September 2004

The NEBLINE, September 2004

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What if You Could Access Extension’s Educational Resources at the Push of a Button?

Soni Cochran
Extension Associate

Since its beginning, Cooperative Extension has delivered research-based knowledge to communities through direct teaching and publications. We still do. But over the years, new technologies have provided Cooperative Extension additional methods of helping people put knowledge to work.

The Information Highway

Of all the technologies, the Internet has had the greatest impact on how people access information. Cooperative Extension uses the Web to maximize the accessibility of its educational materials. You can access Cooperative Extension’s online resources 24-hours a day/ 7 days a week/365 days a year! In addition, search engines make finding what you are looking for as easy and as fast as typing in a keyword.

University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension in Lancaster County began putting educational resources online in 1997. Now, we have more than 4,000 Web pages of information! Not only do Lancaster County residents, Nebraskans and Americans utilize our site, but we have Web users from more than 100 countries monthly.

Keeping It Easy to Use

In order to keep Cooperative Extension’s extensive online information manageable, we work hard so you don’t have to. Educational resources are organized, separated and clearly separated from the sponsor should be reputable and unbiased. Does the site include information about the author or the sponsoring agency? Is there contact information on the site? How do you recognize an “information Web page” — whose purpose is to present factual information? The URL address typically ends in .edu or .gov, and many of these pages are sponsored by educational institutions or government agencies. For example, the University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension in Lancaster County URL is http://lancaster.unl.edu.

Here are some questions you should ask yourself about an informational Web page. The more you answer “yes,” the more likely you can determine whether the sources provides high information quality.

1. Is it clear who is responsible for the contents of the Web site? The site’s sponsor should be reputable and unbiased. Does the site include information about the author or the sponsoring agency? Is there contact information on the site?

2. Is the purpose of the site to educate?

3. Is the site objective? Is the information provided as a public service? Is it free of advertising? If there is very limited advertising, is it clearly separated from the informative content?

4. Does the site indicate dates when the material has been added or updated? Are there other indications the site is kept current?

5. Is the information easy to read and understand? Is it accurate? Are photos, graphs and charts used?

6. Is there a print equivalent to the Web page?

Source: Checklist for an Information Web Page (WebMaster University)

Sorting Through Internet Clutter

The Internet can be overwhelming. Information on the Internet can come from anywhere. Just because you find it on the Internet doesn’t make it true. You have to judge the source of the information carefully before deciding to trust it. It is also a good idea to double check the information by visiting other trusted sources.

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What Users Are Saying

“First hit for a Google search, and gave me exactly the answer I wanted!”

—Shannon (age 12)

“School has just started and we are already sending lots of emails home with head lice. I went on the Internet and found all the information I needed. Thank you so much, they are all so great!”

—Sarah (age 12)

“Great site! I haven’t explored all of it but it is a wonderful reference and very well done. Thank you for working so hard on it!”

—A. Kasselman RN-BSN

“In my work, forecasting electricity usage for irrigation pumping, I have used it [irrigation cost Excel spreadsheet] extensively for scenario analysis. I have also used it, and recommended it, as a teaching tool for other electric cooperative staff in Colorado and Nebraska.”

“Really enjoy your monthly e-mail newsletters — they are always full of useful ideas that I can actually use in everyday life (such as this article). Shows you in touch with our lives and understand your readers. Thank you.”

—Susan (age 12)
Fall is a good time for improving your garden soil. Add manure, other suitable materials for dried arrangements. Air dry these
Collect okra seed pods, gourds, sumac seed heads, rose hips and
Temperatures of 45º F or lower can damage many tropical house
Do not wait for frost warnings to move your plants indoors.
now will help make weeding much easier next spring.
from green to yellow as the fruit approaches maturity.
peppers on a string to dry. Hang in a cool, dry place.
cool, dry, dark place.
them often to dry. Store the dry seeds in glass jars or envelopes in a
the flower heads to mature. Lay seeds on newspaper and turn
Wood ashes contain phosphorous, potassium and calcium. It can be
mulch such as shredded bark around the base of plants to retain
Water newly planted trees and shrubs to provide sufficient moisture
Rake up leaves, twigs and fruit from crabapple trees and dispose of
hackberry or maple are found growing in your yard, remove them
Tree wound paints used after pruning are no longer recommended
excessive pruning at this time. Plants will delay their dormancy
Never encourage growth with heavy applications of fertilizer or
Allow plants to finish the summer growth cycle in a normal manner.
Select accent plants for your landscape that will provide autumn
Divide lily-of-the-valley.

