Grasshoppers Thrive in Drought Conditions

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Farmers, acreage owners and gardeners fought a two-front war right here in Nebraska in 2002. Already battling to save their trees, flowers and crops from the effects of the drought, many rural residents found they were besieged by invading hordes of grasshoppers as well.

This army of six-legged marauders emerged from road ditches or waste areas and laid waste to crops and plants in the boarder areas. Certain species stripped leaf tissue from corn plants, leaving some fields looking like a field of broomsticks. Hay fields and pastures were invaded by other species which kept any new green growth clipped back to the ground. Many pastures were so brown as a result of the drought and hoppers, it looked like January in July. Rural residents discovered smaller trees in their windbreaks, even the pines and red cedars, denuded by the ravenous beasts. There were reports of grasshoppers eating the paint off houses!

entomologist at NU’s Panhandle Research and Extension Center. “Grasshoppers normally will begin to hatch in mid- to late-May in the eastern part of Nebraska. These summer feeding species typically cause problems in rangeland and cropland. By mid- to late-June, all decisions and treatment options should be exercised. Otherwise, we’ll have adult grasshoppers which will be bigger and harder to control,” Hein said.

Farmers, ranchers, home and acreage owners need to use control methods during grasshoppers’ early stages when they are easier to kill and still in more concentrated areas. “It’s better to deal with it up front rather than trying to catch up,” Hein said. “If you can treat them early, you can get better control and use lower rates of insecticide.”

Environmental conditions will play a big factor in determining the severity of the problem. If conditions during egg hatch are wet and cool, grasshopper survival will be low because the young grasshoppers will starve to death. However, if spring and summer prove to be warm and dry, as forecasters predict, we’ll be in for another serious year.

Treatment Guidelines

For acceptable insecticidal control, it is imperative chemicals be applied while grasshoppers are still immature (nymphs). As they grow, grasshoppers shed their outer skin (molt), exposing a new outer skin which hardens when exposed to the air. Grasshoppers go through five nymphal stages before becoming adults. The period of time a nymph spends between molts is known as an instar. Besides becoming larger in each instar, other subtle changes in appearance occur and can be used to identify which instar the grasshopper is in. Chemical controls work best when applied in the third or fourth instar. Control is more difficult in the fifth instar and grasshoppers are very hard to kill with insecticides when they become adults (when they have fully-developed wings).

One should not rely on a casual observation of body size when estimating the maturity of grasshoppers. Some species are much larger than others when fully grown. A large band-winged grasshopper species may approach two inches in length as adults, but other species may only be 3/4 inch long when adults. Even when the species is unknown, the instar can be estimated by using the guidelines below. Use a good magnifying glass to look for the identifying features.

There are numerous effective insecticides available for grasshopper control in rangeland, various crops, yards and gardens.

For more information on registered chemicals, rates and control methods, consult one of the following NU Cooperative Extension publications:
- A Guide to Grasshopper Control in Cropland (NF97-327), available on the Web at: www.ianr.unl.edu/pubs/insects/nf324.htm

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

Grasshopper Identification

There are over 100 species of grasshoppers in Nebraska. Some tend to feed almost exclusively on grasses while others are mixed grass and forb feeders. The primary species of concern in cropland include: migratory, differential, two-striped and red-legged. These are all spurt-throated grasshopper species.

There are three sub-families of grasshoppers that are of primary concern on rangeland. These are the spurt-throated, band-winged and slant-faced grasshoppers. Spurt-throated and band-winged are mixed grass/forb feeders. Slant-faced grasshoppers are grass feeders and are the primary concern in rangeland situations.

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Visit Egg Cam! View chicks hatching, photos of embryos as they develop, and educational resources for youth, parents and teachers on the 4-H Embryology Web site at www.lancaster.unl.edu
Reducing Energy Bills for Irrigation

Some producers in Nebraska reported pumping double the normal amount of water to grow crops in 2002. The prospects for continued drought in 2003 are high. It is important that irrigation pumping plants operate efficiently to keep costs to a minimum, but it is especially important when energy prices are high and the supplemental water needed for crop production is expected to be higher than normal, as well.

Most irrigation in Nebraska depends on groundwater as the water source. Nearly all groundwater for irrigation is pumped using a vertical turbine pump. The University of Nebraska has field tested hundreds of pumping plants over the years. Based on these field tests and on laboratory tests of engine efficiency, the university developed Nebraska Pumping Plant Performance Criteria, NPPPC (usually shortened to NPC). This criteria states the amount of useful work (water horsepower-hours, whph) one should reasonably expect to achieve in the field for each unit of energy consumed by a pumping plant.

In a pumping plant test, the technician measures total head (lift plus system pressure), flow rate (gallons per minute) and rate of energy consumption. The performance of the pumping plant is stated in terms of whph per unit of fuel. The performance rating is the rating of the particular pumping plant compared to the NPC and is expressed as a percentage of the NPC. A rating of 100% indicates that the pumping plant is operating as expected. A rating below 100% indicates the pumping plant is using more energy for the work that it is doing than the criteria call for. For example, a pumping plant operating at 70% of the NPC is only producing 70% of the work it should for the energy it is consuming.

The most recent statewide pumping plant efficiency study conducted by the University of Nebraska tested 180 pumping plants. As one might expect, the efficiency of the pumping plants tested by the university varied considerably. Some pumping plants achieved very good efficiency. In fact, 5% actually exceeded the NPC. (Performance ratings over 100% of the NPC are possible when a highly efficient motor is attached to a well-designed pump that is not worn or misadjusted). The fact that some pumping plants exceed the criteria is witness to the fact that the criteria is a reasonable target for all pumping plants. The other 85% of the pumping plants were found to use more energy per unit of work than would be expected by the NPC. The average pumping plant in Nebraska was found to be operating at only 77% of the NPC. To put it another way, the average pumping plant in the study was using 130% as much energy as it would if it were operating at the NPC (1.00/0.77 = 130%).

When the efficiency of a pumping plant is not what it should be, the problem is either in the power unit, in the pump or both. Internal combustion power units on irrigation pumps can have the same problems as those in cars and trucks. About the only thing that will cause poor electric motor efficiency is if the bearings are bad or if the motor is far larger than what is needed for the job.

Causes for poor pump performance include: pump designs that are poorly matched to the job they are currently doing (perhaps the operator has switched from gated pipe to a center pivot sprinkler or a high pressure to a lower-pressure sprinkler package), pumps that had worn impeller vanes and/or internal seals as a result of pumping sand or impellers that were not properly adjusted within the pump bowls. There are many pump manufacturers and each manufacturer can have dozens of pump designs in their catalog. At a given rotational speed, a given impeller design operates on a curve. Each design will have a low efficiency operating area which is much lower than any area of that design producing an efficient performance. The critical performance point for the impeller design will be the intersection of the operating curve for that impeller and the inefficiency curve for the engine. Adjustments either to the engine or to the pump can produce the best efficiency point at a certain head/capacity condition, with lower efficiencies on either side of the best efficiency point. The job of the field engineer is to potentially benefit from adjustments. Adjustments either to the engine or pump or both resulted in 14% average savings in energy costs over the initial test results. An equally important result of the pumping plants tests was inefficient pumping plants were identified and the feasibility of making repairs beyond the field adjustments were calculated. On some pumping plants, the potential savings in energy costs from major repair or even replacement of the pump would pay for itself in only a few years.

