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2009-2010 Annual Report

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Since 2001, Extension Educator Tom Dorn has served as a bed bug expert. She has been quoted by newspapers and appeared on TV and radio. This year, Barb organized four bed bug workshops which had 337 total attendees (landlords attending manage more than 5,500 units total) and gave 20 presentations to agencies, businesses, and non-profit organizations with approximately 1,110 total attendees.

In March, 131 child care providers who care for approximately 1,520 youth participated in 20 presentations to agencies, businesses, and non-profit organizations with approximately 1,110 total attendees. This year, Extension Educator Maureen Burson presented 25 Guardianship Trainings to 286 guardians in Lancaster and nearby counties. Based upon a 90% statewide return rate, evaluations indicate 95% better understand their responsibilities to the court, compared to 25% prior to the class; and 98% better understand their responsibility to wards compared to 48% prior to the class.

In March, 131 child care providers who care for approximately 1,520 youth participated in a child care conference organized by Extension Educator Lorene Bartos and other Lincoln agencies. Evaluations by past attendees indicate 67% increased hands-on activities, and 54% increased daily learning activities.

In November, Extension Educator Alice Heneman presented “How to Add a Little Spice & Herbs (and Less Salt, Fat, Sugar, and Calories) to Your Life” at Bryan LGH to 270 attendees. Web resources “Add a Little Spice (and Herbs) to Your Life!” were accessed 3,103 times this year.

Staff responded to approximately 37,500 phone calls, walk-ins, and emails from the public requesting information.

The Web site http://lancaster.unl.edu continued to expand, receiving more than 11.2 million hits this year (see next page).

UNL Extension coordinates distribution and application of biosolids* to agricultural cropland for the City of Lincoln. Over the last 18 years, more than 500,000 tons of biosolids have been recycled, increasing soil nutrients, organic matter, and crop yields. This biosolids recycling program will increase the life of the North Bluff Landfill by 4.9 years.

*Biosolids are organic solids separated from wastewater and biologically processed to make them safe to use as an organic fertilizer for crops not in the human food chain.
Benefits of Land-Grant Universities

Without question, our nation has enjoyed tremendous social and economic benefits from land-grant universities. Providing educational opportunities for all people, these universities have fueled our nation’s capacity to create an enormous number of productive food and agricultural enterprise systems.

Land-grant universities, over time, also transformed our country through the dissemination of researched-based knowledge to not only those enrolled as university students, but to those earning a livelihood and raising their families. Given educational opportunities to improve production techniques and practices, more and more people improved their lives and levels of income.

In 1867, an independent study found the University of Nebraska–Lincoln’s Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources (IARNR), of which extension is an integral part, provides at least a 15-to-1 return on the state tax dollars Nebraska invested.

It was President Lincoln who signed the Morrill Act in 1862 which led to the creation of “colleges for the people.” At the time, federal grants of land helped establish land-grant universities. Like many other states, Nebraska formed a land-grant university two years after statehood in 1869.

While previously only for the elite, higher education was now available to everyone. In subsequent years, legislative milestones such as the Hatch Act in 1887 and the Smith-Lever Act of 1914 brought about the teaching, research, and extension system we all benefit from today.

Over the years, I’ve witnessed how other countries have admired and tried to replicate our extension model through dissemination of non-biased research-based information to the people. It really is a system envied throughout the world.

UNL Extension Utilizes Multiple Delivery Methods to Impact People in Lancaster County and Beyond

Through search engines and browsing, hundreds of thousands of people access UNL Extension’s Web site, http://lancaster.unl.edu, to find “Know How — Know Now” 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Visited by an average of 30,000 unique sites* each month, the Web site received more than 11.2 million hits (accesses) this past year!

The Web site contains thousands of pages of content — featuring extensive resources, educational publications, a searchable database, 4-H Egg Cam videos, quizzes, Master Gardener Diagnostic Center, outstanding photos, and much more. The site is updated daily. Not only do Lancaster County residents, Nebraskans, and Americans use the site; the site has Web users from nearly 150 countries monthly.

*unique site = IP address

http://lancaster.unl.edu is Your 24/7 Local Extension Connection

UNL Extension in Lancaster County uses popular social networking Web sites to provide even more opportunities for you to connect, learn, and share with your local extension office:

Facebook: 4-H Egg Cam Fan Page — get regular updates, share photos, comments, and discuss what’s happening on Egg Cam.

Twitter: follow extension and 4-H by quickly exchanging ideas in a “tweet.”

