June 2002

The NEBLINE, June 2002

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NFBA Helps Producers Analyze Their Farming Business

New Director at NFBA

Gary Bredensteiner (right) will be stepping down as director of Farm Management Programs in July after serving in that post since the NFBA was founded in Nebraska 27 years ago. Bredensteiner, widely recognized as a top farm business analyst and tax law expert, will be officially retiring but plans to continue working part-time on a consulting basis for NFBA for a few more years. Replacing Bredensteiner in the leadership role will be Terry Prokop (left). Terry has worked at NFBA as an Extension Farm Business Associate for the past 6 1/2 years. Prokop plans to divide his time between his new duties as director and his former duties working with clients.

33 percent in terms of profitability. Some trends become apparent when one reads these summaries from year to year. For example, the largest operations, in terms of gross farm income, are not necessarily the most profitable year in and year out. While marketing skills are important, marketing cannot be consistently correlated with high profitability. Generally, when results are averaged, there is little difference in the price received for goods sold between the top profit group and the average. The consistent differences come on the expense side of the ledger. Profitable operators seem to know where to spend their money to receive the highest return on their investment. Operations that are well managed with serviceable and reliable, but not necessarily new, buildings, facilities and equipment tend to rise to the top of the profitability list year after year.

Net farm income was down in 2001 as compared to previous years. Average net income (prior to subtracting family living expenses and income tax liabilities) in 2001 were $36,025. Nonfarm income was $21,561. Family living expenses, including income and social security taxes, was $46,098. This leaves a net worth change of $11,488 for the average farm in the program for 2000. Each client enrolled in the full program receives a confidential report for their individual operation. In this report, they can find their profitability by enterprise type, overall net farm income and net farm income change since last year. The analysis also includes the major financial ratios used by analysts and lenders such as: debt to asset ratio, current ratio, depreciation expense ratio, etc.

In this author’s opinion, the most valuable part of the program is the break down of income and expense by type of enterprise, showing categorized costs for all direct expenses and allocated expenses such as machinery depreciation. This can then be compared to the averages of other producers in the program. Without some means to compare one’s own farm operation against a peer group, a farmer doesn’t have a place to begin to look for inefficiency in the operation. But by comparing one’s individual costs and returns three years in the program, a farmer will be able to compare his operation to the whole and to the operations in the upper 33 percent profitability group, a member may recognize the value of the service. For more information, see NFBA on page 11.

Local Grower Turns to Barley Straw as an Alternative Crop

Most folks don’t remember the last time they saw a field of barley growing near Lincoln, Nebraska. Yet Marlan Johnson who lives and farms northwest of Eagle is experimenting with barley as an alternative crop this year. Johnson, shown standing in his 10 acre barley field, is a grain and livestock producer with deep roots in western Cass County. In fact, Marlan is the fourth generation in his family to farm in the area. He now owns the original 80 acres that his great-grandfather homesteaded in 1867.

Johnson, who produces corn, cotton, wheat, alfalfa and beef cattle was selected by the US Junior Chamber of Commerce as National Outstanding Young Farmer in 1989. He is currently serving as National President of the Outstanding Farmers of America. A graduate of Waverly High School and the University of Nebraska College of Agriculture, Marlan has been interested in alternative crops for some time.

Marlan Johnson is shown standing in his 10 acre barley field.

He is a charter member of Southeast Nebraska Area Producers (SNAP) serving as the group’s president in 2001. SNAP is a cooperative of growers who, collectively, are exploring alternatives to growing corn and soybeans and depending on governmental subsidy programs for economic survival.

Johnson hit on the idea of growing barley as an alternative crop after visiting with Lancaster County Extension Educator, Tom Dorn. Dorn has been following the use of barley straw as an alternative to chemical control measures for algae control in ponds and lakes for several years. He reports, “I haven’t promoted using barley straw for algae control because...” see BARLEY STRAW on page 11.

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Many ornamental shrubs in the home landscape may be propagated by softwood cuttings. Softwood cuttings are taken in late May through early July from the current season’s growth. Cutting material should be flexible but mature enough to snap when sharply bent. Lilac, forsythia, weigela, barberry, potentilla and viburnum are some of the shrubs that may be propagated from softwood cuttings.

A proper rooting medium is needed to successfully root softwood cuttings. The rooting medium must not only retain moisture but also drain well and provide physical support. Coarse sand, perlite, and vermiculite are good rooting materials. The container that holds the rooting medium must have holes in the bottom for drainage. If only a few cuttings are taken, a large clay or plastic pot should be adequate. A wooden or plastic flat may be used if larger quantities are rooted. Once the container has been filled, the medium should be watered and allowed to drain before the cuttings are inserted.

When taking cuttings, remove plant material with a sharp knife. Softwood cuttings should be approximately 4 to 6 inches long. Pinch off the leaves on the lower half of the cutting. Also remove any flowers. Make a fresh cut just below the point where one or two leaves are attached to the stem (node), then dip the base (cut end) of the cutting in a root-promoting compound. Tap off any surplus material. Cuttings from some shrubs root easily, but others are more difficult. Root-promoting substances increase the percentage of cuttings that root, shorten the period needed for rooting, and increase the number of roots per cutting. Root-promoting materials are often available in garden centers and mail-order companies. Most products are in powder form.

To avoid brushing off the powder when inserting the cuttings, make holes in the rooting medium with your finger or a pencil. Insert the cuttings approximately 2 inches deep into the rooting medium. After all the cuttings are inserted, carefully water the medium and let it drain.

Water is critical to the survival of the cuttings. A cutting has no root system to absorb water, yet continues to lose water through its leaves. Water loss can be reduced by placing a clear plastic bag over the cuttings and container.

Once covered, place the cuttings in bright light, but not direct sunlight. Inspect the cuttings daily. When the rooting medium is dry, it may be necessary to water it. Rooting of most deciduous shrubs should occur in six to eight weeks. Examine a few cuttings after four or five weeks. Carefully dig up several cuttings to see if rooting is occurring. If rooting is poor, place the cuttings back in the medium, water them in, then cover again with a plastic bag. When the cuttings have a well-developed root system, they should be hardened off before final insertion in your garden.

Several cuttings should be planted into individual pots with a good potting mix. The young plants can be planted into the ground in a few weeks. Home gardeners may want to grow them in the garden for one or two years before moving the small shrubs to their permanent site in the landscape.

It takes several years for rooted cuttings to become nice-sized plants. However, many gardeners find rooting cuttings and growing the small shrubs to be fun and rewarding.

**Bindweed Season is Here**

There is a good reason behind bindweed’s name: the stems can grow to eight feet, intertwining in and among other plants.