If there isn’t a water meter installed on the system a short-term pumping plant test can be run using one of a variety of devices to measure the flow rate. Contact a reputable well driller and ask if they are equipped to run a short term pumping plant efficiency test. At today’s energy prices, identifying a pumping plant that needs adjustment or repair could result in saving hundreds or even thousands of dollars in energy costs per year.

If the producer knows the total fuel used over a period of time, the total volume of water pumped (from water meter readings, usually stated in acre-inches), the system pressure range, the water level (measured while the pump is running), the performance rating can be calculated.

For more information on how to estimate long-term performance, contact Tom Dorn, extension educator in Engine or Pump at tdorn1@unl.edu. (TD)
Buffalograss – The Other Green Grass

After turf becomes well established (up to four months for plugged areas; four to eight weeks for sodded areas), a reduction in management inputs can be realized.

Turf management requiring vegetatively established buffalograss ranges from approximately two weeks to once per year, depending on management level and aesthetic requirement. The upper end of the recommended mowing height, when mowing is practiced, is 1-1/2 to 4 inches. Shorter mowing heights will require a greater mowing frequency. Avoid removing more than one-third of the turf's top growth, i.e., for a 2-inch mowing height, mow when the turf reaches 3-inches) at any mowing. Removing clippings is optional, but not required or recommended.

Excessive nitrogen (N) fertilization can crowd out buffalograss and promote weed invasions. Exceeding the following recommendation defeats the low management concept of buffalograss and promotes weed invasions. Apply fertilizer to one to three pounds N per 1000 square feet per year in two applications (mid-late May and late-July). On sandy or low-fertility soils and/or in high rainfall areas, use the upper end of the recommended rates. Use a slow-release N carrier such as SCU, urea-formaldehyde or a natural urea fertilizer. For phospho-

tous, potassium and pH adjustment, test the soil every three to five years.

The water requirements of most seeded buffalograss are considerably lower than the commonly used turfgrasses. Excessive irrigation, much like overfertilization, promotes invasion. Irrigating buffalograss in many areas is not required. If irrigation is required, water should be applied evenly and properly managed. Weed presence in buffalograss is minimal. If herbicides are required, follow label directions explicitly to maximize weed control. Ronstar O-Dimension, Dalcaul, and Surflan are pre-emergence products currently labeled for use in buffalograss. Except for Dalcaul their use is restricted to certified applicators. A spring application of a pre-emergence herbicide must be made before or after the seedling emerges, is 1-1/2 to 4 inches. Shorter mowing heights, when mowed correctly, can be realized.

A second pre-emergence application in late summer or early fall will control winter annuals, such as henbit, chickweed, and mouse-ear chickweed. Post-emergence control of annual grasses is best achieved with applications of Surflan (DSMA, MSMA). Broadleaf products cleared for use in buffalograss include a number of 2,4-D containing products. Do not apply products containing 2,4-D if temperatures are expected to go below 80°F on the day of application. Dormant buffalograss can be sprayed with Round-up to control winter weeds. Fall applications can be applied after the first frost or when the buffalograss turns straw-brown.

Spring applications of Round-up to buffalograss will not control buffalograss if the dormant turf is showing any green color. Round-up is not effective in semi-dormant buffalograss will significantly delay green-up and could harm the young buffalograss. (DJ)

Buffalograss – The Other Green Grass

Weed Control Essential for New Seedlings

Newly planted windbreaks, trees and shrubs need weed control practices for the first two years. Much of the shade trees need during the first year of planting. New trees and shrubs have reduced ability to compete with aggressive weeds and grasses for moisture, light and nutrients. Keep shaded or stunted growth or die in the process.

Cultivation, mowing and chemical herbicides can help control weeds. Newly germinated weeds can be killed easily by cultivation or chemicals just before or after the seeding stage.

To ensure treatment will be effective, cultivate or spray vegetation two feet on each side of tree rows or within a four-foot radius of each seedling. If applied in the proper amount and after tree seedlings have emerged, pre-emergent herbicides such as Simazine will control weeds for the growing season.

Cultivation is the best method to control weeds and retain moisture for seedings as long as it’s not too deep or soil is pushed against the trees. Mowing and cultivation every two weeks is another way to control weeds and the remaining vegetation prevents soil erosion. New trees need extra attention for up to three years afterwards. Some properties also have ornamentals trees, shrubs or broadleaf crops. Be sure to calibrate application equipment. Remember, chemical herbicides are wonderful, work-saving weed killers but take precautions for their safe and intended use.

Squirrels Cause Spring Frustration

Squirrels seem to do most of their twig-clipping and bark-stripping in the spring, leaving tree owners frustrated. Squirrels can cause a number of chronic, low-level problems but there are ways to keep squirrels at bay.

Twig-clipping occurs when squirrels strip small twigs from tree branches. Squirrels may do this as a territorial marking or because of their rodent tendency to chew. Twig-clipping doesn’t have much impact on trees. However, the small twigs covering the ground can be annoying to tree owners. Bark-stripping can be more problematic because the squirrel's tail marks the branch they’ve stripped. Squirrels feed on cambium, the inner bark of the tree, which is nutritious for them. Most trees can handle up to a third of their bark and are usually able to survive bark-stripping, but in rare cases, the tree may be severely damaged. Bark-stripping tends to occur more often in cities than rural areas, possibly because squirrels have limited nutrient resources in the city and may have to forage more. Any tree is susceptible to bark-stripping, but it’s seen most often in broad-leaved trees. Squirrels can cause a number of other problems, some just annoying and some quite destructive. Squirrels may get into homes’ attics to birth their young or they may eat the feed in bird feeders and scare the birds away. They also can crawl into a vehicle’s engine compart- ment and chew the wires or climb along power lines and blow out power transformers. Repair is both costly and extremely costly.

Squirrel repellents are available in the circumstance but are not effective in deterring bark-stripping. Capsinicin, the active ingredient in hot sauce, is a registered repellent and putravine is a sticky tactile repellent.

Live-trapping is an option if the problems come from a few persistent squirrels. Permits are required to do this and may be obtained from the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission or a local animal control office. Trapped squirrels should be released in a vacant habitat—a wooded area that doesn’t have many other squirrels. Resident squirrels are very territorial and transplants may not survive.

