2006-2007 Annual Report

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Know how. Know now.

Land-grant universities work with the people they serve. University of Nebraska–Lincoln teaches, discovers new knowledge through research, and extends this research-based information across the state through extension programs. UNL Extension in Lancaster County develops and delivers educational programs which strengthen individuals, families, businesses and communities.

Extension is committed to helping Nebraskans know how—and know now.

“At Work for Nebraska” in Lancaster County

A study completed this year found the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources (IANR) at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln annually returns at least $15 in benefits to Nebraskans for every dollar of state support, making it “a primary engine for economic and social sustainability.”

As part of IANR, UNL Extension in Lancaster County contributed to a number of examples cited in the study:

- IANR’s Farming with Computer Technology training project teaches ag producers to use computers to increase the productivity of their farm management practices. Locally, the Computerized Farm Financial Recordkeeping is a popular workshop.
- UNL Extension partnered with the Nebraska legal system to develop curriculum to teach more than 2,000 Nebraskans appointed annually as legal guardians for elderly and disabled people and children in our state who cannot make decisions for themselves. This year, 177 individuals completed Guardianship Training in Lancaster County.
- For every $1 spent on the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program, a potential health care savings of $2 to $17 may result from the prevention or delayed onset of nutrition-related chronic diseases and conditions. More than 5,600 adults, youth and seniors participated in the Lancaster County Nutrition Education Program.
- 4-H is a national leader in youth participation, reaching 118,000, or one of every three eligible, Nebraska youth yearly. This past year, 4-H reached more than 18,500 youth in Lancaster County.

The complete report is online at http://atworkfornebraska.unl.edu

This annual report illustrates how your local investment has paid dividends to our community.

Gary C. Bergman
Extension Educator & Unit Leader

University of Nebraska–Lincoln Extension in Lancaster County

2006–2007

Annual Report

444 Cherrycreek Rd., Suite A, Lincoln, NE 68528 • (402) 441-7180 • http://lancaster.unl.edu

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The study, by Battelle of Columbus, Ohio, was commissioned to capture the benefits of IANR’s teaching, research and extension work.

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Extension Helps You Put Knowledge to Work

UNL Extension in Lancaster County focuses educational efforts in the following program areas.

Pests & Wildlife

UNL Extension in Lancaster County has exten- sive resources to help identify pests and suggest management options. Emphasis is on low-toxic control methods.

Extension Educator Barb Ogg and Extension Associate Soni Cochran assist area residents via phone calls, walk-in requests, e-mail questions, publications, workshops, and radio. Extension’s pest and wildlife Web site received more than 2.2 million hits last year. Ogg often partners with community organizations and industry professionals in training and disseminating pest control resources and assistance. For the third year in a row, she organized a two day Hands-On Termit School for Termite Applicators. These are the first such trainings offered in Nebraska—this was the first year attendees could be recerti- fied (in Nebraska and Kansas) for wood-destroying organism pesticide application.

More than 190 child care providers who care for approxi- mately 1,850 youth participated in child care conferences organized by extension and other Lincoln agencies.

UNL Extension is part of the Lancaster County Coalition to assist Children of Parents Experiencing Divorce (COPEID), and co-presents Parents Forever and Right About Divorce classes. Last year, more than 100 people participated in Parents Forever. 2007 was the second year UNL Extension offered statewide Guardian- ship Trainings. To date, 361 people have attended trainings in Lincoln.

Farms & Acreages

UNL Extension continues to make agricultural profitability and sustainability a priority issue. Extension Educator Tom Dorn fulfills this goal through numerous workshops and meetings, educational resources, person-to-person contacts and a Web site. Dorn is extension’s statewide coordinator of Acreage and Small Farms Insights Web site. Acreage and Small Farms Insights Web site contains approximately 1,600 factsheets, articles, etc. Acreage delivers information on weather, water, soil and pest condi- tions. Extension helps property owners develop healthy, diverse and functional landscapes that are energy and water efficient, as well as less dependent on pesticides.

Extension Educator Don Jansen works with the City of Lincoln to educate the public about reducing yard waste through composting, mulching grass clippings and other yard management practices. The City of Lincoln Recycling Office estimates these educational programs will extend the life of the Bluffs Road Landfill by three to five years over the next 25 years.