Bindweed is bad news for lawns and gardens. Bindweed is a perennial that quickly spreads by seeders and runners. The roots may grow to 20 feet deep. Two things will help rid the lawn and garden of this diligent plant, old fashioned pulling and a 2,4-D product. Pulling can help eliminate bindweed if it is pulled close to the ground and it is not seeding. Bindweed develops dark seeds usually after the first of September. It can, however, produce seed as early as June. If the plant is seeding, pulling it will further spread the seed.

Pulling is unlikely to get rid of all bindweed. When it is detected in the yard, begin your spray program. Apply herbicide treatment in the morning when a sunny day is forecast. Keep children and pets away from sprayed weeds until there is no visible liquid on them. Replication of the herbicide will probably be necessary in two weeks. Always follow herbicide label directions. (MIF)

**Night Blooming Flowers Offer Evening Enjoyment**

During the day, most people are hard at work and don’t have time to enjoy their gardens. Evenings may be the only time you get a chance to sit back and relax. What could be more relaxing than sitting out after a long day than a fragrant, luminous garden?

Gardens designed for evening enjoyment are called moon gardens. Plants used in moon gardens have one or more of the following characteristics: evening bloom time, fragrance and white flowers or foliage.

Plants that bloom in the late afternoon or night allow for evening enjoyment. Fragrant flowers provide aromatherapy at the end of a hard day. Illuminated only by moonlight, white or pale flowers and foliage add an celestial quality to a garden.

Several night-blooming flowers include artemesia, lamb’s ear, fragrant roses, dusty miller and white flowers or foliage that provide both color and fragrance.

**MOONFLOWER** (Ipomoea alba) This fragrant flowering vine has large heart shaped leaves. Showy flowers open in the evening and last until the next morning. Moonflowers have a sweet fragrance and can be up to 5 to 6 inches across. Close to the end of moonlight, this quick growing annual may climb up to 15 feet. Although it takes significant sun and warm soil conditions to become established, it is every bit as vigorous as the morning glory.

**FOUR O’CLOCKs** (Mirabilis jalapa) This flower is appropriately named. Its blossoms open in late afternoon, scenting the air with a sweet fragrance before closing the next morning. Plants grow up to 3 feet tall with a bushy habit and blossom continuously from late spring through fall. The 1-inch trumpet-shaped flowers comes in shades of red, yellow, white, or rose.

**YUCCA** (Yucca filamentos) Flowers of this spiky perennial are open all day but at night the droopy vines lift and release a soapy smell.

**Yucca** is a broad leaved evergreen that forms a low cluster of long, pointed leaves. During the growing season, a long stalk will grow up to 6 feet tall and produce large numbers of white bell shaped flowers. Once established it may be difficult to remove from the landscape.

Yucca is hardy, zones 4 to 9.

**FLOWERING TOBACCO** (Nicotiana alata) Nicotiana is an annual plant that produces fragrant, tubular flowers that open in evening. Flowers are borne on draping branches and come in pink, purple, red, white and yellow. Plants grow in any garden soil and prefer full sun to partial shade. (MIF)

**Four O’clocks**

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**2002 June/July Garden Calendar**

Many of us need reminders. That is the purpose of this calendar. Check the calendar each month and follow the recommendations if they are necessary in your landscape situation. (MIF)

**Propagating Shrubs from Softwood Cuttings**

Many ornamental shrubs in the home landscape may be propagated by softwood cuttings. Softwood cuttings are taken in late May through early July from the current season’s growth. Cutting material should be flexible but mature enough to snap when sharply bent. Lilac, forsythia, weigela, barberry, potentilla and viburnum are some of the shrubs that may be propagated from softwood cuttings.

A proper rooting medium is needed to successfully root softwood cuttings. The rooting medium must not only retain moisture but also drain well and provide physical support. Coarse sand, perlite, and vermiculite are good rooting materials. The container that holds the rooting medium must have holes in the bottom for drainage. If only a few cuttings are taken, a large clay or plastic pot should be adequate. A wooden or plastic flat may be used if larger quantities are rooted. Once the container has been filled, the medium should be watered and allowed to drain before the cuttings are inserted.

When taking cuttings, remove plant material with a sharp knife. Softwood cuttings should be approximately 4 to 6 inches long. Pinch off the leaves on the lower half of the cutting. Also remove any flowers. Make a fresh cut just below the point where one or two leaves are attached to the stem (node), then dip the base (cut end) of the cutting in a root-promoting compound. Tap off any surplus material. Cuttings from some shrubs root easily, but others are more difficult. Root-promoting substances increase the percentage of cuttings that root, shorten the period needed for rooting, and increase the number of roots per cutting. Root-promoting materials are often available in garden centers and mail-order companies. Most products are in powder form.

To avoid brushing off the powder when inserting the cuttings, make holes in the rooting medium with your finger or a pencil. Insert the cuttings approximately 2 inches deep into the rooting medium. After all the cuttings are inserted, carefully water the medium and let it drain.

Water is critical to the survival of the cuttings. A cutting has no root system to absorb water, yet continues to lose water through its leaves. Water loss can be reduced by placing a clear plastic bag over the cuttings and container.

Once covered, place the cuttings in bright light, but not direct sunlight. Inspect the cuttings daily. When the rooting medium is dry, it may be necessary to water it. Rooting of most deciduous shrubs should occur in six to eight weeks. Examine a few cuttings after four or five weeks. Carefully dig up several cuttings to see if rooting is occurring. If rooting is poor, place the cuttings back in the medium, water them in, then cover again with a plastic bag. When the cuttings have a well-developed root system, they should be hardened off before final insertion in your garden.

Several cuttings should be planted into individual pots with a good potting mix. The young plants can be planted into the ground in a few weeks. Home gardeners may want to grow them in the garden for one or two years before moving the small shrubs to their permanent site in the landscape.

It takes several years for rooted cuttings to become nice-sized plants. However, many gardeners find rooting cuttings and growing the small shrubs to be fun and rewarding. (MIF)
Two types of cockroaches seem to suddenly appear during the late summer and early fall. Oriental cockroaches and wood roaches are easily confused, because they look somewhat similar. It is important to be able to identify them because, unlike oriental cockroaches that breed inside, wood roaches don’t. Other than stepping on the off-white egg cases, no controls are needed. Here’s how you tell the difference between these two types of roach.

Oriental cockroaches

The adult oriental cockroach is about 1-1/2 inches long. The female is stout, shiny black and wingless. The male has short wings that do not cover the abdomen. Male oriental roaches cannot fly—their body is too heavy and their wings too short. These roaches can survive Nebraska winters outside, usually under stones, bricks, mulch or in some kind of vegetative cover. Indoors, oriental roaches, (aka, “waterbugs”) need a high moisture environment and are most often found in basements. If they are found in other parts of the house, it could indicate moisture problems, like leaky plumbing.