Herbal Festival
Join the Doole family and Pioneers Park Nature Center for a rededication of the renovated Louise Evans Doole Herb Garden
Saturday, Sept. 11
9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m., $5/person
Festivities include: Betsy Williams, author, herb grower and floral designer from "The Proper Season," Andover, MA.
Presentation: "Developing Theme Gardens"
also available:
Tours of the Renovated Herb Garden
Tasting Table
Mini-workshops
Informational booths
Presented in cooperation with the Nebraska Herbal Society. Call 441-7895 for more information.

Aster Yellows on Purple Coneflower
Purple coneflower can suffer from a common disease called aster yellows. Aster yellows causes chlorosis or yellowing of the plant, stunting, irregular growth and distortion of the flower head. This unusual growth is often misdiagnosed as herbicide damage. Aster yellows is a disease carried from plant to plant by insects and survives winter in infected plant material.
To manage aster yellows, all infected plants should be removed from the garden and destroyed. There are no chemi-
cal treatments available for aster yellows. Since the disease can also survive in neighboring
weeds, it is important to maintain good weed control in and around your garden. (MJF)
Ladybugs, Ladybugs, Fly Away Home! Please!

Barb Ogg
Extension Educator

Last year, the extension office handled hundreds of calls about ladybugs invading their home. Most of these calls last fall, but a surprising number came this spring when beetles spread wide with mild winters, became active as temperatures warmed up.

Those who had ladybug invasions last year should expect a repeat, unless you have taken measures to seal cracks and crevices around siding, windows and doors. Ladybugs squeeze through these cracks and crevices in order to find an insulated place to hibernate during the winter.

Most of us know that ladybugs are good insects. They have a long-standing reputation of ridding garden and crops from insect pests, especially aphids. In medieval Europe, people believed the ladybug was a sign of a Virgin Mary. Over time, the name was shortened to “lady.”

What is the nursery rhyme about? Ladybug, ladybug, fly away home. Your house is on fire, your children do roam. Except little Nan, who sits in a pan, Weaving gold leaves as fast as she can.

This verse started in ancient England as a warning to the ladybugs crawling on old hop vines. After harvest, the farmers set fire to the vines to clear the fields. The adult ladybugs could fly away, but the larvae could only crawl. The unfortunate pupa (Nan in the rhyme) was fastened to the burning plants.

We’ve grown up thinking about ladybugs as being good, so it is a radical shift to think about them as being a pest. What’s happened here? Is this a case of a good insect gone bad?

Multicolored Asian Ladybird Beetles

The offending ladybug is one species, called the Multicolored Asian Ladybird Beetle (MALB). Colors of MALB differ, ranging from pale yellow-orange to bright red-orange with and without spots on the wing covers.

The MALB, recognized as a voracious feeder, was introduced several times in the U.S. as a biological control agent for the control of aphids and other pest insects.

Habitat

The biggest problem is where the MALB chooses to overwinter. In its native habitat in Asia, large numbers of MALB aggregate and overwinter in cracks and crevices within cliff faces. Since cliffs are not readily available in Nebraska, the next best things are tall houses! Researchers studying the MALB now recognize they are attracted to tall houses that are often all by themselves in the landscape, often near a grove of trees. This description sounds a lot like farmsteads and acreages in our rural areas. Given the MALB is a voracious feeder of soybean aphid (also native to Asia), rural homes are very susceptible, although folks who live in town are not immune from MALB invasions.

The number of MALB that invade varies from a few individuals to thousands. This can be a major nuisance to the family whose home becomes the residence of choice for MALB.

Potential Problems

This ladybug species has a number of other undesirable qualities.

