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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Nebraska Cooperative Council Education Foundation Awards Eight Scholarships

Lincoln, NE (June 17, 2009) – The Nebraska Cooperative Council Education Foundation has awarded seven scholarships totaling \$6,050 for the 2009/10 academic year to students at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) College of Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources, the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture (NCTA) at Curtis, and Chadron State College (CSC).

The scholarship program was initiated for the 1993/94 academic year with funding from voluntary contributions from the agricultural cooperatives which are members of the Nebraska Cooperative Council. Since the program's inception, 130 scholarships totaling \$97,600 have been awarded.

To be eligible for the scholarships, students must be majoring in agricultural business/economics at UNL; business/management or ag production systems with the business option at NCTA; or have a major or minor in agribusiness at CSC. Eligibility is restricted to sons or daughters of a parent or legal guardian who has been an active member, director, or employee for at least the prior three years of a cooperative which has been a member in good standing of the Council for at least five years. Other criteria are used by UNL, NCTA, and CSC in selecting recipients.

The five recipients of \$950 scholarships at UNL include one incoming student and our upperclass students. They are:

Brandon Essink, son of Dennis & Gina Essink of Syracuse, will be a freshman majoring in Ag Business/Animal Science. The Essink's are members of Midwest Farmers Co-op in Elmwood.

Chase Lambert, son of Mark & Charla Lambert of Columbus, will be a sophomore majoring in Ag Economics. The Lambert's are members of Central Valley Ag Co-op in O'Neill.

Chase Holoubek, son of Mark & Willow Holoubek of David City, will be a sophomore majoring in Ag Business. The Holoubek's are members of Frontier Cooperative Company in Brainard, the Schuyler Cooperative Association, and United Farmers Co-op in York.

Jeremy Brabec, son of Mark & Sheila Brabec of Schuyler, will be a sophomore majoring in Agribusiness. The Brabec's are members of Frontier Cooperative Company in Brainard and the Schuyler Cooperative Association.

Jordan Laux, son of Kirk & Cheryl Laux of Bridgeport, will be a junior majoring in Ag Economics-Farm and Ranch Management. The Laux's are members of Panhandle Cooperative Association in Scottsbluff and Stateline Bean Producers Co-op in Bridgeport.

The recipient of a \$650 scholarship at the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture at Curtis is **Randii Endorf, daughter of Bob & Trish Endorf of Daykin**. She is a first-year student majoring in Ag Production Systems. The Endorf's are members of Farmers Cooperative in Dorchester.

The recipient of a \$650 scholarship at Chadron State College is **Sarah Bannan, daughter of Mike & Debra Bannan of Harrison**. She is a fifth-year senior majoring in Agribusiness. The Bannan's are members of Westco in Alliance and the Panhandle Cooperative Association in Scottsbluff.

"Education is one of the fundamental cooperative principles. The Nebraska Cooperative Council Education Foundation is honored to provide students with financial support, allowing them to be able to study agricultural business/economics," according to Deino Sather, Foundation Board Chairman. "The program continues to be an important part of our efforts to help youth understand the cooperative way of doing business and interest them in pursuing careers in the agricultural industry here in Nebraska."

The purposes of the Nebraska Cooperative Council Education Foundation are to promote and encourage high school graduates to pursue higher education in the agricultural and agribusiness fields through scholarships and the implementation of school-to-work programs with participating Nebraska cooperatives; to encourage high school graduates to remain in Nebraska in agricultural pursuits all of which will result in community betterment; and the preservation of agriculture as a way of life.

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