YouTube: extension has three channels and currently has 70 videos uploaded, including 52 Lancaster County 4-H videos!

Facebook 4-H EGG Cam Fan Page — get regular updates, share photos, comments, and discuss what’s happening on Egg Cam. Join us online at http://lancaster.unl.edu/Media.

Lancaster Extension Education Center Conference Facilities

As part of extension’s commitment to community learning, the conference facilities are made available to other nonprofit and governmental organizations at a nominal cost. Last year, more than 4,800 hours of conferences and meetings were held at the Lancaster Extension Education Center.

Lancaster Extension staff received three awards at the statewide extension conference

Honor's, Awards and Accomplishments

Extension Associate Deanna Covault
• 18 years of service with UNL

Extension Educator Tom Dorn
• Treasurer of the Nebraska Agribusiness Club
• Treasurer of Nebraska Cooperative Extension Association (NCSEA)
• North Central Regional Vice Chair of the National Search for Excellence Committee, National Association of County Agricultural Agents (NACAA)
• 38 years of service with UNL

Extension Associate Mary Jane Proff
• 20 years of service with UNL

Extension Educator Alice Henneman
• received a statewide Extension Award of Excellence: Creativity and Vision for Extension Presence at Husker Harvest Days presented by Elbert Dickey, dean and director of UNL Extension
• 30 years of service with UNL

Extension Educator Don Janssen
• retired after 30 years of service with UNL Extension in Lancaster County

Extension Assistant Vicki Jedlicka
• received the statewide Distinguished Managerial/Professional award presented by UNL Extension

Extension Associate Deanna Karmazin
• received the statewide Distinguished Managerial/Professional award presented by UNL Extension

Extension Associate Mardel Meinke
• 15 years of service with UNL

Extension Educator Barb Ogg
• 15 years of service with UNL

Lancaster County 4-H Embryology School Enrollment Program
• received a statewide award presented by the Nebraska Poultry Industries and the Poultry & Egg Division of the Nebraska Department of Agriculture

Lancaster County Nutrition Education Program’s School Enrichment
• 2009 Year in Review Video
• received the national and regional award for Communicator Award – Video Program presented by the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents (NAE4-HA)
4-H Youth Develop Positive Skills for Life

The University of Nebraska–Lincoln Extension 4-H youth development program is open to all youth ages 5–18. Emphasis is on developing life skills through learning-by-doing.

Lancaster County 4-H consists of:

• Organized Clubs — More than 120 4-H clubs. Each club ranges from 5 to 100 members and is led (or co-led) by adults. Youth choose officers to run meetings. Clubs usually work on one or more projects together.

• Independent Members — With increasingly busy schedules, more and more youth are becoming independent 4-H members. Youth and families work independently on 4-H projects.

• Projects — Youth can choose from numerous 4-H projects. Project manuals are developed by experts and most project manuals have leader guides.

• School Enrichment — 4-H programs for classrooms include: Garbology (2nd grade), Embryology (3rd grade), Ag Awareness Festival (4th grade), Earth Wellness Festival (5th grade), and Nutrition Education Program (K–8th grades in qualifying schools). These curricula meet Nebraska Curriculum Standards.

• After-School Programs — 27 Lincoln after-school programs have incorporated 4-H projects into their activities. 18 sites have formed 4-H clubs, and 27 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 events such as Clover College, workshops, contests, and leader trainings.

• Leadership Opportunities — 4-H Teen Council, 4-H Council, Citizenship Washington Focus, and more.

In the past year, Lancaster County 4-H reached nearly:

• 1,742 club members
• 392 independent members
• 958 youth in after-school and summer programs which incorporated 4-H activities
• 18,635 youth in 4-H school enrichment programs

This year marked the 15th annual 4-H Clover College, which is four days of hands-on workshops. It has grown to 51 workshops, nearly 70 volunteers, and 741 total class registrations.

Lancaster County 4-H and the Lancaster Horse VIPS Committee hosted a District 4-H Horse Show. 171 exhibitors participated in 449 total entries.

Citizenship Washington Focus is a 4-H leadership program for high school youth to explore and develop civic engagement. Two years of preparation and fundraising for 28 Lancaster County youth culminated in June with a 12-day educational seminar to Washington D.C. Learning experiences included meeting with Nebraska Senator Ben Nelson (left) and Congressman Jeff Fortenberry (in back).

New this year, the 4-H livestock booster committee established a 4-H & FFA livestock auction at the Lancaster County Super Fair. A portion of all proceeds was set aside to start a scholarship program for local 4-H & FFA members.

