Distance Education & Life-Long Learning Program

http://agronomy.unl.edu/distanceed

For more information, contact:

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Professional Development Opportunities in Plant Breeding at UNL

The Department of Agronomy and Horticulture at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln offers four plant breeding mini-courses that are excellent professional development opportunities for seed industry personnel, producers and other agribusiness professionals. The courses are available via distance delivery, so participants are able to further their educational and career goals without having to be present in a traditional classroom. Students have the option of participating in lectures in real time, as well as viewing archived lectures online. The courses are available for noncredit professional development, as well as regular academic credit at UNL.* Instructors are Dr. P. Stephen Baenziger, Professor, and first faculty member to hold the Nebraska Wheat Growers Presidential Chair; and Dr. Thomas Hoegemeyer, Professor of Practice, and former CEO of Hoegemeyer Hybrids.

The noncredit registration fee for each course is $150. Special package pricing is available for multiple courses. For more information or to register, please visit: **go.unl.edu/cropbreeding**.

Online courses for Fall 2011 and Spring 2012 include:

SELF-POLLINATED CROP BREEDING:

August 23 – September 22, 2011
Course covers the common breeding methods used to improve self-pollinated crops, such as wheat, rice and barley, and the theoretical basis for self-pollinated crop breeding.

GERMPLASM AND GENES:

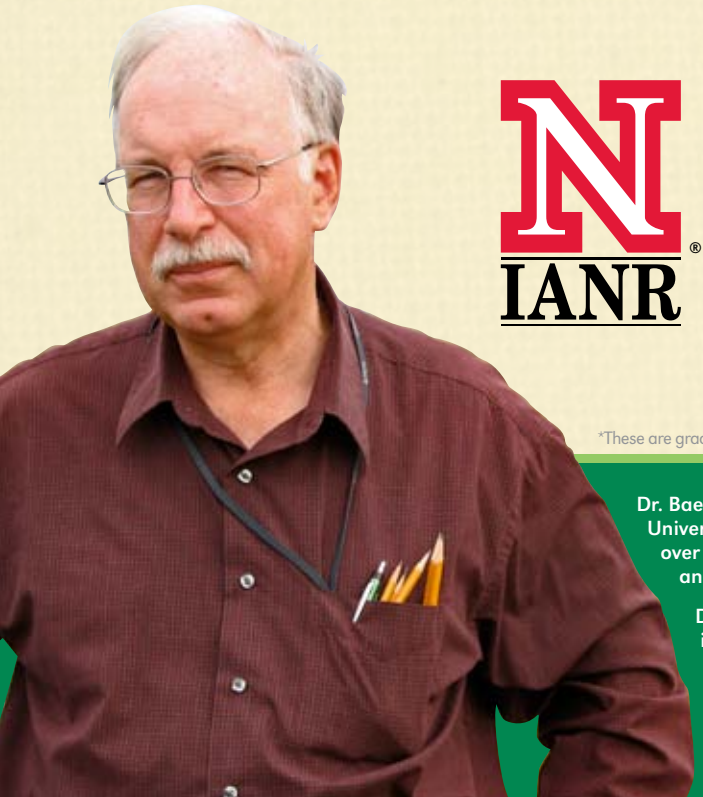
September 27 – November 1, 2011
Course focuses on the importance of creating the necessary genetic variation resources for conventional and modern plant breeding programs.

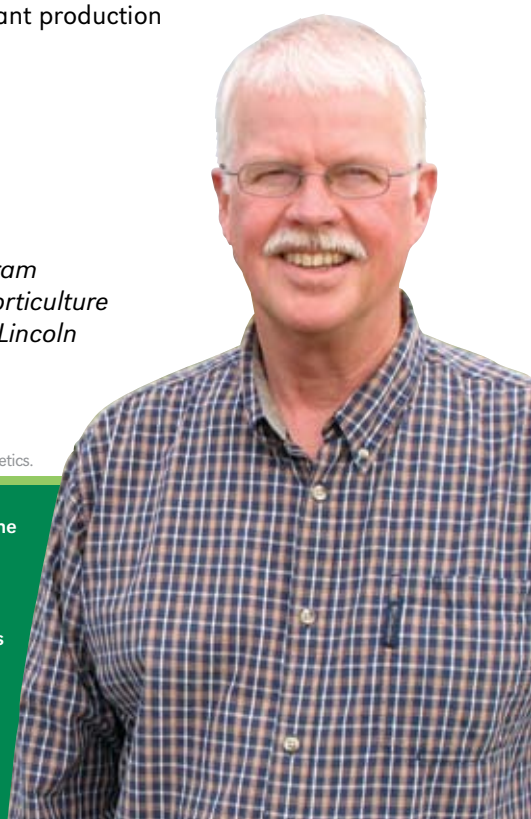
CROSS-POLLINATED CROP BREEDING:

November 3 – December 8, 2011
Course emphasizes standard breeding methods and theories associated with population movement of cross-pollinated crops and self-pollinated crops that are forced to cross-pollinate.

ADVANCED PLANT BREEDING TOPICS:

February 7 – March 8, 2012
This year's topic is "Genotype by Environment Interaction." Students will learn about the phenotypic plasticity of genotypes as they develop in different environments, and how this impacts plant production and improvement.





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*These are graduate-level courses that assume basic familiarity with genetics.

Dr. Baenziger, left, is the small grains breeder for the University of Nebraska–Lincoln. He has released over 40 widely grown cultivars of wheat, barley and triticale.

Dr. Hoegemeyer, right, worked over 30 years in the private sector as a corn breeder for both small and large seed companies, and has developed sucessful parent lines and hybrids.