

Environment, animal welfare to be addressed at conference

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Agriculture and the environment and animal welfare initiatives will be the focus of the 2009 Ag at the Crossroads conference Nov. 5 at the Lancaster Event Center in Lincoln.

The conference will feature speakers on the two issues as well as on the topic of social networking, said Ted Hartung, executive secretary of the Nebraska AgRelations Council.

The council is sponsoring the conference with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Department of Agricultural Economics in conjunction with the Nebraska LEAD (Leadership Education/Action Development) program.

On the topic of agriculture and the environment, the speakers include Jim Daukas, managing director at American Farmland Trust, Cole Gustafson, professor of agricultural economics at North Dakota State University, and Robert Swanson, director of the U.S. Geological Survey Water Center.

Daukas will cover the opportunities and rewards for agriculture to produce environmental benefits. Gustafson will talk about agriculture's role in energy and climate change. Swanson will give an overview of climate change in relation to the Platte River basin project.

Jennifer Greiner, director of science and technology with the National Pork Producers Council, will address the industry's response to animal welfare concerns.

Luncheon speaker Dennis Kahl, UNL extension educator, will talk about the role of social networking in agriculture.

Registration begins at 8 a.m. The cost is \$45 in advance and \$50 at the door. For more information or to register, call Hartung at (402) 472-2835.