Despite the problems squirrels may cause, they are essential in the web of life and provide several benefits. They add to habitat diversity and are important prey for owls, coyotes and other predators. Squirrels also contribute to tree re- rainforest by bringing nuts and learning which to grow. (DJ)

Weather & Climate Information on the Web

Have you found Lancaster County Extension’s weather page on the web? It’s an integral part of the Nebraska Productions Agriculture web pages, found within the Nebraska County Extension’s Ag/ Acreage section. This page provides links to color-coded maps showing current drought information, one and seven day potential evapo-transpiration and links to current radar images of precipitation, maps showing rainfall amounts for the past day and many more items of interest. In you would like to view charts of the weather conditions for each day of any month since January 1999 for Lincoln, the information is just a click away. Detailed daily information includes maximum, minimum and average temperature, normal maximum and minimum and average temperatures, record highs and lows, rainfall monitoring and degree-day/cloaking-degree day values. Less detailed daily weather information can be found for previous years. This historical information includes: maximum and minimum temperatures and precipitation for every day back to 1920. Perhaps you are looking for extensive publications covering weather and climate. Links are provided to Nebraska’s Crop and Diseases Guides on cropping practices and decisions based on probability of freezes and other weather factors, reducing or mitigating damage. Some publications on animals and why Nebraskans should be concerned about global warming.

The weather page can be accessed by pointing your web browser toward nebraska.unl.edu/weather or by clicking the Weather button under Nebraska Production Agriculture icon or point your browser to: http://lancaster.unl.edu/ag/weather/weather.html (DSM)
Hasty Hash Brown Scramble
(4 Servings) cooking spray
2 cups (8 oz.) frozen southern-style hash brown potato slices
1/2 cup sliced fresh mushrooms (optional)
1/4 cup chopped sweet red pepper (optional)
1/4 cup chopped green onions with tops (optional)
4 eggs
1/4 cup skim or low-fat (1%) milk
1/4 teaspoon garlic salt
1/4 cup (1 oz.) shredded reduced-fat Monterey Jack cheese (optional)

Evenly coat a 9-inch pie plate with cooking spray. Add potatoes, mushrooms, peppers and onions. Stir until well combined. Cover with plastic wrap. Cook on full power until peppers are tender, about 3 to 4 minutes (500-700 watts: 4 to 5 minutes).

In a small bowl, beat together eggs, milk and garlic salt until well blended. Stir into Ingredients. Cook on full power 1-1/2 to 2 minutes (2 to 2-1/2 minutes). Stir to move cooked portions at edges to center. Continue cooking, covered, on full power until eggs are almost set, about 1 to 2 minutes. Sprinkle with cheese. If desired, cover. Let stand until eggs are thickened and no visible liquid egg remains, about 1 to 2 minutes. Garnish with mushrooms, peppers and onions if desired.

Note: Microwave cooking times here are based on a full power output of 1000 or 1100 watts. For an oven with 600 to 700 watts, use the time for a microwave Genius. For a lower wattage “min” oven, allow a bit more time.

Nutritional information per serving of 1/4 recipe using skim milk
Energy: 105 calories
• Carbohydrates: 13.6 gm; Protein: 9 gm; Total Fat: 5 gm; Cholesterol: 213 mg.
• Sodium: 272 mg; Potassium: 147 mg and 10% or more of the RDI for Vitamins A and C, riboflavin and phosphorus.

How to Fill Up, Not Out! (Part 2)

1. Turn Up the Volume! “When left to their own devices, people choose a fairly constant portion of food, from day to day,” according to Dr. Rolls in describing her research related to “voluntary food intake.” “Volumetrics is based on maintaining the usual amount of food you eat yet lowering the calories in each portion so you can consume fewer calories yet feel just as full.” Choosing nutrient-dense foods higher in fiber and water and lower in fat and sugar help you feel full, obtain essential nutrients and aid in weight loss/maintenance. Some tips for food choices from the various food groups include:

• Bread, Cereal, Rice and Pasta. Choose whole grains foods, with lots of fiber and water contents. For example, choose whole grain bread instead of white. Avoid eating lots of dry, low fiber foods that are easy to overeat, such as dry crackers, pretzels. Rolls gives the example of how five tiny pretzels provide 25 calories, while the same calories, you could eat a whole medium tomato.

• Fruits and Vegetables. Most fruits and vegetables can be eaten in unlimited quantities as they’re high in water and fiber. Just go on eating adding lots of fiber, low fat foods that are easy to overeat, such as dry crackers, pretzels. Avoid eating lots of dry, low fiber foods that are easy to overeat, such as dry crackers, pretzels. Rolls gives the example of how five tiny pretzels provide 25 calories, while the same calories, you could eat a whole medium tomato.

• Milk, Yogurt and Cheese. Choose lower fat forms. We’ve about two glasses of skim milk for the same calories as one glass of whole milk.

• Meat, Poultry, Fish, Legumes, Eggs and Nuts. Choose whole grain breads, lean cuts meats, nuts, legumes, whole beans and preparations methods. Enjoy small portions of nuts.

• Soup. Broth- and tomato-based soups tend to be lower in calories than cream-based ones and offer a lot of satiety.

• Beverages. While water-rich foods, such as fruits, vegetables and soups, will help you feel full, want to ask your doctor if foliage-based drinks and drinks with protein. According to Rolls, “The hunger and thirst mechanisms are quite similar. A soft drink will trigger thirst mechanisms, but hunger mechanisms and add calories without satisfying hunger. You may end up consuming more total calories than if you didn’t take the drink.”

• Desserts. Chocoholics will enjoy this advice from Rolls: “Having a piece of chocolate at the end of a meal is really not a bad strategy. You’re already pretty full and less likely to overeat and sit down and eat the whole box. I find myself that the most delicious chocolate I can think of in a small amount at the end of the meal really helps me end the meal!”

2. Step to It! The National Weight Control Registry (NWCR) studies successful weight control strategies of people aged 18 years and older who have lost at least 100 pounds of weight and kept it off at least one year. The average person listed with NWCR expends about 400 calories a day in physical exercise, with walking being the most frequently cited activity. Health experts recommend walking around 10,000 steps per day (about 5 miles) on most days for cardiovascular health. It’s likely more steps may be necessary for weight loss. Investing in an inexpensive pedometer is a good way to begin and stay motivated with walking. Simply determine your current number of steps for a couple of days and gradually build up.

To help stay on track, track your walking — keeping a record of how we’re doing can help us stay on target. A good way to begin is to step away from the can that influence hunger and weight gain.

Though most healthy adults generally need an average of eight hours of sleep nightly, some may need more and others may need less while others may need more, according to National Sleep Foundation (NSF). Here are general tips from NSF that may help you sleep better; for more ideas, check their Web site at www.sleepfoundation.org.

• Drink less fluids before bedtime.
• Avoid heavy meals shortly before bedtime.
• Avoid naps during the day.
• Go to bed and get up at the same time daily, including weekends.
• Exercise regularly, but at least three hours before going to bed.
• Avoid napping during the day if you have trouble sleeping at night.
• Avoid caffeine and alcohol in the late afternoon and evening. While caffeine may keep you awake a little longer, alcohol may cause you to wake later in the night.
• If you continue to have sleep problems, check with your physician.

Web Resources of the Month
Now that the days are nicer, perhaps you’re interested in starting a walking program. Walking is a good way to help tone up your muscles and maybe even take off a few pounds. For more information in getting started, check lancaster.unl.edu/food/walk.htm. Visit our NEW “Quick Tip of the Month” to help you prepare healthy food in a hurry at lancaster.unl.edu/food/cq/tips.htm.

Here are some tips to help you plan how to fit physical activity into your day at home, work and elsewhere to help get you started.

