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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **Nebraska Cooperative Council Education Foundation Awards Seven Scholarships**

Lincoln, NE (July 19, 2010) – The Nebraska Cooperative Council Education Foundation has awarded seven scholarships totaling \$6,050 for the 2010/11 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, 137 scholarships totaling \$103,650 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:

**Haylie Lechtenberg, daughter of Russell & Susan Lechtenberg of Butte**, will be a freshman majoring in Agribusiness. The Lechtenberg's are members of the Niobrara Valley Electric Membership Corporation in O'Neill.

**Katrina Hackel, daughter of Mark & Genelle Hackel of Ord**, will be a junior majoring in Agribusiness. The Hackel's are members of Country Partners Co-op in Spalding.

**Collin Sorensen, son of Clyde & Debra Sorensen of Phillips**, will be a senior majoring in Ag Economics. The Sorensen's are members of the Aurora Co-op Elevator Company.

**Shawn Hutsell, son of David & Sheryl Hutsell of Hampton**, will be a junior majoring in Agribusiness/Agronomy. The Hutsell's are members of United Farmers Co-op in York.

**Kristen Bloss, daughter of Donald & Lisa Bloss of Pawnee City**, will be a senior majoring in Agribusiness. The Bloss' are members of Southeast Nebraska Co-op Company in Beatrice and Farmers Cooperative in Dorchester.

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 second-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 **Stacey Wright, daughter of Brian & Heidi Wright of Hamlet**. She is a junior majoring in Business Administration with a minor in Agribusiness. The Wright's are members of the Wauneta Co-op Oil Company.

"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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