarm.com/>

Acreage for Sale

\$250K 2bd/2bath home near Milford, 19+ acres, built 1995, passive solar, attached garage. Hardwood/tile floor, most acres in CRP planted to native prairie species, garden, fruit trees.

[402-417-5253](tel:402-417-5253) See at 2033vandomrd.blogspot.com

Nebraska Poultry Growers Cooperative

West Point, Nebraska. It is a poultry processing center where you can process your poultry for legal resale in grocery stores, institutions and farmers markets, and the Nebraska Food Coop within the state. For more information contact Mark Kvam at 402.685.5263

Grazing Group

A few individuals have thrown around the idea of having a grazing support group in the Lincoln, Raymond, Ceresco, Crete, David City & surrounding areas. If you are interested in participating please email Doug at

dougd@windstream.net or William at healthyfarms@gmail.com

BEE THERE OR BEE SQUARE

A Celebration of Local Honey and Bees. Friday, May 13 at 5:30 p.m Lincoln. – Opening Night of Queen of the Bees. Featuring; Tastings of local honey, Honey themed food, Cash bar featuring Mead, Educational booths about bees, Encaustic (using bees wax) art demonstration, Screening of Queen of the Bees: What are the Bees telling Us? Admission to the reception and movie: \$25 In Advance (\$20 for Friends of the Ross Members) \$30 At The Door (\$25 for Friends of the Ross Members). All proceeds will be in support of programming at The Ross. Mary Riepma Ross Media Arts Center, <http://www.TheRoss.org>



OCIA News

Organic Crop Improvement Association, Nebraska Chapter #1 Newsletter

OCIA NE #1 Board of Directors

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Conducting On-Farm Research Can Save You Time and Money

Liz Sarno, UNL Extension Educator

Farmers are always experimenting to improve their farming system either to increase yields, improve fertility, control weeds, or integrate more types of crops and livestock into their rotation. Challenges and discoveries are part of farming although the challenges sometimes raise more questions than they answer.

I suggest that you consider doing your own simple on-farm trials. This is not difficult to do and will give you confidence that your practice is working plus can help save you money. For example, you want to try an aphid resistant soybean; what is the best way to determine if the soybeans are really aphid resistant and worth the extra \$\$ money per bag. Develop a two part approach to your experiment. Step one: set up a simple on-farm trial using your own farm equipment and farming practices. Plant 12 rows of your regular soybean variety and 12 rows of the aphid resistant variety; then repeat the comparison 5-6 times across the field with the treatments randomized. Do aphid counts during the season and measure the yield of each strip. UNL Extension can help you set-up the field experiment and design.

Step two: your results for the aphid resistant soybeans look great so you decide to plant all your soybeans next year using the aphid resistant variety. Not so fast; to find out if the aphid resistant variety is working you should repeat this experiment for at least another two years. Why? What if luck would have it those aphids were not a problem during the first year you planted the aphid resistant soybeans? By conducting the experiment for three years you can broaden the conditions that test the resistance to give you more confidence that the resistance covers a range of conditions. Once you understand the range of responses you can determine if it is worth the extra money to plant aphid resistant soybeans.

There are three formalized on-farm research groups in Nebraska that farmers can participate in: Nebraska Soybean Feed Grains and Profitability Project, Greater Quad County On-Farm Research Group and the Organic On-Farm Research Project. I would like to focus on the **Organic On-Farm Research Project**.

The Organic On-Farm Research Project works with organic farmer to evaluate cultural practices and a variety of production questions. Farmers recently evaluated several research projects including: using a Rodale Design Roller Crimper to develop a no-till organic system by rolling rye and planting soybeans, looking at biochar as a fertility treatment, using flaming for weed control and other projects. In addition to the farmer driven research projects there are two UNL driven organic studies. The first is a nutrient management/manure study that helps farmers determine their current nutrient practices and determine the nutrient balance of their farm. The second is a cover crop study that helps farmers to look at the vast potential for cover crops to improve weed suppression, add soil nitrogen, and conserve soil moisture after termination. This project examines both individual species and mixtures of cover crops throughout the diverse ecoregions of Nebraska. UNL Extension Educators will work with farmers to set-up experiments and analyze the data. Farmers meet early in the year to discuss results and plan for the following growing season.

For more information about on-farm organic research contact: Liz Sarno at 402-309-0944 (esarno2@unl.edu); the UNL Nutrient Management Study, Charles Shapiro at 402-584-3803 (cshapiro@unl.edu), or the Cover Crop Study, Sam Wortman at 402-981-8037 (sam.wortman@huskers.unl.edu).

