



From the Office of Secretary of State

John Gale

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### **Diplomats from 18 countries to take part in food & water conference**

LINCOLN – The role that Nebraska will play in providing food to the world will be the focus of an upcoming conference hosted by the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources (IANR) at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and Secretary of State John Gale. Diplomatic officials representing 18 countries will take part in the program, featuring distinguished professors from IANR.

“IANR is a preeminent authority on these issues,” said Gale. “The fact of the matter is the world population is increasing and will reach an estimated nine billion people in this century. We need to find better, more efficient ways to produce food in greater yields and we’ll have to find a way to do that as the supply of water decreases. IANR and the Robert Daugherty Water for Food Institute are leading the way.”

The theme of the conference is, *Global Food & Water Science and Security*. In addition to international guests, government, business and representatives from UNL will also be in attendance.

Some of the featured speakers include: Governor Dave Heineman; Ronnie Green, UNL vice chancellor for IANR; David Brown, president of the Omaha Chamber of Commerce; and Stephen Baenziger, presidential chair for Nebraska Wheat Growers and professor in the Department of Agronomy and Horticulture at UNL.

“During previous diplomatic conferences, we have emphasized Nebraska exports and establishing foreign trade,” explained Gale. “This time, we’re shifting our focus

to inform other countries on the research and processes that IANR is developing that will be critical to adequate world food production with less water resources, into the future.”

The invitation-only conference will begin Sunday, October 6 with an evening reception at the Cornhusker/Marriott Hotel. The conference itself will begin the following morning at the State Capitol and will move to Hardin Hall Auditorium at UNL following lunch at the Governor’s Mansion.

Representatives from the following countries are expected to attend: Argentina, Australia, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Croatia, Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, Estonia, France, Great Britain, Indonesia, Japan, Norway, Mexico, Slovak Republic, Switzerland, and Tanzania.

“There is no question that the United States will be a very key supplier of foods to those nations and those continents where population growth is projected, but may not have the land, water resources or infrastructure to keep up,” said Gale. “Countries like the United States, Brazil, Argentina, Canada and Australia will need to step up to the challenge, and projections are that they are prepared to do so.”

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### **List of Presenters**

**Don Adams**, Professor of Animal Science and Director of Research and Extension at the UNL West Central Research and Extension Center at North Platte, Nebraska

**P. (Peter) Stephen Baenziger**, Nebraska Wheat Growers Presidential Chair and Professor in the Department of Agronomy and Horticulture at the University of Nebraska

**Andrew Benson**, Professor, University of Nebraska in the Department of Food Science and Technology

**Ed Cahoon**, Director of the UNL Center for Plant Science Innovation and the George Holmes University Professor of Biochemistry at UNL

**Chris R. Calkins**, Professor of Animal Science at the University of Nebraska

**Timothy Carr**, Professor and Department Chair of Nutrition and Health Sciences at UNL

**Ian Cottingham**, Associate Director for Design Studio and Assistant Professor of Practice; Raikes School of Computer Science and Management at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln

**Carrick Detweiler**, Assistant Professor at UNL in the Computer Science and Engineering Department and Co-director of the Nebraska Intelligent Mobile Unmanned Systems (NIMBUS) Lab

**Galen Erickson**, Professor and Beef Feedlot Extension Specialist at UNL

**Michael Farrell**, Special Projects Manager for NET (Nebraska Educational Television)

**Michael Forsberg**, Photographer and Assistant Professor of Practice in the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at UNL

**Rick Funston**, Professor and Reproductive Physiologist at the University of Nebraska

**Ronnie Green**, Vice President of the University of Nebraska and Harlan Vice Chancellor of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at UNL

**Sally Mackenzie**, Ralph and Alice Raikes Chair in Plant Sciences at UNL

**Christopher Neale**, Professor in the Department of Biological Systems Engineering at UNL and Director of Research for the Robert B. Daugherty Water for Food Institute

**John Pollak**, Center Director of the U.S. Meat Animal Research Center and Adjunct Professor at UNL

**Matt Spangler**, Associate Professor and Beef Genetics Extension Specialist at UNL

**M. Can Vuran**, Assistant Professor of Computer Science and Engineering and Director of the Cyber-Physical Networking Laboratory at UNL