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Nose Printing as a Method of Cattle Identification

Deanna Karmazin
Extension Associate

For many years, 4-H and FFA members have been required to nose print their calves to be eligible to show at the State Fair and in other shows. Nose printing is a reliable method for verifying the identity of the animal. By nose printing cattle at 4-H and FFA weigh-ins, we are able to verify the identity of show or class winners, or any cattle selected at random from the State Fair and Ak-Sar-Ben. When questions arise regarding whether a youth has really owned and cared for an animal since the initial weigh-in during the spring, nose printing can provide reliable answers to these questions and help maintain the overall integrity of the 4-H youth development livestock program.

It is commonly known we all have our own unique fingerprints, unlike any other fingerprints in the world. Everyone’s prints are totally unique, and they never change. The same goes for nose prints of cattle. Each calf has a pattern on their nose, very similar to a human’s fingerprint. Each print is unique and serves as a method of permanent identification — a form of identification that can’t be cut out and replaced like an ear tag.

4-H strives to have a program built on credibility and integrity. Along with nose printing, youth with livestock projects are required to participate in a program called Quality Assurance Training. The goals of the program are to:

- Help youth understand the responsibilities involved in raising livestock for food
- Teach youth the technical knowledge of quality assurance, and
- Change management practices of the youth and/or family members to be consistent with quality assurance practices.

Lancaster County youth understand if they raise one head of livestock or one thousand, they are considered a producer of food. Every 4-H’er has to accept responsibility and needs to continually keep learning about, and improving, practices that can effect the quality and safety of food products.

Steps in Nose Printing Cattle

1. Make sure the animal is securely placed in a head gate to make sure they are safe from harming themselves and others.
2. Stand on the side of the calf with your arm and body restraining the animals head from swinging or jerking.
3. Completely dry the nose area with a towel. This method removes all dirt and debris and removes moisture which will cause the ink to run and fill up the grooves of the nose, resulting in a smeared, unreadable print.
4. Once the nose is dry, quickly roll an ink pad over the non-haired portion of the calves nose, making sure to cover the entire area with black ink.
5. Quickly, before the nose can build up perspiration or moisture, using a block of wood, immediately press the index card against the nose and roll it off.

Eye-Catching Technology

Nose printing is just one method of identifying animals. Some high tech producers are using retinal scans, DNA typing from hair samples, Bar Code scanning with tag, and high Frequency Radio Tags. Nebraska 4-H is considering moving from nose printing to retinal scanning or DNA testing to ensure accuracy and reliability in its animal identification.

Bruce Golden, a professor at Colorado State, found the retinal vascular pattern in an animal does not change from birth and is unique to each individual animal. Even each eye of the same individual animal is different.

Retinal scanning of cattle, sheep and swine is becoming more popular in the animal industry each day. An OptiReader, developed by a team of Colorado State professors, is the technical instrument used to perform this procedure. It is a combination handheld computer and digital video camera. It actually takes a picture of the animals’ retinal vascular pattern (the pattern of blood vessels located at the back of the eye).

The camera is held close to the animal’s eye and uses near-infrared light to illuminate the animal’s retinal vascular pattern. The camera records the pattern and transmits it at 30 frames per second for the handheld computer for storage and later transmission to an Internet-accessible database. The handheld computer also has the capability to encrypt the image with not only a time and date stamp but a global positioning location. This information would provide pinpoint accuracy when tracking the potential spread of a pathogen.

At a recent workshop, several Nebraska 4-H staff were introduced to this technology. According to Deanna Karmazin, “Because of its global database tracking ability, retina scanning has the potential to become an efficient method of ensuring the safety of America’s meat supply.”
Henbit or Ground Ivy — How to Tell the Difference

Infestations of henbit (Lamium amplexicaule) and ground ivy (Glechoma hederacea) can be the result in the spring of purple we see in the patches of purple we see in the spring. These plants are not abundant when we first come across them. Identification can sometimes be tricky. Both are members of the mint family (Lamiaceae) and have the characteristic square stems. However, they differ in their life cycles. Henbit is a winter annual (completes its life cycle in the spring), but ground ivy is a perennial (life cycle lasting more than one year). These plants can bloom as early as April and ground ivy can continue to bloom into June. The flowers are tiny, tubular, pink to purple and can be found in the upper leaf axils of both plants. Ground ivy’s stems generally lie along the ground, rooting at the nodes and the flowers are round to kidney shaped. However the reproductive stems are more ascending and can sometimes be confused for henbit. When looking at the reproductive stems, ground ivy leaves are born on petioles. Whereas, the henbit has sessile (leaf is attached directly to the stem) leaves. (MIF)

Night-Blooming Flowers

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

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

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

Several night-blooming flowers that are ideal for a moon garden are listed below. Night-blooming flowers rely on a strong fragrance, rather than bright colors, to attract pollinators. Other plant possibilities for a moon garden include: artemesia, lamb’s ear, fragrant roses, dusty miller and white flowering annuals and perennials.

Showy flowers open in the evening and last until the next morning. Moonflowers have a sweet fragrance and can be up to 5 to 6 inches across. Closely related to morning glory, this quick-growing annual may climb up to 15 feet. Although it takes longer and warmer soil conditions to become established, it is every bit as vigorous as the morning glory.

Growing Parsley

For o’clocks

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

Yucca (Yucca filamentosa) — Flowers of this spiky perennial are open all day but at night the droopy blossoms lift and release a soapy smell. Yucca is a broad leaved evergreen that forms a loose cluster of long, pointed leaves. During the growing season, a long stalk will grow up to 6 feet tall and produce large numbers of white bell shaped flowers. Once established it may be difficult to remove from the landscape.

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

Consider planting flowers which may be dried for winter arrangements. Some of the best are strawflower, statice, celosia and globe amaranth.

Do not restrict yourself to buying plants in bloom. Petunias that bloom in the pack are often rootbound or overgrown and after planting will actually set back and cease to bloom for about a month. Plants without blossoms will actually bloom sooner and will grow better as well.

To extend the blooming period of gladiolus, plant early, middle and late-season selections each week until the middle of June. Choose a sunny location and plant the corms four to six inches deep and six to eight inches apart.

Scatter annual poppy seeds in flower borders. The fine seeds need not be covered. The plants grow rapidly and provide colorful flowers in early summer.

In a sunny location with poor soil, plant nasturtiums for a colorful show. They require warm soil to sprout and start blooming in about 50 days. Too much water and fertilizer produces excessive leaves and few flowers.

When chrysanthemums show signs of life, dig up and divide large plants. Discard woody portions and replant divisions 12 to 15 inches apart.

Cut flower stalks back to the ground on dahlias, biennials and other summer flowering bulbs as the flowers fade. Do not cut the foliage until it dies naturally. The leaves are necessary to produce strong bulbs capable of reflowering next year.

Do not add organic matter to the soil when planting trees. It does not help the plant become established and it may create conditions that encourage the roots to stay inside the planting hole instead of spreading to surrounding soil. Do dig a large planting hole, but fill it with the original soil removed from it.

The last Friday in April is National Arbor Day. Plant a tree or support an organization which does.

Prune spring blooming shrubs such as forsythia and spirea after they have completed flowering.

Remove sticks, rocks and other debris from your lawn to prevent damaging your lawn mower or injuring yourself when mowing. Check your lawn mower and other lawn-care equipment in preparation for the coming season.

Put a birdhouse in the garden to attract insect eating friends.

Measure the rainfall with a rain gauge posted near the garden so you can tell when to water. The garden needs about one inch of rain per week from April to September. (MIFY)

Daucus

Flowering tobacco

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Competing with Ants for Kitchen Counter Space?

You May Have Odorous House Ants

Odorous house ants are small ants about 1/8 inch long and dark brown in color. They are the most common home-invading ant in Nebraska and are often a nuisance in kitchens. Odorous house ants get their name because they smell like rotten coconuts when crushed. This very distinctive smell is different from other ant species.

Odorous house ants usually nest outdoors in the soil under stones, logs, mulch, debris and other items. They will also nest indoors in wall and floor voids, particularly in moist or warm areas. If only a few workers (wingless ants) are observed in the house, it is an indication they are nesting outdoors and entering the house in search of food. If winged swarms are found indoors, or if workers are consistently seen in great abundance, they may be nesting within the house.

Odorous house ants regularly search for food along well-traveled trails. They feed on dead insects, sweets and meats. One of their favorite foods is the sweet honeydew produced by plant sap feeding insects such as aphids and mealybugs.

Thorax is uneven in shape

Thorax is uneven in shape

Control of odorous house ants should begin with an attempt to locate the ant colony. Effective ant control requires treating the colony either with insecticides, or a bait. Careful and frequent observation may be necessary to find the colony. Ants entering from outdoors can be discouraged by sealing as many cracks and gaps in exterior walls as possible. Lawn and garden sprays can be used outside to control individual ant hills near the house or to create a protective barrier to stop foragers from wandering into the house.

Odorous house ant colonies inside the house can be treated with ready-to-use ant syrup baits that will control swarming ants. These baits should be placed near where ants are seen or on or along trails. Do not use insecticide sprays in conjunction with bait treatments. Insecticide sprays will counteract the baits, because the ants must feed on the bait and take it back to the colony. Insecticides may kill the ants, making the bait treatment ineffective. It may take several weeks or more to get rid of the ants using this method.