Wood roaches

Carpenter Ants

A common question many homeowners have about carpenter ants is why you sometimes find them. The ants don’t need to eat wood. Carpenter ants do not “eat wood” like termites. This is a very common misconception about carpenter ants. Male and female carpenter ants are attracted to house lights and squeeze through window frames. Wood roaches are attracted to house lights and live under bark of trees, but sometimes they live under wood shingles of houses. Female wood cockroaches cannot fly and are not often found inside homes. The key identifying characteristic for carpenter ants is the “hollowed out?” where wood is damaged and other food they find out in the trees.

“Carpenter Ants and Your Home” is a publication that is available from the Extension Service Web site at: extension.unl.edu/carpcom.htm or purchase a copy at the Lancaster County Extension Office. (BPO)

See a Roach? Identify it Before you Spray

Are Carpenter Ants Killing My Trees?

Lancaster County residents have many questions about the carpenter ants they find in and around their homes. A question commonly asked is whether carpenter ants are responsible for the declining health of a tree. In order to answer that question, let’s start with the basics.

Carpenter Ants Do Not “Eat” Wood

Most people that contact the extension office believe carpenter ants “eat wood” like termites. This is a very common misconception about carpenter ants. Carpenter ants do not “eat wood.” Carpenter ants eat plant material, insects (even termites) and other food they find out in the trees. Trees are naturally exposed to a large species of carpenter ants. These roaches are about 1-3/4 inches in length; the smaller species are about one inch long. Male wood roaches are elongated and have wings that cover the abdomen. They are also good flyers. They are found inside homes because the males are attracted to house lights and squeeze through window frames. Wood roaches are attracted to house lights and live under bark of trees, but sometimes they live under wood shingles of houses. Female wood cockroaches cannot fly and are not often found inside homes. The key identifying characteristic for carpenter ants is the “hollowed out?” where wood is damaged and other food they find out in the trees.

Carpenter Ants Are Not a Symptom

Carpenter Ants in trees are not directly harmful to the tree. Control is not essential for the tree’s health, since the ants are only taking advantage of some-thing that is already happening to the tree. Without the original damage or disease, the carpenter ants would not have found a site suitable to build a nest in the first place.

Control in Trees

Control of carpenter ants inside trees is difficult but can be done as a way to reduce the chance of ants moving to your home. Carpenter ant colonies located inside trees commonly form satellite colonies inside a nearby house wall or on a nearby roof. The control options available aren’t going to permanently rid a tree of carpenter ants especially from a tree that is already in decline. You may have to re-treat each year. Do not apply dust directly into the nest cavity. Plugging or sealing tree cavities or treating tree wounds with wound dressings is not advised. Such treatments are unnecessary and will not eliminate carpenter ant activity or any future carpenter ant activity. Also, cutting down otherwise viable trees that happen to be infested with carpenter ants is generally not necessary. You can reduce opportunities for carpenter ant nests in trees by keeping damaged limbs trimmed. If you have concerns about the health of a tree, contact a local arborist to have the tree evaluated.

Carpenter Ants and Your Home

Now that you have a better understanding of carpenter ants in trees, consider the “human home.” What is your home? Baseboards and dead tree cut up in trees is the “human home.” See CARPENTER ANTS on p. 11

EPA Urges Caution When Using Disinfectants in Ducts

Businesses and homeowners considering having their heating ducts cleaned should be aware of the products and processes each year expands on concerns from the Environ-mental Protection Agency. Contractors are recom-mend applying a sanitizer or disinfectant to prevent future mold growth following duct cleaning. However, the EPA cautions the antifungal agents used in this process may cause acute or long-term health effects.

There are antifungal agents registered with EPA for use on hard surfaces such as sheet metal, few are registered for use in health Care and duct work. Those that are registered have not had the extensive evaluation that the EPA now believes may be appropri-ate.

In a few cases, the antifungal agents sprayed into duct work has caused burning eyes, headaches, itchy skin, nausea or sore throats. It’s not proven if the antifungal agents are effective.

Routine duct cleaning in the home is not recommended, according to the EPA. Many contractors may raise the specter of removal, seeding, water management, equipment rental, and brush removal. Landowners may also apply for EQIP funds for wildlife habitat or structural problems (i.e. erosion, terracing) on their land.

According to Dennis Schroeder, NRCS District Conservationist, the recently signed 2002 Farm Bill will have an increase in funding for EQIP, which should result in a larger portion of applications being funded in Lancaster County.

Producers interested in the program should contact Dennis Schroeder at the NRCS office, 6630 S. 58 St., Suite C or call at 423-9683.

For general information about EQIP, you can visit the Natural Resource Conservation Service Web site at: www.nrcs.usda.gov (DS)
The dream of many folks in the urban setting is to move to the country, live on an acreage and have their own pond for fishing, swimming, livestock water or just because they like the water.

One of the perennial problems faced by pond owners is that suburban settings is excessive algae growths, also called algae blooms. Algae are divided into three classifications. Single-celled (planktonic), filamentous and Chara. Planktonic algae remain diversely suspended in the water and turn the water a more or less uniformly green or blue-green color. Filamentous algae species are often seen becoming floating mats of “pond moss.” The third type of algae called Chara or muskgrass, are large green algae that are anchored to the bottom of the pond and extend above the surface. Chara is stem-like, with thin, leaf-like structures arranged in a circle, confused with seed-bearing aquatic plant species. When chara produces a musky odor.

For maximum productivity and nutrient recycling, water, sunlight and nutrients Algae is no exception. In a pond, water and sunlight are a given, the limiting factor is plant nutrients. The first step in algae control is to reduce the movement (loading) of nutrients into the water. Whenever I get a call about an algae problem in a pond, I try to identify the source of nutrients that is causing the problem. Often, the primary nutrients that must be controlled are nitrogen and phosphorus, the nutrients being the larger concern and allowing the pond to control pond algae. As the water percolates through the soil profile encounters the clay layer, its downward movement is impeded. It then moves downslope along the boundary and may emerge as a spring in a creek bottom or in the pond itself. In addition to applied fertilizer or animal waste, another source of potential nutrient loading can be domestic wastewater. Seepage from sewage lagoons and septic disposal fields also becomes part of the soil water matrix and can move down slope as described above.

