What Does Drought Stress Do to Trees and Landscape Plants?

During times of drought, trees and landscape plants often show the effects of the hot, dry weather. To put into perspective the effect severe drought can have on plants, consider the following facts. Green plants normally have a moisture content of 125–200 percent or more. However, during severe and prolonged drought, the moisture content of live, woody plants can drop below 100 percent.

Water deficits in trees have an adverse effect on many of the tree’s growth processes. Severe water stress will injure trees and may kill them. In addition, stressed trees are more vulnerable to insect and disease pests when compared to a healthy tree.

**Symptoms of Water Stress**

Hardwood trees display numerous symptoms related to water stress. Wilting of leaves is a common indication of water stress. Wilting can be classified as incipient, temporary or permanent. Incipient wilting is not readily noticeable, but it can change to temporary wilting, which is characterized by visible drooping of the leaves during the day. At night, the plant will rehydrate and recover from temporary wilting. During prolonged drought periods, temporary wilting can change to permanent wilting where the plant does not recover during the overnight period. Permanently wilted plants may recover when water is added to the soil, but prolonged permanent wilting usually kills most species of plants. Keep in mind there is great variation in wilting among different tree species and different types of soils.

In addition to wilting, leaves may curl, become crinkly, turn brown along the edges (scorch), turn yellow, turn brown and/or fall off the tree.

Pine trees normally don’t “wilts” from drought stress. Pine trees usually retain their needles for about two years. During dry periods, the second year needles (located away from the tips of the branches) will turn yellow and begin to drop from the tree prematurely. It is common to see pine trees with yellow or red second year needles during summer droughts. Landowners and home owners should not be alarmed if they observe this condition. The tree is definitely drought stressed, but it is probably not drying out completely.

Through a process called transpiration, plants will release considerable amounts of water vapor through tiny leaf openings called stomata. When adequate soil moisture is available, temperatures are not too high, and humidity is not too low, transpiration will occur during most of the day. Under normal conditions, transpiration is lowest during the hottest part of the day, greatest in the morning and late afternoon and ceases at night. When soil water becomes limited, the plant will try to conserve water by closing the stomata in the leaves. But when the stomata are closed for extended periods of time, transpiration ceases and this causes photosynthesis to stop and the plant stops growing. If this goes on long enough, the plant will die. Plants try to protect themselves from water loss by closing stomata, slowing or stopping growth and prematurely dropping their leaves. It is common to see leaves falling from trees in mid-summer during dry years.

**Delayed Effects of Drought**

Immediate effects of drought on hardwood trees are usually obvious, but delayed effects also occur. When unfavorable growth conditions are present now, growth for the coming year is often affected. Plants store food reserves and prepare for the next growing season during the current growing season. For instance, buds for next year’s growth will be set during the current summer. The effects of the drought of 2001 and 2002 will carry over to the next growing season, and maybe beyond.

Lack of water also affects radial growth of trees (diameter growth). As a tree grows in diameter, each year it will produce a growth ring that consists of springwood (earlywood) and summerwood (latewood). The width of tree growth rings is greatly affected by the availability of water. During dry years, little radial growth occurs and the annual growth rings will be narrow. Because severe droughts adversely affect trees in many ways, radial growth often will be reduced for the current year and may be even one or more subsequent years. Scientists can study the growth rings of old trees and determine rainfall patterns for years past. This science is called dendrochronology.

**Location Makes a Difference**

The general health of a tree depends on what it is growing. Bottomland areas tend to be one of the most favorable sites for trees. There is usually adequate moisture coupled with deep, fertile soils. Sites that generally are not ideal for good tree health are ridges where shallow, eroded soils usually occur. Rocky soils and soils that may be chemically incorrect (especially pH or soil acidity/alkalinity) for plant growth tend to be stressful to trees. Even the direction a slope or hillside faces can affect tree health. For instance, the late afternoon and early evening slopes tend to be hotter and drier and trees generally do not grow as well on slopes as north and east slopes.

Soils with a high clay content will hold water much better than sandy soils. Trees growing in clay soils tend to be shallower rooted and more severely impacted by prolonged drought than trees growing on loamy or sandy soils where roots can grow deeper. Most of a tree’s feeder roots that absorb moisture and nutrients are located in the upper 12–14 inches of the soil. When a clay soil dries out, the impact on the tree can be great since the tree is not “accustomed” to sending roots deep into the soil for moisture and nutrients.

**Dormant or Dead?**

Drought-stressed trees may exhibit signs of dieback or decline. This may be the trees way of coping with a stressful situation. If the roots are unable to supply enough moisture and nutrients to the crown of the tree, the crown will usually begin to die back to bring the tree’s root system into a more favorable balance. It is often difficult to determine if a tree has died from drought stress or has simply become dormant and appears to be dead. Two simple tests can be done to help determine if a drought-stressed tree is alive or possibly dead. First, collect some small twigs about one-eighth inch in diameter and try to break the individual twigs. If they snap see DROUGHT on page 11

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Visit Egg Cam! View chicks, hatching, photos of employees as they develop, and educational resources for youth, parents and teachers on the 4-H Embryology Web site at www.lancaster.unl.edu
2003 All-America Selections

It is time once again to announce the All-America Selections (AAS) Winners. The All-America Selections are plants that have proven durable and disease resistant throughout a diverse variety of climates, soils and other growing conditions across the United States. After gathering the data from various test gardens throughout the country, candidates are evaluated, and those meeting the highest criteria are given the AAS endorsement as proven winners. Many go on to become favorites with gardeners everywhere, and are always a pleasure to grow. So, without further fanfare, let’s look at the winners for 2003:

Ornamental Millet
‘Purple Majesty’

‘Purple Majesty’ ornamental millet is a versatile plant, with use as an accent plant for the garden and as a food source for many birds. As a tall focal point in the garden, this annual will reach 3 to 5 feet tall. The 8 to 12 inch flower spikes can be used in floral arrangements. ‘Purple Majesty’ is an ideal plant for those dry, hot and exposed areas of the garden. As the seed spikes age, they can be left on the plant for the birds to forage, they can be added to bird feeders or they can be added to outdoor edible wildlife arrangements.

This is one of the most fragrant garden carnations. The spicy fragrance will almost fill a room when the double, 2 inch blooms are cut and used in a bouquet. ‘Can Can Scarlet’ is heat tolerant, producing flowers throughout the growing season into the fall. This variety is perfect for a cut flower garden, the grey-green foliage contrasts with the bright scarlet blooms. Mature plants will reach 12 to 14 inches tall.

Rudbeckia hirta ‘Prairie Sun’

This robust rudbeckia has distinctive 5 inch blooms. The light green central cone blends beautifully with the golden-yellow petals, which are tipped primrose yellow. The plants mature to 3 feet tall and make a strong statement in any full-sun garden. Easy to grow and maintain, ‘Prairie Sun’ is a memorable plant in any perennial, annual or cut flower garden. Flower stems are sufficiently long for quality cut flowers. ‘Prairie Sun’ plants become a forceful focal point in any large container.

Petunia ‘Blue Wave’

‘Blue Wave’ has deep blue flowers. This petunia is ideal for container, baskets or as a groundcover. The individual blooms are 2 inches across on trailing branches. The branches spread 3 to 4 feet across, and plant height is 4 to 7 inches. Low maintenance, this petunia does not require pinching to continue performing throughout the season.

Dianthus ‘Corona Cherry Magic’

Randomly colored and patterned, ‘Corona Cherry Magic’ will often have solidly red flowers, lavender-purple flowers, or a blend of both colors on the same plant. For full sun, this dianthus will perform throughout the growing season. Blooms are 2 inches across. Plants grow 9 inches tall and 10 inches across.

Gaillardia Pulchella ‘Sundance Bicolor’

‘Sundance Bicolor’ is a bicolor gaillardia with sunny yellow and brick-mahogany red double blooms. Blooming prolifically, it produces well throughout the growing season. For planting in full sun, this annual gaillardia will respond well to average soil fertility and moisture, and will tolerate drier conditions. Because it spreads to 15 inches, it will do well in containers and baskets as well as out in the garden.

Eustoma ‘Forever White’

‘Jaio Dark Red’ is a vividly red vinca sporting white centers. Blooms are large in size, up to 2 inches across. The leaves are healthy green and bothered by few diseases or pests. This vinca performs best in sunny locations and can stand the rigors of summer heat and dryness.

Petunia ‘Merlin Blue Morn’

‘Merlin Blue Morn’ is a wonderfully versatile petunia, adaptable to baskets, container or the garden. As with all petunias, it performs its best when placed in full-sun. The centers of the flowers are cool white, slowly deepening in blue until dark blue is on the outermost edges. Individual bloom size is 2 to 3 inches across. Growth height is 15 to 20 inches, with spread to 30 inches.

Agastache Foeniculum ‘Golden Jubilee’

Good for full sun or partial shade, ‘Golden Jubilee’ is a new choice for the herb garden or perennial border. Reaching 20 inches in height and up to 15 inches in spread, this agastache has lavender colored flower spikes which contrast nicely with the golden, mint-scented foliage. Flowering from mid-to late-summer, these plants will stand up to summer heat and will offer a wonderful focal point in the border or bed.

