

“I see a lot of opportunity here,” said Greg Kruger about his new position at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln’s West Central Research and Extension Center in North Platte.

Kruger sees dryland production and drought tolerance as a major research growth area. New technologies will be key to the future of agriculture, he said.

“In this area, one of the big things is water management,” Kruger said. “Along with that comes pest management, weed control and soil structure. With a systems approach, we can minimize the effects of drought and improve yields.”

Kruger expects to learn from and collaborate with people who have worked at WCREC for decades as well as new staff members who have only been at the center for a few months. He said that the opportunity to work with the people in North Platte had a major influence on his decision to apply for the position.

Kruger grew up in central Ohio and earned got his bachelor of science degree in ag business from Ohio State University. He went on to Purdue University where he received his master’s degree in plant pathology studying root-knot nematodes. He looked for resistant soybean varieties as a means for managing that pest. Since the root-knot nematode may be a problem in southwestern Nebraska, where soils are really sandy, Kruger hopes to apply some of his research here.

Kruger’s Ph.D. work at Purdue focused on herbicide resistance in marestail. He described himself as a “Jack of all trades,” but he’s especially interested in pest management.