If you seem unable to control the ant problem or find the location of the colony, a pest control operator can be hired to complete the treatments. However, monthly treatment for a year or more should not be necessary for control.

Not all ants look the same or respond in the same way to treatments. If you’re not sure what type of ant you have, bring specimens to the Lancaster County Extension Office for a free I.D. (BPO)

Spring Turkey Hunting Workshop

Wednesday, March 31, 2004
6:30 - 9:30 p.m.
Lancaster Extension Education Center

If you are interested in hunting turkeys in the spring season, this is a workshop you can’t miss! Experts will share information about turkey biology, behavior and hunting tips that will make you more successful. Topics covered will include turkey calls, camouflage, using ground blinds, choosing the best shot load, field dressing, guns, safety and state regulations.

This FREE seminar is offered by Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, but seating will be limited, so RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED. Call 471-5558 (BPO)

2004 Household Hazardous Waste Collections

More collection dates and locations than ever! Residents of Lancaster County can bring household hazardous wastes to the following collection sites.

Saturday, April 24
9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co.
4021 North 56 Street
(2 blocks north of Hwy 6 on NW 84 St.)

Friday, May 21
3 – 7 p.m.
Emerald - Lancaster County Shop
(2 blocks north of Hwy 6 on NW 84 St.)

Saturday, May 22
9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Pfizer Animal Health
601 West Conshuhocken Highway
(Latex Paint Exchange Day. Only good, usable latex paint is accepted. Please bring containers – they are at least half full.)

Friday, June 25
3 – 7 p.m.
Union College
(3 blocks south of 52nd and Calvert)

Saturday, June 26
9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Nebraska Wesleyan University
Park 56, and Huntington

Friday, Sep. 10
3 – 7 p.m.
Union College
(3 blocks south of 52nd and Calvert)

Saturday, Sep. 11
9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Dept.
3140 N Street, South parking lot

Saturday, Oct. 9
9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Dept.
3140 N Street, South parking lot

Saturday, Nov. 6
9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
State Fair Park, 4-H Youth Complex

Items you can bring for disposal:

- HEAVY METALS: items containing mercury such as thermostors and fluorescent bulbs.
- SOLVENTS: mineral spirits, turpentine, paint strippers and thinners, oil-based paints, varnishes, stains, polishes, waxes.
- PESTICIDES: weed killers, garden sprays, wood preservatives, pet flea and tick products, roach powder, rat poisons. You may also bring banned products, like DDT, chlordane, 2,4,5-T, pentachlorophenol, silicon.
- PCBS: Ballasts from old fluorescent fixtures, small capacitors from old appliances, including radios, motors and televisions.
- Leave products in their original container and keep the label intact. If the label is destroyed or unreadable, label the products to the best of your knowledge. Open, leaking or rusted containers should be placed in a clear plastic bag during transport. Do not mix chemicals.
- Do not bring late paint (except for the Latex Paint Exchange on May 22), medicines, explosives, fertilizers or general household trash. Used oil, antifreeze and batteries should be recycled.

For more specific information, call the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department at 441-8040
Fertilizing Grass Pastures and Hay LANDS

Pastures are important to many livestock producers in Nebraska, but production from many pastures is low. Research shows that fertilizing, weed control and rotational grazing increase forage production from pastures, resulting in greater livestock production.

Nitrogen Management on Grasslands

Apply nitrogen (N) fertilizer yearly to grass pastures and haylands to maximize production. Nitrogen improves both grass yield and protein content. It also improves the vigor of grass plants, which can thicken stands and reduce weed invasion. When adequate soil moisture is present, economic rates of nitrogen can more than double forage production.

Note fertilization with nitrogen only in most economical where weeds have been controlled and additional grass growth is needed. If additional forage can be purchased or pasture rented at a lower cost, consider these alternatives may be better choices than applying fertilizer to the pasture. Generally, if one fertilizes to increase production but does not need the extra forage, conservation will not be economically sound practice.

Nitrogen fertilizer applied prior to the period of most rapid grass growth assures the applied nitrogen is available to the plants.

Fertilizing Cool-Season Grasses

For cool-season grasses, such as smooth brome, maximum growth occurs in mid- to late-spring. These grasses grow very little in July and August. Growth resumes on cool-season grasses in late August and September if soil moisture is adequate and temperature is favorable. Fall growth, however, is only a small portion of the total growth for the entire season.

Nitrogen can be applied in either fall or spring on cool-season grasses. The risk of losing applied nitrogen by either leaching or run-off is reduced if it is applied in early spring. Therefore, spring applications are preferred. Some people will apply two applications of nitrogen, this practice is known as split application of nitrogen. Split applications of nitrogen for production of cool-season grasses under dryland conditions are useful only when more than 100 pounds of nitrogen per acre are to be applied during the growing season and good growing conditions are anticipated during September and October.

Fertilizing Warm-Season Grasses

Apply fertilizer in mid- to late-May to pastures and haylands containing warm-season grasses, such as switchgrass, indiangrass, big bluestem and little bluestem. Do not fertilize warm season grasses in early spring. Early spring application increases the risk of leaching nitrogen fertilizer below the rootzone and it will stimulate growth of cool season species that compete with the warm-season grass species. Begin fertilizer application in mid-May in southern Nebraska and delay until late-May in the northern portion of the state.

Table 1. Nitrogen Recommendations for Pastures and Haylands in Nebraska

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cool-season Grasses</th>
<th>Warm-season Grasses</th>
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<tr>
<td>Pasture Hayland</td>
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<td>60-90</td>
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<td>120-150</td>
<td>70-100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes:

1. Use the higher rate when a full-profile of subsoil moisture is present.

2. Base fertilization on the availability of phosphorus in the soil as measured by a soil test. Phosphorus recommendations for grasslands is listed in Table II.

3. If legumes make up one-fourth or more of the stand, apply 50 percent more phosphorus than for grass alone. Phosphate fertilizers can be applied with the nitrogen in either spring or fall.

Repetitive applications of phosphate fertilizers may increase the level of available phosphorus. When soil phosphorus levels are in the high range, phosphate application can be discontinued until soil test levels fall below the high range. When grasslands are used on hay lands, soil sample more frequently. Phosphorus may need to be applied more often, since removal of nutrients will be greater than on grazed land.

Other Nutrients

Results of studies conducted throughout eastern and northern Nebraska indicate applying potash, sulfur and zinc does not improve pasture production. There is a small possibility some pastures and grasslands on sandy soils may require sulfur. This is not true for sulfur, however, has not yet been demonstrated in research studies.

Liming Acid Soils - pH and Buffer pH

Question: My soil test report shows a number for pH and another number for buffer pH. What does pH measure 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 hydrogen ion (H+) concentration in the soil solution contains equal numbers of hydrogen ions (H+) as hydroxyl ions (OH-), the soil is neutral. A pH of less than 7.0 is considered acidic, while a pH of greater than 7.0 is considered basic or alkaline. The scale is logarithmic. A change of 1 point on the pH scale is equal to a 10-fold change in hydrogen ion concentration.

Soil pH measures the concentration of hydrogen ions in a solution taken at the time of testing. A soil pH of 7.0 is equal to 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 acidity 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 level in the lab. Reserve acidity depends on several factors, such as amount and type of clay, amount of organic matter and soil aluminum concentration in the soil.

Therefore, two soils can have the same soil pH, but one soil will require different amounts of lime to change the pH value and it correct back to a more neutral pH. A chemical reaction is performed in the laboratory to determine the amount of calcium carbonate equivalent (CCE) of lime required to raise the pH of an acid soil to a desired level. This buffer solution reacts with the soil to precipitate the available lime active and exchange acidity. The change in the pH of the buffer solution in the laboratory has been calibrated for lime rate required in the field. This measurement 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 ground lime (60 percent CaCO3) to bring the pH up 1.0 point. If the soil (about two million pounds of soil) up to a measured pH value of 6.5 (6.5 is consider the ideal pH for most crops)

For example, a soil with a buffer pH of 6.3 would require (7.0 - 6.3) x 1,000 pounds of ground lime per acre, or 7,000 pounds of ground lime per acre to bring the pH up to 6.5. If the pH is impure when you bring it down, bring it down 0.1 point. Larger amounts of lime are required to neutralize the acidity because you are affecting a larger mass of soil.

For more information, contact the University of Nebraska-Lincoln extension soils program at http://extension.unl.edu/Guidesheets/ 301-03.pdf or Liming Acid Soils from Kansas State University online at www.o ces. ksu.edu/libraries/CRPSL2/ MF065.PDF (TD)

Scrap Tire Collection May 15 & 16

Individuals will have an opportunity to get rid of scrap tires that may have accumulated around your property. Tires (without the wheels) will be accepted May 15 and 16 from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. at the shore-makers south parking lot 48th and West Street, Lincoln. Thirty hundred and fifty tons of tires will be accepted in this recycling effort on a first-come, first-served basis. Please have a count of the number of scrap tires you are donating.

This program is funded through a grant from the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality and hosted by offices from Sanitary Improvement District No. 6. Sorry, this opportunity is open to individuals only — the grant specifically prohibits tire dealers.

For more information, call (402) 476-3590. (TD)
Give Trees A Chance with Proper Weed Control

Many new windbreaks, woodlots, Christmas trees, and wildlife habitat plantings will be planted this spring by enthusiasts. However, many of these plants may be obstructed by surrounding trees, bushes, and weeds. An important consideration in establishing new seedling trees and shrubs is the removal of weed competition. New trees and shrub plantings should receive weed control for at least three years until the roots are established. The first year is critical; young trees depend on surface moisture to survive. Conservation for moisture, light, and nutrients by aggressive weeds and grasses may severely stunt or kill newly planted trees and shrubs.