Vinca ‘Jaio Dark Red’

Vinca ‘Jaio Dark Red’ is a vividly red vinca sporting white centers. Blooms are large in size, up to 2 inches across. The leaves are healthy green and bothered by few diseases or pests. This vinca performs best in sunny locations and can stand the rigors of summer heat and dryness.

All-America Selections is a non-profit organization which has tested and introduced significantly improved new flowers and vegetables grown from seed and bedding plants for 67 years. AAS tests are conducted at trial grounds across North America with official AAS Judges supervising the trials. Listed below are the 2003 AAS Winners. For information visit www.all-americaselections.org.
Landscaping, Home Maintenance Helps Prevent Termites

Termites live in the soil and feed on wood. Their soft bodies also need an ample moisture source in order to survive. It should come as no surprise that a high percentage of termite infestations get started from wood-soil contact, where woodouches or is imbedded in the soil. Thus, homeowners should be aware that actions they take can influence termite infestations positively or negatively.

Termites are attracted to homes with moisture problems from leaky gutters and downspouts, or where water collects next to the foundation in low areas. Fix leaky gutters and make sure downspouts carry water away from the house. Dead roots of trees or shrubs are prime termite food. If shrubs or trees have been planted next to the house and later removed, these roots can serve as a bridge for termites to cross, even if the house has had a barrier treatment. It is best to avoid planting large trees or shrubs close to the house so roots can’t grow next to the foundation in low areas.

Termites feed on wood mulch. You may not want to spread wood bark or chips next to the house. How far away from the house? We don’t yet have a recommendation, because there is no research on this has been done, but it makes sense to be careful. A recent study in Ohio about whether there were fewer termites and other insects in mulch from softwoods (cedar, cypress, redwood, red pine) suggesting that the resins in these woods may not make them as good a food source as hardwoods. Whether this outcome will continue after weather breaks down as the resins in the mulch, remains to be studied.

If you need to sink a post into the ground, surround it with concrete to protect it from termites. If you use pressure-treated wood that will withstand termites, carpenter ants and decay for decades. (BPO)

Do you have an ongoing termite problem that is giving you a major headache? Are you a new homeowner and want to know more about how to inspect your own home? Get answers at a three-hour workshop, “Everything Homeowner Needs to Know about Termites and Termite Control.” It will be held at the Lancaster Extension Education Center, 444 Cherry Creek Rd on Thursday, May 22 from 6:30-9:30 p.m. Cost is $20. Barb Ogg, Dennis Ferraro and Clyde Ogg will discuss termite biology and behavior, home inspection tips, differences between bait and barrier treatments and why termite treatments cost so much. Call 441-7180 for more information.

Carpenter Ants: Indicator of Moisture Problems

Carpenter ants are social insects that live in colonies, primarily in wood. They use their mouthparts like tiny wood chisels to hollow out wood to build their nests. Because they tunnel in wood and forage for food and water inside the home, they are pests. But to the astute homeowner, carpenter ants can also be an excellent indicator of moisture problems or termite infestations positively or negatively. Actions they take can influence the size and spread of termite colonies.

Identification

There are two carpenter ants found in Nebraska. Black carpenter ants are larger and more aggressive. Adults vary in length from 1/4 to 1/2 inch. They are a major worker and the queen is even larger. There is another carpenter ant in Nebraska that is a smaller ant, about 1/4-1/8 inch. We call it the “red” carpenter ant to distinguish it from the black carpenter ant, but it is really two-toned. The thorax is reddish brown, the head and abdomen are darker.

Carpenter ants normally build their nests outdoors in trees, larval galleries and rotting wood that needs attention.

Nesting Sites

Carpenter ants normally build their nests outdoors in trees, larval galleries and rotting wood that needs attention. Unlike termites, they do not feed on wood, but merely use it as a building medium in which to build a nest. They prefer moist or partially decayed wood, frequently entering existing cavities or voids, black areas through cracks and crevices.

Occupied galleries are kept immaculately clean. Ants push sawdust out of the nest to keep it clean so piles of sawdust underneath the nest are a sign of a colony. This sawdust is not always visible, because colonies can be hidden in walls of the structure.

Carpenter ants nest inside our house structure when the wood is very moist or previously damaged by water or termites. A colony develops best in wood with moisture content above 12 to 15%. This requires the wood to be wet by rain, leaves or condensation or high continuous relative humidity.

Typical carpenter ant locations include:

• Wood affected by water seepage from unplugged drain gutters, damaged flashing, wood shingle roofs, poorly fitted or damaged sided, improper pitch of porch floors, between the roof and ceiling of flat roof porches, hollow porch posts and columns or leaking door and window frames;

• Areas around plumbing in kitchens and bathrooms where water leaks have

Management

The key to successfully managing carpenter ants is finding the colony. Inspect the structure thoroughly, both inside and out. Carefully examine the areas listed above for signs of carpenter ants. Conical piles of shredded wood debris are an excellent indicator of a nest site. Eliminating a carpenter ant colony can be difficult for the homeowner—especially when the colony is hidden inside a wall. Because of the association between moisture and carpenter ants, eliminating the source of the moisture may help control the colony. Replacing damp or decaying wood will often get rid of the colony making the use of insecticides unnecessary. Other tips to prevent carpenter ants include:

• Repair plumbing or roof leaks promptly and replace damaged wood;

• Make sure there is proper clearance of insecticides unnecessary. Other tips to prevent carpenter ants include;

• Drain water away from the structure;

• Remove stumps, logs and wood debris near the house;

• Hang your box from a pole or a branch—hanging boxes in trees allows predators easier access and can harm the tree.

• The box should have drainage holes in the bottom, ventilation holes toward the top (but not near the house);

• Hang your box from a pole or a branch—hanging boxes in trees allows predators easier access and can harm the tree.

Insecticide Treatments

Using liquid “ant sprays” is not effective because most ants are in the colony and will be unaffected by the treatment. Generally, termites will eat through and contaminate the colony. This is often best left to the pest control professional because they have the training and expertise to do treatments properly.

If you see ants and are unsure whether to treat them or not, you can get a free identification by bringing several intact specimens to the Lancaster County Extension office between 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. weekdays.

Environmental Focus

Install Nest Boxes for Birds Now

Installing nesting boxes for birds is an easy way to help create habitat in your yard. Many species of birds require a cavity in which they build their nest, lay eggs and raise their young. Some species, like woodpeckers, can excavate their own nest cavities in the trunk of decaying trees. Others will take advantage of abandoned woodpecker holes, or natural cavities created by the broken branches. Other species require the tall mound and prairie vegetation to weave and hide their nests.

Human impact on the landscape has resulted in the removal of many dead and dying trees (called snags) and the moving over of natural areas. As a result, many bird species have fewer natural places to raise their young. Providing habitat by preserving and restoring the natural plant communities is the best way to provide for nesting birds. You can also install a nesting box to provide a place for birds to raise their young. Here are some helpful tips to guide you through the process of buying or building your nesting box, installing it and maintaining it.

• Install your birdhouse BEFORE the nesting season begins. Mid-to-late winter (late February) is a good time for most areas.

• Boxes built of untreated wood are best.

• Your box should NOT have a perch—perches are unnecessary and allow predators access to eggs and nestlings.

• Hang your box from a pole with a predator guard—hanging boxes in trees allows predators easier access and can harm the tree.

• The box should have drainage holes in the bottom, ventilation holes toward the top (but not near the house);

• Hang your box from a pole or a branch—hanging boxes in trees allows predators easier access and can harm the tree.

• Your box should NOT have a perch—perches are unnecessary and allow predators access to eggs and nestlings.

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• Hang your box from a pole or a branch—hanging boxes in trees allows predators easier access and can harm the tree.
Pesticide Collection March 17

A pesticide disposal collection will be held Monday, March 17, 8 a.m.–1:30 p.m., at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Agricultural Extension Center, 444 Cherry Creek Road, Lincoln. The workshop will run from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Weather permitting, a hands-on pasture burn will be conducted in the afternoon. (TD)

Prescribed Pasture Burning School April 4

Pasture management through prescribed burning is an accepted practice in eastern Nebraska. Burning can reduce the number of volunteer eastern red cedar trees, change the distribution of cool and warm-season grass species and reduce the thatch buildup and the numbers of eastern diamondback roughs. This will help preserve the forage base and improve the quality of the forage. (TD)

Animal Unit Values of Various Types and Sizes of Grazing Animal

| Type of Grazing Animal | Livestock Inventory
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cattle:</td>
<td>AU VALUE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,000 lb. beef cow/calf pair</td>
<td>1.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>1,100 lb. beef cow/calf pair</td>
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<td>1,400 lb. beef cow/calf pair</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calves by themselves 3 months</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weaned calves to yearling</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yearling cattle (800-800 lbs.)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-year-old dry cow (1,000-1,000 lb.)</td>
<td>0.85</td>
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<tr>
<td>1,200 lb. beef cow/calf pair</td>
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<tr>
<td>1,000 lb. beef cow/calf pair</td>
<td>1.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mature bulls</td>
<td>1.30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dairy cows</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sheep:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mature ewes with lambs</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weaned lambs to yearlings</td>
<td>0.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mature rams</td>
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<td>Mature doe with kids</td>
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<td>Weaned kid to yearling</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mature buck</td>
<td>0.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mature horse</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

For the most recent map, visit www.drought.unl.edu/stdm

The following is excerpted from a new Lancaster County Extension educational resource “Answers to Questions About Liming Acid Soils.” The complete version is available online at: lanmaster.unl.edu/ag/factsheets/03-03.pdf.