Begin by being ready for activity wherever you are. Buy comfortable clothes you can move around in. Keep some in your car. Keep a pair of comfortable walking or running shoes in your car or house. If you stumble, don’t worry and just don’t. Just get back on track.

Weekly Moderate Intensity Physical Activity
Make physical activity part of your daily commute. Park further from work or get off the bus one stop earlier and walk the rest of the way.

Physical Activity at Work
Take the stairs instead of the elevator. Walk down the hall instead of using the phone or e-mail. Take a walk during morning or afternoon break. Ask a friend to go with you.

Luncheon Activity
Take a walk around the block during part of your lunch hour. Pick some dining spots 10 to 15 minutes away and walk to and from lunch.

After Work Habits
Sneak a brief walk in after work before you get home. Play with the kids. If you find it too difficult to be active after work, try it before work. A brief walk is a great way to start off the day. Take the dog.

Weekend and Day Off Activities
Walk up and down the sidelines at your child’s baseball or soccer practices and games. Join a weekend line dancing or ballroom dancing group. Go to the park or zoo with your family. Walk while doing errands. Make a Saturday morning family habit; or take a family walk after church, mosque or synagogue.

Active Indoor Chores
Do chores that let you move your arms and legs such as window washing, tub scrubbing or reorganizing your closet.

Active Outdoor Chores
Move the grass, wash the car and do the same for a neighbor who may be in need. Spruce up your garden or plant a new one.

Source: CDC, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion.
In the Aftermath of War

Whether urban or rural, many families are suffering from economic hardship and mental stress. The year 2003 is going quickly and many things have been happening. They are not all easy! This is the beginning of a series of articles on “When Times are Tough”.

It sounds as though the war “Iraqi Operation Freedom” is about to wind down. Regardless of your feelings on whether the war was the right thing to do or not, it is important to know your feelings, and the feelings of your family and friends are legitimate. Everyone has the right to their own feelings. It’s how those feelings are expressed that must be dealt with. Some people have simply grieved throughout this whole time with concern about the news of injuries, death and survival even if they did not have family members or friends in the military or serving overseas. Many with family members or friends overseas have been glued to the television and news, which has affected their lifestyle including their physical and emotional health. Many people continue to be concerned about terrorism within our country. There is still work to be done in Iraq and around the world and people will continue to serve in this military and away from home. Although there may be some closure for some, others will have concerns, fears and loneliness.

It is essential you know where you stand with these issues and who you may turn to for support. It is important to recognize your feelings and fears and to know you are not alone. One of the most wonderful things about living in the United States is you have the right to voice your opinion and share your feelings without threat of bodily harm.

However, when you share feelings you place yourself in a vulnerable position. You will want to trust the person you confide in or who you ask for advice. During these days, although the end of war is inevitable, there is still unrest and stress. In the aftermath of war, make sure to care for yourself by eating properly, exercising, and to know you are not alone. It is important to voice your opinion and share your feelings about living in the United States is you have the right to know your feelings, and the feelings of your family, friends and co-workers to help make their lives less stressful.

Do what you can to support your family, friends and co-workers to help make their lives less stressful.

Character Counts! Corner

Respect

It is a wonderful experience to feel the respect of others. Respect is the most basic of human needs to be valued as a person of worth. It is the understanding all people and things have value by showing high regard and consideration for self, others, community and environment.

There are positive consequences of being a respectful person. You may learn about different ideas, you earn the respect of others when they see you respecting them. You will probably feel confident you have done the right thing whenever you give others consideration or say kind things to people. (BR)
Recognizing Hazardous Trees

**2003 Perennial Plant of the Year**

The Perennial Plant Association (PPA) has chosen Becky Shasta daisy for the **2003 Perennial Plant of the Year**. The PPA recognizes an old-fashioned favorite, Becky Shasta daisy on the basis of its bright white flowers, sturdy stems, and its ability to bloom even in heavy shade.

Becky Shasta daisy performs well in northern gardens due to its robust habit and superior to other Shasta daisies to keep this daisy upright after a heavy rain and to make it an excellent cut flower. Becky is an excellent addition to other Shasta daisies due to its robust habit and performs well in northern climates. (MIF)

Most people realize dead trees should be removed as soon as they are detected, however, living trees also can be a threat to life and property. A living hazardous tree may have one or more defects which decreases its structural integrity and gives it an increased potential for failure. Unfortunately, this potentially deadly combination of defective trees with areas where people or their property stop and congregate are all too common in residential and commercial landscapes. Landscape tree owners or home owners must have the ability to identify and correct hazardous situations caused by defective trees.

**Tree Structure**

Trees are complex and high density living organisms. Knowing how trees are constructed, function, and respond to other trees and the environment will help the person who work and play near them.

Trees have massive stems that support the leaves and flowers. The stem is also the transport system for moving nutrients and water from the leaves and back again. Trees must grow every year. Each new shoot of fresh flowering wood covers last year’s tree. If a tree cannot grow every year, it will decline and die.

A cross section of a tree trunk has many layers. The outer bark is dead wood which protects the tree. The inner bark or phloem tissue is alive and carries food materials that are harvested in the leaves to the trunk. Trees need adequate sunlight to grow, laying down new xylem. If these woody tissues decompose the wood beneath, the tree may die.

**Internal Decay**

Decay in living trees is the end result of many complex interactions between the tree and several groups of fungi and bacteria. Many of these microorganisms are opportunistic and enter through wounds. Healthy and vigorous trees have adequate defense systems that limit the spread of decay caused by these pathogens, however, older trees or those in poor health are at a disadvantage, and extensive columns of decay often result. The decayed cambium tissue takes over a large volume of the trunk, the tree will be unable to support itself, may fall at any time (even though failure is most likely to occur during periods of high wind.)

Here are the warning signs of internal decay:

- Large wide dead cavities or craters
- Presence of fungal fruits or bodies
- Bleeding (oozing sap) through the bark
- Presence of carpenter ants, bees, wasps, nesting holes and bee hives
- Loose, cracking bark
- Overall poor appearance, slow growth, twig and branch die-back

**Cankers/Canker-Rots**

Cankers, localized dead areas on the bark caused by bark-inhabiting microorganisms, also can lead to structural instability in a tree. Cankers on the trunk and branches can make trees inherently weak spots and trunk and branch failure may occur at any time. Small cankers are likely to cause tree failure because of the combined effect of dead bark around the circumference of the tree (from the canker) and loss of internal strength caused by dead decayed wood. Cankers with canker-rots are very hazardous and should be removed as soon as possible.

**Root Problems**

Anything that alters or compresses the root system (dead grass, support provided by any part of the root system decreases the stability of the tree. Two major culprits that jeopardize the integrity of roots are lawn-rot, typically a pathogen that attack weakened trees or enter through wounds and cause significant decay and structural failure. Insitu they reduce the root’s rate of growth and increase the probability of root failure. There are four ways that living trees become structurally unsound:

- Internal decay in the trunk and large branches
- Cankers and canker-rots
- Root rot and decay
- Poor branch attachment

**Branch Attachment**

To have a strong attachment, a branch must be smaller (40 to 50 percent smaller) than the trunk or limb from which it arises. If the branch and trunk are close to the same size, their attachment may be weak and breakage may occur. Competing leaders and upright growing branches with acute angles of attachment also are areas of potential danger.

