2011 Annual Report

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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.

**Family & Community Education**

- Parenting, families & relationships
- Home environment, safety, energy & consumer education
- Parenting, families & relationships
- Family & Community Education (FCE) clubs

**Food & Nutrition**

- Nutrition & cooking
- Food safety
- Stretching food dollars

**Farms & Acreages**

- Livestock & crop production
- Acreage living
- Urban agriculture
- Water resources

**Home & Families**

- Home environment, safety, energy & consumer education
- Parenting, families & relationships
- Family & Community Education (FCE) clubs

**Pests & Wildlife**

- Pest identification
- Insect, spider & wildlife education
- Low-toxic solutions

**Outreach**

UNL Extension in Lancaster County develops and delivers educational programs which strengthen individuals, families, businesses, and communities.

**Yard & Garden**

- Plant & pest problem diagnosis
- Master Gardener volunteers
- Horticulture education
- Managing water resources

**Community Value**

- Barbara Ogg has been a valuable resource in my work with child care facilities. Her willingness to provide pest management training and work individually with child care professionals has made a positive impact on our community.
  
  Gina Egenberger, Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department Children’s Environmental Health Educator

- I found out cover crops definitely protect the soil and are beneficial for wildlife. I still have a lot to learn on how to manage cover crops.
  
  Calvin Paschold, ag producer

- “4-H has done a wonderful job preparing me for college as an Animal Science major. Horse quiz bowl, hippology, and judging — paired with the work my 4-H leader and Extension staff have done — helped lay a strong foundation for my college education.”
  
  Cory Peters, 10-year 4-H member and UNL freshman majoring in Animal Science

- “4-H joined the Big Ten Conference this year. Eight of the Big Ten institutions are land-grant universities with Extension outreach.”

- “The Guardianship Training was invaluable with understanding the requirements for guardianship.”
  
  Range Shaw and Bowman Show, Guardianship Training participants

- “The Master Gardener program gave me an increased level of knowledge on horticultural subjects, and a new understanding of our community gardens. It has been great sharing my love of gardening with others through the program.”
  
  Elaine Booth, UNL Extension Master Gardener volunteer

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University of Nebraska–Lincoln Extension contributes in a “big way” to the university land grant system — your university. Bringing university resources to you through teaching, research, and extension education strengthens the well-being of our state. Through partnerships, our university contributes to finding solutions to many looming challenges.

For example, how will Nebraska contribute to feeding a global population projected to reach nine billion people by 2050? Considering increasing living standards in many countries, demand for food, energy, and water will likely double. While impressive research has already increased crop yields requiring less water and energy, the need continues for even more important discoveries.

As an agricultural state, we are a recognized leader in food production. We no longer produce food just for Nebraskans but for people in other parts of the world. During our nation’s recent economic challenges, agricultural strength has significantly contributed to a comparatively healthy economy. With exciting innovations and partnerships such as the new UNL Innovation Campus, we are wisely positioning itself to find solutions to the major global challenges of tomorrow.

Locally, our Extension educators, associates, and staff are proud to be part of our state’s only land grant university. We are equally proud to serve as a Lancaster County department through a partnership investment in facilities, staff, and operating budget. We value local leadership from our Extension board and 4-H Council, and appreciate the increased capacity we gain through local partnerships and thousands of people affected.

For many years, the UNL Extension partnership with Lancaster County has contributed to our community through 4-H/youth development; teaching and advising on foods, nutrition, families, home environment, horticulture, pest management, and agriculture.

Enhancing economic well-being through education, using non-biased, research-based information from your land-grant university is what we are all about.

Since 2000, the Nutrition Education Program School Enrollment Kits have increased nutrition education in qualifying Lincoln classrooms from an average of 4 hours to 11 hours per classroom per year. To date, 43,089 students (grades K-8) have benefited from more than 23,000 total hours of teaching. Teachers have noticed students choosing healthier foods and improving their eating habits.

Extension Educator Sarah Browning helped present two-day Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) trainings at five locations in Nebraska, including Lincoln. A total 133 commodity fruit and vegetable growers received knowledge and food practices and used these practices in their production operations enabling them to maintain or improve the safety of their produce by preventing contamination with microbial pathogens. Three months after the program, 74% implemented a health and hygiene training program for all employees; 59% implemented a system to clean all harvest equipment on a scheduled basis.

Less than a week after USDA unveiled the new MyPlate icon in June, Extension Educator Alice Henneman created a PowerPoint and online slideshow of “Choose MyPlate: Selected Consumer Messages.” The webpage has received 18,595 pageviews. 238 visitors participated in an evaluation, of which 92% indicated they learned something new and 87% indicated they learned something new. The PowerPoint was also posted on SlideShare.net which has received more than 23,000 views and as a YouTube video which has received more than 7,300 views.