**Question:** My soil test report shows a number for pH and another number for buffer pH. What does pH mean and what is the difference between pH and buffer pH?

**Answer:** pH is a measure of the acidity or alkalinity of a soil. When the soil solution (the water in the soil) contains equal numbers of hydrogen ions (H+) and hydroxyl ions (OH-), the soil is neutral and the pH is 7.0. When the pH is lower than 7.0, the soil contains more hydrogen ions than hydroxyl ions, and the soil is acidic, and when there are more hydroxyl ions than hydrogen ions, the soil is alkaline. The scale is logarithmic. That is to say a soil with a pH of 6.0 is 10 times more acidic than a soil with a pH of 7.0. A soil with a pH of 5.0 is 10 times more acidic than a soil with a pH of 6.0 and 100 times more acidic than a soil with a pH of 7.0.

Soil pH can be thought of as two types: active or soil solution acidity and reserve or exchangeable acidity. The active acidity of a soil is measured directly by a pH meter in the lab. Reserve acidity depends on several factors, such as amount and type of clay, amount of organic matter and soluble aluminum concentration in the soil. Therefore, two soils can have the same measured pH, but will require different amounts of lime to change the pH value and correct it back to a more neutral pH.

A chemical test using a buffer pH (pH 6.3) would require (7.0 - 6.3) ÷ 0.7. Multiply 0.7 by 1,000 pounds per acre for a measured pH value of 6.5 (6.5 is considered the ideal pH for most crops). For example a soil with a buffer pH of 6.3 would require (7.0 - 6.3) ÷ 0.7. Multiply 0.7 by 1,000 pounds per acre to determine the amount of lime required. If the lime is incorporated into the soil and then allowed to neutralize the acidity because you are applying a greater mass of soil.

**Question:** Are there different reasons for lime quality? **Answer:** There are differences in lime quality due to the size of the lime unit and the distribution of the product used. The active lime is that which is immediately available to neutralize both the active and reserve acidity. The change in the pH of the buffer pH (pH 6.3) is correlated to the amount of lime needed per acre to change the soil results in the field. This is reported on the soil test report as buffer pH. A rule of thumb for buffer pH values is, for every 0.1 point below pH 7.0, it takes about 1,000 pounds of ag lime (600 CCE) to bring the top seven inches of soil (about two million pounds of soil) up to a measured pH value of 6.5 (6.5 is considered the ideal pH for most crops).

For the most recent map, visit www.drought.unl.edu/stdm

Consider Drought When Preparing Pasture Leases

There are many different types of pasture leases, but the two most common are renting by the acre and renting by the animal unit month (AUM). When renting by the acre, an agreement is reached between the landowner and tenant as to the rent per acre and the length of time that the pastures are grazed. Most per acre rental agreements are for five or six months of grazing. When renting by AUM, the tenant pays only for the animal units in the pasture and the time they are grazed. Whatever type of lease is chosen, it’s best to get in writing to help avoid future misunderstandings.

Renting by the acre for a given grazing period, while definitely the easiest lease to manage in terms of knowing the yearly rental payment, can have a negative side as well. Naturally, the tendency for the tenant is always to try to get their money’s worth,” which in a dry year, may result in over-grazing. Over-grazed pastures can’t store sufficient energy to maintain a healthy root system. Weakened plants are more subject to winter injury and surviving plants are slower to green up in the spring. An over-grazed pasture, therefore, is susceptible to invasion by weeds and unsalable grasses. Dr. Bruce Anderson recently stated, “Many pastures were weakened by last year’s drought and may suffer lower production. Even if there is normal precipitation this year, forage production won’t be normal. If renting by the acre, both landowner and tenant should consider the lower productivity and adjust rental rate and stocking rate accordingly.” Renting by the animal unit month requires more record keeping and a higher level of trust between the two parties, but it is this author’s opinion it can be the best way to rent pastures, especially in a dry year. If forage production is less than normal, the tenant does not have to pay for the pounds of additional animals on the pasture or he/she may elect to move the entire herd of animals earlier than normal and reduce the rent owed. Rather than an incentive to over-graze, the tenant has an incentive to stop grazing the pasture when the grass gets too short (less than one inch) and diminishes. This will help preserve the long-term productivity of the pasture, which in the long run, is an advantage to the landowner. See the chart below for animal unit months for various types and sizes of animal. The University of Nebraska Agricultural Economics Depart ment conducts a real estate survey each spring. The results of the study are published in an annual report entitled “Real Estate Market Developments” (about 60 pages). Average real estate price levels and rental rates are summarized and published in the Cornhusker Economics newsletter. This publication can be accessed on the Lancaster County Extension - Agriculture and Natural Resources website at lancaster.unl.edu/ag. Scroll down and find the section entitled “Real Estate Market Watch.” The newsletter article (summary) is linked to “Land Prices and Cash Rent Survey” and the larger publication is linked to “Farm Real Estate Market 01-02.” (TD)
Pick-Your-Own

While pick-your-own marketing (referred to as PYO) offers the greatest potential savings to both farmers and consumers, there are some disadvantages associated with the PYO market- ing. Since most consumers are not experienced with harvesting agricultural produce, they often can require close supervision for their own protection (and the protection of the farmer’s surroundings and property) and to ensure that they pay for everything they harvest. Most farmers tend to establish relatively rigid rules regarding minimum volumes, parking, inspection of containers and minimum age for children accompanying adults into the fields, or even times allowed. Farmers may even facilitate supervision and control through the use of designated parking areas, check-out areas between fields and vehicles, supervised display areas for children and transportation from check-in or parking area to harvest area. These measures may mitigate logistical headaches, they add to farmers’ costs, labor and other items that lead to lower economies of scale. However, larger, more elaborate the facilities may gain customers by several means. The commonly used methods are sales from the farm- house, roadside stands and markets, pick-your-own operations, direct delivery services, house-to-house delivery and sales from a truck or other vehicle parked along roadsides, parking lots or similar places with potential consumer traffic (sourcing referred to as “taillaging”).

Roadside Stands and Markets

Roadside stands are on-farm retail outlets for farm produce that contain facilities to display and protect farm produce. Some roadside stands have very elaborate facilities, including refrigerators for storing produce as well as refrigerated display cases. Others are simpler and offer a wider array of products, including nonfood items, for consumer convenience. These features help spread the facility’s over- head costs. To ensure a consist- ent supply of produce, opera- tors of such markets frequently purchase some of their products from other farms in the area (or regional), as well as from conventional wholesale outlets. In some regions, roadside stands are gener- ally located next to a public road to the maximum exposure from drivers. Signage on the roadside frequently emphasizes favorable prices or specials. Because the products are grown close to consumers, additional labor requirements but can be packaged attractively and leave payment in a cash box. Operators might also sell from roadside stands and markets when product supply is short. Disadvantages may include legal restrictions and required licensing, as well as the possible conveyance of a “fly-by-night” image.

Rent-a-Trees

Also called plot arrange- ments, this option allows the consumer to make a contract with a grower for the yield of a certain tree or row in the field. Generally, the growers do all the cultural operations to produce the product and supply the equipment for harvesting. The renters have the use of the tree or plot for the duration of the contract and do the harvesting. This is relatively new in the United States, but has been successful in many years in some European countries. The primary advantage of the rent-a-tree arrangement is reduced harvest labor expense. However, increased effort in identifying individual trees or areas and in modifying cultural practices to help with picking might prove to be the disadvantages.

Self-Serve Selling

This method has proved successful for some small operations when sales volume does not warrant full-time sales personnel. With self-serve selling, operators stock the sales outlets with available products and consumers serve themselves and leave payment in a cash box. Self-serve selling results in reduced labor requirements but increases the risk of pilferage and theft. Gift baskets and mail- order gift baskets and mail order are popular for products that can be packaged attractively and have limited perishability. Such products might include citrus fruits, herbs, holly and flowers. Gift baskets and mail order products offer opportunities to increase sales, but success is limited to specialty products and is usually seasonal.

Community-Supported Agriculture

In the last decade or so, direct marketing in agriculture has evolved and grown domesti- cally. The growth of commu- nity-supported agriculture (CSA) is closely related to the many consequences. Members of a CSA enterprise buy a share of the farm’s produce for delivery of fresh, usually organic, produce during the growing season. Some CSA’s members donate time and sweat to the enterprise as well, pitching in to help with planting, weeding and harvesting. (DJ)
Cleaning the Kitchen Cupboard: Can This Food Be Saved? (Part 2)

Brown Sugar
- 4 months to 6 months for maximum flavor.
- **Storage Tip:** It’s VERY important to store brown sugar in an airtight container to retain its moisture and prevent it from becoming hard. Either store it in its original plastic bag, tightly closed, or transfer to an airtight container or a heavy moisture-proof plastic bag, such as a freezer bag.
- **To Soften Brown Sugar:** OVEN METHOD — heat the brown sugar in a 250 degrees F oven for a few minutes. Watch it carefully and as soon as it is soft, measure the amount you need. MICROWEAVE METHOD — place brown sugar in a microwave-safe container and cover loosely with a clean, white, wet (but not dripping wet) paper towel. Microwave on high and check about every 30 seconds. Warning using either method: brown sugar will be very hot. When the sugar cools, it will become hard again.

