2014 Extension Highlights

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Extension 2014 Highlights

In 2014, Extension Educator Sarah Browning, Associate Mary Jane Frogge and Master Gardeners assisted residents and green industry professionals through over 11,000 contacts and 95 hours of programming. Staff have started local educational efforts about emerald ash borer (EAB), a new invasive pest which is expected to be confirmed in Nebraska at any time. EAB has been confirmed in Iowa, Missouri, Kansas and Colorado.

At the 2014 Lancaster County Super Fair, over 700 4-H/FFA exhibitors showcased nearly 5,500 exhibits (including static exhibits, animals, contest entries and Clover Kids exhibits). There was a 71% increase in exhibitors and birds at the 4-H Poultry Show. This was in part because a 4-H poultry club, The Egg Basket, started in February.

The Nutrition Education Program (NEP) helps limited-resource families learn to prepare nutritious and safe foods while stretching their food dollars. Last year, NEP staff completed lessons with 433 enrolled adults (2,696 teaching contacts) and reached 7,357 youth (11,351 teaching contacts) at 30 schools and other sites. Pictured is Mardel Meinke teaching a lesson at a veterans group home.

Extension partnered with local agencies to provide educational opportunities for childcare professionals. These trainings focused on increasing the knowledge and skills of participants so they are better able to support the healthy development of children. 80% of attendees indicated they would put the information they learned into practice. Pictured above is Extension Educator Lorene Bartus (standing third from right) who helped present a new training on cultural diversity called “Faces of Our Community.”

Extension offers “Co-Parenting for Successful Kids” onsite and online classes to help separating and divorcing parents — the classes meet court-mandated requirements. Last year, over 97 parents completed the classes offered in Lincoln (pictured is Extension Educator Maureen Burson), and over 400 Lancaster County parents took the class online. On Dec. 1, Oklahoma Extension started offering the online class with Nebraska Extension’s assistance.

Nebraska Extension in Lancaster County coordinates distribution and application of biosolids to agricultural cropland for the City of Lincoln. Since 1992, more than 682,000 tons of biosolids have been recycled. Pictured is Biosolids Coordinator Dave Smith.

The Lancaster County Board of Commissioners celebrated our state’s land-grant university. University of Nebraska–Lincoln is our state's land-grant university with a public mission of teaching, research and extension service.

2014 marked the centennial of the Smith-Lever Act which created the national Cooperative Extension Service. Today, every state has a land-grant university created the national Cooperative Extension Service. Today, every state has a land-grant university.
**Extension Calendar**

All events will be held at the Lancaster Extension Education Center, 444 Cherrycreek Road, Lincoln, unless otherwise noted.

**December**

- 31 4-H Award and Scholarship Applications Due to Extension

**January**

- 1 4-H Horse Incentive Program Begins
- 6 4-H Council Meeting
- 7 4-H Council Meeting
- 8 Co-Parenting for Successful Kids Class ............... 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
- 9 Extension Board Meeting
- 11 4-H Teen Council Meeting ......... 7 p.m.
- 13 Guardian/Conservator Training
- 14 4-H Online Enrollment Training, anytime 7:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.
- 14 Nebraska Farm Bill Computer Decision Aid Workshop, Northeast District Conference Center
- 16 – 17 4-H 4th & 5th Grade Overnight Lock-In
- 18 Private Pesticide Applicator Training .......... 9 a.m. – Noon
- 22/4-H/FFA Beef Weigh In, Lancaster Event Center – Pav. 2 .... 6-7 p.m.
- 26 Private Pesticide Applicator Training ...
- 31 Deadline for Current 4-H Members to Enroll Using “4-H Online” at https://ne.4honline.com

**Extension 2014 Highlights**

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Extension’s centennial with a proclamation at their May 6 meeting.

Nebraska Extension in Lancaster County is a partnership between the University of Nebraska–Lancaster, Lancaster County and the United States Department of Agriculture.

As part of Extension’s commitment to learning, the Lancaster Extension Education Center conference facilities are available to the nonprofit and governmental organizations at a nominal cost. In 2014, more than 5,148 hours of conferences and meetings were held in the facilities.

Millions of people access Nebraska Extension in Lancaster County’s website to find answers to questions and solutions to problems. The website contains thousands of pages of content and is updated daily. We continue to expand our social media outreach to give you even more opportunities to connect, learn and share.

