2014

2014 Extension Highlights

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Extension 2014 Highlights

NEBRASKA EXTENSION is your local connection to university research-based information. We extend knowledge, provide solutions and change lives. Here’s a look at some of Nebraska Extension in Lancaster County’s 2014 accomplishments.

2014 marked the centennial of the Smith-Lever Act which created the national Cooperative Extension Service. Today, every state has a land-grant university with a public mission of teaching, research and extension service. University of Nebraska–Lincoln is our state’s land-grant university. The Lancaster County Board of Commissioners celebrated our state’s land-grant university. University of Nebraska–Lincoln is the research and extension service.

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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 3,500 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.”

The 2014 Lancaster County Fair (pictured above) was the largest ever, with over 8,000 participants.

Nebraska 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.

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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.

* Biosolids are organic solids separated from wastewater and biologically processed to make them safe to use as a fertilizer.

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December
31 4-H Award and Scholarship Applications Due to Extension
January
30
1 4-H Horse Incentive Program Begins
5 4-H Council Meeting
7 4-H Teen Council Meeting
8 Co-Parenting for Successful Kids Class
9 9 a.m.–4 p.m.
11 9 a.m.–8 p.m.
14 9 a.m.–4 p.m.
16–17 4-H 4th & 5th Grade Overnight Lock-In
21 Private Pesticide Applicator Training
22 4-H/FFA Beef Weigh In, Lancaster Event Center - Pav. 2
26 9 a.m.–Noon
31 Deadline for Current 4-H Members to Enroll Using “4-H Online” at https://ne.4honline.com

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.

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 Heffebower, 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.”

The Lincoln RentWise Network members pictured are (L–R) Lisa Janssen, Jessica Collins, Amy Wagner, Lorene, Lee Heffebower, Stuart Stofferahn and Sheryl Lierman.

Extension 2014 Highlights continued from page 1 Extension’s centennial with a proclamation at their May 6 meeting.
Nebraska Extension in Lancaster County is a partnership between the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, 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 non-profit 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 programs 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 Clover College, 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 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.

Last year, 42 after-school and summer site programs included 4-H projects and activities in their program. Pictured is Extension Assistant Teri Hlava (far right) leading youth in making recycled greeting cards at the Brownell Community Learning Center (CLC) after-school program.

“Extension has helped our family farming operation with continuing education, such as pesticide trainings and publications on calibrating sprayers. My wife and I had good memories growing up involved in 4-H, so we thought it was important to our children to have the same opportunities. 4-H has had a more profound effect than I ever anticipated in keeping our children involved in agriculture.”
– Jim Bauman, Extension Board President

Team members contributed content to http://food.unl.edu (including three blogs, four monthly newsletters and a food calendar), social media postings and listserv creation since the fall of 2013.

• 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 Bixler were named to the Nebraska 4-H 21st Century Program’s Team of the Year. The 4-H 21st Century Program is a youth development program administered by a federal grant program available to 4-H clubs, which emphasizes community service, academic achievement, and healthy living.

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, Hells, Georgia Jones, Amy Peterson, Lindsay Chichester, Carol Larvick, Julie Albrecht, Jamie Gaffena, Cindy Brison, A shading Ouse, Carrie Schneider-Miller, Nancy Urbaniec and Lisa Pranzen-Castle)