White Granulated Sugar
- **2 years**
- **Storage Tip:** Store sugar in an airtight container or a heavy moisture-proof plastic bag, such as a freezer bag. Properly stored sugar keeps indefinitely. To **Soften Hardened White Sugar:** When white granulated sugar absorbs moisture, it becomes hard. There are some possible suggestions for breaking up hard sugar: Put hard sugar in a sturdy food-quality bag and pound it with a hammer, meat pounder or flat side of a meat mallet; smash smaller pieces with a mortar and pestle or break up in a spice grinder.

Vegetable Oil
- 1 month to 1 year; 6 months to 2 years unopened. Times vary according to type of oil, method of processing, etc.
- Some of the oils that may have a shorter storage life include walnut, sesame, hazelnut and almond oils.
- **Storage Tip #1:** Store in a tightly closed container in a cool, dark place.
- **Storage Tip #2:** Oil that has been stored too long will go rancid and develop an undesirable taste and odor. If you haven’t used an oil for a while, smell it before using it in a recipe.
- **Storage Tip #3:** You can prolong the life of oils by storing them in the refrigerator. Some oils may become cloudy in the refrigerator but usually clear after sitting at room temperature to warm up.

Vinegar
- **2 years** unopened. 1 year opened. White vinegar will maintain unchanged longer than other types of vinegar, according to the Vinegar Institute (www.versatilevinegar.org). The storage life of vinegar is “almost indefinite” because of its acetic nature according to the Vinegar Institute.
- **Storage Tip:** Keep vinegar tightly covered.

**Food & Fitness**

Easter Bunny Bundles

- **2 eggs**
- **2 tablespoons low fat milk**
- 1/2 teaspoon margarine
- **Salt and pepper**
- 1 pita pocket
- Optional Toppings: grated cheese, chopped tomato, chopped green peppers

In a small bowl, beat eggs with milk. Melt margarine in a skillet over medium heat. Pour in egg mixture and as eggs begin to cook, move it around the pan with a spatula, until its firm, but still moist. Salt and pepper to taste. Cut pita bread in half and fill each half with cooked egg. Add toppings and serve warm.

(Serves 2)

Easter Egg Safety

Have a healthy, happy Easter with these tips from Mary Torell, Public Information Officer, Nebraska Department of Agriculture, Poultry & Egg Division.
- **Inspect the eggs before purchasing them,** making sure they are not dirty or cracked. Dangerous bacteria may enter a cracked egg. For perfect hard-cooked eggs for Easter egg dyeing, keep in mind the fresher the egg, the harder it is to peel. Try to buy your eggs a week or two in advance and refrigerate them.
- **Make sure you wash your hands thoroughly with hot soapy water and rinse them before handling the eggs when cooking, cooling, dyeing and hiding them. After hard cooking eggs, dye them and return them to the refrigerator. If eggs are to be eaten, use a food-safe coloring. Counting the TOTAL COMBINED time eggs are being dyed and the time they are out during an Easter egg hunt, they should not be out of refrigeration over TWO HOURS. Store dyed eggs in a clean container.**
- If you’re having an Easter egg hunt, see EGG SAFETY on page 11.

**Newcomers Learn Food Shopping Management, Healthy Nutrition**

**NEP is a no-charge, federally funded program that teaches overall nutrition and food safety. Topics include the Food Guide Pyramid, food money management, meal planning, food safety, healthy snacking, and feeding infants and children.**

Schneider-Miller said many NEP participants are accustomed to daily market shopping because of the scarcity of storable foods in their homelands. See NEWCOMERS on page 11.
Annual Report — 2002 in Review

Even though 2002 was a very dry year, more acres of noxious weeds were found and the acres of weed abatement violations was about the same as 2001. The most significant change during the year was the drop in purple loosestrife violations found. There were 482 violations found in 2001 as compared to 143 purple loosestrife violations found in 2002.

Inspection Activity

There were 7,601 inspections made of 3,763 sites on 28,503 acres during the year. There were 3,364 violations found on 6,980 acres. Violations dropped 376 from last year but acres of violations increased by 983.

Lancaster County Noxious Weed Control Program

We found 1,502 infestations on 5,870 acres. The number of infestations found decreased by 576 but the acres increased by 1,033. There were 344 less purple loosestrife infestations found. This was due to the excellent response from homeowners that removed their ornamental plantings of lythrum. The number of infestations found by noxious weed is shown below. Of these sites, 1,083 were controlled by landowners. The Authority controlled 55 sites and 36 were contract controlled and owners billed $9,931. We assessed 12 properties for nonpayment.

City of Lincoln Weed Abatement Program

The City of Lincoln’s Weed Abatement Program requires landowners to maintain weeds and worthless vegetation at less than six inches on their properties and on one half of the adjacent streets and alleys. There was a continuing emphasis on obtaining voluntary compliance of landowners. After notification, 93 percent of owners cut their overgrowth. This was accomplished with a 10 percent reduction in legal notifications issued from 66 percent down to 56 percent. After receiving 13 different entities by letter or phone, 32 of the 33 violations on public property were taken care of. The east side of 84th Street was not cut. The adjacent landowner is outside the City limits and not subject to the City ordinance. There were 101 properties force-cut and owners billed $14,087, properties were assessed for nonpayment.

Weed Awareness

A high voluntary compliance with the noxious weed control act and the weed abatement ordinance is dependent on landowner awareness and acceptance. Several approaches were used to improve the public awareness. This began with a Weed Awareness Special insert to the April Lancaster County Cooperative Extension Service Neibline with a circulation of nearly 11,000. The Authority Web site at www.ci.lincoln.ne.us/cnty/weeds was maintained and updated. Over 1,000 special mailings were made to multiple violators, leafy spurge owners, homeowner associations, CRP contracts, nurseries and garden centers, public land managers and others. An exhibit was prepared and displayed in the lobby of Lancaster Extension Education Center, at the Nebraska State Fair and other locations.

Lancaster County Weed Control Web site

The Lancaster County Weed Control Authority Web site at www.ci.lincoln.ne.us/cnty/weeds provides very useful information about the Authority’s program and activities and about weed control and management. The site is continually being updated. In 2002, the site received more than 37,000 hits.

- Via the Web site, you can:
  - Contact the Weed Control Authority.
  - Make a weed complaint.
  - Make a real-time search of current weed inspections.
  - Look at a map of noxious weed locations in the county.
  - See the latest listing of possible weed special assessments.
  - Study noxious weed and weed abatement laws and regulations.
  - Learn about noxious weed identification.
  - Read about the County Noxious Weed and City Weed Abatement Programs.
  - See plans and reports.
  - Check on noxious weed controls.
  - Learn about managing natural areas in an urban setting.
  - Test your knowledge about Nebraska weeds.
  - Link to other weed control Web sites:
    - Nebraska Weed Control Association: www.neweed.org
    - North American Weed Management Association: www.nawma.org
    - Federal Noxious Weed Program: www.phit.sda.gov/ppw/weeds

Map of Noxious Weed Locations

Maps of noxious weed locations are available on the Authority Web site. A county map is displayed with the noxious weed locations. You may zoom into an area of interest. As you zoom in, an aerial photo background with ownership lines becomes visible. You also can see symbols representing the approximate location of a noxious weed site. You then may find 2002 information on the site by clicking on a symbol.
Where Do Weeds Come From?

Introduction of Weed Seed Into the Soil

Seed is introduced to the soil through several avenues, with the chief source being the production of seed by weeds allowed to mature. Weed seed can also enter a field from outside sources, with the primary seed dispersal methods being wind, water, animals and man. Man also introduces weed seed into cropland. As crop seed is planted, weed seed is often a contaminant. As a farmer combines his crops and moves from field to field, he may contaminate the entire farm with numerous weed seeds.

Many weed seeds pass through the digestive tracts of animals and remain viable. When manure is used to fertilize cropland, weed seeds are systematically introduced across fields.

Seven plants have been designated as “noxious weeds” Nebraska. Five of these can be found in Lancaster County:

- Musk Thistle (1,040 reported infestations in 2002)
- Purple Loosestrife (143 reported infestations in 2002)
- Leafy Spurge (307 reported infestations in 2002)
- Canada Thistle (12 reported infestations in 2002)
- Plumeless Thistle (12 reported infestations in 2002)

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Most weeds owe their beginning to seed in the soil. The seeds act as a seed storage reservoir and a growth medium for weedy plants.

The number of seeds in the soil is variable and may range from two seeds per pound of surface soil in grassland to 140 seeds per pound of surface soil in cropland. In western Nebraska an average cropland soil contained 114 seeds per pound of surface soil. On a per acre basis, the seed content approached 200 million seeds per acre.

In grasslands, a majority of the weed seed is located within one inch of the soil surface, while in cultivated soil, the majority of the seed is located in the upper six inches of soil.