Once nutrient loading has been reduced to the extent possible, chemical treatments can be used to control algae in a pond. Copper compounds such as copper sulfate and various chelated copper products are both safe and effective when used according to directions. Some copper formulations that are used for seed-bearing aquatic plant species are effective against certain algae species as well. For more information on chemical control methods, go to the section under livestock at www.lancaster.unl.edu/ag/livestok/aquaculture.htm

An alternative to chemical control is described in a University of Nebraska educational resource “Controlling Pond Algae with Barley Straw” (FN00-429) by John Holz, UNL Extension Specialist, located at www.ianr.unl.edu/pubs/wildlf/RFV429.htm. Holt tells of work conducted at the Centre for Aquatic Plant Management, University of Cambridge in England using barley straw to control pond algae. As the straw decomposes in the lake it releases a chemical which inhibits algae growth. He recommends applying straw in mid-late April in order to allow sufficient time for the products to become established before build to sufficient levels to control summer algal growth in Nebraska ponds and lakes. Roch Gaucho, extension turfgrass specialist has worked with several golf course managers who used barley straw for algae control. He reports that if the straw is put into the pond early in the spring, before any noticeable algae growth occurs, the managers have had success.

See page 1 for a feature story about a local farmer who has used barley straw in his pond during 2002 and plans to market the straw to pond owners for feeding. Without the hay quality test, it is not possible to accurately determine the rations needed to meet the animal’s nutrient needs at least cost. (TD)
Wildflowers and Native Plants

Wildflowers and native plants can be a unique and interesting addition to the home landscape. The terms wildflower and native plant are often used synonymously; however, in many cases they are not the same. Wildflowers are described as flowering herbaceous plants (forbs) that grow with little or no human assistance. They can be native or introduced. Native plants to the Great Plains are generally described as those found growing in a defined area prior to the arrival of European settlers. Native plants may be grasses, forbs, shrubs or trees. Wildflowers and native plants also may be classified as annuals, biennials or perennials.

Wildflowers can also be used as landscape plants, as fresh cut flowers, in dried floral arrangements or to attract butterflies and for planting in mini-meadows or prairies. They also may be used in low water use gardens and in sites requiring drought-tolerant plants. However, some native species may use large amounts of water, making them less drought tolerant than nonnative species.

A wildflower planting in the home landscape may vary from a single plant in the flower garden to multiple plantings in large areas. Start with a small wildflower planting and expand it as time permits. A site that will not attract rabbits and weeds or has some type of soil problem, will probably not be ideal for native wildflowers. When growing wildflowers require sunny sites and shade-loving wildflowers require shady sites. The site and the wildflowers used there should be compatible.

Plant material can be obtained through various sources including local nurseries, mail order companies, wildflower societies and other organizations. It can be collected from wild or cultivated plants, but caution should be used when collecting plants or seed from native sites. Wildflowers growing in natural areas often do not survive transplanting and sometimes natural populations can be disturbed, damaged or eliminated by collecting plants or seed. Seed from some wildflower species require special conditions to induce germination. Some wildflowers are endangered or rare and should not be collected.

The planting may consist of a single plant or many types of plants and/or a combination of domesticated flowers, grasses, native plants and wildflowers. Mini-meadows or prairie plantings can be used in small residential plots and commercial landscapes. Prarie plantings, alternatives to traditional lawns and may be used to attract butterflies and wildlife. Design by planning. For complex designs and plantings on large commercial sites, consider consulting a landscape designer or someone familiar with prairie restoration. Check local regulations which may limit the type of wildflower plantings you can use.

Aggressive competition from weeds can be a problem in wildflower plantings. In addition, some wildflowers produce large quantities of seed and can dominate other plantings. Periodically, weeds may need to be eliminated. Herbicides may be used in some plantings, but no one herbicide is available that will control weeds without harming some wildflowers or grasses. Hand pulling weeds is the best control method for small plantings. Mowing is an effective weed control method during the first year and can be used on larger sites. Mow to a height of about six inches. Annuals and perennial plants may complicate mowing especially during the first growing season.

Other important aspects are: Less amount of moisture is important. For example, do not overwater plants during the first growing season. Over-seeding may be necessary when some species start to disappear.

Some professionals recommend an annual burning of a wildflower planting. This is unfeasible, extremely dangerous and is not recommended for home landscapes. Annual burning, followed by raking the loose material, should take its place. (DJ)

Some Wood Mulches Can Encourage Turf Mushrooms

Green wood mulch may be the culprit in some nuisance fungi problems. Turf fungi are harmless, but annoy homeowners by dotting the landscape with their fruiting bodies, commonly known as mushrooms. Mushrooms originate from large networks of thread-like tissue growing underground. When growing conditions are ideal and the fungi have an adequate food source, the tissue gets large enough to form a mushroom above ground. Most mushrooms are two to eight inches tall and one to eight inches in diameter.

Wood chips, mulches and sawdust from stump grindings are good food sources for fungi because they contain large amounts of live organic material. To prevent mushroom growth, avoid using mulches from oaks, cottonwoods or other deciduous trees, which are commonly used as growth medium by many fungi. Instead, use pine or other conifer-based mulches, which have fewer fungi able to grow on them. With any mulch, it will be less favorable for fungi growth when composted. Composted mulches don’t have as many readily available food sources for fungi as non-composted or “green” mulches. Mushrooms already growing in lawns can’t be chemically treated, but homeowners can remove them by cutting them at the base with a knife. While cutting mushrooms because some produce toxins that may be absorbed by the skin.

For more information on landscape fungi, see educational resource “Mushrooms, Fungi, Bacteria, Viruses, Bacterial Diseases.” (G89-951-A), available at local University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension offices or online at www.ianr.unl.edu/plant/ plantdisease/g951.htm (DJ)

Check for Bagworms

The bagworm is native to the United States and is found in eastern Nebraska. Bagworms feed on many species of trees and shrubs, but are most common on junipers. They are rarely a serious problem on deciduous trees, except when larvae move from evergreens. In urban areas, bagworms are most common on evergreen trees and shrubs. Larvae, which are normally grey, moth-like with clear wings.

Bagworms overwinter in the egg stage inside female bags. Eggs are fastened to twigs. Eggs hatch in late May and early June, and larvae feed until late August or early September. Males emerge in September and mate with females through the bag entrance.

Control infestations on small trees and shrubs by removing bags during the winter or spring before the bag begins to hatch in late May. Destroy bags by burning, immersing in kerosene or by crushing. If bags containing larvae are discarded on the ground, the larvae can return to host plants.

Chemical controls are effective if applied during early stages of bagworm development. For most effective insecticidal control and prevention of damage, apply sprays from mid- to late-June. (DJ)

Control of Smooth Sumac

Several management practices have been studied for control of smooth sumac. These include mowing or cutting sumac, burning, herbicide application and various combinations of these methods.

Mechanical treatments (cutting or mowing) are ineffective unless repeated treatments over many years are used to control the abundance of sumac. The sharp stumps resulting from cutting are another drawback and may be a hazard to animals or vehicle tires.

