

**2025-2026
DISTINGUISHED
FELLOWSHIPS
&
AWARDS LUNCHEON**

**Hosted by
Agricultural Research Division
&
College of Agricultural Sciences and
Natural Resources**

**Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources
University of Nebraska–Lincoln**

**December 3, 2025 | East Campus Union
Great Plains Room Rooms B & C**



PROGRAM

LUNCH

SERVED UPON ARRIVAL

WELCOME

THOMAS BURKEY

Interim Dean, College of Agricultural Sciences
and Natural Resources

STUDENT AWARDS

UNIT ADMINISTRATORS
& REPRESENTATIVES

CLOSING REMARKS

DEREK McLEAN

Dean, Agricultural Research Division
Director, Nebraska Agricultural Experiment Station

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

Department Head and Presenter
Kate Brooks

Kanij Fatema

Shear-Miles Fellowship
Advisor: Karina Schoengold

Margarida Aguiar Cunha Souza

Farmers National Fellowship
Advisors: Lilyan Fulginiti and Richard Perrin

AGRONOMY & HORTICULTURE

Department Head: Martha Mamo
Presenter: David Holding

Felipe Krause

Al Moseman International Fellowship Award
Advisor: George Graef

Jensina Davis

Hardin Distinguished Graduate Fellowship
Advisor: James Schnable

Nikee Shrestha

Widaman Distinguished Graduate Fellowship Award

Advisor: James Schnable

Sofiya Arora

Widaman Distinguished Graduate Fellowship Award

Advisors: James Schnable and Vladimir Torres-Rodriguez

Surya Sakthivel

Mary and Charles C. Cooper/Emma I. Sharpless Fellowship

Advisors: Jennifer Clarke and Amanda Ramer-Tait

Urmila Manandhar

Widaman Distinguished Graduate Fellowship Award

Advisors: Rhae Drijber and Caro Cordova

ANIMAL SCIENCE

Department Head and Presenter

Deb VanOverbeke

Allison Baumhover

Mary and Charles C. Cooper/Emma I. Sharpless Fellowship

Advisor: Jessica Sperber

Melanie White

Margrave Agricultural Fellowship Fund

Advisor: Dustin Yates

Pedro Henrique Jota Fernandes

Margrave Agricultural Fellowship Fund

Advisor: Yijie Xiong

Nominator: Mary Drewnoski

Pedro Simeone

Corn Development, Utilization and Marketing Board Fellowship

Advisor: Galen Erickson

Sarah Vos

Milton E. Mohr Teaching Fellowship Teaching Fellowship

Advisor: Kathy Anderson

Thomas Aquino

Milton E. Mohr Teaching Fellowship Teaching Fellowship

Advisor: Mary Drewnoski

BIOCHEMISTRY

Department Head and Presenter

Donald Becker

Adedotun Adefolalu

Milton E. Mohr Teaching Fellowship

Advisor: Donald Becker

Taiwo Dele-Osibanjo

Widaman Distinguished Graduate Fellowship Award

Advisor: Toshihiro Obata

BIOLOGICAL SYSTEMS ENGINEERING

Department Head and Presenter
Mark Stone

Rintu Sen

Widaman Distinguished Graduate Fellowship Award

Advisor: Saleh Taghvaeian

Shaswati Behera

Milton E. Mohr Teaching Fellowship

Advisor: Santosh Pitla

College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources

Interim Dean: Thomas Burkey

Presenter: Tiffany Heng-Moss

Caleb Durheim

J.J. and Eleanor S. Ogle Fellowship

Advisor: Tiffany Heng-Moss

ENTOMOLOGY

Department Head and Presenter
John Ruberson

Claire Klein

*Johnson Beck Graduate Student Fellowship
for Nature Conservation*

Advisor: Troy Anderson

Esha Kaler

Hardin Distinguished Graduate Fellowship

Advisor: Joe Louis

Kashish Verma

Widaman Distinguished Graduate Fellowship Award