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

Hundreds of thousands of people access UNL Extension in Lancaster County’s website to find answers to questions and solutions to problems 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. The website contains thousands of pages of content and is updated daily. Extension’s educational materials often show up near the top in search engine results.

This year we expanded our social media outreach to give you even more opportunities to connect at your convenience. Join the conversation — ask questions, give feedback, and share your experiences. On our Facebook page, staff post instant updates on programs and news releases anytime.

The new 4-H Facebook page is a special place for 4-H families, volunteers, and alumni to connect. Our YouTube and new Flickr channels are great places to watch informative videos and view photos from local events and programs.

Barb Oggs offers a charity organization how to inspect donated beds for bed bugs.

Extension Educator Barb Oggs is known as a bed bug expert. This year, Barb gave 55 bed bug presentations to agencies, businesses, non-profit organizations, daycare providers, and schools — as well as medical, real estate, and pest control professionals — totaling approximately 2,400 total attendees. She also consults with hundreds of renters and homeowners who have bed bugs.

Nebraska RentWise is a six-module educational program for renter education and resource centers, classes for 348 low-income renters. In Lincoln last year, 81% graduated from the program (completed all six modules). Many participants report they have improved their abilities and knowledge as renters, and have made positive changes.

Since 2001, Extension Educator Tom Dorn has helped present 17 computerized Farm Financial Recordkeeping Training to representatives from 212 farmlands. Attendees at this year’s training reported: 100% indicated they learned how to keep a more complete set of financial records; 80% indicated they learned how to keep a more accurate set of records.

Extension’s statewide Parents Forever classes help divorcing parents implement positive parenting skills and are approved by the Nebraska Supreme Court. This year, Extension Educator Maureen Burson presented 20 classes to 187 total parents who care for approximately 339 children. Evaluations indicate that the class 95% understand the extension program with 66% prior to the class; 94% understood how to develop a co-parenting plan (compared with 55% prior to the class).

Virginia Fleming was recognized for 45 years of service with UNL (pictured with UNL Chancellor Harvey Perlmans).

Staff Secretary Virginia Plaing joined the Extension team in 2007. She has been a valuable asset to the Extension staff.

In 2014, Extension Educator Karen Wobig was named to the Lancaster County Agricultural Society Hall of Fame (pictured with Board President Ron Dowling).
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.

- **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** — 42 Lincoln after-school/summer site programs have incorporated 4-H projects and/or county fair exploration activities into their programs.
- **4-H Embryology Website** — 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, and more.

In the past year, Lancaster County 4-H reached nearly:
- 1,237 club members
- 1,292 youth in after-school and summer programs which incorporated 4-H activities
- 18,643 youth in 4-H school enrichment programs

Nearly 530 fourth graders from local schools attended the Ag Awareness Festival in October at UNL’s Agricultural Research and Development Center near Mead. Four Lancaster County 4-H’ers achieved the top level of Nebraska 4-H Horsemanship — Level IV.

**Benefit to Youth**

4-H Clover College is a four-day series of hands-on workshops held each June. This year’s Clover College featured 52 workshops and 734 total registrations.

At the 2011 Lancaster County Super Fair, nearly 700 exhibitors showcased more than 5,400 4-H/FFA exhibits (including static exhibits, Clover Kids, animals, and contest entries).

Nearly 500 fourth graders from local schools attended the Ag Awareness Festival in April at the Lancaster Event Center. Extension Assistant Cole Meador also assisted at the Ag Awareness Festival in October at UNL’s Agricultural Research and Development Center near Mead.

Approximately 3,800 third graders in 151 classrooms at 51 schools incubate, candle, and watch eggs hatch as part of the 4-H Embryology school enrichment program.

Garbology means the study of garbage. More than 3,100 second graders in 160 classrooms at 51 schools participate in the 4-H Garbology school enrichment program which includes hands-on experiments.

**Community Service**

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.

*Independent Sector values volunteer time in Nebraska for 2009 at $16.67/hour.

Lancaster County FCE Council and members hosted the statewide FCE Annual Leadership Conference in 2011 which drew 77 members from across Nebraska.
UNL Extension plays a vital role in promoting human health by teaching Nebraskans how to create healthy, sustainable, and diverse landscapes that are energy and water efficient, as well as less dependant on pesticides. Fewer pesticide applications means less chance for human exposure, and reduced potential for chemical residue to end up in lakes and streams. Extension Educator Sarah Brownning and Extension Associate Mary Jane Frogge assist area residents and green industry professionals via phone calls, walk-in requests, email questions, publications, and Internet resources.

The Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Program provides participants with 40 hours of classroom training on a core curriculum of horticulture topics, and in return they give back 40 hours of volunteer service to their community. Master Gardener volunteers extend the reach of Extension education by teaching yard waste composting, a program developed in partnership with the City of Lincoln Solid Waste Recycling Program. Master Gardeners also assist in maintenance of demonstration landscapes, including the People’s City Mission vegetable garden where they teach residents how to care for and harvest garden crops.