Some tree species such as horehound, silver maple, and willow are more likely to break because of their inherent poor branch attachment. Trees can kill roots. Building, road, and sidewalk construction or activities specifically damaging to the roots of nearby trees. Large, heavy equipment can cause massive damage, often sever or injures a large portion of the roots.

Without a root support of the entire root system the tree is structurally weakened and the probability of failure increases as the amount of injured roots increases. Trees that have lost 50 percent or more of their root system during construction should be removed.

**Reducing the Risk**

Early detection of tree defects can prevent trees failures and potential damage to property and injury to people and pets. Reducing the risk associated with hazardous trees might take one of the following forms:

- **Remove the target**—While homes or power lines cannot be moved, sometimes picnic tables, cars, landscape features, play areas, etc. can be relocated to prevent them from being endangered by the tree.
- **Remove the tree**—Some hazardous trees are best removed because they are an imminent hazard. Remember, “When in doubt, take it out!”
- **Prune the tree**—Removing defective branches might alleviate a hazardous situation. However, if the situation has been made hazardous by being unable to remove a compromised tree, the tree should be examined by a Certified Arborist. If the tree is located near a power line, contact your local utility. (MIF)
Ant Identification: Why is it So Important?

Barb Ogg
Extension Educator

In the past few years, pest control professionals report that ants have become one of the most problematic nuisance pests in and around homes. Ants motivate more homeowners to call cooperative extension than any other group of insects.

There are about a dozen ants that are found occasionally inside Nebraska homes. Because ants live in colonies and have a queen that continues to lay eggs, they are produce more workers, the smartest control approach is to locate and treat the colony. Spraying individual ants with a liquid or aerosol insecticide will only tackle one portion of the colony. Locating the colony isn’t always easy. Most of the time ant colonies are outside and the ants you see coming inside through small cracks that allow entry. But, sometimes the colony can actually be in the structure itself. A correct species identification will help you locate the colony, because different ant species are found in different locations and have different habits.

They also may be attracted to different foods — which will help when considering a bait treatment.

Several of the more common ants are carpenter ants, odorous house ants and large yellow ants (citronella ants). Each of these ants has one node separating the thorax and gaster, but they have other distinguishing features that make them easy to identify.

Carpenter Ants

Carpenter ants are large black ants, the workers are in size from 1/4-inch to 1/2-inch long. They have a dull black color, including legs and antennae. Under a hand lens you may see fine yellow hairs covering the ant’s body.

“Red” Carpenter Ant

Carpenter ants are large black ants, the workers are in size from 1/4-inch to 1/2-inch long. They have a dull black color, including legs and antennae. Under a hand lens you may see fine yellow hairs covering the ant’s body.

Odorous House Ants

The ‘re carpenter ants are smaller than the black carpenter ant but distinct in coloration: reddish head and thorax and black abdomen. Colony location: The main carpenter ant colony must have a constant source of moisture to survive and is usually located in dead wood outdoors, such as dead limbs, tree holes, stumps, landscape timbers, indoors, a main colony is usually associated with a water problem. Where the colony is essential to eliminating carpenter ants; the correct treatment is dependent on where the colony is located. Hiring a pest control professional may be needed to control ants in wall voids or other difficult locations.

Large Yellow Ants

This medium-sized ant is about 1/4-inch long and yellow-orange in color. They are also called citronella ants because when crushed, they give off a distinctive odor of lemons or citronella.

Colony location: The large yellow ant usually nests in the soil, often under logs, rocks, patio blocks and concrete slabs. They also may be found in dry areas of the soil. The large yellow ant excavates large amounts of soil as it builds galleries. Because the colony is located under a basement or garage slab, soil may be piled on the floor. Large yellow ants swarm nearly every day in the spring — and often several times during the year. If large yellow ant swarms are found inside the house, the colonies are probably in the soil outside the foundation or under a crawl space.

Control: Locate and treat colonies next to, under or around the structure. It may be necessary to hire a pest control professional to treat under concrete slabs or in crawl spaces. Baits are not effective for large yellow ants.

There are eight other ant species that are sometimes found in Nebraska homes so don’t assume these are the only ants you might encounter. It is always a good idea to have ants identified by an expert before you spend a lot of time or money on treatment. Bring ant specimens to the Lancaster County Extension Office, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. weekdays.

Environmental Focus

Clopyralid and Compost

Clopyralid (pronounced cloe-pi-ral-id) is a herbicide designed to kill broadleaf weeds such as clover, thistle and dandelion. Clopyralid is sold for use on turf by several manufacturers under a variety of trade names such as Confront, Lantril, Momentum and “Weed & Feed” fertilizers. The source of clopyralid in compost is clippings treated with these products. Clopyralid may inadvertently damage sensitive plants through misapplication of compost with clopyralid. Clopyralid is subject to photolysis that breaks down during the composting process. In soil, it has a half-life of 2–14 months. When composted, the half-life is greater than one year. Other chemicals appear to break down quickly in compost and do not present the same problems as clopyralid.

Plant families sensitive to clopyralid include:

- Legumes: peas, beans, lentils and clover
- Solanaceous: tomatoes, peppers, potatoes and eggplant
- Composite: sunflower, petunia, marigold, daisy and aster
- Other plants: carrots, carnations, lilies and lettuce

Exposure to clopyralid does not pose a health threat. According to the EPA, it is not harmful to people or animals at the low levels present in compost. In fact, people who have applied this herbicide to their lawns have actually been in the structure itself. A correct species identification will help you locate the colony, because different ant species are found in different locations and have different habits.

They also may be attracted to different foods — which will help when considering a bait treatment.

Several of the more common ants are carpenter ants, odorous house ants and large yellow ants (citronella ants). Each of these ants has one node separating the thorax and gaster, but they have other distinguishing features that make them easy to identify.

Carpenter Ants

Carpenter ant workers are dimorphic — which means you can find large and small wingless workers in the same colony. In Nebraska, there are two species of carpenter ants that are quite different in color.

Black Carpenter Ant

Carpenter ants are large black ants, the workers are in size from 1/4-inch to 1/2-inch long. They have a dull black color, including legs and antennae. Under a hand lens you may see fine yellow hairs covering the ant’s body.

“Red” Carpenter Ant

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Termite Control Workshop May 22

“Everything Homeowners Need to Know about Termites and Termite Control” will be held at the Lancaster Extension Education Center, 444 Cherrycreek Road on Thursday, May 22 from 6-30-9-30 p.m. Barb Ogg, Dennis Ferraro and Clyde Ogg will discuss all aspects of termite biology and management. The goal of this workshop is to help consumers make better decisions about termite control. Cost: $20 (BPO)
How to Exhibit at the County Fair

New leaders and experienced leaders, 4-H members and parents are invited to a leader training on Monday, May 19, 9:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. at the Lancaster Extension Education Center. This date change come and receive information on static exhibits, tips for home environment projects, contest information, new project information, the in’s and out’s of interview judging and other valuable county fair facts. Call 441-7180 by May 16 to RSVP. (TP)

Lancaster County Fair
JULY 30–AUGUST 3
Discover the Fun!