Loss of Seed From the Soil

Seeds are lost from the soil due to feeding by rodents and insects, decay or germination. The length of weed seed survival depends on the species, depth of burial and tillage. Seeds from some weeds may only survive a year when buried in the soil, while others will remain viable for 30 years or more. As soils are cultivated, seeds are exposed to light and moved closer to the soil surface, stimulating germination. If weed seed production is prevented, weed seed can be lost from the soil at a rate of 25 percent per year in cultivated soil and 12 percent per year in undisturbed soil. The quickest way to reduce seed numbers is to practice shallow tillage and prevent weeds from producing seed.

In experiments conducted across Nebraska, weed seed decline was examined in continuous corn where atrazine was combined with cultivation for five consecutive years. After five years of preventing weeds from producing seed, the weed seed density was reduced 95 percent. During the sixth year, weed control efforts stopped and the weed seed density began to rapidly increase. When experiments conducted across Nebraska, weed seed decline was examined in continuous corn where atrazine was combined with cultivation for five consecutive years. After five years, weed control efforts stopped and the weed seed density began to rapidly increase. Weed control must be continually practiced to prevent an increase of weed seed content in the soil.

Reference: NebGuide (G86-807-A) “Where Do Weeds Come From?” online at www.ianr.unl.edu/pubs/field/crops/ce130.htm or you may purchase a copy for $3 at the UNL Cooperative Extension in Lancaster County office.

“Guide for Weed Management in Nebraska” Updated for 2003

The University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension has updated its “Guide for Weed Management in Nebraska” (EC03-130) for 2003. The 148-page publication is available online at www.ianr.unl.edu/pubs/field/crops/ce130.htm or you may purchase a copy for $3 at the UNL Cooperative Extension in Lancaster County office.

The guide features several new sections as well as the latest research-based updates to the existing information on weed control and herbicide efficacy for a range of Nebraska crops and cropping practices.

Another available resource is “Weeds of Nebraska and the Great Plains,” published by the Nebraska Department of Agriculture. For more information please contact: Nebraska Department of Agriculture, PO Box 94756, Lincoln, NE 68509 or call 471-2394.

When Will Weeds Bloom?

When, noxious weeds blooms depends whether you are in eastern Nebraska or western Nebraska or if the growing season is warmer or cooler than normal. Plants will bloom earlier in eastern Nebraska and earlier if the growing season is warmer. The concept of growing degree days was developed to predict the dates for growth stages for crops. Growing degree days can also be applied to other plants.

Growing Degree Days

The concept of growing degree days (GDD) results from observations that plant growth and development are more closely related to an accumulation of temperature above a certain base than time alone. The base temperature is a threshold below which growth does not take place. A base temperature of 40° F is commonly used for cool-season crops and 50° F for warm-season crops. GDD for a particular day are obtained by subtracting the appropriate base temperature from the average daily temperature. Thus, on a day with temperature averaging 60° F, the GDD for a cool-season plant such as noxious weeds would be 60 - 40 = 20. For a warm-season crop such as beans, GDD would be 60 - 50 = 10.

GDD and Stages of Growth of Nebraska Noxious Weeds

The Weed Control Superintendent in counties having an official Nebraska Weather Station were asked to record the dates that 50 percent of the musk thistle, Canada thistle, leafy spurge and Canada thistle, leafy spurge is the key stages of growth. These observations were made in 1995, 1996 and 1997. The observed dates that 50 percent of the noxious weeds reached each of its growth stages was matched up with 40° F GDD data from the weather stations arriving at an average GDD required to reach each growth stage. Following is the average GDD required to reach the key growth stages for each of the observed noxious weeds and the date that this would occur in Lincoln in an average year.

GDD by Stage of Growth and Lincoln Date

This information can be used to project the dates the noxious weeds would reach each of its growth stages in a normal year or a year that varied from normal by tracking the accumulated GDD for that year. Growing Degree Day information is available at Crop Watch Weather at cropwatch.unl.edu/weather.htm.
**Leafy Spurge Management Strategy**

Leafy spurge (Euphorbia esula) is a perennial plant ranging in size from 30 to 36 inches in height. A native of Europe and Asia, leafy spurge emerges early in the spring and gets a head start on other vegetation in a race for space, sunlight, nutrients, and water. Prolific seed production and seedling reinfestation can contribute thousands of seeds to the seed bank. Only one plant going to seed can contribute thousands of seeds being produced, but do not provide complete control by themselves.

To successfully fight weeds, you must develop a persistent management program. Musk thistle (Carduus nutans) is usually thought of as a biennial, but it can persist for one year, usually in the fall, overwintering and flowering the next year. What many landowners do not realize is that musk thistle plants will act as annuals by germinating in the spring and flowering in early summer. Musk thistle spreads only by seed. One seed head can produce over 1,000 seeds. The seeds can remain viable in the soil for ten years. The key to managing musk thistle is to prevent all plants from going to seed.

To prevent seed production, you need to develop a strategy to manage musk thistle.

**Spot Treatments**

For hand sprayers used for spot treatments, add 1-1/2 tablespoons of herbicide per gallon of water for each quart broadcast. Apply to 1,000 square feet. Application amounts are dependent on spray pressure, walking speed during treatment, and tip size. For powered handgun sprayers, mix broadcast rate in contact with water.

**Rate Per Acre to 1,000 Square Feet**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rate</th>
<th>1 acre</th>
<th>2 ounces</th>
<th>32 oz.</th>
<th>1 pint</th>
<th>1 quart</th>
<th>2 quarts</th>
<th>4 quarts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.75%</td>
<td>1.50 oz.</td>
<td>31 oz.</td>
<td>1 quart</td>
<td>2 quarts</td>
<td>3.5 quarts</td>
<td>5 quarts</td>
<td>7 quarts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.75%</td>
<td>2.25 oz.</td>
<td>37 oz.</td>
<td>1.5 quarts</td>
<td>3 quarts</td>
<td>5 quarts</td>
<td>7.5 quarts</td>
<td>10 quarts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>43 oz.</td>
<td>2 quarts</td>
<td>4 quarts</td>
<td>6 quarts</td>
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<tr>
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<td>3.75 oz.</td>
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<td>2.5 quarts</td>
<td>5 quarts</td>
<td>7.5 quarts</td>
<td>10 quarts</td>
<td>15 quarts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.75%</td>
<td>4.50 oz.</td>
<td>57 oz.</td>
<td>3 quarts</td>
<td>6 quarts</td>
<td>9 quarts</td>
<td>12 quarts</td>
<td>18 quarts</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Mechanical Control**

Severing the root of musk thistle a couple of inches below the soil surface will kill the plant. The entire root does not have to be removed.

Hand cutting or mowing has to be done at weekly intervals to be effective. Fire has not proven to provide effective control. The plants are not well watered and can be easily and completely controlled.

**Prevention**

Infestations can occur where there is a seed bank in the soil and the conditions are right for germination and survival. Healthy vegetation provides competition and minimizes the survival of musk thistle seedlings. Care should be taken not to spread seeds from infested sites or from forage or seeds that are contaminated with noxious weed seeds. Equipment should be cleaned before leaving an infested site if it is possibly contaminated.

Only weed-free certified forage and seed should be used.

Reference: [You can find much more information on weed control by visiting The Nature Conservancy Element Stewardship Criteria for Cardus nutans at:](http://www.nature.org/conservation/eds/edscriteria/pdf/cardnut.pdf)

Reference: [Flea beetles have been released in Lancaster County to help control leafy spurge.](http://www.dupont.com/ag/vm/answers/countyfedimaps/dupont.com/ag/vm/Dupontcountyfedimaps_duplicates/933086230D1814A2AE16619C0254A87F.jpg)

Reference: [Flea beetles typically see several years to impact leafy spurge infestations, but the pests do not emerge until the next year](http://www.dupont.com/ag/vm/answers/countyfedimaps/dupont.com/ag/vm/Dupontcountyfedimaps_duplicates/933086230D1814A2AE16619C0254A87F.jpg).

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To successfully fight weeds, you must develop a persistent management program. Musk thistle (Carduus nutans) is usually thought of as a biennial, but it can persist for one year, usually in the fall, overwintering and flowering the next year. What many landowners do not realize is that musk thistle plants will act as annuals by germinating in the spring and flowering in early summer. Musk thistle spreads only by seed. One seed head can produce over 1,000 seeds. The seeds can remain viable in the soil for ten years. The key to managing musk thistle is to prevent all plants from going to seed.

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Crop, Forage and Article Inspection Program

The mission of the Lancaster County Weed Control Authority is: The education of the public concerning noxious weeds and to exercise the necessary authority to cut and clear overgrown weeds and worthless plant residue in the City of Lincoln.

The 2003 plan is directed at prevention of new weed problems, managing existing weed problems and making landowners and the public more aware of the need and benefits of controlling noxious weeds. The Nebraska State Roads Department requires noxious weed-free mulch on their roadside plantings.

Prevention

Efforts will be implemented to detect new occurrences of noxious weeds or plant species with noxious weed potential. Sericea lespedea, Johnsongrass and Spotted and Diffuse Knapweeds will be targeted in this effort. Inspectors will be trained to identify and monitor presence of these weeds. Others will be alerted and encouraged to report any findings of these weeds. Immediate response will be made to new outbreaks of noxious weeds or plant species with noxious weed potential. It is also important to control the spread of noxious weeds to new sites. Article inspections and contaminant surveys will be used as needed to control dissemination. Weed-free forage inspections will be made upon request.

