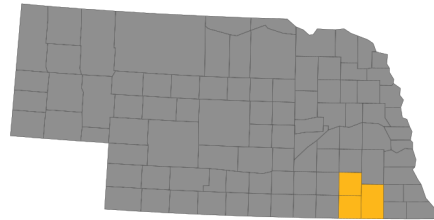


# N EXTENSION

## CROPPING SYSTEMS EDUCATION

2020 Annual Report

Saline  
Jefferson  
and Gage  
counties



### LOCAL SUPPORT

Aside from quick questions answered by support staff, Mueller worked one-on-one with over 500 clients through phone, email, text, and site visits.

### NEW WEBSITE

New multi-county website at [croptechcafe.org](http://croptechcafe.org) was visited by over 2,800 Nebraskans. Most popular post was on how to take your own soybean and corn preharvest estimates.

### FOCUSED EVENTS

Wilber Crop Clinic featured locally relevant agronomic topics based on farmer input. We had over 100 attendees, but did you miss the clinic? View information presented: [croptechcafe.org/wilbercropclinic](http://croptechcafe.org/wilbercropclinic)

### WEEKLY ARTICLES

#### *Crop Tech Cafe Column*

More than 50 short 500 word weekly articles were sent to local papers, emailed to 775 subscribers, and posted online at [croptechcafe.org](http://croptechcafe.org). Agronomic topics ranged from addressing timely agronomic issues to an 9 part series on micronutrients management for soybeans. Want to sign-up to receive the weekly digital article? Visit [go.unl.edu/croptechcafeweekly](http://go.unl.edu/croptechcafeweekly)

TURN TO THE OTHER SIDE

### Crop Tech Cafe

#### Micronutrients in soybeans: Intro

BY NATHAN MUELLER  
Saline, Jefferson and Gage counties  
Cropping Systems Extension educator

We just wrapped up taping the Midwest Soybean Production In-Field Clinic at the Eastern Nebraska Research and Extension Center near Mead in Saunders County.

I worked with our new nutrient management and water quality Extension specialist, Javed Iqbal, on demo plots and education on three topics including



Nathan  
Mueller

Numerous other production topics were included and you can learn how to access these upcoming online learning modules at the program website at [extension.unl.edu/statewide/enre/crop/](http://extension.unl.edu/statewide/enre/crop/).

Given our recent talk about zinc and boron, I thought it would be a great idea to start a news column series on micronutrient fertility and plant nutrition for soybean production in southeast Nebraska. My PhD work at Kansas State University was focused on starter and foliar applications of micronutrients in corn and

nutrients are needed in small amounts by plants to grow. Micronutrients include boron (B), chloride (Cl), copper (Cu), iron (Fe), manganese (Mn), molybdenum (Mo), nickel (Ni) and zinc (Zn). Nutrient uptake by soybeans for each of these eight micronutrients is usually less than one pound per acre other than for iron and chloride.

Interest and concern about micronutrient needs of soybeans are common among farmer and agronomists due to higher yields than in previous decades and the increased avail-



## NEW ADVISORY GROUP

*Learn more about what they are doing...*

A new agronomy Extension advisory group composed of 11 stakeholders (farmers, agronomists, and commodity board members) conducted their first needs assessment in September about local agronomic issues, new programming and resources. Learn more about the advisory groups at [croptechcafe.org/about](http://croptechcafe.org/about)

## THE FIRST FARMER

*Relationships are the key to my work...*

I came down to Wilber in the fall of 2019 to look into transferring to Saline, Jefferson, and Gage counties. Randy Pryor, retired Educator, had a full day setup for me including meeting with two area farmers, one of those being Rodney Wiese. Rodney and his wife Cindy went out of their way to stop in the Extension office after I started to say hello too. Rodney's passing was too soon, but he left a kind and welcoming impression that stuck.

## LOCAL TEAM GROWS

*Learn more about the new Beef Systems Educator...*

There is a lot of cross-over areas between cropping systems and beef production. Nebraska Extension recently hired a new Beef Systems Educator, Connor Biehler, who will serve 15 counties in southeast Nebraska including Saline, Jefferson, and Gage counties. Contact Biehler at 624-8030 or [cbiehler2@unl.edu](mailto:cbiehler2@unl.edu).

## DID YOU KNOW?

*Five things you may not have known*

New long-term weather station (picture above) going in with 30 foot tower and all year round precipitation gauge near Wilber. Real-time data coming this spring at [mesonet.unl.edu](http://mesonet.unl.edu). Paid for through local Extension funds.

Your Cropping Systems Educator completes a weekly survey for USDA-NASS for Saline/Jefferson/Gage that is averaged into the Nebraska Weekly Crop Progress and Condition Report.

You can get a free copy of the new Nebraska Soybean & Corn Pocket Field Guide from one of our three local Extension offices in Beatrice, Fairbury, and Wilber. Paid for through local Extension funds.

If you grow winter wheat, you can sign up for added Extension services being offered through the Winter Wheat Works Initiative. Call 821-2151 or email [nathan.mueller@unl.edu](mailto:nathan.mueller@unl.edu) for more information.

Mueller has a connection to the area as his wife's ancestors farmed in Saline County.