Methods of controlling weed competition include cultivation, mowing, and the use of chemical herbicides. The best time to control weeds and grasses is just before or during the seedling stage. Newly germinated weed seed can be killed easily by cultivation or chemicals.

Removal of competing vegetation about two feet on each side of tree rows or in a four-foot diameter circle around each seedling is most critical. Either cultivation or chemical weed control is effective. Pre-emergent herbicides, such as simazine, applied to mineral soil just after planting will usually control most weeds for the growing season when applied in the proper amount and at the right time.

Cultivation is the surest method to control weeds and retain moisture for the seedlings. Cultivation shouldn’t be too deep and should never ridge soil against the trees. Where moisture is sufficient and a cover between rows is desirable to prevent soil erosion, mowing vegetation between tree rows is an alternative.

People often want to plant aggressive grasses such as broomgrass or fescue between tree rows, but this generally isn’t recommended. These grasses will smother out weeds, but will give young trees the worst kind of competition for moisture and nutrients. If perennial grasses must be planted, less competitive cool-season grasses, such as blue grass or rye grass or short warm-season grasses, such as blue grama or side-oats grama, should be considered. (D3)

SOURCE: Dennis Adams, Nebraska Forest Service, NUNAAR

Use Drainfield Systems to Treat Effluent; Minimize Risks to Humans and Environment

Drainfield systems use gravel for filter material, but a gravelless system is a good alternative to a traditional one if the lot is remote, space is tight and clean gravel or other filter material is difficult to obtain.

Traditional drainfield systems use gravel for filter material, but a gravelless system is a good alternative. (D3)

For More Information on Drainfields
For more information on placement, operation and maintenance of drainfields, see the Nebraska Soil Conservation Guide at the local Cooperative Extension office:
- Residential On-site Wastewater Treatment: Site Evaluation (G1449)
- Residential On-site Wastewater Treatment: The Role of Soil (G1448)
- Residential On-site Wastewater Treatment: Traditional Drained Field Systems for Effluent Treatment (G1479)
- Residential On-site Wastewater Treatment: gravelless drainfield systems for effluent treatment (G1480)
- Residential On-site Wastewater Treatment: Septic System and Drainfield Maintenance (G1424)

To ensure a drain field system design is in compliance with Nebraska regulations, see Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality Title 124; Rules and Regulations for the Design, Operation and Maintenance of On-site Wastewater Treatment Systems. (D3)

Free Composting Workshops
Grass and leaves are banned from the Lincoln Landfill after April 1 through November 30 each year. Composting is a simple, practical and convenient way to transform yard wastes into a resource. By maintaining a compost pile or bin in your backyard, you can speed up nature’s process of decomposition to create usable compost within a few months. Compost can then be used to improve soil structure and return vital nutrients to the soil.

Learn how to successfully compost by attending free composting workshops or demonstrations sponsored by the City of Lincoln Recycling Office and UNL Cooperative Extension in Lancaster County. Attendees will receive a free compost bin or composting thermometer.

Composting Workshops (8:30 p.m.)
- April 13 — Air Park Recreation Center (3720 NW 46 St.)
- April 20 — Bellewood Recreation Center (1234 Judson St.)
- April 27 — Westland Recreation Center (6130 Adams St.)
- April 29 — Irving Recreation Center (2010 Van Dorn St.)

Composting Demonstrations
From May to October, composting workshops with hands-on demonstrations will be presented the third Saturday of each month at 8:30 a.m. at the City Yard Waste Composting Demonstration Site. 50th and Colby.
Salads with Eggs
Celebrate Egg Salad Week the week after Easter with some early and side salads, deviled eggs, egg salad sandwiches or a vegetable egg spread using hard-cooked eggs. When left in their shells, hard-cooked eggs will remain edible for one week. As long as the eggs are not out of refrigeration over two hours, they will be safe to eat.

For perfect hard-cooked eggs, we have the recipe and tips for you. 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. Enjoy this delicious and easy-to-make recipe using leftover hard-cooked eggs.

Egg Salad Spread Supreme
(serves 6)
6 hard-cooked eggs, chopped ⅓ cup zucchini, shredded
⅓ cup carrots, shredded 2 tablespoons celery, chopped
1 tablespoon green onion, chopped ½ cup fat free cream cheese, softened
2 tablespoons plain yogurt (or mayonnaise) ⅛ teaspoon seasoning salt
⅛ teaspoon dill weed pinch of dry mustard, salt and pepper
Combine eggs, zucchini, carrots, celery and green onion in a bowl, set aside. Mix cream cheese, yogurt and seasonings until thoroughly blended. Combine cream cheese mixture and egg mixture. Cover and refrigerate until ready to use. Serve on split hard rolls, bagels, whole wheat or white bread slices or croissants.

Nutritional Analysis per serving: 30 calories, 9 g protein, 5 g fat (1.5 g saturated); 2 g carbohydrates; 180 mg sodium; 215 mg cholesterol.

For more free egg recipes, egg decorating tips or information related to eggs and food safety, please contact Mary Torell, Public Information Officer, Nebraska Department of Agriculture, Poultry & Egg Division at morell2@unl.edu or call 402-472-0752. (AH)

Easter Egg Food Safety Tips
Guest Author: Mary Torell
Public Information Officer
Nebraska Department of Agriculture

To ancient people, the egg was a springtime symbol of renewed life. For many centuries, eggs have been decorated, blessed and given as gifts to celebrate both Easter and the return of spring! The egg has always been a symbol of new life, and people have believed eggs given at this season would bring good luck.

Egg Handling and Safety Tips
Eggs are handled a great deal more than usual around Easter, but some important safe-handling methods to remember at this time of year when you’re decorating, cooking or hiding those eggs and those included:
• Wash your hands thoroughly with hot soapy water and rinse them before handling the eggs when cooking, cooling, dyeing and hiding them.
• Inspect the eggs before purchasing them, making sure they are not dirty or cracked. Dangerous bacteria may enter a cracked egg.
• Store eggs in their original cartons in the refrigerator.
• If you’re having an Easter egg hunt, consider hiding places carefully. Avoid areas where the eggs might come into contact with pets, wild animals, birds, reptiles, insects or lawn chemicals.
• Make sure you find all the eggs you’ve hidden and then refrigerate them. Discard cracked eggs. As long as the eggs are NOT out of refrigeration over two hours, they will be safe to eat.

Fun Easter Egg Dyeing Ideas
Microwave Egg Dye
In a cup of water combine ⅛ teaspoon liquid food coloring, and 1 tablespoon vinegar. Microwave on high for 1 ½ to 2 minutes. Dye the hard-cooked eggs. Dye can be reheated and reused. Coat eggs with vegetable oil for shine after dyeing eggs.

Multicolored Eggs
Wrap hard-cooked eggs in a small square of an old terry cloth towel (wet). With an eyedropper, drop different colors of egg dye on different places on the wet cloth wrapped egg. Colors will run together. Let sit for 15 minutes and then carefully remove the towel.

Plaid or Striped Eggs
Wrap hard-cooked eggs with rubber bands or strips of narrow masking tape before placing them in the dye. Be sure the egg is completely dry before removing the bands.

Designs of Nature
Place small leaves or flowers on the hard-cooked egg. Hold in place by wrapping with a square of stocking, tied with a twisty. Dye, let dry and then remove the stocking. The imprint of the leaf or flower will appear.

Make Meals Easy with “Mise en Place”
Mise en place is a French term for having all your ingredients measured, cut, sliced, diced, grated, etc. before you start cooking. Plates are prepared. Mixing bowls, tools and equipment set out. It is a technique chefs use to assemble meals so quickly and effortlessly. Practicing mise en place has several benefits:
• Any missing ingredients can be spotted before it’s too late for a quick trip to the store or your neighbor next door.
• Special preparation for ingredient — such as toasting nuts, letting certain ingredients come to room temperature, etc. — can be handled BEFORE cooking rather than in the midst of another preparation step when time delays may affect food quality.
• There is time to clean the mixing area as you go along rather than face a counter full of mixing equipment when you’re done.
• You can group ingredients or place them in the order used to assure all recipe steps are included.
• It makes complicated recipes more fun to prepare when you’re no longer doing a juggling act, trying to complete several tasks simultaneously.

You may find it helpful and brings out your “inner chef” to buy a set of 4 or more “pinch” or “mini” bowls. They come in different sizes and may hold from 1 to 3 ounces. You often will see TV chefs using these to hold smaller amounts of such ingredients as spices, a single egg, a couple tablespoons of cornstarch, etc. As another option, a set of smaller-sized custard cups may work as well for you. (AH)

Web Resources of the Month
Visit our NEW collection of Web resources to help you control your weight. Includes online food calculato, etc. at lancaster.unl.edu/food/weight.htm

Check the updated look of our FOOD page at lancaster.unl.edu/food

View a year’s worth of Cook It Quick monthly tips at lancaster.unl.edu/food/cqtips.htm

To keep up-to-date on new tips, resources and recipe ideas to help you prepare healthy foods in a hurry, sign up for our monthly Cook It Quick e-mail messages at lancaster.unl.edu/food/signuptip.htm

Main Ingredients of Arabic Food
Arabic food has a lot of variety and its ingredients are far too many to name here. However, there are certain ingredients that make up many Arabic recipes. Wheat is the staple grain of Arabic cooking and it is used in bread, pastries, salads and main dishes. Rice is another staple ingredient. In fact, rice is the Arab what potato is to the Irishman, as rice is used often in Arabic recipes. It is most often cooked with vegetables, chicken, lamb or beef.