So why should you get involved with on-farm research? Farmers interested in participating in any of these on-farm research projects will gain knowledge about their own farming practices, share their experiences with other farmers facing the same production challenges and learn from one another. So consider taking a little extra time this spring to plan an on-farm research project; it will help you save money on input costs, gain confidence in your production practices and in the long run save you time. Want to learn more about conducting on-farm research? Go to Crop Watch: http://cropwatch.unl.edu/web/farm_research/home and SARE - How to Conduct Research on Your Farm or Ranch: <http://www.sare.org/publications/research/research.pdf>

Nebraska Pilot Farm2School Program Underway

Nebraska Sustainable Agriculture Society (NSAS) in partnership with Nebraska Rural Initiative applied for and recently received a USDA Rural Business Enterprise Grant to establish Farm2School programs in four pilot schools in Rural Nebraska. The selected four schools are: Auburn Public Schools, Central City Public Schools, Centura Public Schools, and the Norris School District.

“The goal of the project”, according to Sandy Patton, “is to incorporate local foods into the cafeteria meals and food snack programs and to create awareness and education in the classrooms about local foods while creating a new market for small farmers and producers.”

Patton was recently hired by NSAS as coordinator of the Farm2School project and is currently conducting a Needs Assessment of producers through an on-line survey. The program will provide training and technical assistance to prepare small farmers and producers to sell local food produce to area schools.

Caitlin Falcone, a student intern with Nebraska Rural Initiative at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, has been working with the four pilot schools. She stated that the average American meal travels about 1,500 miles from farm to table, the Nebraska Farm2School program plans to shorten this distance by linking local farmers with nearby schools.

Norris was the first of the four pilot schools to begin this Farm2School program as they served the local cheese at the beginning of March. Norris food service manager Linda Truscott received positive feedback from the students who tried the cheese and those who were nervous to try the cheese want the opportunity to try it again.

As part of the program, Jisa’s Farmstead Cheese in Brainard is teaming up with the schools to provide cheese curds to students during lunch. As the first local producer to be served in the pilot program, Jisa’s dairy farm, which began cheese production in 2005, currently milks 300 Holstein cows and produces 2,000 to 3,000 pounds of cheese a week.

Thompson Company is currently developing a plan to distribute the local cheese curds and by the beginning of April they will be delivering Jisa Cheese to three of the four pilot schools. Thompson Company will also distribute Garden Fresh Vegetables and Paireland Dairy to the pilot schools. When asked why she wanted to start a Farm2School Program, Norris food service manager Linda Truscott responded, “I believe that local food is a more wholesome food. It comes straight from the farm to the school – making it fresher!” This fresher food may translate to students eating healthier. Case studies of Farm-to-School programs suggest that using local foods increase meal participation and consumption of fruits and vegetables by 25-84 percent.

As part of the program, Farm Food Safety Training with Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) has been offered in various locations around Nebraska. University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension Educators are currently preparing for the last of five workshops, which will be held in Alliance, Nebraska on April 14 and 21. All of the educational materials and cost of the workshops are covered through the grant. The goal of each two-day GAPs workshop is for participating producers to understand GAPs and have parts of their own farm food safety plan developed. The topics covered help producers enhance worker sanitation, harvesting, handling, packaging, storage and transportation standards of fresh produce from the farm operation to markets, schools, restaurants and retail stores. By completing a farm food safety plan, producers can differentiate themselves in the market place and appeal to many consumers who perceive this training as an added benefit.

For more information or to register, contact GAPs@unl.edu or call 402.472.2940. For information about Farm2School visit localfoods.nebraska.edu or contact Caitlin Falcone at the University of Nebraska Rural Initiative or Sandy Patton at sandyp@threeriverwb.net.

NEAC ANNUAL MEETING AND BANQUET

PUBLIC INVITED

Please RSVP before April 18 to reserve your meal. Indicate choice of meat or vegetarian.