Diagnostic Services

Throughout the year, Lancaster County residents bring plant samples, insects, pets, and wildlife “signs” to UNL Extension in Lancaster County. A free service, Extension entomologists and horticulturists assist area residents via phone calls, walk-in requests, email questions, publications, presentations, workshops, and radio. Extension’s popular pest and wildlife website reaches a global audience with research-based resources including videos. Ogg partners with community organizations and industry professionals in training and disseminating pest control resources and assistance. Bed bugs are a growing problem in Lincoln and other Nebraska communities, particularly in low income families who cannot afford professional treatments.

Pests & Wildlife

UNL Extension in Lancaster County has extensive resources to help identify pests and recommend control methods. Emphasis is on low-toxic control methods, when ever possible. Extension Educator Barb Ogg and Extension Associate Soni Cochran assist area residents via phone calls, walk-in requests, email questions, publications, presentations, workshops, and radio. Extension’s popular pest and wildlife website reaches a global audience with research-based resources including videos. Ogg partners with community organizations and industry professionals in training and disseminating pest control resources and assistance. Bed bugs are a growing problem in Lincoln and other Nebraska communities, particularly in low income families who cannot afford professional treatments.

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 website. He is Extension’s statewide contact for grain storage questions. Some of the agricultural programs presented this year include: Private and Commercial Pesticide Applicator Trainings, Nutrient Management seminars, and a Farmland Leasing Arrangements 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. A new online resource offers an Acreage and Small Farms Insights website at http://acreage.unl.edu. Production ag and acreage resources are online at http://lancaster.unl.edu/ag.

Urban Agriculture

With the growing importance of urban agriculture, a statewide website at http://food.unl.edu/urbanag was created to focus on Extension’s many resources in this area. Extension’s statewide team members from Lancaster County are co-leaders: Gary Blake and Alice Henneman, as well as Alice Henneman and David Smith.

Food & Nutrition

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 also made available on the Internet for around-the-clock access, both locally and nationwide. They are promoted and shared via various social media: Vimeo, SlideShare, LinkedIn, Twitter, Flickr, and Facebook. As an example, a community program she delivered in cooperation with BryanLGH about healthy eating using master mixes, drew a live audience of over 400 persons and the materials on the Internet have received over 5,500 views. Alice chairs a committee of about 30 UNL staff to develop materials for Extension’s statewide Food Website at http://food.unl.edu. Topics include food safety, local foods, meat products, home food preservation, food processing/business development, food allergies, and youth/4-H.

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 USDA through the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program-Education (SNAP-Ed).

Last year, Lancaster County NEP reached:

- 819 enrolled program families
- 26 schools and other teaching contacts
- 6 senior sites
- 26 schools and other teaching contacts
- 7,318 youth (13,121 teaching contacts) at 26 schools and other sites
- 78 older adults (357 teaching contacts) at six senior sites
- 26 schools and other teaching contacts
- 617 youth (1,178 teaching contacts)

Grant Addresses Childhood Obesity

In 2011, UNL Extension received an Agriculture and Food Research Initiative competitive grant to address the childhood obesity issue in the Lincoln community. The $947,093 grant will be used to replicate the highly successful Lancaster County Nutrition Education Program’s school enrichment kit program which is currently only available to income qualifying schools. All Lincoln Public Schools will now have access to nutrition kits containing hands-on educational experiences designed to enhance the school health curriculum. Teachers will be trained on the usage of kits in their classrooms and the importance of healthy eating. The five-year “Growing Healthy Kids Thru Healthy Communities” also provides for parent/community involvement though a “Family Meal Night” component.

Home & Families

Extension Educator Lorene Bartos shares her expertise on home maintenance, indoor air quality, energy conservation, safety in the home, and recycling through The Needle: Extension’s website, her weekly column in the Lincoln Journal Star, and other outreach methods. She presented or helped present numerous workshops including RemiWise, child care provider conferences, and community training lessons.

Extension Educator Maureen Burson presents Parents Forever and Guardianship Training classes in Lancaster County and Southeast Nebraska. She is also a part of Lincoln’s Children of Parents Experiencing Divorce (COPE) coalition.

The Window of Opportunity Child Care Conference had 137 attendees.

Local Programs

Yard & Garden

UNL Extension plays a vital role in promoting human health by teaching Nebraskans how to create healthy, sustainable, and diverse landscapes that are energy and water efficient, as well as less dependant on pesticides. Fewer pesticide applications means less chance for human exposure, and reduced potential for chemical residue to end up in lakes and streams. Extension Educator Sarah Brownning and Extension Associate Mary Jane Frogge assist area residents and green industry professionals via phone calls, walk-in requests, email questions, publications, and Internet resources.

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