Management

Plans are to educate voluntary compliance of required noxious weed control county-wide and abatement in the City of Lincoln by making inspections of 3,300 sites.

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Family Community Education (FCE) Council Meeting March 24

The FCE Council meeting will be Monday, March 24 at 1 p.m. at the Lancaster Extension Education Center. The program will be “How the Consumer Can Recognize Frauds and Steps to Take” by Jessica Fuchs from the Attorney General’s office. All FCE members are invited to attend. Please call Pam at 441-7180 to register by Friday, March 21. (LB)

FCE Training Lesson March 25

The April Family and Community Education leader training lesson, “Drinking Water: Don’t Take It for Granted,” will be presented by Lorene Bartos, extension educator, Tuesday March 25, 1 p.m.

Water is second to oxygen as being essential for life. People can survive days, weeks or even longer without food, but only about four days without water. The goals of this program is to understand more about the sources of drinking water, encourage Nebraska residents to not take drinking water for granted as a commodity and encourage Nebraskans to become active in protecting their private or community drinking water.

Non-FCE members interested in attending should preregister by calling Pam at 441-7180 a week before the lesson, so materials can be prepared. (LB)

FCE Scholarship

A $300 scholarship provided by the Lancaster County FCE Council is available for a graduate of a high school in Lancaster County or a permanent resident of Lancaster County majoring in family and consumer science or a health occupation. This is open to full-time students beginning their sophomore, junior or senior year of college in the fall of 2003 or who have completed two quarters of study in a vocational school. Applications are due April 1 in the extension office. (LB)

Creating a Strong Family — Universal Values, Family Strengths and the Quest for a Peaceful World

Kenneth Boulding, an economist, philosopher and general systems theorist, wrote humanity is at the end toward which we individually and collectively should strive. Betterment is an increase in the “ultimate good,” which is good in itself. Four great virtues make up this ultimate good:

1) Economic adequacy — “riches” in contrast to poverty; nourishment rather than starvation; adequate housing, clothing, health care and other essentials of life;
2) Justice — in contrast to injustice; equality rather than inequality in access to work, education and health;
3) Freedom — in contrast to coercion and confinement; and
4) Peacefulness — in contrast to warfare and strife.

Boulding proposed these great virtues may be considered universal values. All the cultures he has examined appear to share these values. In the same vein, researchers who study the qualities of strong families around the world note how remarkably similar these families are from culture to culture. Strong families tend to share six broad qualities or strengths:

1) Appreciation and affection for each other;
2) Commitment to the well-being of the family and the growth of each individual family member;
3) Positive communication among family members;
4) Enjoyable time together — “quality time in and great quantities”;
5) Sense of spiritual well-being within the family and connection to the greater good in the world; and
6) Ability to cope with stress and crisis — preventing difficulty when possible and dealing creatively with it when necessary.

The above illustration combines Boulding’s universal values with the Family Strength Model. From a global perspective, the ultimate goal and the strength that create happiness in our most intimate institution, the family, are remarkably similar. If the values we share as a human family are so closely aligned, we must be able to find a way to build a peaceful world together.

Source: John DeFrance, US Extension Specialist (LB)

Deployment — Help Those Left Behind

If you know of someone who is feeling distress because of separation caused by the recent deployment of troops, you can help. Here’s how:

• Offer help with everyday tasks like child care, transportation, household repairs, financial forms or other things the family may need. It may be difficult for a person who needs help to bring up the subject.

• Fixing a meal and taking it to a family would be helpful to the parent who is working and juggling schedules to get children to their activities.

• Offer a listening ear instead of trying to cheer the person up. Often well-meaning friends say things like, “Things will be fine” or “You’ll be back together in no time.” Even though such words are meant to be reassuring, the person who is distressed may feel you don’t understand.

• Instead of asking, “How are you?” when you greet the person, wait until you’ve chatted a few minutes. Then pause and ask, “How are things going?” When you ask the question right away, the person may not know if you really want an answer. Be sure you have time to listen before you ask the question.

• Continue to make personal contact because the first time you reach out, the person may not be ready to accept your help. Continue to be available and let the person know you care.

• Sometimes a physical gesture, like a hug or an arm around the shoulder, may say more than any words.

Just remembering those at home and those who are serving their country in any way helps make the time apart easier to handle. (LB)

Family Living

Pre-washing steps will help achieve the best laundry results. Clean out all pockets (turn them inside out, if possible) to remove crumbs, food and other items that may cause staining. Unroll shirt sleeves and pant cuffs and unbutton collars and cuffs for efficient cleaning. To help prevent clothes from tangling and snagging, close all zippers and fasten hooks and other closures. Mend tears immediately to help cut down on extensive repairs later on.

Child Care Providers Conference

Saturday, April 26 • 8 a.m.—4 p.m. Lancaster Extension Education Center

“Your Game Plan for a Winning Team” is the theme of this year’s conference. Speakers include Jody Isernhagen, UNL; Pam Doolberg, Family Service; Pat Enevoldsen, Southeast Community College, Sharon Cheney, Humorist and more.

Cost is $10. For a conference flyer call the extension office 441-7180 or Family Service, 441-7949.

Pre-registration is due April 15. In-service hours will be given for this conference. Plan now to attend. (LB)

CHARACTER COUNTS! Corner

Character is a moral sense, the capacity to express integrity, virtue and goodness. It is what you are when no one is watching. Individuals with character are those who can bring themselves to do what is right even when the cost is high, they have moral courage. The most powerful and lasting lessons about character are taught by making tough decisions. If we look for true success, we should take the necessary steps to build character into our lives. Finally, remember good character springs from the heart. (BR)
Bring the 4-H Kick Ash Road Show To Your Club Meeting

What if you and your 4-H club could take part in a great creative presentation that would travel to you? What if you could learn something that would improve your future and have fun at the same time? The Nebraska 4-H Kick Ash Road Show will do just that! 4-H clubs can request the 4-H Kick Ash Road Show to come and visit their club meeting to deliver the effects of tobacco use. Clubs are encouraged to invite non-members to attend the Kick Ash Road Show.

The Kick Ash Road Show is a creative presentation that can impact your club meeting and provide a positive, fun message to all attendees. With each presentation you will receive a mini-grant of $300 to implement their Kick Ash Action Plan.

Kick Ash Road Show dates are March through June. If you are interested in having the Kick Ash Road Show come to your club meeting, contact Kirsten King, 4-H Project Coordinator for Nebraska Kicks Ash Campaign, at 472-2805 or e-mail king2@unlserve.unl.edu.

HORSE BITS

Horse Leader Training Information

The 4-H Horse Club Leader Training was held Feb. 10 at the Lancaster Event Center. If no one was available to represent your club at the training, please call Ellen at 441-7180 and set up a time to pick up the information that was presented. (EK)

Upcoming Beef Progress Shows

ULN Block & Bridle Big Red Beef Show — Saturday, March 22, 9 a.m., Platte County Fairgrounds, Columbus. Check in: Friday, March 21, 5-8 p.m. or Saturday, 6-7:30 a.m. Contact: Genna Frezenz, (402) 325-7347 or (308) 560-0924.

York County Cattlemen Beef Progress Show — Saturday, March 29, 9 a.m., York County Fairgrounds, York. Registration & weigh in: Friday, March 28, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Entry fee: $20 per head/$10 for York County residents. Contact Gerald Peterson, (402) 362-5508.

Burt County Beef Preview — Saturday, April 5, City Park, Oakley. Entry fee: $20 per animal if entered by March 29/$25 per animal after March 29. Contact Chris Fleishman, (402) 585-4867 or Vicki Meyer (402) 325-7347 or (308) 550-0924.

Northeast Nebraska Spring Fling Steer & Heifer Show — Sunday, April 6, 2003 starting at 9 a.m. Madison County Fairgrounds, Madison. Check in: Thursday, April 3 & April 4, 7-8:30 a.m. Entry fee: $15 per head. Contact Shelly Palmer, (402) 649-2016; Bud Palmer, (402) 750-0859 or Mark or Deb May, (402) 371-4610.

Blue Valley Beef Revue — Saturday, April 19, Jefferson County Fairgrounds, Fairbury. Entry fees: $25 per show unit until 5 p.m. Contact Robert Strude, (402) 729-3487 or Mick Hynck, (402) 729-5910. Additional information on Web site: www.jefferson.unl.edu.

Saline County Beef Classic — Sunday, May 4, Tuxedo Park, Crete. Check in and Showmanship: May 3. Contact Eric Slathik, (402) 821-2151 or eslathik2@unk.edu. More information to follow.

Webster County Beef Progress Show — Saturday, May 17, Webster County Fairgrounds, Bladen. Contact Tim or Gwen Meline, (402) 746-3437. Additional information to follow.

Wayne Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Steer & Heifer Show — Saturday, June 14, 1 p.m., Wayne County Fairgrounds, Wayne. Entry Times: 8:30-10:30 a.m. day of show. Entry fee: $15 per head. Contact: William J Claybaugh, (402) 585-4867 or Vicki Meyer (402) 375-2240 or Mark Sorensen, (402) 375-1130.