Vegetables and beans are also found often in Arabic recipes. Compared to Western cooking, Arabic cooking contains a large variety of vegetables including eggplant, cauliflower, zucchini and spinach. Beans, such as garbanzo and Lima, are often used in dips such as hummus.

The basic dressing used for salads is olive oil, garlic and lemon. Olive oil is also used in bean, yogurt and vegetable sauces and dips. Lamb is a common meat used throughout the Arab world, especially festive or religious occasions. For centuries, Arabs have served stuffed lamb on their most special occasions and to their most honored guests.

Most Arabic desserts, which are an important part of Arabic meals, consist of very thin pastries stuffed with dates or nuts, spices and butter and covered in a honey syrup.

Tabbouleh
6 servings
1 ½ cups bulgur, uncooked
1 ½ cups boiling water
2 cups diced unpeeled tomato
1 cup raw cucumber, peeled and seeded
⅓ cup chopped fresh parsley
⅓ cup sliced green onions
2 tablespoons chopped fresh mint
⅓ teaspoon salt
1/3 cup fresh lemon juice
2 tablespoons olive oil

Combine bulgur and boiling water in large bowl. Stir well. Let stand 30 minutes or until water is absorbed. Add tomato and remaining ingredients and serve chilled.

Nutrition Analysis: 163 calories; 27 g carbohydrates; 5 g protein; 0 mg cholesterol; 5 g fat; 211 mg sodium

Food & Fitness
Enjoy Nebraska Foods!
The following information is provided by Mary Torell, Public Information Officer, Nebraska Department of Agriculture, Poultry & Egg Division.

April 2004

The NEBRINE
Web site: lancaster.unl.edu

Healthy Eating
About the Weed Control Authority

The Lancaster County Weed Control Authority is the Lancaster County Commissioners. The Nebraska Noxious Weed Control Act requires each county to have a weed control authority and to employ a weed control superintendent. The act requires the authority to inspect and assist landowners in the control of noxious weeds. By an interlocal agreement with the City of Lincoln, Lancaster County has agreed to administer the City of Lincoln’s Weed Abatement Program.

Russell Shultz serves as the Weed Control Superintendent. Barbara Frazer, chief inspector, Linda Spilker, account clerk and six seasonal inspectors assist in carrying out the functions of the Authority.

Mission and Goals

1. The education of the public concerning noxious weeds and to exercise the necessary authority to obtain effective control of noxious weeds county-wide and the education of the public concerning weed abatement and to exercise the necessary authority to control and clear overgrown weeds and worthless vegetation in the city of Lincoln.
2. Make the landowners of Lancaster County aware of the legal requirements and benefits of controlling noxious weeds.
3. Make the citizens of Lincoln aware of legal requirements and benefits of cutting and clearing overgrown weeds and worthless vegetation.
4. Efficiently and effectively exercise authority when necessary to obtain acceptable noxious weed control.
5. Improve efficiency and effectiveness of operations through management techniques.

Annual Report 2003 in Review

2003 was a good year for weeds, more acres of noxious weed sites were found and more weed abatement violations were found. There were 7,422 inspections made of 3,334 sites on 27.800 acres during the year. There were 2,685 violations found on 7,826 acres. Violations dropped 886 from last year but acres of violations increased by 86.

Lancaster County Noxious Weed Control Program

We found 1,093 infestations on 6,694 acres. The number of infestations found decreased by 316 but the acres increased by 824. There were 344 less acres of purple loosestrife infestations found. The number of infestations found by noxious weed is shown below. Landowners controlled 781 of these sites. The Authority controlled 26 sites and 19 were contract controlled and owners billed $12,142. There were seven properties assessed for non-payment.

City of Lincoln Weed Abatement Program

There were 4,412 inspections made of 1,959 sites. As a result of 1,920 complaints, we found 1,592 violations. This was 103 more violations than in 2002. There was a continuing emphasis on obtaining voluntary compliance of landowners. After notification, 93 percent of owners cut their overgrowths. This was accomplished with 43 percent legal notifications. Forced cutting had to be performed on 101 sites at the cost of $18,824. Of these sites, 76 had to be specially assessed for $13,260.

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 2003, the site received more than 27,500 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.

Updating and expanding the Web site:
▶ Nebraska Weed Control Association: www.neewd.org
▶ North American Weed Management Association: www.nawma.org
▶ Federal Noxious Weed Program: www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/weeds

Current Weed Inspections Search

You may access information on the Web site about any active inspection made by the authority. All inspections are shown for sites with infestations not yet under control. You may search for individual sites by entering the address of the parcel, the parcel ID number or the owner’s name. You may also look at all the inspections for a weed problem: musk thistle, plantain weed, Canada thistle, leafy spurge, purple loosestrife or weed abatement in Lincoln.

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. You may find 2003 information on the site by clicking on a symbol.
Seven plants have been designated as “noxious weeds” in Nebraska. Five of these can be found in Lancaster County:

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

### Weed Awareness

#### Key Herbicides for Weed Control

**Tordon 22K**
- **Active Ingredient:** Picloram
- **Introduction:** Provides the best control of noxious and other perennial weeds.
- **Labeled Crops:** Tordon 22K herbicide is labeled for use in areas west of the Mississippi River on rangeland and perennial grass pastures, fallow cropland, non-cropland and CRP.
- **Overview:** Tordon is an important tool. For example, you manage noxious weeds like leafy spurge, field bindweed, knapweed and thistles for long-term control. Plus, Tordon can gently to desirous grasses.
- **Application Timing:** Treatment and application information can be very specific to the target weed species. Specific rate, application timing and treatment information for Tordon 22K is listed on the label.

**Grazon P+D**
- **Active Ingredient:** Picloram + 2,4-D
- **Introduction:** Provides convenient, broad-spectrum control of annual and perennial broadleaf weeds in rangeland and pasture.

**Plateau**
- **PLATEAU** herbicide, developed by Syngenta, is labeled for control of a wide range of broadleaf, invasive and noxious weeds (including leafy spurge) while allowing desirable grasses, shrubs, forbs and wildflowers to flourish. BASF is stopping the sales of this herbicide to private individuals. Suppliers may have one-gallon containers available in their inventories. They may continue selling in cases of two, one-gallon containers until the supply is gone.

**Habitat**
- **Habitat** herbicide has received full label approval from EPA for Aquatic Weed Control. Habitat, a BASF herbicide, is labeled for controlling undesirable emergent, shoreline and woody wetland aquatic vegetation in and around standing and flowing water.

**Overdrive**
- **Overdrive** herbicide, a novel formulation of dicamba and diflufenzopyr (DFPP), Overdrive reduces dicamba use by half, with consistent or improved control of target weed species, making Overdrive an ideal complement or alternative to existing mowing and herbicide strategies for use in roadside vegetation management and streamside treatment.

### What’s New with Herbicides

#### Plateau

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### Calibrating a Boom Sprayer

The simplest method of calibrating spray equipment is using the volume method.

1. Place the sprayer on level ground and fill tank with water to a line marked on the tank.
2. Mark the start of your calibrating course with a stake and measure off the distance required to make 1/10 acre. There is 4,356 square feet in 1/10 acre. Divide 4,356 by width of the boom. For example, the calculation for the 15 foot boom width would be 4,356 divided by 15 feet, which equals 290 feet. Then place a stake at the end of the course. 3 Spray the length of the course. As you pass the starting mark, open the valve and drive at the speed you will be using when spraying. 4. Shut off the valve as you pass the mark at the end of your calibrating course. Return the sprayer to level ground and measure carefully the amount of water needed to refill the tank to the mark on the tank. A gallon jug or a pail with quantity markings on the side may be used for the measurement. Multiply the amount required to fill the tank back to the level of the mark by 10. This gives the quantity of water your sprayer delivers per acre. 5. Mix the per acre rate of herbicide with the quantity of water you have determined your sprayer will be applying per acre.
Weed Awareness

Prevention
Prevention keeps weeds from occurring or increasing in an area. Preventive techniques include planting high quality, weed-free crops or grass seed. These areas need to be managed to maintain vigorous weed-free growth. (See Livestock Grazing and Weed Prevention on Acreages and Pastures in the 2002 Weed Awareness at lancaster.ucla.edu/nebl/2002/mar/02/

An important preventive measure related to control is to keep weeds from going to seed. This is important for annuals and biennials, because that is the only way they reproduce. Perennials reproduce from seed, as well as vegeta-

Eradication
Eradication is the removal of weeds from an area so they will not recur unless reintroduced. If eradication creates an open area revegetate the ground to prevent another weed infestation.

Control
Control, the most common manage-

Cultural control methods promote growth of desirable plants. Fertilization, irrigation and planting at optimum densities let crops compete with weeds and not with each other. While nitrogen fertilization increases yields in grass hay meadows, it also fosters weed establish-

Mechanical control methods physically disrupt weed growth. This is the oldest control method and is used most often worldwide. Tilling, hoeing, hand-pulling, mowing and burning are examples. To mulch or smother weeds often is considered mechanical, even though it simply excludes light rather than physically disrupting weed growth. Biological control methods use an organism to disrupt weed growth. Often the organism is an insect or disease and a natural enemy of the weed. See Biological Control discussion elsewhere in this insert.

