Ag students spread the word

By DON McCABE

COOL weather and a misty day did little to deter University of Nebraska-Lincoln East Campus students recently from spreading the message of agriculture to non-agricultural students at the City Campus.

The occasion was the second annual Husker Food Connection held outside the City Campus Union.

Some 80 ag student volunteers handed out information about agriculture and food production. They also had the UNL beef van with a fistulated steer where students and researchers explained how rumen contents are researched.

One pen housed a calf from PrairieLand Dairy by Hickman. Two baby pigs were a popular stop for visitors, too.

Alissa Doerr, a senior ag economics major, says Husker Food Connection is an ag advocacy effort on the part of ag students.

“All departments on East Campus come together to help,” explains Doerr, who is a member of the UNL Block and Bridle Club and intern with the Alliance for the Future of Agriculture in Nebraska.

“There is a huge disconnect between consumers and farmers and ranchers,” she says. “A lot of college students don’t even know where their food comes from. Some believe it comes from the grocery store. We want to let them know where and how their food is produced and the importance of agriculture to the state.”

During the day’s activities, a free lunch was provided for City Campus students.

While Husker Food Connection originated as the name of event on City Campus, it is now an organization formed by about 30 ag students, according to Doerr.

Expansion planned

“We hope to expand the idea to sponsoring farm tours in the fall for non-ag students,” she adds.

A-FAN assists East Campus student groups with setting up Husker Food Connection. However, more than 40 Nebraska agriculture groups, ag companies and UNL Extension help sponsor the event.

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PROMOTING AG: Alissa Doerr, UNL senior in ag economics, was one of the East Campus students organizing Husker Food Connection.

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