Southeast Community College Beef Classic — Saturday, June 21, 8 a.m., Gage County Fairgrounds, Beatrice. Check in: Friday, June 20, 7-8 p.m. Entry fee: $15 per head. Contact Michael Tryrell, (402) 233-5027 ext. 254 or Al Rumbaugh, (402) 233-3947.

Recycle Ink Jet Cartridges and Help 4-H CWF

The Lancaster County Citizenship & Focus (CWF) group is collecting computer printer ink jet cartridges as part of “Children Helping Children” recycling program. CWF will receive $3 per cartridge and the empty cartridges are diverted from the landfill.

Help CWF and the environment by saving all ink jet cartridges from home and work. Empty cartridges can be dropped off at the extension office or the Lancaster Event Center. Your help is greatly appreciated! (DK)

Southeast District 4-H Youth Council Accepting Nominations

The Southeast District 4-H Youth Council is accepting nominations through April 1st. The Council membership is noncompetitive and open to anyone who is 14 years or older in the Southeast District. The Southeast District 4-H Youth Council supports Southeast District 4-H programs such as speech contest, as well as provides council on 4-H issues. The Council meets on a quarterly basis on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon. For more information or to submit nominations, please contact Janet Fox at 472-9582.

Dine Out for CWF at Don & Millie’s on Second Sunday of Each Month

On the second Sunday of each month, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Don & Millie’s will host Dine Out for 4-H Citizen Washington Focus (CWF). When people indicate they are eating for 4-H, Don & Millie’s will donate 20 percent of the profits of those meals. Don & Millie’s is located at 5200 S. 56th Street, near the Edgewood Shopping Center. You and your family can support CWF by dining out at Don & Millie’s during these times and telling them you are eating for 4-H. Mark your calendars with these dates: April 13, May 11, June 8, July 13, Aug 10 and Sep. 14. Thanks to Don & Millie’s and to those who “Dine Out for CWF!”

Kiwanis Karnival

Karnival time is here! The Kiwanis Karnival is a free family event sponsored by Lincoln Center Kiwanis. It is scheduled for Saturday, April 5, 7-9 p.m. at the Lancaster Event Center, 84th & Havelock, in the Exhibit Hall. All 4-H families are invited to attend this fun and free activity.

Due to limited space, preregistration is encouraged. Players who notate their games will be eligible for special prizes. Prizes are provided if your club or family would like to provide a booth, call the extension office to register by March 28. There will be bingo for the adults and treats for all. Plan now to attend this fun, family activity. For more information, call Lorene at 441-7180. (LB)

4-H Chess Tournament

Lancaster Extension Education Center 444 Cherry Creek Road, Lincoln

8:30–9:30 a.m. On-site registration* 9:00–9:30 a.m. Check in 9:45 a.m. Opening announcements 10:00 a.m. 1st round 11:30 a.m. 2nd round 12:30 p.m. Lunch 1:30 p.m. 3rd round 3:00 p.m. 4th round 4:15 p.m. Awards

Registration Information

Due to limited space, preregistration is encouraged. Pre-registration deadline is April 25. Entry fees: 4-H members: $2/$Non-4-H members: $3. Payment should be made at time of check in. On-site registration will depend upon availability of space. On-site entry fees for those not preregistered: 4-H members: $3/$Non-4-H members: $4.

For more information, contact James Walla, Checkmates leader, at 472-9582 or e-mail jameswallas@yahoo.com. Registration form and rules are available at the extension office or online lancasterneval.edu/4-H.

The 4-H Chess Tournament is open to 4-H friends age 18 and under. It is all Nebraska 4-H’ers to a chess tournament! The Checkmates Plan now to attend this fun, family activity. For more information, contact James Walla, Checkmates leader, at 472-9582 or e-mail jameswallas@yahoo.com. Registration form and rules are available at the extension office or online lancasterneval.edu/4-H.
Fun project. Youth enrolled in found in the new Sewing for static exhibit classes. Your copy. This year changes the 2003 Lancaster County well as new classes intro-classes have been deleted, as office. In this project several new packet available from our contact Tracy via e-mail at 441-7180.

Suite A, Lincoln, NE 68528.

Return form to: UNL Cooperative Extension in Lancaster County, 444 Cherrycreek Rd, I can be reached at (phone) ____________________ or (e-mail) _______________________.

for a “Heart of 4-H Award” because _____________________________________________ .

LANCASTER COUNTY FAIR NEWS

Static Exhibit Changes

Please carefully review the 2003 Lancaster County Fair book when you receive your copy. This year changes have been made to several static exhibit classes. Major changes will be found in the new Sewing for Fun project. Youth enrolled in this project MUST use the new packet available from our office. In this project several classes have been deleted, as well as new classes intro-

please note the State Fair will no longer exhibit 4-H entry level projects.

If you have questions, contact Tracy via e-mail at tkulm1@unl.edu or call 441-7180.

New This Year — Livestock Auction

We are excited to announce that there will be a 2003 Lancaster County Fair Livestock Auction! We are in the process of looking for Lancaster County Boosters. If you are willing or know of anyone willing to help support the livestock auction, please call Deanna at 441-7180.

Second Year Bucket Calf Project

4-H’ers who exhibited a bucket calf last year are now eligible to bring that calf back to the fair for the second year bucket calf project. The partici-
pants will be judged on their animals, records books and interview. Call Deanna at 441-7180 for more information.

FCS Contest Replaced with Life Challenge Event

A statewide Life Challenge Event will replace the Family and The Consumer Science (FCS) Contest. This event will feature challenges, placing questions and workshops. Coinciding with the PASE Contest, this event will be held June 30-July 1, on East Campus, Lincoln. It is for youth age 12 and older. Watch upcoming issues for more information.

Sheep Style Review????

Did you know there is another type of style review in our county, open to all 4-H’ers? It is called the sheep lead show. The purpose of this class is to present a stylish and becoming picture to lend an air of elegance and prestige. In addition, it brings out the value of wool in sheep and the value in wool apparel.

An entrant must be an active 4-H’er or member that owns an outfit made of at least 50 percent wool. Youth are also required to lead a breeding sheep that is being shown at the fair (yes, you can borrow one) and must write a one page narrative.

What a perfect time to decide to participate — wool outfits are on sale right now! If you would like more information on this activity, call Deanna at 441-7180.

3-H Theme Night at Saltdogs June 20

Lancaster 4-H Council is sponsoring “Discover 4-H, Discover You” theme night at the Lincoln Saltdogs baseball home game on Friday, June 20th “4-H Centennial” theme night at the Saltdogs last year was attended by more than 1,000 4-H’ers and family members! Ticket information will be published in upcoming issues.

Clover College June 24–27

Open to 4-H and non-4-H youth ages 5-16

Do you want to learn some new and exciting things? Do you like making projects and meeting new people?

Plan to attend one or more of the workshops at the 2003 Clover College!

Listed in next month’s NEBLINE for more a full list of workshops, information and registration forms. Some possible workshop topics include sewing, table setting, outdoor education and nutrition. You may sign up for as many or as few of the workshops as you like.

Most workshops will consist of one to four sessions with each session lasting two hours. A small fee will be required for most workshops. Call Tracy if you have any questions or may be interested in presenting a workshop.

MARCH

Ken Majors

Lancaster County 4-H and 4-H Council are proud to announce Ken Majors as the winner of the March “Heart of 4-H Award” in recognition of outstanding volunteer service.

Ken has been involved with the Rabbits “R” Us and Star City Rabbit raisers clubs for approxi-
mately five years, and he is an active member of the Rabbit VIPS Committee. He helps at various rabbit and poultry clinics and workshops. In addition, he judges rabbits and poultry at 4-H shows in approximately 10 counties each year. Ken will help at the Spring Rabbit Clinic on March 20 and judge during the Spring Rabbit Show on March 22.

Terri Bramhall, a member of the Rabbit VIPS committee, nominated Ken, saying, “Even though Ken has no kids in 4-H, he is always there for the rabbit 4-H’ers. He always comes to VIP meetings and is willing to do anything.”

Ken got his start in 4-H in the 1950s, when he belonged to a Nemaha County 4-H club for nine years and exhibited beef, dairy and swine.

A member of the Nebraska Tower of the Plains Rabbit Club, American Polish Rabbit Club, American Rabbit Breeders Association and the Nebraska Poultry Association, Ken says he likes being a 4-H volunteer because, “I feel whatever I can do to help youth develop a responsibility and love for animals — no matter what animal — is very gratifying and rewarding.”

He says he also enjoys, “Seeing youth grow and develop into fine characters and become responsible adults.”

Ken is a math resource person and computer lab supervi-
sor for the District OR-1 Bennet/Palmyra Schools. He and his wife, Ruth, live near Hickman and have a daughter, Beth Missegid and husband Clif who live in Lincoln, Missegid, Wade, who lives in Grand Lake, Colorado. Ken and Ruth enjoy spending time with their four granddaughters and traveling to Grand Lake often.

Ken says something most people don’t know about him is that he’s overcome being a very shy and quiet person.

Congratulations to Ken Majors. Volunteers like him are indeed, the heart of 4-H!
Protect Your Credit and Identity

Identity theft has become a problem anyone may have to deal with. Identity theft occurs when the identity of a person is stolen, such as Social Security, bank account and credit card numbers and use them as their own.