Lancaster 4-H Council is sponsoring 16 "F's out of interview judging on static exhibits, tips for the Wee Amigos 4-H club. Her children, Zach, age 16, and out’s of interview judging and other valuable county fair facts. Call 441-7180 by May 16 to RSVP. (TP)

Lancaster Extension Education Center. It will be presented on the Extension office by 4-30, June 15. (DK)

Livestock Affidavits

Reminder: livestock affidavits due due by May 15. (DK)

Lancaster County 4-H Council are proud to announce Sara Morton as the winner of the May “Heart of 4-H” Award in recognition of outstanding volunteer service.

Sara has been the organizational leader of the Rabbits “R” Us 4-H club for four years — leading monthly meetings, volunteer- ing at the County Fair and helping organize the yearly Rabbit Clinics and Spring Show. Prior to being the leader, she was involved in the club for four years. Sara is also involved with the Wee Amigos 4-H club. Her children, Zach, age 16, and see HEART OF 4-H on page 11

Lancaster 4-H Council is sponsoring Discover 4-H theme night at the Lincoln Saltdogs Baseball home game against Kansas City on Friday, June 20. Game starts at 7:05 p.m. at Haymarket Park (located near 6th & Charleston streets)

There will be many 4-H fun activities, including:
- Free "Discover 4-H, Discover Your" temporary tattoos
- Lancaster County 4-H Flag official will sing the National Anthem
- Members of the Wittstruck family, a three-generation 4-H family, will throw the first pitch

Women of the 2003 Lancaster County Public Service Announcement (PSA) 4-H Speech Contest — Alyssa Fiala, Sean Badner, and Terra Thomason will give public address announcements

Lancaster County 4-H will be selling June 20th Saltdogs tickets to 4-H, families & friends through June 13. To buy your tickets, stop by the UNL Lancaster County Extension office, 444 Cherryreek Rd., Suite A, Lincoln.

Tickets are $4 per person for general admission/grass berm seating. After June 13, tickets are available from the Saltdogs ticket office or at the gate.

Ticket for 4-H’ers on Sale Now Through June 13
Lancaster County 4-H will be selling June 20th Saltdogs tickets to 4-H’ers, families & friends through June 13. To buy your tickets, stop by the UNL Lancaster County Extension office, 444 Cherryreek Rd., Suite A, Lincoln.

Tickets are $4 per person for general admission/grass berm seating. After June 13, tickets are available from the Saltdogs ticket office or at the gate.

Wanted — 4-H Livestock Judges

Are you interested in becoming a member of the Lancaster County livestock judging team? If so, please call Deanna at 441-7180 by June 1. Once we have some teams formed, we will schedule some learning workshops and attend area judging contest. (DK)

Lamb Tagging

If you need your market or breeding lambs tagged, call Deanna to set up an appointment. All lambs need to be tagged and identified no later than June 15. (DK)

Sewing For Fun and Clothing Construction

Two Sewing Seminars Scheduled

Hancock Fabrics, 6800 P St., Lincoln, will present demonstrations on zippers, pillows, grading seams, buttons and more on Sunday, May 18, from 3 – 4 p.m. These presentations are designed to help 4-H’ers in Sewing For Fun and Clothing Level 1 and 2. You’ll be amazed how these ideas can really improve your projects. There is no fee, but call 464-3935 by May 14 to pre-register.

The second presentation will be Sunday, June 1, 1–4 p.m. The project Decorate Your Duds will be presented. Learn about painting, machine embroidery, applique, beading and lots more. Bring your own source or ideas. There is no fee, but call 464-3935 by May 28 to pre-register.

Premier Animal Science Events (PASE) Coming Soon

The Premier Animal Science Events will take place Monday, June 30 and Tuesday, July 1, in the Animal Science facilities on East Campus of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. This is open to any 4-H’er wanting to learn about animals, meat selection or careers in agriculture.

During this event you will have the opportunity to participate in one or more contests or workshops. Activities are as follows: livestock judging, livestock quiz bowl, meals for consumers judging, dairy cattle judging, poultry judging, chicken and turkey BBQ contests and the tractor driving contest.

For more information, go to the Animal Science Web site at hbs.unl.edu/animalsci/#judging or call Deanna at 441-7180.

Attention Shoppers and Six Easy Bites, Youth will receive ribbons and a fair premium.

If you are interested in participating in either contest, please contact Tracy by June 1 for more information. (TK)

Lancaster 4-H’ers Win Medals at District Speech Contest

More than 286 entries from 37 counties represented their county 4-H program at the recent Southeast District 4-H Speech Contest held at the University of Nebraska-Brink. Lincoln on April 13. Congratulations to the Lancaster County 4-H’ers who were among the medal winners.

In the Senior Public Speaking Division, Connie Lemke with her speech “Is It Over?” was one of the top seven speakers and will advance onto the State 4-H Speech Competition held in August to compete for scholarships. Intermediate Public Speaking Division winners included Sean Badeer with his speech entitled “I Love a Good Rodeo!” Junior Public Speaking winners included Preston Badeer with his speech “DOS Dummy Proof!” Senior Public Service Announcement winners included Alyssa Fiala with “Lights, Camera, Action!” (Karen Clinich received special recognition for “4-H Shopping in Style”).

Intermediate Public Service Announcement Division winners included Sean Badeer with “4-H Warning.” Junior Public Service Announcement winners included Terra Thomason with “Buggie About 4-H,” Ryan Keys with “4-H Camps” and Hannah Spencer “Step Right Up to 4-H.”

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FCS Judging Contest Replaced with Life Challenge Event

The former Family & Consumer Science (FCS) Judging Contest is changing its format. This year it will be called Life Challenge.

The senior division is for youth 12 and over. This Life Challenge event will occur on Monday, June 30 and Tuesday, July 1 in Lincoln on East Campus of UNL. Participants will compete as a team in one of the five possible challenge areas and individually in placing classes. Topics for the senior division challenges include Foodworks, You’re the Chef, Shopping in Style, Design Decisions and Business Sense. Workshops of interest will be held throughout the 2-day event not as a part of the competition, but for educational enjoyment. Small entry fee is required. Ribbons will be awarded.

A separate junior division contest for youth 11 and under will be held Thursday, July 10, 1 p.m. at the Lancaster Extension Education Center. It will consist of a written test as well as an oral question given to a judge.

Topics for the junior division include Health A- Discovering Myself, The Sitter, Wear your Best”. Youth will receive ribbons and a fair premium.

If you are interested in participating in either contest, please contact Tracy by June 1 for more information. (TK)
4-Day Workshops
Clover Kids Camp
Clover Kids will participate in several hands-on activities while learning about animals, food fun, science, the outdoors and more. Refreshments provided for this workshop.

TUE-FRI, 8-12:15PM
AGES: 9 and up
FEE: $7
INSTRUCTORS: Multiple instructors

Bird Seed Feeder
Fly in and take home your bird house or feeder of your choice. Work on your skills, learn about birds, and feed for backyard animals. All materials will be provided for this 4-day workshop.

