



Montana State University

Bob Gough, NACTA Historian, and Cheryl Moore-Gough were featured in the Western Lifestyle section of the January 2008 Western Farmer Stockman magazine for the publication of their book, *The Montana Gardner's Companion – An Insider's Guide to Gardening Under the Big Sky*. The book is a guide on how to cope with Montana's severe growing conditions and special limitations. Bob now serves as the Associate Dean of the College of Agriculture and Cheryl is the Extension Horticulture Specialist at Montana State University. Kudos to Bob and Cheryl!

University of Illinois

Prasanta Kalita, Associate Professor of Agricultural Engineering at the University of Illinois lead a team of students that won a top award of the "People, Prosperity, and the Planet" competition sponsored by the US EPA. The Illinois team was awarded \$75,000 as one of six overall winners in the national competition. Their project focuses on the bioremediation of agricultural chemicals to protect ground water. The team consisting of nine undergraduates and three graduate students has developed an agreement with a university in India and has already traveled to that country to collaborate and work with students there. Water quality is a big problem in India and students have the opportunity to see the problems first hand and apply solutions. Prasanta serves in NACTA as the Chair of the Teaching Awards Committee. Congratulations Prasanta!

Abilene Christian University

The Department of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences at Abilene Christian University recently gained college and university academic councils approval for a dramatically revised animal science program. The completed revised program with four distinct tracks will be implemented fall 2008. Dr. Florah Mhlanga, Professor of Animal Science, led the effort with assistance from Dr. Ed Brokaw, the Bray Cook Professor of Animal Science. Abilene Christian University is an Institutional member of NACTA and Ed is a long-time NACTA member.

NACTA Judging Conference – April 2008

The host institution for the 2008 NACTA Judging Conference is Tarleton State University, Stephenville, Texas on April 16 to 18. Dr. Ted Ford (Ford@tarleton.edu) is serving in the capacity of coordinator, assisted by Ms. Karen Broeder (st_broeder@tarleton.edu).

The following competitive events will be held: Agriculture Knowledge Bowl*; Crops*; Dairy Judging*; Horse Judging; Horticulture; Livestock Judging*; Poultry Judging; and Soils*. Consideration is also being given to hosting an Agriculture Computer Contest and a Meats Judging Contest. All of the required contest (*) are being held and Tarleton State University is to be complimented for expanding the contest areas to include poultry and the possibility of a contest centered around Meat Science.