To reduce the risk of identity theft, the problems that can result, take the following precautions:

- Don't carry Social Security card, birth certificate or passport in a purse or wallet, except when needed.
- Don't print Social Security or driver's license numbers on checks.
- Photocopy both the front and back of all credit cards and keep in a safe location.
- Sign all credit cards as soon as they arrive.
- Don't leave charge card bills, credit card and ATM transaction receipts, store receipts, bank account statements out in the open. Dispose of papers with account numbers on them, mailings indicating pre-approval or offering credit by tearing them in small pieces or shredding them before putting in the trash or recycling.
- Don't give out credit card or Social Security numbers over the phone or Internet, unless you make the call or know it is definitely a reputable company.
- Keep credit/debit receipts and check them against the monthly statement.
- If a credit card is stolen, immediately notify the credit card company. If the missing card is reported to the issuer before it is used by someone else, the cardholder owes nothing. If charges are run up before the card is reported, the cardholder may be liable for $50.
- If a person suspects someone else is using his or her Social Security number it is important to contact the Social Security Administration office at (800) 269-0271.
- When a Social Security number is requested, ask the following questions before giving the number: Why is the number needed? How will the number be used? What law requires I give you this number? What are the consequences for refusing to give the number? Taking precautions can reduce the risk of identity theft, but should it happen, promptly reporting the theft can minimize the consequences. (LB)

Spotlight on a Neighborhood: North Bottoms

The neighborhood has many transplants from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Kauffmann Hall in conjunction with the Nebraska Union. All meals, lodging and activities are sponsored by the Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA). Through collaborative efforts to create a better community, the area has become an isolated ethnic enclave, its “village” character is still very apparent due to the clear physical boundaries of the neighborhood.

North Bottoms Neighborhood

North Bottoms was originally settled by Ger-

man farmers from Russia who came to the area after arriving by the Burlington Railroad. The neighbor-
hood itself was shaped by these people, who built small houses on long, narrow lots in an imitation of Old World models. One feature of the emi-
giants brought with them from Russia was the “summer kitchen,” which was separate, smaller building situated close to the kitchen door of the main residence. In Russia, the sum-

mer kitchen was built to prevent fires, since the homes in Russia often had thatch roofs. Today North Bottoms is home to a number of students from the University, as well as families from a wide variety of backgrounds. While the neigh-
borhood is no longer an isolated ethnic enclave, its “village”

character is still very apparent due to the clear physical bound-
aries of the neighborhood.

Nebraska Agricultural Youth Institute

The Nebraska Agricultural Youth Institute (NAIY) is a four-day event that brings together high school juniors and seniors from across the state to help build leadership skills, explore new aspects of agriculture and encourage young people to become more involved with and remain in agriculture.

The Institute takes place at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln’s Kauffmann Hall in conjunction with the Nebraska Union. All meals, lodging and activities are sponsored by the Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA).

Deadline for applica-
tions is April 15. Applica-
tions are available at the University’s Cooperative Exten-
sion office or by calling Austin Benes at the NDA at 471-4876.

Many new projects are being accom-
plished in North Bottoms by the neighbor-
hood associa-
tion under the direction of Ed Cauliford. A new baseball field was constructed during the past summer and plans are in the works to install street lights in the parking lot. A soccer field is being built at Hayward Park and a future bike trail from the Saltdogs ball park under Interstate-180 and into Hayward Park is being planned.

For more detailed informa-
tion on North Bottoms visit online at www.neighborhoodsinc.org/heartneighborhoods/northbottoms.htm. (WF)
Drought

and break like dead, dry twigs it
could mean the tree has died. On
the other hand, if the twigs bend
and don’t break with a snap, the
tree may still be alive. Second,
use your fingernail to scrape
bark from a small branch or
branch. If the tissue under the
bark is green and moist, the
tree may still be alive. However, if
absolutely sure the tree is not
dead, wait until the next spring
before you prune any more of
leaves.

Watering During Drought

During times of drought, the
best thing for trees and
plants is water. Homeowners
should consider watering
valuable shade trees (pine or
hardwood) and other landscape
plants to lessen the stress from
drought and heat. Thoroughly
water the ground area beneath
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in the sprinkler pattern. When
there is one to four inches of
water in the gauge or can, the
tree should be adequately
watered. With severe drought,
watering should be done about
every 14 days. (DJ)

All-American

Continuously blooming throughout the season, ‘Forever
Green’ lantana, that will perform well
throughout the growing season. Good for hot, dry
conditions, plant is better in sunny locations.
If you forget to water it, it
will tolerate drought. Reaching a
height of 12 inches, this is also a
fine plant for container garden-
ning as well as the flower border,
with its neat branching habit.

Melon ‘Angel’

‘Angel’ is a new melon
which has a crisp and refreshing
texture and good sweet flavor.
The interior of this melon is
white, with netted exterior that
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and weighs in at about 2 to 3
pounds when mature.

Summer Squash ‘Papaya Pear’

Quick to grow to harvest from
seed, ‘Papaya Pear’ will
reach maturity in about 40 days
from seed, a great plus for
cooler growing areas. Pear
shaped and golden, this squash is
just best when harvested at
3 inches in length and to continue
productivity, smaller in size and
more compact than other
squashes, the vines are good for
small garden areas and a good
candidate for container garden-
ing. (MFT)

Drought continued from page 1

Resources: The following publications are
available at
• Mammals (RP338 - $4)
• Build a Nest Box to Attract Birds (free and
 manufactured nest boxes).
• Nesting box and mounting
location. See resources.
• Each species of bird has
out-compete and kill native
birds like European starlings
and don’t break with a snap, the
other hand, if the twigs bend
mean the tree has died. On
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**Take Advantage of Early Bird 4-H Camp Fees — Save 10%**

It’s not too early to start planning for summer camp! In fact, by registering before March 15, you can save 10 percent on Nebraska 4-H Camp fees! 4-H Camps are open to all youth ages 5–19. This year, there are 36 camping programs to choose from with activities such as backpacking, fishing, mountain biking, rappelling, dancing, canoeing and arts & crafts.

Camps range from one to five days and are located at one of three Nebraska 4-H camp facilities. The following camps are offered at the Eastern Nebraska 4-H Center in Schramm Park near Gretna:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Age(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 3–5</td>
<td>Discovery Camp — Elementary</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 6–7</td>
<td>Take a Friend, Make a Friend</td>
<td>Ages 6–10</td>
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<td>June 8–12</td>
<td>Boldy Bound</td>
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<td>June 9–12</td>
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<td>June 15–18</td>
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<td>June 28–July 2</td>
<td>Discovery Camp — Middle School</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 10–13</td>
<td>Discovery Camp — Middle School</td>
<td>Ages 11–14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 14–17</td>
<td>Outdoor Skills</td>
<td>Ages 11–14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 18</td>
<td>Kids-N-Water</td>
<td>Ages 5–7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 29–31</td>
<td>Dismal River Trip</td>
<td>Ages 15–19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Many parents combine their child’s camp experience with a vacation for them and their families. It’s a win-win summertime getaway for the entire family!

4-H Camp fees range from $18 (Kids-N-Critters/Kids-N-Water) to $250 (Niobrara Canoe Trip). For detailed camp descriptions, registration forms and more information, visit online at http://4h.unl.edu or pick up a camp pamphlet at Lancaster County Extension, 444 Cherrycreek Road, Lincoln.

Families are invited to a free Open House at the Eastern Nebraska 4-H Center on Sunday, May 4 from 1–4 p.m. A terrific opportunity to tour the facilities and gain a taste of various fun-filled camp activities. Additionally, a representative from the Raptor Recovery Center will give families an up-close and personal look at some of Nebraska’s most majestic creatures. A raptor is a bird of prey, which includes hawks, owls, falcons and eagles.

Reservations one week before the event are appreciated — contact Kelly Krambeck at (402) 332-4496 or e-mail krambeck@unl.edu.

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**Extension Calendar**

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

### MARCH

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>4-H Rabbit VIPS Committee Meeting, Lancaster Event Center</td>
<td>Lancaster Event Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Extension Board Meeting</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>4-H State Horse Bowl Public Speaking and Demonstration Contests</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>4-H Speech Contest, State Capitol</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Unwanted Pesticide Disposal, Waverly Farmers Cooperative</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Fertilizer Plant on North 14th Street, Waverly</td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Hunting Workshop: Spring Turkey [reservations required, call 332-4543]</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>4-H Rabbit Clinic, Lancaster Event Center</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Healthy Cooking with Spices &amp; Herbs, Bryan/CH Wellness Center East</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>earth wellness festival, Southeast Community College [for 5th graders]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### APRIL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>County Fair 4-H Market Beef Identifications Due</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>4-H Council Meeting</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Prescribed Pasture Burning School</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Camp Neesan Karnival, Lancaster Event Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>4-H Citizen Washington Focus (CWF) Meeting</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>4-H Rabbit VIPs Committee Meeting, Lancaster Event Center</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Lancaster Extension Board Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Dine Out for 4-H Citizen Washington Focus (CWF), Don &amp; Millie’s, 520 5th St. Street (CWF)</td>
<td>Lancaster Event Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>4-H Council Meeting</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>4-H Leader Training</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Child Care Providers Conference</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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