RSVP: 402-276-7321
or chrisneac@gmail.com



**Saturday
April 30, 2011
10:00 AM - 4:00 PM**

<p>NEAC annual membership meeting and election</p>	<p>10:00</p>	
<p>Dealing with the Differences Between Conventional and Industrial Agriculture Dr. Bill Welda - Socially Responsible Ag Project</p>	<p>11:00 11:15</p>	<p>Welcome Ted Thleman - NEAC</p>
<p>Local Food Lunch <i>Only \$9.00 for a \$15.00 value!</i> - MENU - <i>Children eat for \$5.00</i> <i>Sliced roast beef, new potatoes, vegetable, dessert.</i> <i>Or select vegetarian option: pasta salad.</i></p>	<p>12:00 12:15 12:30</p>	<p>Nebraska Prairie Harvest Project Laura Krebsbach - NEAC</p>
<p>KEYNOTE by Lynn Henning Lynn is the Sierra Club, Michigan Chapter CAFO water Sentinel. She has been recognized with the 2010 Goldman Prize for North America – an award called the Nobel Prize for environmental activism.</p>	<p>1:00 1:15</p>	<p>Water Testing Project Duane Hovorka - Nebraska Wildlife Federation</p>
<p>Meeting will be hosted at UNITARIAN CHURCH OF LINCOLN 6300 A STREET LINCOLN, NE</p>	<p>3:00 4:00</p>	<p>Movie: Food Inc. <i>"See it. Bring your kids if you have them. Bring someone else's kids if you don't."</i> - David Edelstein, New York Magazine</p>

Executive Directors Report

On Thursday, February 17th, the temperature in Columbus, Nebraska was 70 degrees. We finally lucked out and the weather cooperated. In Grand Island in 2009 we were dealt with about 9 inches of snow and blizzard like conditions. In Lincoln in 2010 not as much snow, but 4-5 inches is still enough to cause headaches. Sunny, and almost balmy certainly made it feel like Spring. And this was also reflected in the attendance. Numbers for the annual conference continue to go up. This year we had a great lineup of speakers, presenters and activities geared at providing support for the foundation of sustainable agriculture in Nebraska. This foundation was laid nearly 40 years ago by pioneers such as Bob Steffen and Dave Vetter. And it carries on today as a result of members and events such as the annual meeting.

The conference kicked off with Abe Collins talking about soil, and carbon and the very basis of sustainable farming. Sessions on Friday ranged from Carbon Footprints to Market Concentration to Weed Control with Flaming. We had an incredible lineup of speakers including; Dr. Matt Leibman from the Leopold Center, Merlin & Rita Friesan from Sunny Slope Farm, Amy Jeanroy from the Herbal Guide, John Hansen from the Nebraska Farmers Union, and Crystal Powers from UNL- Extension, to name a few. Friday evenings events kicked off with the 3rd Nebraska Wine, Beer & Cheese Reception. This event continues to grow and expand and is a great networking opportunity. The Live Auction was a tremendous success and was a great opportunity for local artists, farmers and businesses to showcase their products and works, while also supporting NSAS! Dinner featured several Nebraska products including pork loin from our 2011 NSAS Farmers of the Year, Larry & Lanette Stec. R.P. Smith provided the entertainment and regaled us with stories new and old of farming and the joys and peculiarities that come with it!

Saturday brought another great lineup of speakers and presenters. We had presentations ranging from the Mobile Meat Processing Unit project to Grazing to High Tunnels to Raw Milk as a Foliar Application to Grasses. The lineup of speakers was again unrivaled and included; Dave Wetzel from Green Pastures, Terry Gompert from UNL - Extension, Randy Anderson from ARS, Kevin Fulton from Fulton Farms, Kathleen Delate from Iowa State, Paul Rohrbaugh from Pawnee Pride Meats and Kevin & Charuth Loth from Shadowbrook Farms, to name a few. Prior to the keynote address we held the 1st FAQ Farmers Market. This was a great opportunity to showcase just what sustainable and organic farming is all about to the Columbus community as well as for farmers participating to sell their products and talk with fellow farmers about what projects they had going on their own respective farms. Our keynote was Chuck Hassebrook from the Center for Rural Affairs, and he gave an inspiring talk about the future of farming in Nebraska and the United States.

The conference also included an expanded Youth program. Still in its infancy the Youth program has expanded into two levels, one for youths 12 and older, and the other for youths 12 and under. We had quite a few compliments on the program and several ideas for improvements. It is a work in process and there are certainly things to improve upon. One thing for next year will be to include ages for children when they are registered for the conference to give our speakers and presenters for the youth tracks ample time to prepare.

All in all it was a great conference and attendance increased from 2010. This was never more evident than in the networking and breakout groups talking and engaging in stimulating and thought provoking discussions throughout the conference. We once again have big plans for 2011 in Nebraska City and look forward to Fred Kirschenmann as the keynote!

A Friend Passes.



Terry Lee Gompert was born Oct. 29, 1944, to Bernard and Dorothy (Kautz) Gompert in Scottsbluff. On Aug. 2, 1970, he married Constance Johnson in Newman Grove. Four children were born to them, Saul, Kate, Jenny and Julie.