Chemical control methods use herbicides to control weed growth. The first rule of any pesticide use is to read the label before using the product and follow all directions and precautions.

NOTE: Avoid using soil-active herbicides, such as Tordon, Vanquish/Clarity or Telar, near windbreak plantings and other desirable woody vegetation. Plant injury or death can occur. Do not allow any herbicide to drift onto woody or other desirable vegetation for the same reason.)

Weed-Management Systems
A weed-management system uses two or more control methods. The key is to encourage desirable plant growth with optimum fertilization, when necessary, and/or irrigation (cultural control). Plant competition is an often overlooked tool and should be used first, but not exclusively. Till, hoe, hand-pull, mow or mulch (me-


2004 Guide for Weed Management in Nebraska
This 160-page University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension publication “2004 Guide for Weed Management in Nebraska”, EC34-130 is available online at http://

The 2004 Weed Management 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.

Additions and improvements:
• Range and pasture weed response tables are included for the first time.
• Pre-emergence herbicides that can be used as post-emergence are listed.
• Fertilizer-herbicide compatibility information is provided
• An updated Glyphosate Pre-Comparison Table contrasts many of the common glyphosate herbicides registered for Roundup Ready corn and soybeans.
• Noxious Weed control is now a separate section preceding Troublesome Weeds.

Planning Tips for Noxious Weed Control in CRP Contracts
Following are some planning tips to consider prior to establishing or enhancing vegetation in a Conser-

1. Aggressively treat noxious weed infestations prior to seeding or interseeding.
2. Map areas of noxious weed infestations. Mark these areas on your plan map. Canada thistle and leafy spurge will recur from roots and seed. Musk and

3. Avoid tillage or seeding through noxious weed infestations as much as possible. Tillage may cause germination of seeds and the spread of the infestations to other areas by the transported seed of any of the noxious weeds and the root parts of Canada thistle and leafy spurge.

4. Noxious weed control and legumes considerations:
• Avoid planting legumes in known noxious weed infesta-

• If it is decided to seed legumes in an infested area, aggressively treat the noxious weed infesta-

• Remember, if legumes are planted in a noxious weed infestation, it will make noxious weed control difficult, expen-

5. Control Options in legumes:
• Individual plants of all noxious weeds can be spot treated with the appropriate herbicide for the targeted plant.
• Individual plants of musk and leafless thistle and knap-

• Mowing will prevent seeding of Canada thistle and leafy spurge, but will not kill the plants or prevent the spread of the roots.
• Mowing will delay seeding of musk and leafless thistle and knapweeds, but will not stop the plants from further flower-

Weeds of the Great Plains
The Nebraska Department of Agriculture announced the release of Weeds of the Great Plains. This publication replaces Weeds of Nebraska and the Great Plains distributed since 1994. Weeds of the Great Plains is a collaborative effort between the University of Nebraska and the Nebraska Department of Agriculture. Weeds of the Great Plains is a 7 x 10 inch, hardbound book. The intent of this important weed identification book is to meet the needs of farmers, ranchers and homemakers, as well as the more technical expectations of botanists to accurately identify weeds and common plants in the great plains. The price of this book is $25 per copy which includes postage and handling.

Individuals wishing to purchase the book at the Department of Agriculture’s office in Lincoln may do so for a cost of $22.50. Credit card orders may be made over the phone by calling 402-471-2394.

CRP land that has not been cut.
Weed Awareness

Biological Control Methods Underway In Nebraska

Nebraska’s noxious weeds are not native to the state and, in most cases, not native to the United States. These plants have been introduced either on purpose or by accident. When this happens, the natural enemies that can attack these plant species are usually left behind in the plant’s home environment. Natural enemies are most often a plant disease or insect, which may attack one or several species of a plant.

Cooperators
Since 1988, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), divisions of Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ), in cooperation with the Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA) and the Nebraska Weed Control Association (NWCA), have been releasing biological control (biocontrol) agents for certain noxious weeds in Nebraska. These natural enemies are insects, which have been collected from their native environment. Screening before the prospective biocontrols are released, they are placed in quarantine to determine if they are host specific to the plants they are intended to control. (This means the agent will only attack the intended plant species and will not affect other plants, which are valuable to our environment.) Once the quarantine process is completed, the biocontrol agents are released in the field to establish insectaries. The insectaries are monitored for insect survival and population levels. When the desirable population is reached, the biocontrol agents are ready for redistribution to new locations to develop other invertebrates. After several invertebrates have been established, small populations of agents are moved to smaller noxious weed infestations.

Future
Currently, work is being done to pursue biocontrol agents for all of Nebraska’s noxious weeds. USDA/APHIS/PPQ, NDA and NWCA are actively investigating new agents for release. While this approach may never completely control noxious weeds, we view biocontrol as another tool to help battle these invasive plant species.

Weeds and Biological Control Agents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NOXIOUS WEED</th>
<th>INSECT CONTROL AGENT</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Purple Loosestripe</td>
<td>Gallerucella calligraphica</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leafy Spurge</td>
<td>Aphthona lacerota</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Musk (Nodding) Thistle &amp; Plumeless Thistle</td>
<td>Rhinocyllus conicus</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There are three formal release sites in Lancaster County and informal type releases and/or spread from other counties of the thistle-head weevil. Gallerucella lacerota, a leafy spurge flea beetle was released in 1996 and 1999, Gallerucella calamiertis, a purple loosestrife flea beetle was released in 1998. These biocontrol agents have become established, but it will take several years before they have a significant impact or the sites can be harvested of insects for release to other sites.

Lancaster County Biocontrol Releases

Results
Biological control is just one part of an overall control program. It must be used along with other methods of control such as herbicides, mechanical and competitive vegetation. It takes many years after the initial release of biocontrol agents for the population to grow large enough to cause significant damage to the target plant. Rhinocyllus conicus (thistle-head weevil) is now having a significant impact on musk thistle, 30 years after it was first released.

2004 Weed Control Plan

Inspections
The authority plans on making 7,300 complaints received and observations by inspectors. Advance inspections will be scheduled for about 100 problem sites. Pre-season letters will be sent to 170 owners with multiple violations last year.

Noxious Weeds
It is anticipated 3,020 inspections will be made on 2,100 sites. We have pre-selected 1,975 sites for inspection. This includes 150 sites on railroad[s], 130 sites on county roadsides, 50 sites on the sanitary landfill and 767 sites on private land. These inspections will be made for the following noxious weeds:

- Purple loosestrife 47
- Musk thistle 766
- Leafy spurge 268
- Canada thistle 19

The authority will again contract for weed control on sanitary landfill sites.

Awareness
The education of the public concerning noxious weeds and weed abatement are a high priority. The Purple Loosestrife Information Campaign will continue. Assistance will be provided on use of natural areas. The “Be Neighbor Friendly” brochures on noxious weeds and weed overgrowth will be updated. The Internet homepage at www.cl.lincoln.ne.us/envy/weeds will be maintained and updated. A Weed Awareness Insert will be prepared for the Cooperative Extension Service NEBRINE.

Program Management
Monthly reports provided to the City Council, Mayor and County Commissioners. Annual plan and budget will be prepared. Voluntary service will be utilized from community corrections to assist with office operations. Efforts will be coordinated with Parks & Recreation Department on maintenance of landscape plantings within sidewalk space.

Fifth Annual National Invasive Weed Awareness Week

Russell Schultz, the Authority Superintendent, participated in a week-long series of events and activities held in Washington, DC during the Fifth Annual National Weeds Awareness Week, February 23-27. He is a board member of the North American Weed Management Association that works cooperatively with groups and other national, state and private organizations to raise the awareness and increase understanding of invasive plant management issues in the United States. Over 100 people from across the country participated in events included exhibits and a children’s fun day at the U.S. Botanical Garden Conservatory. Presentations, briefings with U.S. Department of Agriculture and Interior Agencies, meetings with non-governmental groups and organizations, visits with Legislators and discussions on further enhancing the fight against invasive plants, were presented at the “kick-off breakfast.”

Amendments to the Nebraska Noxious Weed Control Act

The Agricultural Committee of the Unicameral has introduced LB 869 to amend the Nebraska Noxious Weed Control Act. LB 869 provides additional cash fund support for the Department of Agriculture’s responsibilities under the Noxious Weed Control Act. The bill provides for a series of transfers from the Weed and Insect Book Cash Fund to the Noxious Weed Control Cash Fund and directs a portion of revenues from future sales of the weed book to the noxious weed program.

Additionally, the bill assigns two new weed management authorities to the Department of Agriculture to enhance tools for responding to noxious weeds and invasive plants. Specifically, LB 869 authorizes the director to 1) temporarily designate plants as noxious weeds and 2) to administer a grant program to encourage the formation of multi-stakeholder weed management entities and other types of projects led by local weed control authorities to proactively address noxious weed control concerns and emerging invasive plant problems. The grant program is not specifically funded but the director is authorized to seek grants and other revenue sources. The bill is also intended to coordinate with pending federal legislation that would provide federal pass-through funds to encourage eligible projects similar to those enumerated in the bill and thereby prepare Nebraska to effectively compete for and administer federal funds should they become available.
Reading to Your Child Has Many Benefits

Story time is one of the best ways to deepen a parent-child relationship and to also increase a child’s attention span. You have more or less control over the books you offer your child than you have over almost any other influence in your child’s young life. The only books that can harm a child are the ones so static and boring they destroy the child’s natural love affair with literature.