The Master Gardener Training Program is a volunteer program where people are given training by UNL personnel and then, in return, provide 40 hours of volunteer service to extension’s educational programs. Extension Associate Mary Jane Frogge coordinates the Master Gardener program for Lancaster County. Last year, 43 Lancaster Master Gardener volunteers logged 1,837 hours and had 8,146 direct-client contacts.

In the past year, Extension Educator Lorene Bartos has disseminated infor- mation on home maintenance, indoor air quality, lead paint hazards, safety in the home, shopping smart and recycling through Tim Nunele, extension’s Web site, her weekly column in the “Lincoln Journal Star,” group presentations and other outreach methods. In the fall, 361 people have attended the Lancaster County NEP’s Pesticide Handout Materials and PowerPoint. The materials were used locally and made available to others via the Internet.

Extension offers an Owner Expo—with a focus on managing agricultural cropland for the City of Lincoln. Biosolids are an excellent agricultural fertilizer for the City of Lincoln. Biosolids are an excellent agricultural fertilizer for the City of Lincoln. Lancaster County has been purchased for 40,000 tons of biosolids which will extend the life of the Bluffs Road Landfill for more than one year. By using biosolids, one participating farmer increased his wheat yield 30 percent—an economic benefit of $95 per acre compared with using commercial fertilizers.

To help people learn how to eat healthier, extension blends nutrition, food safety and food preparation information into practical actions individuals can use in their daily lives.

UNL Extension offers an Online Food Web site and a “Saludables Madres” group—a Healthy Foods program organized by the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department.

Nutrition & Food Safety

UNL Extension plays a vital role in teaching communities horticultural issues customized for local weather, water, soil and pest condi- tions. Extension helps property owners develop healthy, diverse and functional landscapes that are energy and water efficient, as well as less dependent on pesticides.

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The past year, Extension Educator Alice Henneman for use in local programs (such as news articles and fact sheets) are made available on the Internet for around-the-clock access, both locally and nationwide. Extension’s Food Web site—lancaster.unl.edu/food —received more than 3 million hits last year.

Educational materials developed by Extension extension blends nutrition, food safety and food preparation information into practical actions individuals can use in their daily lives.

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UNL Classes Work with Panama to Plan Community Center

The Village of Panama had seed money for a community center. Last year, community leaders contacted UNL Extension to facilitate the process of identifying needs and possible solutions. Extension put them in touch with UNL professor N. Brito Mutunayagam, whose planning class worked closely with the community to develop a plan. After several community meetings, the idea evolved into building a combined community center and fire barn. Another professor, Nate Krug (pictured), had his architecture students submit designs for a new building. Throughout the process, UNL Extension Educators Phyllis Schoenholz and Dennis Kahl worked as partners with Panama. The village is currently working to fund the project.

Lancaster Extension Education Center Conference Facilities

As part of extension’s commitment to community learning, the conference facilities at Lancaster Extension Education Center are made available to other nonprofit and governmental organizations at a nominal cost. Last year, more than 4,300 hours of conferences and meetings were held at the Education Center.

Web Site is Instant Way to “Know How. Know Now.”

Through search engines and browsing, hundreds of thousands of people access UNL Extension in Lancaster County’s Web site, http://lanc.unl.edu, to find “Know How—Know Now!” 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Visited by an average of 350,000 unique sites* each month, the Web site received more than 8.8 million hits (accesses) this past year, up again from the previous year!

The Web site contains thousands of pages of content—featuring extensive resources, educational publications, a searchable database, Egg Cam, movie clips, quizzes, Master Gardener Diagnostic Center, outstanding photos and much more. The site is updated daily. Not only do Lancaster County residents, Nebraskans and Americans utilize the site, the site has Web users from nearly 150 countries monthly.