Terry graduated from Colorado State University and received his master's degree from UNL in Lincoln. He served with the International Voluntary Service in Laos from 1966 to 1968. He was involved in Extension Service in Colorado. They raised hogs for seven years near Mitchell. Terry continued his Extension Service in Logan and McPherson Counties in Nebraska and was involved with Knox County Extension since 1983.

Terry hosted small group Bible studies for adults and youth in his home and attended Plum Valley Bible Church in Center.

He was involved in holistic management training and enjoyed working with his herd of cattle. He is survived by his wife, Connie Gompert; his children, Saul and Jenn Gompert of Center, Kate and John McNutt of Silver City, Iowa, Jenny and Kevin Harrold of Hamilton, Mont., and Julie Gompert of Lincoln; 14 grandchildren, Peter, Elizabeth, Charles, Luke, and expecting number 14 grandbaby Gompert, Joshua and Andrew McNutt, Noah, Constance, Lily, Joseph and Suzanna Harrold and Nathan and David Gizaw; brothers Kurt and Sandy Gompert of Mitchell, Henry and Sue Gompert of Morrill; mother Dorothy Gompert of Mitchell; and his mother-in-law, Lorraine Johnson of Newman Grove. He was preceded in death by his father, Bernard Gompert, and his father-in-law, Harlan Johnson.

He died Friday, March 25, 2011, at Faith Regional Health Services. Family requests memorials to Nebraska Sustainable Ag and Insight for Living (Chuck Swindoll Ministry).

*The greatest thing in this world is not so much where we are, but in what direction we are moving –
Oliver Wendell Holmes*



I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:

Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give to me at that day.

–II Tim. 4:7, 8



*Their works do follow them.
– Rev. 14:13b*

NSAS Newsletter Update

After careful consideration and lengthy discussion on behalf of the NSAS Board of Directors and Staff we have decided to continue the Bi-Monthly Newsletter as an electronic newsletter. This means it will be available on the website, and/or by email. A primary factor in this decision is reducing our costs as well as reducing our impact on the environment. Periodic mailings on upcoming events and the conference will proceed as normal. If you wish to continue to receive a hard copy of the newsletter you must contact William at 402.525.7794 or healthyfarms@gmail.com. Hard copies of the newsletter will be made available for members and by request only. Please contact us today to let us know.

Save the Date! February 10th & 11th, 2012

We are excited to announce the date and location for the next annual conference. The 2012 Rural Advantage & Healthy Farms Conference will be held in Nebraska City at the Lied Lodge & Conference Center on February 10th and 11th, 2012. We are also pleased to announce that Fred Kirschenmann will be headlining the conference. More information to follow!

Martin Kleinschmit joins the NSAS Board of Directors!



Martin, a Nebraska farmer with 40 years experience as a sustainable farmer (18 as an organic farmer) now focuses his skills toward a managed grazing system. He accepted a position with the Center for Rural Affairs Beginning Farmer/Sustainable Agriculture Project in 1993 where he designed and managed a three-year Carbon Management Project to learn what factors affect farmers' decision to sequester soil carbon, and is currently involved in a 7-year organic education project to provide NRCS and Extension staff a basic understanding of organic rules and regulations, and to assist farmers/ranchers wanting to transition to organic production.

Martin also has a 3-year history with the National Assessment of Climate Change, Great Plains Region, can speak to renewable energy systems at the farm scale and the importance of addressing carbon sequestration to enhance soil quality to provide soil resilience to future weather extremes. Although now retired, Martin's goal continues to be to make farming more profitable, which leads directly to raising the quality of life of the community, while enhancing the soil quality and environment.

High Tunnel Webinar

Wednesday April 20th at 5:30pm. This workshop is part of a Specialty Crop grant the Nebraska Sustainable Agriculture Society received in partnership with the Nebraska Cooperative Development Center. "Increasing the Availability of Nebraska's Specialty Crops through High Tunnels" aims to increase the number of producers in Nebraska using these high tunnel technologies. The objectives of this project are to: Increase awareness about high tunnels and how they can be used to extend specialty crop production in Nebraska. Increase the technical skill level among specialty crop farmers growing or starting to grow crops in high tunnels. The webinar series will kick off with UNL Assistant Professor of Practice Horticulture Greenhouse Production & Management Stacy Adams with an intro to High Tunnels including site selection and types of structures. To join the webinar visit: <http://connect.extension.iastate.edu/unl>