Read Aloud ... Do’s

• Begin reading to children as soon as possible. The younger you start the better.
• Use Mother Goose rhymes and songs to stimulate the infant’s language and listening. Simple and boldly colored picture books arouse children’s curiosity and visual sense.
• Read as often as you and the child have time for.
• Remember the art of listening is an acquired one. It must be taught and cultivated gradually — it is a craft.
• Picture books can be read easily to a family of children who are separated in age.
• Novels, however, pose a problem. If there are more than two years between the children, each child would benefit greatly if you read to him or her individually. This requires more effort on the part of the parents but it will reap rewards in direct proportion to the effort expended. You will reinforce the needs of each child.
• Vary the length and subject matter of your readings.
• Follow through with your reading. If you start a book, it is your responsibility to continue it — unless it turns out to be a bad book. Don’t leave the child hanging for three or four days between chapters and expect their interest to be sustained.
• Occasionally, read above the children’s intellectual level and challenge their minds.

Avoid long descriptive passages until the child’s imagination and attention span are capable of handling them. There is nothing wrong with shortening or eliminating them. Pre-reading helps to locate such passages and they can then be marked with a pencil in the margins.

• If you are reading a picture book, make sure the children can see the pictures easily.
• Use plenty of expression when reading. If possible, change your tone of voice to fit the dialogue.
• Adjust your pace to fit the story. Don’t read at a snail’s pace or a suspiciously fast rate, slow down, draw your words out, bring your listeners to the edge of their chairs.
• The most common mistake in reading aloud — is reading too fast. Read slowly enough for the child to see the mental pictures of what he just heard you say. Slow down enough for the children to see the pictures in the book without feeling hurried.
• Fathers should make an extra effort to read to their children.
• Children of high school age need a support system of gay—male-school teachers are women, young boys often associate reading with women and school.
• Regulate the amount of time your children spend in front of the television. Excessive television viewing is habit- forming and can impinge on a child’s development.
• Lead by example. Make sure your children read. Share your reading for pleasure other than at read-aloud time. Share with them your enthusiasm for whatever you are reading. (L.B.)

Workaholism — Its Affect on Children

Take a moment to think about each of these questions...
• Are you a perfectionist?
• Are you striving to gain approval and success through your work?
• Do you work long hours for fear of being laid off?
• Do you have a hard time saying “no” to work requests?
• Is it difficult for you to find time to eat family meals together or spend time with your children?
• Do you find it almost impossible to rest and relax?
• How much time do you spend on hobbies?

One effect that many parents are dismayed to discover is that they have little time to be parents and young adults that are just like themselves: workaholics. There children study to the point of exhaustion, are stressed and distrusted by their peers, are overestimated, and seldom have time to spend with family.

A parent’s habits or addictions affect the entire family. Divorce rates among workaholics are high and children often have problems. Different children react differently to the presence of a workaholic parent. Some imitate the parent and try, unconsciously, to surpass their mother or father by working even harder. Others rebel, retreating into a teen culture that offers an abundance of alternative values, including rejecting achievement.

What can you do when your workaholic ways affect your kids?
• Change the example you are portraying to your kids. Start tending to yourself and your relationships.
• Have a heart-to-heart talk with your children about your own working habits.
• Be open with your children. Let them know you are aware of the harmful example you have been to them, and then take action to make amends.
• Build time into your schedule for play and relaxation.
• List your true personal priorities and share them with your children.
• Talk to your child about the importance of play and down time.

Overcoming the effects of parent overwork is a long, slow process and it begins in you. If you are a “workaholic,” start now to develop a plan to move away from that mode and plan for healthier times with family.

Tools for Student Success

The U.S. Department of Education offers free research-based publications to help families and educators make good decisions about learning. They can be ordered by contacting ED-Pubs, The Department of Education publications Distribu- tion Center at ED- Pubs, P.O. Box 1398, Jessup, MD 20794-1398; 1-877-4-ED-PUBS or online at www.ed.gov/pubs/edpubs.html

Three available publications are:
A Child Becomes A Reader: Written Ideas for Parents from Research — Kindergarten through Grade Three: The road to becoming a reader begins in the day a child is born and continues through the end of third grade. At that point, a child must read with ease and understanding to take advantage of the learning opportunities in fourth grade and beyond. This booklet offers advice for parents of children from grades K-3 on how to support reading development at home, and how to recognize effective instruction in their children’s classrooms. This item is not currently available in hardcopy — available online only in .pdf format.

Reading Tips for Par- ents: available in English and Spanish. Includes: How Can I Help My Child Be Ready to Read and Ready to Learn? How Do I Know a Good Early Reading Program When I See One? Simple Strategies for Creating Strong Readers; and The Five Essential Components of Reading.

Homework Tips for Parents: available in English and Spanish. Homework has been a part of students’ lives since the beginning of formal schooling in the United States. However, the practice has sometimes been accepted and other times rejected, both by educators and parents. This has happened because homework can have both positive and negative effects on children’s learning and attitudes toward school. Contains tips for reading and math homework. Sample copies are available at the extension office. (L.B.)
You’ve Got Mail: E-mail Announcements

Lancaster County 4-H is now communicating announcements in an e-mail format through our new site at lancaster.unl.edu. If you provided your e-mail address during enrollment or re-enrollment, you will receive these e-mail announcements. If you haven’t provided your e-mail and would like to receive Lancaster County 4-H e-mail announcements, please send your e-mail address to lanc47ca@unl.edu.

2004 Lancaster County Fair

Fair Books are Now Available

This year, the Lancaster County 4-H/FFA and Open Class Fair Books are combined into one e-mail newsletter publication which has been mailed to all 4-H ers and previous Open Class exhibitors.

The 4-H/FFA portions of the Fair Book are online at lancaster.unl.edu/4H/Fair and the Open Class portions will be online at www.lancasterfaircenter.com/fair.html.

Static Exhibit Changes

This year there are several static exhibit changes for the Lancaster County Fair including, but not limited to, new exhibits for woodworking, electricity, engineering and health. Several other areas have new exhibits, suggestions, expectations, etc. We greatly encourage you to carefully review the 2004 Lancaster County Fair book for details. (TK)

New Demonstration Contest Classes

To keep pace with technology, there are several changes in the 2004 Presentations (formerly Demonstration) contest. For a complete list of award, scholarship and pin recipients (as well as additional photos) visit online at lancaster.unl.edu/4H.

CHARTER CLUBS:
Clovers and Company, Cool Cloggers, Creative Cloggers, Happy Go Lucky, Nifty Pedestrians, Priceless Jewels, Rocky Eye Ramblers, Shimmering Shamrocks, Silver Spurs, Stack Pack, Star City Explorers, Star City Kids, Sunshine Clover Kitties, Super Shamrocks

4-H 2003 Achievement Awards

Lancaster County 4-H Achievement Night was held Feb. 19 at the University of Nebraska East Campus Union in Lincoln as part of Nebraska State 4-H Week. The evening was sponsored by 4-H Council with partial support from University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

4-H Ers, 4-H clubs and 4-H leaders were recognized for their 2003 achievements. Lancaster County 4-H congratulates these youth who work throughout the year on their efforts and academic and personal development, and commit themselves to excellence! We also thank the 4-H leaders who volunteer their time and talents to invest in our community’s youth.


AWARDS BOOKS
County winners
Consumer & Family Science: Laura Cassel
Animal Science: Nicole Pedersen
Citizenship & Civic Education: Nicole Pedersen
Communication & Expressive Arts: Nicole Pedersen
Consumer & Family Science: Grace Farley
Environmental Education & Earth Sciences: Nicole Pedersen
Health & Wellness: Nicole Pedersen
Personal Development & Leadership: Nicole Pedersen

Nominated to represent Lancaster County at District competition
Communications and Expressive Arts: Alyssa Fiala
Consumer & Family Science: Laura Cassel and Nicole Pedersen
Personal Development & Leadership: Karol Clinch
Plant Science: Nicole Pedersen

SCHOLARSHIPS
4-H Council: Jessica Fill, Julie Lantis, Connie Lenke, Jaci Rutt, Emily Veborg and Megan Wilkinson
Amy Countryman Memorial: Melissa Ebeling
Lincoln County Kiwanis: Melissa Raisch and Emily Veborg
4-H Teen Council: Connie Lenke and Emily Veborg
Lone Community: Jessica Fill

Life Challenge Event
June 28-29
The 2004 Life Challenge event for the senior division, youth 12 and over, will be Monday, June 28 and Tuesday, June 29 on Lincoln 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, Shopping in Style, Design Decisions, Piecing it All Together (Health D) and Child Development. The back-up Plan. Workshops of interest will be held throughout the 2-day event as part of the competition, but for educational enjoyment. Ribbons will be awarded. If anyone is interested in being a coach for 4-H ers participating in this event, let Tracy know as soon as possible. A separate junior division contest for youth 11 and under will be held Thursday, June 24 on the same campus and time at the Lancaster Extension Education Center. More information on this junior division contest will be future NEBRINE articles. If you are interested in participating, please contact Tracy by May 14 for more information. (TK)
Eagle Resident enjoys raising, showing rabbits

Peggy Brown
Editor, Waverly News

Note: Lindsay Brinson is a member of the Lancaster County 4-H Rabbit VIPs Committee.

