



Come join us for the 2009 Healthy Farms and Rural Advantage Conference

February 13th and 14th

Mid-Town Holiday Inn, Grand Island

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NSAS members help get the word out about this year's conference: if you are a farmer or your neighbor is looking to diversify their operation there are some great workshops on Mechanical Weed Control and Field Preparation; Agriculture Enterprises Outside of Nebraska such as Europe and Agricultural Enterprises in New Zealand; Healthy Farms Index; Monitoring the Ecosystem; UNL Research Update on Weed Control with Flaming; Low Input Sheep, Beef and Meat Goat Production, Grazing Principles and Introduction to Holistic Management™.

Food consumers, parents and NEP Educators there are workshops on Organic Food Nutrition and don't miss our keynote Melinda Hemmelgarn, M.S., R.D. and clinical dietitian workshop: Food Sleuth: Using Media Literacy to Find Food Truth; UNL Classes on Sustainable Agriculture. We know how important consumers' food choices are for helping to change the rural landscape.

There are Added value workshops for farm families and acreage owners:

Beekeeping - Marion Ellis, UNL Extension Entomologist; Food Entrepreneurship - Jill Gifford, UNL Food Processing Center Manager will help you bring your recipe to reality; Tom Tomas will have a youth and adult Organic Vegetable Gardening workshop; Larry Martin, Nebraska Nut Growers Association talks about Nut Production in Nebraska; Utilizing your acreage - Jim Hruskoci, UNL Extension Educator will talk about Dwarf Fruit Tree Trellising for Orchard Production; Returning to the Farm and Beginning Farmer Programs; Wildlife Damage Control for High Value Products; Diversified Agriculture and the 2008 Farm Bill; Introduction to Holistic Management; Aronia Berry Production Processing and Marketing and Agri-tourism Panel.

This year we have great youth workshop for teens looking for money-making projects that they can do on their farm. Youth topics include: Make Some Green Growing Orange: How to Raise and Sell Pumpkins, Wildcrafting for Profit, The Magic of Beekeeping, Organic Gardening and Pasture Poultry. We really hope our members will contact their FFA and 4-H leaders to spread the word about our youth workshops as these workshops will allow kids and teenagers to explore agricultural opportunities right on their farm.

The conference offers a variety of interactive educational opportunities for adults and youth. Presenters will include UNL faculty and those from private industry. The conference begins each day at 8 a.m. with registration and commercial and education exhibits. Go to our NSAS website for complete workshop descriptions: <http://www.nebsusag.org/> To register, exhibit or sponsor for the conference visit the Web at <http://richardson.unl.edu>, or have questions contact Gary Lesoing, UNL Extension Educator at (402) 274-4755.

Auction Items: We are now collecting items for the annual fundraising "Live and Silent" auction. The auction is one of the major means of financial support for the organization, and it is only possible through the donations of auction items by NSAS members and businesses so now is a great time to recycle a good book or magazines, donate a product from your farm like lard, honey, a chicken or 2# of beef, handmade sweaters or anything else that might help add to the **FUN(draising)!** We greatly appreciate your support!

For additional information about the auction or to pledge items please contact **Michael Braunstein at 402-639-2760 or mikeb2687@aol.com or William A. Powers at 402-525-7794 or healthyfarms@gmail.com**

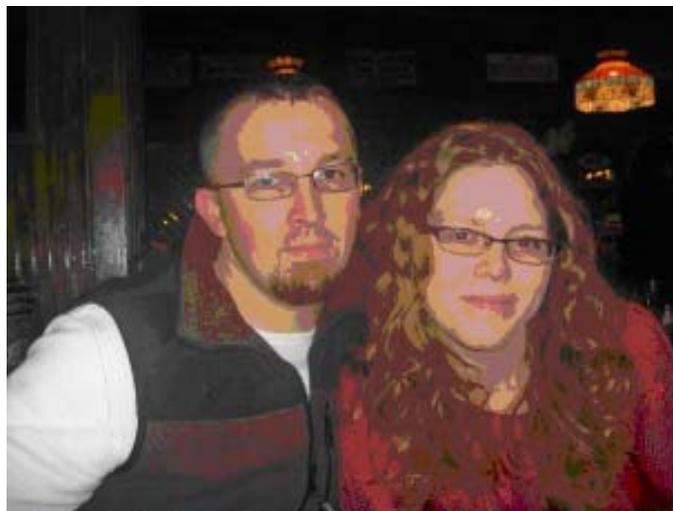
Hotel Information: The Midtown Holiday Inn is a great place to bring the family enjoy their **indoor pool**, whirlpool, 5 hole **mini-golf course**, video game room, and pool table. Their Terrace Restaurant - kids 12 and under eat free for breakfast or dinner. (Daycare for younger children may be arranged, parents that are interested please call Gary Lesoing: (402) 274-4755.) Make your reservation at the: **Midtown Holiday Inn**
2503 South Locust
Grand Island, NE 68801
Hotel Front Desk: 1-308-384-1330

From Your New Executive Director

Friends,
I am honored to be the new executive director of NSAS. I am excited to have the opportunity to work with NSAS and I look forward to meeting you!

I grew up on a farm near Plain City, Ohio with the primary operation raising and milking Guernsey dairy cows. Our farm also had an eclectic mix of chickens, turkeys, sheep, and hogs. I am a staunch advocate for the Guernsey cow and am looking forward to using them in my future grass based farm. Growing up I was active in a number of organizations including Future Farmers of America and the Boy Scouts of America, where I received my American Degree and Eagle Scout award.

During my senior year of high school I was accepted to the University of Nebraska – Lincoln. I had always wanted to attend school here and never applied anywhere else. A quality education combined with the



Willaim and Crystal Powers

pristine landscape of the tall grass prairie were key selling points. (The chance to go to Cornhuskers football games also helped!) During my first couple of weeks of classes I met my wife, Crystal, of over 6 years. Upon receiving my degree in Communication Studies and Agriculture Leadership, Crystal and I moved to Ithaca, New York. While there Crystal completed her Masters from Cornell University, while I worked for Engineers for a Sustainable World. A non-profit based at Cornell University, dedicated to building a more sustainable world for current and future generations.

In 2007, we moved back to Lincoln for a couple of reasons, most importantly this is where we wanted to live and farm. I began a position with the Midwest Consortium for Service-Learning in Higher Education located at UNL. This past summer I also worked with the Rodale Institute as the Agriculture Outreach Coordinator for Iowa and Illinois in their USDA funded Online Organic Transition tool and their Everyday Heroes program for farmers.

Crystal and I hope to get back to the farm soon and to prepare we are taking the Farm Beginnings, developing resources and information to expand our knowledge of farming and sustainable agriculture. I am also participating in the Nebraska Local Foods network as well as various farm tours, conferences, and seminars to learn the possibilities for our farm and for sustainable agriculture. I envision a diverse farm based on the native prairie ecosystem that incorporates native and heritage species. I believe the future of agriculture is tied to the future of our family farms and to sustainable agricultural practices. Through building healthy land we can ensure our farms and way of life for present and future generations as well as ensure quality of life for people and communities.

Thank you and I look forward to serving you! William A. Powers

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