TUE-FRI, 12:45-2:45PM
AGES: 10 and up
FEE: $5
INSTRUCTOR: Ron Sing, 4-H volunteer

3-Day Workshop
Insect Collecting for Beginners
In this 3-day workshop, learn the most common insect orders and make your own stacking diorama. You will collect aquatic insects so come prepared for the outdoors! This class is for youth who did not attend this workshop last year.

THU-FRI, 12:45–2:45PM
AGES: 10 and up
FEE: $20 (some supplies included)
INSTRUCTOR: Barb Ogg, Extension Educator

2-Day Workshops
Puppets on Parade
In this 2-day workshop, you will get creative in making several different kinds of puppets. Learn a little bit about the history of puppet performance and put on a performance of your own.

WED-SAT, 10-12:15PM
AGES: 8 and up
FEE: $10
INSTRUCTOR: Brenda Flia, 4-H volunteer

Fun with Scrapbooking
Use scrapbooking basics to create a mini scrapbook album and photos. 1 scrapbook and photos that you will complete at home. Free It’s a blast to scrapbook. Kids can attend for free.

THU-FRI, 10-12:15PM
AGES: 8 and up
FEE: $8
INSTRUCTOR: Kitt Saathoff, owner of A Page in Time and 4-H volunteer

Say it with Posters
Learn how to visually tell a story with posters. Use lettering, graphics, and color to communicate a clear message.

THU-FRI, 12:45–2:45PM
AGES: 8 and up
FEE: $5
INSTRUCTOR: Vicki Jedlicka, Extension Assistant

Under the Hood
Getting a Jump Start on Auto Mechanics
Get a handle on what’s under the hood of your car. Practice changing a tire and start a car without a key. Find out what to do in several emergency situations. Preventative maintenance, such as checking tire pressure, filters, and fluids will also be covered.

TUE-WED, 12:45–3:45PM
AGES: 12 and up
FEE: $5
INSTRUCTOR: Robert Fox, 4-H volunteer

1-Day Workshops
Practice Make Perfect Pies
Practice making perfect pie crusts and even learn some decorative techniques in this hands-on workshop.

TUE-SAT, 10-12:15PM
AGES: 8 and up
FEE: $5
INSTRUCTORS: Brenda Flia and Cindy Flia, 4-H volunteers

3R’s - Reduce, Reuse, Recycle
Learn about Shopping S.M.A.R.T (Save Money and Reduce Trash) and make treasures from trash.

TUE-WED, 10:15–12:15PM
AGES: 9 and up
FEE: $5
INSTRUCTOR: Lorene Bartos, Extension Educator

Sensational Summertime Setting Contest
Come to this workshop and learn how to style a summer tablescape and compete for a prize!

THU, 10:15AM–12:15PM
AGES: 8 and up
FEE: $5
INSTRUCTOR: Julie Lantis, 4-H volunteer

Fantastic Floral Fun
Learn how to do fabulous full face painting from face painter extraordinaire, Matilda Belle. Starter paint kits will be available to purchase for $10.

THU, 10:15AM–12:15PM
AGES: 8 and up
FEE: $5
INSTRUCTOR: Jhoni Kucera a.k.a. Matilda Belle, 4-H volunteer

Money, Money, Money
Learn the basics of banking and how to spend and save wisely.

TUE-WED, 10:15–12:15PM
AGES: 10 and up
FEE: $10
INSTRUCTOR: Vicki Jedlicka, Extension Assistant

Creating Chenille
Learn how to make beautiful chenille. Bring your sewing machine, white thread and 12” ruler. Also bring blunt ended scissors if you have them.

THU, 10:15AM–12:15PM
AGES: 10 and up
FEE: $5
INSTRUCTORS: Diane & Marie Sporrer, 4-H volunteers

Style Revue
Style Revue will be here soon! Come to this workshop and learn the new way of styling and practice your modeling technique.

THU, 10:15AM–12:15PM
AGES: 8 and up
FEE: $5
INSTRUCTOR: Julie Lantis, 4-H volunteer

Burps and Burp! Burp, burps and burping are part of the fun! Don’t know where to burp or what to do in several emergency situations? Come learn to “burp properly”.

THU, 3–5PM
AGES: 8 and up
FEE: $5
INSTRUCTOR: Jan Wagner

3...2...1...Blast Off!
Have you always wanted to build your own rocket? Come build a rocket and launch it! All materials will be provided for this workshop.

THU-SAT, 12:45–2:45PM
AGES: 10 and up
FEE: $10
INSTRUCTORS: Deanna Karmazin, Extension Associate & Julia French, Extension Intern

CLOVER COLLEGE REGISTRATION FORM
To register, complete the registration form (one person per form) and return with payment (check or money order made payable to Lancaster County Extension). Registrations must be received by June 16. They will be handled on a “first come” basis and will only be accepted upon receipt of fees. Early registration is recommended. Telephone registration not accepted. All fees are non-refundable unless a class is filled to capacity or canceled.

Name _____________________________
Parent(s) Name(s) _____________________________
Address _____________________________
City _____________________________ State ______ Zip ______
Daytime Phone _____________________________ Evening Phone _____________________________
Special Needs (allergies, etc.) _____________________________

Workshops to attend: _____________________________
Fee _____________________________

Parent/Guardian Signature _____________________________ Date _____________________________

TOTAL _____________________________

I give permission to use my child’s name/photograph in publications, advertising/news articles or Web sites pertaining to 4-H Yes No

UNL Lancaster County Extension, 444 Cherry Creek Rd., Ste. A, Lincoln, NE 68528
Spotlight on a Neighborhood: Clinton

Dorothy Wiechert was a longtime 4-H supporter, member of Lancaster Extension Board, 4-H Council representative, Family and Community Education (FCE) Council member and officer, and a 4-H leader for many years. Her contributions to 4-H and other local organizations have made a lasting impact.

The Clark Neighborhood was first settled between 1864 and 1879 by pioneers who either purchased land from the U.S. Government or acquired land by fiefdom. The Homestead Act, which became law on January 1, 1863, allowed citizens over 21 to file for 160 acres of free, unpromissed public land. The land became the person’s property at the end of five years, provided he or she had built a house on it, dug a well, planted 10 acres, fenced a specified amount and lived there for the five years. In 1897, the Clark area was annexed into the city of Lincoln. Many of the neighborhood streets – Legation, Baldwin, Potter, Merrill – are named after early settlers of the area. By the early 20th century, the rural aspect of Clinton had been replaced by a more industrial character. Many residents of the neighborhood during this period likely worked for the railroad, giving the area a largely blue-collar population.

The neighborhood’s most historically significant structure is the Carnegie Library, built in 1909 at 27 & Orchard Streets and moved in 1992 to a new site south of the 27 Street viaduct. The building now houses Neighborhoods, Inc., a non-profit organization that helps low- to moderate-income residents buy homes. The neighborhood still conserves some of the beautiful houses built along Holdredge Street in the early 1900s so residents have access to the electric trolley that operated there until the 1920s. Today, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campuses border the neighborhood on the east and west and the John Dietrich Bike Trail runs along Clinton’s northern boundary. Many recreational opportunities are available – playground equipment, a baseball diamond, volleyball court, soccer field and picnic areas can be found in the neighborhood’s many parks: Penzer, Lintel, Nevin, Woodside, and Fleming Fields. The Salvation Army Center is a hub for youth activities and offers basketball courts, pool tables and electronic games.