Lindsay Brinson blames a friend for getting her interested in raising rabbits and traveling to shows throughout the country.

“I didn’t know I would enjoy it so much back then,” she said. The Back then was a dozen or so years ago.

The 1999 graduate of Waverly High School, now has some 93 rabbits at her grandparents’ home, Kaye Thorsen’s home in Eagle and it’s not unusual to see the two of them load anywhere from two to 17 rabbits in a red van and head off to rabbit shows over the weekends.

“It started as a 4-H project,” Brinson said. She was a member of Rabbits R Us 4-H club and took part in county fairs as long as she could. Now, due to her age, she is only able to enter in the open class division.

When asked how a person got a rabbit ready for a show, she said and said nothing.

“Carrying a rabbit up to the table and let the judge look at them,” she said adding that judges looked at the body type.

Rabbits are divided into classes and several breeds of rabbits.

A recent show had 23,000 rabbits taking part, all in one building. Brinson has gotten as high as 14th place at the Pennsylvania National which she said, is pretty good.

“It’s fun to watch judges look at your rabbit,” she laughed. One of her favorite judges is Ken Majors.

“Wife of an instructor at the university and to this day I still call him Mr. Majors where everyone else calls him Ken,” she laughed.

Brinson raises many of these different breeds, English Lop, Dwarf, or Fuzzy Lop and their name is attached to each cage.

“One have I raised from babies and some I have rescued from someone. That rabbit may just need a little extra attention.”

And whom do you call when a rabbit is sick?

“Vets don’t know much about rabbits so I’ve learned a lot through the Internet and doctor them myself,” she said.

Brinson graduated in nursing and is a dental assistant at the Eagle dentist office.

Even though she travels with her rabbits, Brinson also works in putting different local rabbit shows together. She also belongs to the American Rabbit Breeders Association, the Lancaster County VIP Committee, Fuzzy Lop Rabbit Club, and Nebraska Tower on the Plains Rabbit Club.

“Rabbits are clean animals,” she said adding that she cleans out the cages every day. “They are fed rabbit pellets and hay, and of course, carrots.”

Brinson has also taken on the business of selling rabbits. “Unlike what people think, they only have four to five liters a year.”

Her awards fill a china cabinet in the house as well as a book where Brinson keeps records of each of her rabbits and its history. She also marks each rabbit with a tattoo in each ear.

Even though they go to shows once a month, the next few months will be busy for Brinson.

“We had a 4-H rabbit show March 6 and a clinic March 4,” she said.

In fact, she is helping her younger brother Blaise and sister, Chloe with their own rabbits.

Does she plan to give up the rabbit business anytime soon?

“No way. They make the best pets. They don’t smell. They don’t make a noise. And they are so cute, she said.”

Clover College June 22–25

Open to 4-H and non-4-H youths ages 5-18

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 2004 Clover College! Look in next week’s Newsletter for 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 volunteering to assist with various workshops. (TK)

Upcoming Beef Progress Shows

Mar. 19-20 — ULN R&B Big Red Beef Progress Show, Platte County Fairgrounds, Columbus*
Mar. 26-27 — York/Hamilton County Cattlemen Beef Progress Show, York Co. Fairgrounds*
April 3 — Burt County Beef Preview, Burt Co. Fairgrounds, Oakland*
April 4 — NE Nebraska Spring Show, Madison Co. Fairgrounds*
April 10 — Seward Calf Classic, Seward County Fairgrounds, Seward*
April 17 — Valley Beef Roundup, Jefferson Co. Fairgrounds, Cozad*
April 18 — Northern Exposure Steer and Heifer Show, NC Kansas Fairgrounds, Belleville*
April 24 — Curtis Beef Progress Show (new show), note: may be on May 1*
May 1 — Saline County Beef Classic, Laurel Park, Crete*
May 15 — Webster County Beef Progress Show, Webster Co. Fairgrounds, Bladen*
May 22 — Boone County Beef Progress Show, Albion*
June 6 — Phillips-Gesper Beef Show, Phelps Co. Fairgrounds, Holdrege*
June 12 — Republican Valley Progress Show, Franklin Co. Fairgrounds, Franklin*
June 18 — Wayne County C’ste & Heifer Show, Wayne Co. Fairgrounds, Wayne*
June 19 — Twin Valley Livestock Exposition, Adams Co. Fairgrounds, Hastings*
June 26 — Wheeler County Beef Progress Show, Rock Bluff*
July 17 — Buffalo Bill Beef Progress Show, North Platte*
”Junior Nebraska Cattlemen Sanctioned Shows

Upcoming Sheep & Goat Progress Shows

May 22 — SECC Lamb Classic, Gage Co. Fairgrounds, Beatrice
June 6 — Phillips-Gesper Sheep Progress Show, Phelps Co. Fairgrounds, Holdrege
June 12 — Republican Valley Progress Show, Franklin Co. Fairgrounds, Franklin
June 19 — Twin Valley Livestock Exposition, Adams Co. Fairgrounds, Hastings
June 19 — Twin Valley Open Sheep Show (Following Youth Show), Hastings
June 19 — Regional Dairy Cattle and Goat Show, Clay County Fairgrounds, Clay Center
June 26 — Midwest Dairy Goat Association Show, Clay County Fairgrounds, Clay Center

For more information call Deanna at 441-7180. (DK)
Be Prepared for Stormy Weather

Lorene Bartos Extension Educator

Are you prepared for the stormy weather? Already we have experienced many different types of weather. With spring approaching there will be more activities such as thunderstorms, tornadoes, floods, hail and damaging winds. Before the severe weather hits, it is important to be prepared in case basic services such as gas, water, electricity or telephone are cut off. Knowing the terminology used to define conditions is important for all ages. A watch is when weather conditions are right for a severe thunderstorm or tornado. A warning is when severe weather or a tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar.

Prepare a Disaster Kit

The Emergency Management Agency suggest the following disaster supplies. Store these supplies in easy-to-carry containers such as backpacks, duffel bags or covered trash containers or plastic totes in case of evacuation.

• Three day supply of water (one gallon per person per day) and food that won’t spoil.
• One change of clothing and shoes per person and one blanket or sleeping bag per person.
• Sanitation supplies.
• Special items for infant, elderly or disabled family members.
• Flashlight and extra batteries.
• Battery-powered radio and extra batteries.
• Emergency food and water.
• First aid kit and manual.
• Essential medicine.

Doug Albreg, Lancaster County Emergency Management Director, suggest having ample supplies for your family for 72 hours and have a planned location to go. Most important is having a battery-operated radio, flashlight and extra batteries.

Other Tips

Lightning is one of nature’s most spectacular displays but also the most frequent weather threat to personal safety during a thunderstorm. Take precautions and avoid dangerous lighting situations. Do not stand with lightning stay away from trees, poles and other isolated tall objects. Do not stand in areas such as crop fields, ball fields, golf courses or stadiums. Stay away from wires and water.

Protect valuable records by maintaining a safe deposit box of family and business papers that cannot be replaced. Review specific wind and flood damage protection provided by your insurance policy. Also prepare records that will help verify losses for insurance, taxes or federal disaster declarations.

Mr. Albreg, encourages residents to take part in the free training available for Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT). These teams are trained to take care of themselves and then help other communities for 72 hours following a disaster. The 21 hour training blocks are free and are available from the local Emergency Management Agency at 441-7441. For more in forma tion on preparing for emergencies visit the Web site wa tc-ci lincol n.ne.us/cert and click on Emergency Management.

Most importantly use common sense before, during and immediately after the strongest parts of thunder storms. Safety is a top priority. Take time to check your home and review emergency plans in case of a severe weather or a disaster.

Grantsmanship Training Scheduled for May 3–7

The Grantsmanship Training Program will again be offered to the Lincoln community May 3–7. The 5-day grantsmanship “workshop covers all aspects of researching grants, writing proposals and negotiating with funding sources. Designed for both novice and advanced grant seekers, the program participants are given follow-up services, including expert grant proposal reviews for full year following training. To maximize personal attention, the group size for the workshop is limited.

Since 1997, Lancaster County Extension has hosted the Grantsmanship Training Program. Approximately 120 individuals representing various Lincoln and area agencies have participated in the grantsmanship workshop.

For more information and to register as early as possible, contact The Grantsmanship Center at (800) 421-9512 or go to www.igci.com (GB)

Knights of Ak-Sar-Ben

If your family has owned your farm in Lancaster County for 100 years or more, consecutively, you are eligible to apply for the Nebraska Pioneer Farm Awards sponsored by the Knights of Ak-Sar-Ben Foundation and the Nebraska Association of Fair Managers.

Honoree’s receive an engraved plaque and a gatepost marker as permanent recognition of this milestone. To date, nearly 6,000 families in 53 Nebraska counties have been honored.

If your family qualifies for this special award, please obtain an application from Deanna Kamazi at the University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension office in Lincoln County or by calling 441-7180. Applications are due into the Extension office or the Lancaster Event Center by May 1. Winners will be notified no later than June 1 and the award will be presented during a special ceremony at the 2004 Lancaster County Fair.