Honors, Awards and Accomplishments

Extension Educator Gary Bergman—Planning committee, 2007 National Urban Extension Conference; President of the Nebraska Great Plains Resource Conservation and Development; President of the Eastern Nebraska 4-H Center Site Board; 20 years of service with UNL

Extension Educator Tom Dorn—statewide Distinguished Educator Award presented by University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension; Outstanding Service to Members presented by the Nebraska Cooperative Extension Association (NCEA); National Finalist for Excellence in Crop Production Programming presented by the National Association of County Agricultural Agents (NACAA); National Finalist for Excellence in the Use of Communications Media—Feature Story Category presented by NACAA; Past-President and Treasure of the Nebraska Agronomy Club; Past-President of Nebraska Chapter of NACAA

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4-H Reached 18,500 Youth in Lancaster County

The University of Nebraska–Lincoln Extension 4-H youth development program is open to all youth ages 5–19. Emphasis is on teaching practical skills and developing life skills through learning-by-doing. In the past year, 4-H reached more than 18,500 youth in Lancaster County.

Lancaster County 4-H consists of several components:

- **Organized Clubs**—Lancaster County has more than 120 4-H clubs which ranged from 5 to 62 members. Each club is led (or co-led) by adults. Youth choose officers to run meetings. Clubs usually participate in one or more projects together.

- **Independent Members**—With increasingly busy schedules, more and more youth are becoming independent 4-H members. Youth work on 4-H projects on their own.

- **Projects**—Youth can choose from more than 150 4-H projects. Project manuals are developed by university extension.

- **School Enrichment**—4-H programs for classrooms include: Garbology (for 2nd grade), Embryology (for 3rd grade), Ag Awareness Festival (for 4th grade), Earth Wellness Festival (for 5th grade) and Nutrition Education Program (for K-5th grades).

- **After-School Programs**—24 Lincoln after-school programs have incorporated 4-H projects into their activities, 9 sites have formed 4-H clubs and 15 summer sites participated in 4-H county fair exploration activities.

- **4-H Embryology Web Site**—EGG Cam and other resources at http://lancaster.unl.edu/4h/Embryology

- **Educational Events**—4-H staff organize educational events each year such as Clover College, speech workshops and leader trainings.

- **Leadership Opportunities**—4-H Teen Council, 4-H Council, Citizen Washington Focus group and more.

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Many 4-H youth choose to exhibit their project(s) at the county and state fairs. A total of 4,448 4-H exhibits were showcased at the 2007 Lancaster County Fair.

A new workshop offered at this year’s Clover College was “Spectacular Spectrometer,” presented by UNL Physics Professor Kevin Lee and SEPPO volunteers.

In the 4-H Embryology School Enrichment program, 3rd graders witness the amazing process of chicks hatching in their classrooms.

**Volunteers Contribute to Extension’s Success**

UNL Extension in Lancaster County trains and supports, as well as coordinates the efforts of a variety of volunteers: 4-H leaders and superintendents, Master Gardeners, Family Community Education (FCE) volunteers and Nutrition Education Program (NEP) volunteers. In addition, 4-H and FCE members often volunteer in community-related projects.

Last year, extension programs in Lancaster County benefitted from 1,897 volunteers investing 28,572 hours of time for a total value of $536,296.*

*Independent Sector values volunteer time for 2006 at $18.77/hour.

Family & Community Education (FCE) Clubs

The Family and Community Education (FCE) clubs are an educational, social and community-oriented program designed to meet the needs and interests of Nebraska homemakers. FCE members help strengthen communities and families through education, leadership and action. Lancaster County FCE’s emphasis is on community service and sponsoring a nursing scholarship.

To discover more about Lancaster County 4-H, go to http://lancaster.unl.edu/4h

One of the FCE and community leader training lessons presented last year was “Quick and Easy Salads.”

This year, UNL Extension in Lancaster County and the City of Lincoln Recycling office developed a curriculum for 4-H After-school programs, “Trash to Treasure,” which helps youth learn about Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. The curriculum was accepted for inclusion in the national Directory of Successful Urban 4-H programs.

UNL Extension is a Division of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln cooperating with the Counties and the United States Department of Agriculture.

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In January 2007, Lancaster County extension volunteer Deb Arends (right) received a statewide Outstanding Volunteer Award presented by the Nebraska Association of County Extension Boards (NACEB).

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“...and Earth Wellness Festival Steering Committee

John Chess, member of Lancaster County Extension Board

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