Nebraska’s energy future focus of Ag at Crossroads

The revolution in ethanol and other biofuels means many things to Nebraska. One is the increasing market for crops and another is the community impacts.

Those subjects and more will be covered at the 2006 Ag at the Crossroads Conference Nov. 2 in Lincoln. Conference site is the East Campus Union.

Ag at the Crossroads is jointly sponsored by the Nebraska AgRelations Council and the University of Nebraska Department of Agricultural Economics.

The 2006 conference theme, “Energy Alternatives for Rural Nebraska (communities, farms and ranches),” is intended to show that there is definitely an impact on rural Nebraska, but that this impact will result from more than biofuels like ethanol and biodiesel. Discussions during the daylong session also will cover other energy systems and sources, including wind, solar, geothermal and nuclear.

Here’s a review of the Ag at the Crossroads agenda:

- 8 a.m., registration
- 8:30 a.m., welcome from Craig Ruescher, NAC president from Deweese
- 8:45 a.m., global and national overview
- 9:15 a.m., Nebraska energy future by Ken Cassman, University of Nebraska agronomist and head of the new UNL/NPPD Center for Energy Sciences Research
- 10:45 a.m., Nebraska update on funding opportunities and energy systems by Cliff Kumm, UNL Extension, and methane production/energy production by Danny Kluhe, Dodge farmer. There also will be a presentation on nuclear energy.
- Noon, lunch
- 12:30 p.m., national implications for Nebraska by Bob Kremer, state senator and coordinator of Nebraska’s 25 x 25 biofuels project
- 1:15 p.m., energy alternatives panel — wind, biofuels, solar, geothermal. Each session will take 15 minutes, followed by five minutes of questions.
- 3:15 p.m., a unique partnership — the UNL/NPPD Center for Energy Sciences Research by Cassman

For information on the program and to register, call either (402) 472-2835 or (402) 472-2821.

Producers elect soybean directors

DISTRICT 6 soybean producers re-elected Greg Peters of DeWitt to serve a three-year term as director on the Nebraska Soybean Board.

Peters will begin his second term this month on the board, representing Fillmore, Jefferson, Gage, Saline, Seward and Thayer counties. In July a direct-mail farmer election was conducted in those six counties. Mike Korth of Randolph will continue to represent District 1, which consists of the counties of Antelope, Boyd, Cedar, Holt, Knox, Madison and Pierce. He will begin serving his fourth three-year term. Korth ran unopposed.

The District 3 seat will continue to be held by Gregg Fujan of Weston, who will begin serving his fourth term on the board.

Fujan, the soybean board member who represents Butler, Colfax, Dodge, Douglas, Sarpy, Saunders and Washington counties, also ran without opposition.

Corn board seeks director candidate

THE Nebraska Corn Board is seeking corn producers to apply as a director in District 6. District 6 consists of Hayes, Frontier, Gosper, Phelps, Kearney, Hitchcock, Red Willow, Furnas and Harlan counties.

Doug Boisen of Minden, who previously served as director, chose not to reapply.

Gov. Dave Heineman will appoint the District 6 director from among the applicants seeking the post.

A candidate can place his or her name on the candidacy list by filing a petition with the Nebraska Corn Board.

Qualified candidates are those who are citizens of Nebraska, at least 21 years old, have been actively engaged in growing corn in Nebraska for five years and derive a substantial portion of their income from growing corn.

To get a petition write the Nebraska Corn Board, PO Box 95107, Lincoln, NE 68509-5107 or call (800) 632-6761.

A candidacy petition must carry the signature of at least 50 corn producers from within District 6. Petitions must be received by the corn board no later than 5 p.m. on Oct. 17. Faxed copies do not qualify.