Like cutting, prescribed burning is ineffective. Single spring fires can cut back nearly 50 percent toppikl of stems, but vigorous resprouting can lead to stem densities higher than those before the fire. Because fire toppikil sumac, canopy height and cover is reduced in the short term.

Smooth sumac is a North American native species, and there are no known biological pathogens that would cause widespread mortality. Some insects do feed on smooth sumac and perhaps restrict its spread and number. Many herbicides are very effective against smooth sumac. They can be applied to the foliage, stem bases or to the soil. Approved herbicides include 2,4-D, Crossbow, Spike, Tordon and Velpar. All are effective on a range of broadleaf plants, but are likely to damage desirable grasses. In addition, Spike and Velpar may harm grasses, especially when pelleted formulations are applied to the soil. Estimated herbicide costs for 2.4-D/IV 1/4 ester plus Tordon 22K were $76.66, $20.30 and $22.81 per acre, respectively. The 1997 published herbicide prices. The least expensive herbicide, 2,4-D, provided control equal to the more expensive ones.

Application costs would be in addition to product costs, but would be similar regardless of herbicide. Long-term effects over several years were not studied, and it is possible additional treatment with 2,4-D may be necessary to control surviving plants. (DJ)

New sumac, soon following prescribed burn

Wildflower planting is a common perennial wildflower

Butterfly Milkweed is a common perennial wildflower and native plants and wildflowers. Design alternatives to traditional lawns and add a mushroom above ground. Most mushrooms are two to eight inches tall and one to eight inches in diameter.

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Food Safety and Salads

Alice Henneman, MS, RD Extension Educator

Summer is salad time. As with other foods, it’s important to handle fruits and vegetables safely to help prevent foodborne illness. It’s especially important to follow safe food practices in summer months when temperatures are warmer and bacteria can grow faster. There is also more chance for contamination as we may eat outside more, especially in sites away from home where there is little or no access to refrigeration and washing facilities.

Following are some steps from a Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Talk Paper, “FDA Advises Consumers About Fresh Produce Safety” (May 26, 2000), that consumers can take to reduce the risk of foodborne illness from fresh produce:

• At the store, purchase produce that is not bruised or damaged. If buying fresh cut produce, be sure it is refrigerated or surrounded by ice.

• At home, chill and refrigerate foods. After purchase, put produce in a cool storage area that needs refrigeration away promptly. (Fresh whole produce such as bananas and potatoes do not need refrigeration.) Fresh produce should be refrigerated within two hours of peeling or cutting. Leftover cut produce should be discarded if left at room temperature for more than two hours.

• Wash hands often. Hands should be washed with hot soapy water before and after handling fresh produce or raw meat, poultry or seafood, as well as after using the bathroom, changing diapers or handling pets.

• Wash all fresh fruits and vegetables with cool tap water immediately before eating. Don’t use soap or detergents. Scrub firm produce such as melons and cucumbers, with a clean produce brush. Cut away any bruised or damaged areas before eating.

• Wash surfaces often. Cutting boards, dishes, utensils and counter tops should be washed with hot soapy water and sanitized after coming in contact with fresh produce or raw meat, poultry or seafood. Sanitize after use with solutions of 1 teaspoon of chlorine bleach in 1 quart of water.

• Don’t cross contaminate. Use clean cutting boards and utensils when handling fresh produce. If possible, use one clean cutting board for fresh produce and a separate one for raw meat, poultry and seafood. During food preparation, wash cutting boards, utensils or dishes that have come into contact with fresh produce, raw meat, poultry or seafood. Do not contaminate a cutting board with a raw meat, poultry or seafood.

• Use a cooler with ice or use ice gel packs when transporting or storing perishable food outdoors, including cut fresh fruits and vegetables.

As an extra reminder of precaution you may wish to wash prepackaged salads especially if you are uncertain about how they were cleaned. Don’t assume because a food is prepackaged it’s ready to eat.

Even if you don’t eat the peel of a fruit or vegetable—such as after using them with a kitchen sink sprayer. Gently turn the produce as you spray. As a general rule, wash all fresh produce just before using them, not before you store them.

Rinsing fruits and vegetables under running tap water helps remove bacteria. An easy way to wash smaller items such as berries is to place them in a strainer or sprayer with a kitchen sink sprayer. Gently turn the produce as you spray. As a general rule, wash all fresh produce just before using them, not before you store them.

Check for and follow label instructions such as “keep refrigerated” or “use by (date)” on items. This information is frequently found on precut produce at the store.

Periodic questions about the safety of various fruits or vegetables may arise. If you have questions or concerns, turn to the latest information call the FDA’s consumer hotline at 1-888-SAFEFOOD.

Groovy Smoothies

2 small ripe bananas, cut into chunks
1 cup frozen unsweetened strawberries
1 - 8 ounce carton lowfat vanilla yogurt
3/4 cup fat-free milk

Place the banana chunks, strawberries, yogurt and fat-free milk into a blender. Cover and blend until smooth. Pour into 2 glasses. Serve immediately.

Makes 2 servings. Nutrition facts per serving: 264 calories; 9 grams protein; 54 grams carbohydrates; 3 grams fat; 8 mg cholesterol; 3 grams fiber; 114 mg sodium.

The relationship of nutrition to health has long been recognized. Here’s a sampler of oft-repeated food and health advice.

“Glotuny kills more than the sword.” — George Herbert (1593-1633)

“The best doctors in the world are Doctor Diet, Doctor Quiet and Doctor Merryman.” — Jonathan Swift (1667-1745)

“To lengthen thy life, lessen thy meals.” — Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790)

“I look upon it, that he who does not mind his belly will hardly mind anything else.” — Samuel Johnson (1709-1784)

“Tell me what you eat and I will tell you what you are.” — Brillat-Savarin (1755-1826)

“An army marches on its stomach.” — Napoleon (1769-1821)

“He who distinguishes the true savor of his food can never be a glutton; he who does not can never be otherwise.” — Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862)

“Part of the secret of success in life is to eat what you like and let the food fight it out inside.” — Mark Twain (1835-1910)

“One cannot think well, love well, sleep well, if one has not dined well.” — Virginia Woolf (1882-1941)

“Never eat more than you can lift.” — Miss Piggy, American Puppet Character (1900’s)

To sum up the centuries, perhaps Henry Fielding (1707-1754) best expresses both the pleasure and the importance of food: “We must eat to live and live to eat.”

Food Safety & Salads

Enjoy Nebraska Foods!

Alice Henneman, RD, LMNT, Extension Educator

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Words of Wisdom

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School’s over. Graduation is behind us. Now it can go to summer baseball games and relax and enjoy.