The Clinton Neighborhood Organization, active since 1967, promotes many projects in the neighborhood. It sponsors an annual clean up in the spring, publishes a newsletter, and. see CLINTON on page 11

Credit Users Should Avoid Scams

Fraudulent charges can often be eliminated or reduced if they are handled promptly. One way to avoid scams is to remember credit problems cannot be erased from credit histories. Often advertised are the “credit repair clinics,” which promise to rebuild credit. In reality, there is nothing these companies can do to change negative information on a credit report. While they may be able to escape from bad credit may find these advertisements appealing, borrowers should be aware that anything the company might do can take away what the borrower has already done.

For more information on credit laws and scams, consult the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau’s NeBact, “Credit, Advantages, Disadvantages and Common Types,” NF03-517, available at local extension offices. (LB)

The Nebraska LEAD Program

(LEADERSHIP EDUCATION/ACTION DEVELOPMENT)

Are you a candidate?

The Nebraska LEAD Program is a comprehensive, two-year, statewide, agricultural leadership development program designed to speed up the leadership development process to better prepare the problem solvers, decision makers and spokespersons for both agriculture and the State of Nebraska.

Through monthly, three-day seminars the program promotes awareness, understanding and involvement in leadership positions at all levels. A national and international study/travel seminar is also a part of the program. Up to 30 individuals are annually selected from across Nebraska. The program is sponsored by the Nebraska Agricultural Leadership Council, Inc. in cooperation with the Institute of Agricultural and Natural Resources of University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Qualifications

• Be a resident of the state of Nebraska for the past three years.
• Be willing to commit the time necessary for full participation.
• Be actively involved in production agriculture or agribusiness.
• Be motivated and open to new ideas and differing points of view.

Application Deadline

Application deadline is June 15, 2003

Applications may be requested by calling (402) 472-6810

See our Web site at www.iianr.unl.edu/lead.

The Nebraska LEAD Program University of Nebraska-Lincoln
318 Bloch Hall
Lincoln, NE 68583-0763
Parents who want their children to use the Internet safely—to learn while having fun—will want to check out a new online resource that will let their kids “camp out” all year long: goCyberCamp™.

The Web site provides youth with a window to explore outdoors and camp culture in educational but game-like settings. Youth age 8 to 12 are able to participate as “campers” from wherever they are: At home, an after-school program, the library, a community center or local YMCA, grandma’s house, or some other place with access to the Internet. The Web site requires no special software, so registered campers need only “hike” across the keyboard and bring their own sleeping bag and mattress.

At goCyberCamp, children can go to:

• The Fish Factory to listen to campers’ own songs, stories, and artwork.
• The Campfire to listen to camp counselors reading stories.
• The Meadow to launch a project providing residents an opportunity to address safety concerns.
• The Woods to play Memory Games, such as matching up animal tracks, a fish at the Fish Factory, and camp culture in the Eastern Nebraska 4-H Center.

goCyberCamp is a “closed site,” meaning there are no links to other external Web sites. “Closed site” means that all campers are automatically monitored by support and education in building on personal strengths. With a $1.3 million grant, The University of Nebraska Communication and Information Technology department is providing the technical expertise to make goCyberCamp possible. Campers will be able interact with other “campers” who are registered to use the site and can elect to become part of a virtual cabin—that is, a small group of children and an adult camp counselor who meet online regularly. These cabins are meant to foster some of the camaraderie children would experience at an actual summer camp.

In order to provide a safe online environment, access to the Web site is limited to registered, authenticated campers and staff. goCyberCamp is a “closed site,” meaning there are no links to other external Web sites. Additional security for campers is provided through “behavioral programs that automatically monitor the online interactions to prevent inappropriate communications,” says goCyberCamp counselor Janet Fox. Campers and camp counselors may sign up to join goCyberCamp at no charge by visiting lancaster.unl.edu.

Campers must obtain a parent or legal guardian’s permission to enroll, and care providers also must obtain the parent or guardian’s permission for each child to participate.

The Nebraska 4-H Camps Are Filling Fast!

Open to all youth ages 5–19

Time is running out to make plans to attend this year’s 4-H summer camps! 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:

June 3–5 Discovery Camp Ages 8–10
June 6–7 Take a Friend, Make a Friend Ages 8–10
June 8–11 Boldy Bound Ages 11–14
June 9–12 Biking Bound Ages 11–14
June 14–18 Kids-N-Critters Ages 5–7/whichever grade
June 16–18 Niobrara Canoe Trip Ages 15–18

June 20–22 Junior Leader Weekend Ages 15–18
June 29–July 2 Discovery Camp Ages 8–10
July 7–9 Boldy Bound Ages 11–14
July 10–13 Discovery Camp Ages 11–14
July 14–17 Outdoor Skills Ages 11–14
July 20–23 Kids-N-Water Ages 5–7
July 29–31 Dismal River Trip Ages 15–19

Camp fees range from $18 (Kids-N-Critters/Kids-N-Water) to $250 (Niobrara Canoe Trip). For camp descriptions, registration forms and more information, visit online at 4h.unl.edu or pick up a camp pamphlet at the extension office.
Ag Awareness Festival Teaches Youth Importance of Agriculture

More than 400 fourth graders from 10 schools attended the Ag Awareness Festival April 1 and 2 at the Lancaster Event Center, Lincoln. This is the third year the festival has been held in Lincoln.

Festival April 1 and 2 at the Lancaster Event Center, Lincoln.

In addition to learning about the farming technology by having kids use a corn grinder patented in 1909 to see how it impacts their daily lives. Students gained a greater understanding of agriculture and its importance.

Lancaster Event Center  . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 7 a.m.

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May 2003

Ag Awareness Festival Teaches Youth Importance of Agriculture

In addition to learning about the farming technology by having kids use a corn grinder patented in 1909 to see how much corn they could grind in one minute. Students concluded it was hard work! Students also got the opportunity to climb on a combine and three tractors.

Ag Awareness Festival, 4-H Sewing Seminar, Grain Crops, Grain By-Products, Farming Technology, Swine, Horticulture, Horse, Dairy Production, Ruminant Nutrition, Goat Production and Products, Dairy Calves, Beef Products, Beef Production and Food Safety.

New this year was Goat Production and Products (products made from goats).

The Ag Awareness Coalition, led by University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension, organizes the festival with the help of agriculture businesses, commodity associations and food industry companies. This is the third year the festival has been held in Lincoln.

In the Ruminant Nutrition session, students watched as Extension Educator Monte Stauffer obtained rumen contents through a fistula, or plug, which was surgically implanted in a cow used for research by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Animal Sciences Department.

Extension Educator Barb Ogg (above right) demonstrated the value of farming technology by having kids use a corn grinder patented in 1909 to see how much corn they could grind in one minute. Students concluded it was hard work! Students also got the opportunity to climb on a combine and three tractors.

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