AmeriCorps Member part of Go-Green Initiative

Sarah Bailey spent a year with UNL Extension in Lancaster County as an AmeriCorps State and National member. AmeriCorps places members in local organizations for one-year terms. Sarah was a part of the AmeriCorps Recovery-Go Green Initiative which provides community outreach and service focused on environmental issues. She worked with 4-H after-school programs, 4-H school enrichment, People’s City Mission garden, and took the lead in renovating the Culler Middle School courtyard into an outdoor classroom and rain garden.

As 4-H’ers work on projects, they develop life skills, leadership, and citizenship. Our communities benefit because youth apply these skills to all aspects of their lives.”

— Quentin Farley, president of 4-H Council and member of Lancaster County Extension Board
Nutrition & Food Safety

To help people learn how to eat healthier, extension blends nutrition, food safety, and food preparation information into practical actions people can use in their daily lives. Educational materials developed by Extension Educator Alice Henneman for use in local programs (such as PowerPoints and handouts) are made available on the Internet for around-the-clock access, both locally and nationwide. UNL Extension in Lancaster County’s food Web site received nearly 4.5 million hits last year.

This year, Alice chaired a committee of about 30 UNL staff to develop extension’s statewide Food Web site at http://food.unl.edu. Alice also helped coordinate planning of the display at Husker Harvest Days which promoted the launch of the Food Web Site in September. Topics on the statewide Web site include food safety, food allergies, local foods, meat products, home food preservation, food processing/business development, youth/4-H, and more.

The Lancaster County Nutrition Education Program (NEP) helps limited-resource families learn to prepare nutritious and safe foods while stretching their food dollars. NEP receives funding from the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) through USDA and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program-Snack Ed (SNAP Ed).

Last year, Lancaster County NEP reached:
- 857 enrolled program families (1,430 teaching contacts).
- 7,462 youth (14,214 teaching contacts) at 28 schools and other sites.
- 92 older adults (428 teaching contacts) at 6 senior sites.

Yard & Garden

UNL Extension plays a vital role in teaching communities horticulture issues designed for local weather, water, soil, and pest conditions. Extension helps property owners develop healthy, diverse and functional landscapes that are energy and water efficient, as well as less dependant on pesticides.

Extension 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 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.

UNL Extension in Lancaster County helps maintain a garden for residents at the People’s City Mission. Extension provides the expertise, networking, and volunteers to teach residents how to care for and harvest garden crops.

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 an up-to-date Web site. Some of the agricultural programs presented this year include: Private and Commercial Pesticide Applicator Trainings, Computerized Farm Financial Recordkeeping Training, Farmland Leasing Arrangements workshop, and a Corn/Soybean Profitability workshop.

Residential acreages are rapidly increasing in Lancaster County. Extension delivers information on a wide range of issues related to acreages such as proper management of septic tanks and wastewater lagoons, landscape management, and alternative crops profitable for acreages. Extension offers an Acreage and Small Farms Insights Web site.

Production ag and acreage resources are online at http://extension.unl.edu/ag/other/san. UNL Extension in Lancaster County has extensive resources to help identify pests and recommend control methods. Emphasis is on low-toxic control methods.

Home & Family Living

Extension Educator Lorene Bartos shares her expertise on home maintenance, indoor air quality, lead paint hazards, safety in the home, shopping smart, and recycling through Tom Neve’s, extension’s Web site, her weekly column in the “Lincoln Journal Star,” and other outreach methods. She presented or helped present numerous workshops including RentWise, Window of Opportunity Child Care Conference, and Small Steps to Health and Wealth.

UNL Extension is part of the Lancaster County Coalition to assist Children of Parents Experiencing Divorce (COPED), and co-presents Parents Forever and Kids Talk About Divorce classes. Extension Educator Maureen Burson teaches Parents Forever and Guardianship Training classes in Lancaster County. She also organized two Strengthening Families: Daughter/Mother Camps this year.

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 scholarship. Annually, FCE awards a $400 scholarship.

Last year, UNL Extension in Lancaster County programs benefited from approximately 2,193 volunteers investing 26,907 hours of time for a total value of $442,082! Volunteers contributed to 4-H, Master Gardener, Nutrition Education Program (NEP), Family Community Education (FCE) and other extension programs. In addition, 4-H and FCE members often volunteer in community service projects.

*Independent Sector values volunteer time in Nebraska for 2008 at $18.42/hour.