Mark June 24 and July 15 on your calendar. Monday, June 24, 7 p.m. is our June Family and Community Education (FCE) Council meeting. Presentations will be made to the winners of the posters and creative writing contests. Clubs responsible are Beltline and Bigger and Bigger. Monday, July 15, is the Sizzling Summer Sampler. A light supper will be served at 6 p.m. followed by a style show presented by The Vickerdges.

The models are still needed. Call Alice Doane, 786-3555, or the extension office, 441-7180, if you would be willing to be a model. Cost for the evening is $10 payable to Lancaster County FCE. Mail your check to register, by July 8, to: Joy Kruse, 850 Adams St., Lincoln, NE 68521. This evening is for FCE members and guests.

Remember the State Convention will be in Sidney, Aug. 19 and 20. You should be receiving information in the FCE Speaks newsletter very soon.

Laura Max, CNN/money columnist and trainer, recently conducted a workshop in Lincoln. As part of his presentation, he introduced the S.T.A.R. Process for making good decisions. He explained that the role men play in the lives of their children has changed dramatically over the past two decades and will likely continue to change as more and more mothers of very young children are in the labor market.

Today men often define success as both providing economically for their children and being directly involved in their children’s lives according to James A. Levine. This change has brought richness into men’s lives, allowing them a humanity and sense of family not previously experienced.

Did you know that:

• Over 90 percent of fathers participate in childhood activities.
• Babies will bond or form close attachments with fathers as well as mothers. They do not discriminate.

Life is a great time to acknowledge the very important role fathers play in the lives of their children. Happy Father’s Day.

The Jump Start Coalition for Personal Finance Literacy, only 13% of high school seniors say they have had personal finance education in school. Since many adults are confused about personal finance situations and gather their thoughts.

As parents, you can help students by working with them to devise a budget before leaving for school. They need to understand exactly how much money they will have each month from all sources—work, help from home, scholarships or savings. Then it is important to write down expenses that must be paid each month and those due at the beginning or end of a semester. A good way to ease students into being on their own is to have them keep a detailed diary of expenses the first few months to ascertain whether budgeted amounts are realistic.

Nellie Mae says the average credit card balance for undergraduates is $2,748. Depending on the credit card, Annual Percentage Rates (APR) and fees vary widely and it is important to understand these and read the fine print about when introductory APR’s may change to higher rates. Students must have an understanding of how quickly changes add up if balances are not paid in full.

Sarah Max, CNN money staff writer, says it is helpful to give actual examples of the repercussions of not paying bills in full. She says, “For example, $1,000 worth of pizza and clothing charges will cost nearly $2,000 if students only make minimum payments on a card with 14 percent interest.” She also reminds us tardy customers can face late-payment fees of up to 30% and can do serious damage to credit reports.

A few frank discussions and opportunities to practice good budgeting and wise use of credit can help students make better decisions based on a three step subprocess, the ABC’s of decision-making—alternatives, behavior, consequences.

Act is taking action on a decision after stopping and thinking. Students learn the sentence: “I am choosing to...” F.A.C.T. is an acronym for this step.

Review is an opportunity to reflect on the action. Did the action get the student closer to or further away from goals? How did the action affect others? (LJ)

LaDeene Bta Extension Educator

Dads Important in Children’s Lives

The role of men in marriage and the family has changed dramatically over the past two decades and will likely continue to change as more and more mothers of very young children are in the labor market. Today men often define success as both providing economically for their children and being directly involved in their children’s lives according to James A. Levine. This change has brought richness into men’s lives, allowing them a humanity and sense of family not previously experienced.

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The S.T.A.R. Process

S.T.A.R. stands for:

S: Stop
T: Think
A: Act
R: Review

Stop gives students time to reflect, cool down, avoid situations and gather their thoughts. Think helps students make better decisions based on a three step subprocess, the ABC’s of decision-making—alternatives, behavior, consequences. Act is taking action on a decision after stopping and thinking. Students learn the sentence: “I am choosing to...” F.A.C.T. is an acronym for this step.

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Five Ways to Prevent a Fall

• Clean up! Remove clutter and boxes, especially from stairs and high-traffic areas. Clean up spills immediately.
• Re-route obstructing electrical cords.
• Fill holes and depressions around your property.
• Read the instructions for proper use of ladders, step stools and other household equipment.
• Replace old light bulbs. But always use the appropriate wattage listed.
Health Officials Wants Dead Birds to Help
Determine Presence of West Nile Virus

The Nebraska Health and Human Services System is solicit- ing dead birds this season to monitor for the presence of the West Nile virus in Nebraska. West Nile is transmitted through the bite of a mosquito that has picked up the virus by feeding on an infected bird. In turn, the mosquito can pass the virus to humans, birds, and some mammals, including horses. West Nile virus does not affect most live- stock species except horses. Dogs and cats are rarely infected.

The virus first appeared in New York City in 1999 and has expanded in all directions. A total of 149 human cases have been identified, with 18 deaths. There have been no reported cases in Nebraska. West Nile may reach Nebraska this year, accord- ing to Nebraska’s state medical entomologist. “The virus has been found in Iowa and Missouri,” said Wayne Kramer, medical entomol- o gist with the Nebraska Health and Human Services System. “Finding it this year in Nebraska is very likely.”

Nebraska has received $120,000 this year for activities related to surveillance for the West Nile virus. The grant will fund mosquito trapping and testing to find out if the virus is present in the mosquito population and testing sentinel chicken flocks around the state. It will also pay for testing dead birds, such as crows and blue jays. These types of birds are the most susceptible to the virus and likely to die from being infected by mosquitoes. It has been shown in other states that a surveillance system based on wild bird mortal- ity is an effective method for detecting West Nile virus activity.

If dead crows, blue jays, hawks or owls are found that are not damaged or decayed, contact the Nebraska Health and Human Services System at (402) 471- 0306 or 471-6994. The toll-free number for information about submitting dead birds for testing is 1-877-220-1237. Nebraska residents can also contact their local health departments, University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension offices, Game and Parks offices and state veterinarians for assistance in reporting and submit- ting dead birds.

Most humans infected by the virus show very mild or no symptoms, generally a fever and headache. Less than one percent become seriously ill and that occurs within three to 15 days after the bite of the infected mosquito. Those seriously in- fected, particularly the elderly, display symptoms such as muscle weakness, stiff neck, disorienta- tion, and convulsions. The greatest risk for infection is during late summer and early fall because the risk for infection is during late summer and early fall because the mosquitoes that transmit the virus increase during the summer.