Advisor: Joe Louis

Food Science & Technology

Department Head and Presenter

Silvana Martini

Andrew Stiven Ortiz Balsero

Life Sciences Fellowship

Advisor: Bing Wang

Dinithi De Silva

Widaman Distinguished Graduate Fellowship Award

Advisor: Byron Chaves

Jaber Gorbani

Milton E. Mohr Teaching Fellowship

Advisor: Bing Wang

Jami Bull

Mary and Charles C. Cooper/Emma I. Sharpless Fellowship

Advisors: Andrew Benson and Edward Deehan

Nitish Lekhak

Mary and Charles C. Cooper/Emma I. Sharpless Fellowship

Advisors: Edward Deehan and Lingyi Liu

Sedoten Ogun

Widaman Distinguished Graduate Fellowship Award

Advisor: Kaustav Majumder

Vannith Hay

Mary and Charles C. Cooper/Emma I. Sharpless Fellowship

Advisor: Mary-Grace Danao

Yhuliana Nino

Milton E. Mohr Teaching Fellowship

Advisor: Mary-Grace Danao

Yuchen Yan

Widaman Distinguished Graduate Fellowship Award

Advisor: Yanbin Yin

Yue Wang

John and Louise Skala Fellowship

Advisor: Ozan Ciftci

Yunruo Zhang

Mary and Charles C. Cooper/Emma I. Sharpless Fellowship

Advisors: Edward Deehan and Devin Rose

Nutrition & Health Sciences

Department Head and Presenter

Heather Rasmussen

Chandan Krishnamoorthy

Life Sciences Fellowship

Advisor: Sathish Kumar Natarajani

Plant Pathology

Department Head and Presenter
Loren Giesler

Biwesh Ojha

Shear-Miles Fellowship
Advisor: Clemencia Rojas

David Sirengo

Milton E. Mohr Teaching Fellowship
Advisor: Thomas Powers

Nawaraj Dulal

Widaman Distinguished Graduate Fellowship Award
Advisor: Richard Wilson

Nisha Rokaya

Widaman Distinguished Graduate Fellowship Award
Advisor: Richard Wilson

School of Natural Resources

Director and Presenter:
Larkin Powell

Adam Subora

Mary and Charles C. Cooper/Emma I. Sharpless Fellowship
Advisor: Judith Turk

Alec Piper

Mary and Charles C. Cooper/Emma I. Sharpless Fellowship
Advisors: John Gamon & Sabrina Russo

Emma Watson

Mary and Charles C. Cooper/Emma I. Sharpless Fellowship

Advisor: Sarah Sonsthagen

Owen Rahman

Mary and Charles C. Cooper/Emma I. Sharpless Fellowship

Advisor: Rezaul Mahmood

Zachary Whaley

Mary and Charles C. Cooper/Emma I. Sharpless Fellowship

Advisor: Sarah Sonsthagen

**School of Veterinary Medicine &
Biomedical Sciences**

Director and Presenter:

Scott McVey

Cagney Ehlers

William J. Curtis Fellowship

Advisor: Renee McFee

Emily Ostdiek

William J. Curtis Fellowship

Advisor: Renee McFee

Kiruthiga Mone

Widaman Distinguished Graduate Fellowship Award &

Milton E. Mohr Teaching Fellowship

Advisor: Jay Reddy

Korinne Hansen

William J. Curtis Fellowship

Advisor: Renee McFee

Madison Taylor

William J. Curtis Fellowship

Advisor: Renee McFee

Paige McKenzie

William J. Curtis Fellowship

Advisor: Renee McFee

Sawyer Kappel

William J. Curtis Fellowship

Advisor: Renee McFee

Statistics

Department Head and Presenter

Bhaskar Bhattacharya

Tyler Wiederich

Department of Statistics Graduate Fellowship

Advisor: Susan VanderPlas

Textiles, Merchandising & Fashion Design

Department Head and Presenter

Jennifer Johnson Jorgensen

Yuanyi Shao

John and Louise Skala Fellowship

Advisor: Yiqi Yang



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CASNR

**AGRICULTURAL
RESEARCH**