Nebraska Extension’s 4-H youth development program emphasizes science, ag literacy, healthy lifestyles, career development and citizenship/leadership. In the past year, Lancaster County 4-H involved nearly:

- 1,252 club members
- 313 independent members
- 2,440 youth in after-school/summer programming which incorporated 4-H activities
- 18,800 youth in 4-H school enrichment programs.

4-H school enrichment programs 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. 2014 marked the 20th annual Earth Wellness Festival. Approximately 3,200 Lancaster County 5th graders from 46 schools attended. Pictured is the “Do the Rot Thing” session presented by Extension Master Gardeners.

This year’s 4-H Cloverbetter, held June 17-20, featured 53 hands-on workshops and 887 total class registrations. In a new workshop, “Wired 4 Wind” youth built wind turbines that generate electricity and experimented with turbine design. F. John Hay, Energy and Biofuels Extension Educator on UNL East Campus (pictured at far left), taught the class with the help of some of his interns.

**Extension News**

Lorene Bartos Recognized by Rentwise Network

The Lincoln Rentwise Network presented Extension Educator Lorene Bartos with a Certificate of Appreciation at a recent Rentwise training.

Lincoln Rentwise Network members pictured are (L-R) Lisa Janssen, Jessica Collins, Amy Wagner, Lorene, Lee Hefflebower, Stuart Stafford and Sheryl Liernm.

Rentwise Network members wanted to recognize Lorene’s leadership as a founding instructor for the Lincoln Rentwise Network, as well as congratulate Lorene on her 45 years of service to University of Nebraska–Lincoln. Lorene has facilitated Rentwise classes since the network began in 2008. Lee Hefflebower, Supportive Housing Administrator of Community Action Partnership of Lancaster and Saunders Counties, said, “Lorene’s commitment to providing support for tenants in our community has been outstanding. She is a great support for the other instructors as well, and we greatly appreciate having her guidance.”

Rentwise is a six-module educational program for low-income renters. Lincoln Housing Authority is the coordinating agency of the Lincoln Rentwise Network.

**Staff Earn Statewide Awards**

At Nebraska Extension’s annual conference in November, several Nebraska Extension in Lancaster County staff earned statewide awards.

**Extension Educator Alice Henneman:**

- **Innovation in Team Programming** award presented by Nebraska Extension to the food website team (Alice Henneman, Kayla Colgrove, Rendi Helf, Georgia From, Amy Peterson, Lindsay Chichester, Carol Larvick, Julie Albrecht, Jamie Gaffena, Cindy Brison, Audra Losey, Carrie Schneider-Miller, Nancy Urbanec and Lisa Franzen-Castle).

- **Outstanding Mentor** award presented by Nebraska Cooperative Extension Association for excellence in serving as a mentor. Kayla Colgrove nominated Alice who was assigned to be Kayla’s mentor when she started working for Extension in August 2011.

**Extension Educator Maureen Burson, Publication & Media Assistant Vicki Jedlicka, and Clerk Typist Pam Branson:**

- **Creative Programming by a Team** award presented by Nebraska Cooperative Extension Association to the Co-Parenting for Successful Kids adapting on-site to online team (Gail Brandt, Statewide Coordinator. Teachers: Maureen Burson, Leslie Crowell, Linda Dannenh, Nancy Frecks, Jackie Guezman, Lisa Poppe, Susan Purman, Ruth Venderbosch, LaDonna Werth, Cindy Strausheim, Jeanette Friesen, Deb Iwan. Evaluators: Tonia Dunlen, Rebecca Swartz. Team Support: Pam Branson, Vicki Jedlicka, Jennifer Rees, Alyssa Rogers, Deborah Zeitzenkamp, Susan Williams, Holly Weber, Larry Lipke). This award is for NCEA members who have developed creative programming within the past five years to address educational needs of Nebraskans. Nebraska Extension’s “Co-Parenting for Successful Kids” classes help separating and divorcing parents develop plans for respectful, responsive and responsible co-parenting. On-site classes have been presented at locations statewide since 1999. To date, 10,062 parents have completed on-site classes. In January 2012, The Nebraska Supreme Court approved the Extension online class. The online class requires journal entries which are reviewed and commented on by Extension Educators. To date, 3,962 parents from 85 of the 93 Nebraska counties have enrolled in the online class.

**As of Dec. 1, 2014**