“People should take extra precautions to protect themselves against mosquito bites,” Kramer said. To reduce the risk of expo- sure to West Nile virus:

* Avoid outdoor activities at dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active.
* If you are outside, cover up by wearing long-sleeved shirts, pants, shoes and socks.
* Use mosquito repellent.

Eliminate mosquito breeding sites, such as standing water in tires, plastic containers, or similar water-holding containers.

Change water in bird baths on a weekly basis.

“Quite a few horses have been infected as the virus has spread across the country,” said David Steffen, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources veterinarian and director of UNL’s Veterinary Diagnostic Center. “Many equine infections are subclinical, but there is a 40 percent death rate in clinically infected horses.”

Steffen recommends that horse owners have their horses vaccinated against West Nile virus.

“Horses and humans are deadend carriers of the disease,” he said, meaning the infection is not contagious when present in those species.

For more information on West Nile, visit the Health and Human Services System’s Web site at www.4h.maine.unity.ne.us/caa/pb/sed/ sdbid/westnile/index.htm (EK)
Volunteers Needed!

Volunteer helpers (ages 12 and over) are needed to help at the County Fair in the following capacities:
- check in exhibits on entry day (July 29)
- assist judges on judging day (July 30)
- put up project displays (July 30)
- help in the information booth (July 31 – Aug. 4)
- call 441-7180 to sign up. Your help is appreciated!

2002 Lancaster County Fair
Wednesday, July 31–Sunday, Aug. 4
Lancaster Event Center, 84th & Havelock

Gearing Up for 2002 Lancaster County Fair

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- call 441-7180 to sign up. Your help is appreciated!

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June is National Safety Month

According to the National Safety Council’s publication “Injury Facts 2001,” unintentional injury deaths totaled 97,300. Motor vehicle crashes caused 43,000 deaths, 29,000 people died in the home, 22,000 were killed in public places and 5,200 deaths occurred in the workplace.

The National Safety Council has some tips to help keep you and your family safe whether behind the wheel of your car, at home, in the community or at work.

Avoid Slip Ups
Sixty-five percent of the falls occur among persons 65 and over. Falls are the number one cause of injury-related death for males 80 and older and for females 75 and older.

Follow these tips to prevent slips and falls in your home:
- Keep the floor clean. Reduce clutter and safely tuck telephone and electrical cords out of walkways.
- Keep the floor clean. Clean up grease, water and other hazards immediately. Don’t wax floors.
- Use nonskid throw rugs to reduce your chance of slipping on linoleum.
- Install handrails in stairways. Have grab bars in the bathroom (by toilets and in tub/shower).
- Make sure living areas are well lit. We can all trip and fall in the dark.
- Be aware climbing and reaching high places will increase your chance of a fall. Use a sturdy step stool with handrail when these tasks are necessary.
- Follow medication dosages closely. Using medication incorrectly may lead to dizziness, weakness and other side effects. These can all lead to a dangerous fall.

Safe Kids

A home may represent a haven of safety and security. But for young children, it can also be a place for potentially dangerous falls.

Don’t leave babies alone on beds, changing tables or sofas. Always strap children into highchairs and strollers. Don’t let children play alone on fire escapes, high porches or balconies.

Be aware of the danger of falls from windows by unsupervised young children. Keep your windows closed and locked when children are around. When opening windows for ventilation, open windows that a child cannot reach.

Always use a rubber mat or slip resistant stickers in the tub. Never leave a child unattended in the tub.

Poison Precautions

Each year more than 6,000 people die and an estimated 300,000 suffer disabling illnesses as a result of unintentional poisoning by solid and liquid substances. Unintentional poisonings can happen to anyone, at any time, in any situation. Follow label directions for all products, including medication dosages, and proper storage or potentially toxic products are important precautions to heed.

- Have a “child-proof” cabinet that locks in the bathroom.
- Mothballs and crystals should be hung in containers. Keep out of the reach of children.
- Be sure your home is lead safe.
- Keep all substances in their original containers. Labels on original containers give important usage and safety information.
- Keep the numbers of your local poison control center and fire department posted near the telephone.

Car Safety

- Always wear seat belts and be sure children are buckled in.

Prevention is Key

It is important to be aware of hazards around the home, community and workplace. Take time to remove hazards and use safety precautions at all times.

Cultural Insights: Water Resources in Iraq

Iraq has a total area of 438,320 square kilometers including 4,910 square kilometers of inland water.

Rainfall: Very little rainfall occurs in Iraq, except in the northeast and agriculture mainly depends upon river water. Rainfall is heaviest in the north-east and falls mostly between October and May. On the central plains, less than six inches fall annually. The desert areas receive virtually no rainfall.

Surface water: Both Euphrates and Tigres are international rivers originating their source in Turkey. The Euphrates river is the longest river in southwest Asia with 2,700 kilometers in length. It’s formed by two major tributaries which join together, which together create the Euphrates River. The Euphrates River follows a southeastern route to enter Syria, where it joins two other tributaries before entering Iraq. The average annual flow of the Euphrates as it enters Iraq is estimated at 30 cubic kilometers. As it passes downstream it loses a major portion of its water to irrigation canals and see WATER IN IRAQ on page 11.
NFBA continued from page 1

places where their particular costs are out of line. By revaluating expenses in those specific areas, they might find ways to trim expenses and thus improve profitability. For example: if fertilizer expense is higher than the top 33 percent group, one might want to visit with their extension educator about their fertilizer program to see if they can cut down on expense without hurting yield.

In the summary report for 2001, Bredensteiner reports, “Production efficiency continues to be the biggest difference between the high profit 1/3 and the average. The top operators find a way to accomplish the difficult task of controlling costs while maintaining production.”

The NFBA is currently accepting new memberships. Call the NFBA office at (402) 472-1399 to request an informational brochure and enrollment form. Membership fees are based on level of services desired and size of operation. For fee information, call the NFBA office. Printed copies of the 65-page summary report books are available for $30 from the NFBA office, 110 Musselh Hall, Lincoln, NE 68583-0719.

BARLEY STRAW continued from page 1

we haven’t had a local supply. Even so, we get a number of calls from pond owners each year asking where they can buy barley straw for algae control. I talked with one person who had driven over 400 miles round trip to buy a few bales from a grower in west central Nebraska. They intend to use it for a pond in a horse pasture. I will be monitoring their success this year.”

Johnson plans to market bales measuring 4 ft x 6 ft x 18 inches for algae control. The smaller sized bale will have more surface area per pound of straw to react with the water as compared to full-sized hay bales. He is still exploring marketing venues for his product. One avenue being explored is wholesale sales to garden centers and farm supply stores in the metro area. He is also making plans to market the straw directly to consumers.