If you have any further questions regarding this award, please call the Knights of Ak-Sar-Ben office at 402-554-9600, extension 100. (DK)

Nebraska Agricultural Youth Institute

High school juniors and seniors are invited to take part in the Nebraska Agricultural Youth Institute (NAYI) which will be held July 11–15. The NAYI is to help build leadership skills, cooperative 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. All meals, lodging and activities are sponsored by the Nebraska Department of Agriculture. The only expense for students is transportation to and from the Institute. Applications are due April 15. Contact extension for an application, if interested. (LB)

We’re Looking for Eggs — Ducks, Geese, Pheasants, Turkeys, Unusual Chickens

Do you raise or own poultry? Would you be interested in allowing us to hatch eggs from your flock on EGG Cam this spring and through July?

From Australia to Arkansas, Nebraska to the Netherlands, thousands of children, parents and teachers use EGG Cam about embryology and watch eggs hatch from their computers at home and in school. To check it out, visit lancaster.unl.edu/4h/embryology.

If you are interested in donating eggs, please call Soni or Marty at 441-7180. Any birds that hatch from eggs you donate, can be returned to you. (SC)
Kiwanis Carnival April 17

Karnival time is here! The Kiwanis Carnival is a free family event sponsored by Lincoln County Kiwanis. It is scheduled for Saturday, April 17, 7-9 p.m. at the Lancaster Event Center, 84th & Havelock, in the Exhibit Hall. There will be bings for the adults and treats for all. Plan now to attend this fun, family activity.

4/4 clubs or families are needed to provide carnival-type game booths for the evening. Each booth will have an area 4’ x 6’ to use. Prizes are provided. If your club or family would like to provide a booth, call the extension office to register by April 2.

For more information, call Lorene at 441-7180. (LB)

Dine Out for 4-H’s CWF at Runza’s on April 20

Runza’s at 80th and Holdredge is hosting a Dine Out for 4-H’s Citizen Washington Focus (CWF) group on Tuesday, April 20 from 5-8 p.m.15 percent of all sales will go to CWF to help pay for their 2005 trip to Washington D.C. You and your family can support CWF by dining out at Runza’s during this time! Need not specify you are eating for CWF.

Note: Don & Millie’s at 5200 S. 56th Street still hosts Dine Out for 4-H’s CWF on the second Sunday of each month, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. When people indicate they are eating for 4-H, Don & Millie’s donates 20% of the profits of those meals.

Radon in New Construction Seminar April 26

“Radon Resistant New Construction” will be the topic of a seminar Monday, April 26, 1-5 p.m. This course is geared toward builders, architects, prospective home buyers and anyone else interested in new home construction. It will cover techniques to reduce the potential for elevated radon levels, costs, and other general radon information. Bruce Snead will be the instructor. He has had years of experience in the building trade as well as in radon.

This course is provided by the Nebraska Health and Human Services. To register for the free course call Sara at 471-8320. (LB)

EXTENSION CALENDAR

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

MARCH

22 FCE Council Meeting, Green Gateau, 330 S. 10th St. 12:45 p.m.
22-23 Spring Turkey Hunting Workshop 8:30-9:30 p.m.
23 FCE & Community Leader Training Lesson — Food Choice or Choice — 1 p.m.
31 Spring Turkey Hunting Workshop 6:30-9:30 p.m.

APRIL

2-3 4-H State Leader’s Forum, Eastern NE 4-H Center, Gretna
6 4-H Council Meeting 7 p.m.
6 4-H Citizen Washington Focus (CWF) Etiquette Banquet 7 p.m.
9 Extension Board Meeting 8 a.m.
11-12 Dine Out for 4-H CWF, Don & Millie’s, 5200 S. 56th Street 11 a.m.
13 4-H Leader Training 9:30 a.m. & 7 p.m.
14 Composting Workshop, Air Park Recreation Ctr, 3720 NW 46 St. 6:30 p.m.
17 Child Care Conference: A Fun Day at the “Zoo” 8 a.m.–4 p.m.
22 Kwanis Carnival, Lancaster Event Center 7 p.m.
24 4-H Teen Council Meeting 3 p.m.
24 4-H Officer Training (Everyone Welcome) 6:30 p.m.
24 Dine Out for 4-H CWF, Runza, 80th & Holdredge 5-6 p.m.
29 Composting Workshop, Belmont Recreation Ctr, 1234 Judson St. 6:30 p.m.
29 Composting Workshop, Calvert Recreation Ctr, 4500 Stockwell St. 6:30 p.m.
23-24 NE State Leader’s Forum, NE 4-H Camp, Halsey
24 Acreage Insights: Rural Living Clinics — “Septic Systems & Waste Water Treatment” 9-11 a.m.
24-26 4-H Chess Tournament in conjunction with the NSCA Class A/State (CLAM) Tournament, Southeast Community College 8:30 a.m.
27 Composting Workshop, Easterday Recreation Ctr, 6130 Adams St. 6:30 p.m.
28 4-H Photography Workshop 6 a.m.
29 Composting Workshop, Irving Recreation Ctr, 2010 Van Dorn St. 6:30 p.m.

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For more information, call Lorene at 441-7180. (LB)
Perennials with Colorful Foliage

Most perennials are grown for their attractive flowers. They bloom for a few days or weeks, but are green, unassuming plants during the remainder of the growing season. There are, however, some perennials that have colorful foliage. These perennials add color to the garden from spring to fall. The following is a partial list of perennials that have attractive foliage.

Hostas are a favorite foliage perennial. There are hundreds of hosta varieties. The varieties differ in leaf color, leaf shape, plant size and flower color. The foliage may be green, blue, gold or variegated. The leaves may be long and narrow, nearly round or heart-shaped. Hosta varieties vary in height from 2 to 3 inches to 3 to 4 feet. Flowers may be white, blue or purple. Some varieties have fragrant flowers.

Lungworts or pulmonarias are clump-forming perennials that possess distinctive white or silver spots on their foliage. Lungworts do best in partial to heavy shade. Sedums are fleshy-leaved perennials that are grown chiefly for their late summer bloom. However, several varieties have colorful foliage. Sedums are easy to grow, tolerate dry conditions and have few pests. They perform best in full sun and well-drained soils.

A perennial with burgundy foliage is Pentstemon digitalis ‘Husker Red’. This flower grows 2-1/2 to 3 feet tall. It blooms in early summer and has attractive, burgundy foliage. Burgundy foliage is burgundy or maroon-red. It does especially well in well-drained soils and full sun. As you might guess, “Husker Red” was introduced by the University of Nebraska. It was selected as the 1996 Perennial Plant of the Year by the Perennial Plant Association.

Coral bells are another stunning foliage plant. Walnut bells was chosen as the 2003 Perennial Plant of the Year by the Perennial Plant Association.

Diplodia Tip Blight of Pines

Extremely wet spring weather promotes the development of this disease. Fungus spores are dispersed primarily on rain splash from March to October. High humidity also promotes the germination of spores. New shoots are most susceptible during a two-to-three-week period starting when the buds begin to open and continue to be susceptible through mid-June.

Two applications of fungicide applied during this period are recommended. In eastern Nebraska, an application made during the third week in April and a second application in the first week of May provides optimum control. Applications made after mid-May are ineffective. Bordeaux mixture, liquid copper (Tenn-Cop SE) or fixed copper (Basic copper sulfate, Tribasic copper sulfate) are effective in treating this disease. Read and follow all label directions carefully before application.

Western Conifer Seed Bug

Most people recognize the boxelder bug as a pest that has the undesirable behavior of entering homes in the fall. They are a real nuisance because they can continue to show up all winter long. There is a closely related bug, called the western conifer seed bug that has similar habits, but is brown rather than black and red. As its name suggests, it feeds on pine trees rather than boxelder and maples like the boxelder bugs does.

The western conifer seed bug was first described in 1910 in California, spread throughout the Midwest in the 1970s and 1980s and is now found across the U.S. This 3/4-inch brown bug also has the habit of entering buildings in the late summer or early fall as it seeks a protected site to spend the winter. These bugs do not bite or sting and they cause no damage to the home. They will not reproduce in the home nor do they feed once inside your home. They live off fat reserves and during the cool season, they are semi-dormant. They give up a pungent odor if you handle them. In the early spring, these bugs fly to several species of microsorum “Palace Purple.” In fact, it was selected as the 1991 Perennial Plant of the Year. “Palace Purple” has maple-shaped leaves that are greenish-purple to dark purple. Plants are 15 to 18 inches tall with a similar spread. White flowers are produced in summer. Coral bells perform best in well-drained soils and partial shade to full sun.

Other perennials with colorful foliage include snow-on-the-mountain, ajuga, lamb’s-ears, sage, houttuynia and artemisia. Consider planting perennials with colorful foliage in your garden this year.

Can You Guess It?

Did you guess it from the March NEBLINE? The answer was a Honeybee pollen brush (a structure on their legs which is used to scrape pollen from the hairs on other parts of their body).

Did you guess it? Find out at lancaster.unl.edu

Western Conifer Seed Bugs

Cone needles are the food source for the larvae of this insect. Adult females lay rows of eggs on pine needles. In about ten days, eggs hatch into small nymphs that feed on green cones and needles of favored pine and fir trees, reaching adulthood by late August. Adults feed on ripening conifer seeds until they seek protected areas to overwinter. There is only one generation per year. These insects are very difficult to completely exclude from the home. The best action is to do your best to seal cracks, doors and windows. Screening and well-fitting window screens and fireplaces may also help to block their points of entry. There are no pesticides specifically registered to control this pest. Vacuuming these insects is the best means of controlling these accidental invaders. (BPO)