Since the straw must be submerged at the right depth to be effective, Johnson is planning to offer a complete package, including the straw bales, tether ropes, anchor weights and floats to keep the straw at the optimum depth below the water surface even when it becomes water-logged. The straw will need to be replaced each spring but the anchoring system should be reusable for several years. “The small bales will be easier to handle and will allow the user to distribute the straw more uniformly throughout the pond,” Johnson said. “They can buy the complete package or they can buy only the straw bales and design their own anchoring system.”

For more information about algae control in ponds, see “Controlling Algae in Ponds and Lakes” on p. 4 of this issue. (TD)

Carpenter Ants continued from page 3 and put back together again (even if you have brick or stone). Carpenter ants are not smart enough to know that your home is not a tree and that the ants should only build their nests in the tree in your yard. If your home has suitable nest sites, the carpenter ants take advantage of those just like they would in any tree.

To prevent carpenter ants from nesting in your home, keep your home in good repair. Are there places on your home where the wood is damaged (usually by water) and rotting? Does your home have gutters and are they in good repair? Is there water drainage or a leak? Does your home have cracks? Do you have a roof or have you had plumbing problems inside your home? Are your windows and doors tight? If the conditions make it possible for wood to become damaged, start rotting and eventually create a potential site for carpenter ants to nest in your home.

For more information on carpenter ants and treating a colony on your home, visit http:// lancaster.unl.edu. This Web site offers educational resources in both audio and print. You can also pick up the free educational resource, “Carpenter Ants” (004) at the extension office. (SC)

WATER IN IRAQ continued from page 10

AI-Hamar marsh. The Tigris is the second longest river in southwest Asia at 1,840 kilometers. It has its springs in Turkey, but the main contribution to the river comes from the tributaries in Iraq. These tributaries are: the Greater Zab, the Lesser Zab, Al-Ashtain and Diyala. The average annual runoff as it enters Iraq is estimated at 21.2 cubic kilometers. Extensive irrigation and diversification canal systems have caused areas around 70-80 percent of its water before joining the Euphrates. Before the confluence of the two rivers at the city of Qurna to form Shatt Al-Arab River which is only 190 kilometers and flows in the Persian Gulf, the Euphrates flows for about 1,000 kilometers and the Tigris for about 1,300 kilometers respectively within the Iraqi territory. Many barrage or dam reservoirs existed at Samara, Dukan, Durband, Khan and Al-Qadisiyah on the Tigris River and Habbanah and Al-Hindays on the Euphrates.

The marsh lands region is situated in the south of the alluvial plain. This area which once covered 5,800-7,700 square miles have now shrunk to just 580-770 square miles. The vanishing of these vast wetland resources is attributable to two major causes: dam and drainage schemes.

Grund water resources: Good quality subterranean water has been found in the foothills of the mountains in the northeast of the country at a depth of 5-50 meters and in the area along the right bank of the Euphrates at a depth of 300 meters.

This Lincoln High grad is designing her own Nebraska degree.

Emily Chen found a unique opportunity to study both business and biology. And when she produces, she knows her Nebraska education can take her anywhere.

“After graduation, I will be applying to Lawrence University. I chose this school because it places a lot of emphasis on students achieving their dreams. I am able to join the Theatre and Design courses I love and get the business background I need to survive in the real world.”

For shaping your focus...
**NEBLINE FEEDBACK**

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**Comments**

**Story Idea(s)**

Return to: University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension in Lancaster County

444 Cherry Creek Rd., Suite A, Lincoln, Nebraska 68528-1507

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**Extension Calendar**

All programs and events will be held at the Lancaster Extension Education Center unless otherwise noted.

**JUNE**

12 4-H Practice Family & Consumer Science Judging .......................... 1 p.m.
12 4-H Practice Demonstration .......................................................... 2:30 p.m.
12 4-H Horse VIPS Meeting ............................................................ 7 p.m.
12 4-H Photography Workshop .......................................................... 7 p.m.
12 4-H Rabbit VIPS Meeting ............................................................. 7 p.m.
12 Composting Workshop & Demonstration (University Pl. Park, 50th & Colby) ...... 8:30 a.m.
12 All 4-H Animal ID’s Due (sheep, goats, swine, breeding beef, bucket calves, dairy cattle)
17 Parents Forever and Kids Talk About Divorce, Northeast Family Center .......... 5—9 p.m.
19–21 4-H Clover College
21 4-H Horse VIPS Meeting ............................................................. 7 p.m.
21 Extension Board Meeting .............................................................. 8 a.m.
21 Pesticide Container Recycling, Firth Co-op Firth .................................. 9 a.m.—3 p.m.
21 4-H Centennial Theme Night at Saltdogs, Haymarket Park .................. 7:05 p.m.
21 4-H Teen Council Meeting, call for location ....................................... 3—5 p.m.
24–18 State Horse Expo, Grand Island
17 4-H Horticulture, Grass & Wood LD, Tree LD. Contests ..................... 10 a.m.
18 4-H Family Consumer Science Judging .......................................... 1:30 p.m.
18 Pesticide Container Recycling, Farmers Cooperative Waverly .................. 9 a.m.—3 p.m.
18 4-H Demonstration Contest ........................................................... 1 p.m.
20 4-H Fair Superintendant Meeting, Lancaster Event Center ................. 7 p.m.
24 4-H Style Revue Judging, Lancaster Event Center .............................. 8:30 a.m.
24 4-H Food Booth Training, Lancaster Event Center ............................ 6—7 p.m.
24 Entry Day for Lancaster County Fair Static, Event Center ...................... 4—8 p.m.

**JULY**

July 31-Aug. 4 LANCASTER COUNTY FAIR

Lancaster Event Center

**Wanted: 4-H Alumni for First Pitch at Saltdogs July 12**

Will you be the 4-H Alumni to throw the first pitch at the 4-H Theme Night Saltdogs Baseball game Friday, July 12? Interested 4-H alumni are invited to enter a short story describing a 4-H experience they had as a youth. The person who writes the winning story will throw the first pitch! Alumni may be former 4-H’ers from any state. Entries must be received by Monday, July 1. All entries become property of Lancaster Cooperative Extension. Send entries to: Lancaster Cooperative Extension, Attn: Tracy Kulm, 444 Cherry Creek Road, Suite A, Lincoln, NE 68528.

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**For Your Convenience**

**Satellite Office**

located in northeast Lincoln at

**LANCASTER EVENT CENTER**

84th & Havelock

Access:
- Educational resource materials
- Insect pest/plant diagnostic drop-off
- 4-H staff and resources

Before visiting the satellite office, call ahead to make sure staff are available to assist you.

Main office at 444 Cherry Creek Road, Suite A Phone for both offices: 441-7180

Visit us virtually at: lancaster.unl.edu