MALB secretes a foul-tasting chemical from their legs, which makes them unpalatable to other insects. This secretion can stain fabric and wallpaper. Large infestations of MALB have a definite odor.

MALB has been reported to be an asthma trigger in a few sensitive individuals. MALB will bite. It isn’t particularly painful, but it is annoying. They feed on grapes and other fruits. When crushed, their bodies will taint wine and affect its taste — a potential problem for vineyards.

Control

The safest option is to prevent entry by MALB by sealing and screening as many holes and vents in your home as possible.

Once they get inside, it is best to use a vacuum cleaner or, in bad cases, a shop-vac to suck them up. However, if large numbers of MALB get sucked into the interior part of the vacuum cleaner, their secretions will cause the vacuum cleaner to smell like MALB every time it is used. To prevent this, one can insert a knee-high nylon stocking into the hose wand to capture the beetles before they are sucked into the vacuum cleaner body. Insert the knee-high stocking into a connection joint in the wand so it forms a bag inside the hose and a portion of the stocking folds out of the outside of the wand to secure it in place when the wand is put back together. After sucking up the beetles, remove the stocking and discard it.

Ohio State University has done some research on spraying the exterior of homes to prevent these beetles from coming inside. Timing of treatment is extremely important. Too early and the chemical will lose its effectiveness. Too late and the ladybugs will already be inside. It would be impractical and nearly impossible to control them once they’re inside walls.

Upcoming Household Hazardous Waste Collections

Residents of Lancaster County can bring household hazardous wastes to the following collection sites:

Friday, Sept. 10 • 3–7 p.m.
Waverly — Lancaster County Shop Salt Dome (5 blocks north of Highway 6 on North 141 Street)

Saturday, Sept. 11 • 9 a.m.–1 p.m.
Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department 3140 N Street, south parking lot

Saturday, Oct. 9 • 9 a.m.–1 p.m.
Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department 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 thermostats and fluorescent bulbs.
• SOLVENTS: mineral spirits, turpentine, paint strippers and thinners, oil-based paints, varnishes, stains, polishes, waxes.
• PESTICIDES: weed killers, garden chemicals, petroleum-based insecticides, pet flea and tick products, roach powder, rat poisons. You may also bring banned products, like DDT, chlordane, 2,4,5-T, pentachlorophenol.
• PCBs: Ballasts from old fluorescent fixtures, small capacitors from old appliances, including radios, motors and televisions.

Lease 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, broken or rusted containers should be placed in a clear plastic bag during transport. Do not mix chemicals.

Do not bring latex paint, medicines, explosives 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.
Packed Lunch Pizzazz!

Alice Henneman, RD
Extension Educator

September is National Food Safety Education Month. This year’s theme is “Be Aware When You Prepare.” As September also is the start of the school year when many students carry homemade lunches, sack lunch safety is an important part of safe food preparation.

Carrying food in an insulated container with a freezer gel pack helps prevent boring bagged lunches as well as improving food safety. Use an insulated container and gel freezer pack to carry perishable foods that must be kept cold.

Bacteria multiply rapidly if food is held in the “danger zone” of 40°F to 140°F for more than 2 hours (1 hour when the temperature is above 90°F). At room temperature, just ONE bacterium could grow to 2,000,000,000,000 (2 trillion) between 7 hours!

Keeping food at a safe temperature is important when carrying a lunch. Let sack lunches be limited only by your imagination by following these food safety tips:

Preparation
1. To serve safe food in carried lunches, the food must start out safe. Follow general food safety practices of cooking foods to safe temperatures, working with clean utensils and a clean work surface, cooling and storing food properly.
2. Wash the lunch container and thermos with hot water and detergent after every use. If you use a paper bag, purchase bags specifically for carrying sack lunches and use a clean one each time.
3. Prepare just the amount of perishable food that can be eaten to avoid possible safety problems with leftover perishable foods.
4. Use thermos containers to keep liquids or semi-fluid foods cold or hot. Fill shortly before leaving with the lunch. For hot foods, preheat the thermos by filling it with hot water and letting it stand for a few minutes. Pour out water and add steaming hot food. For cold foods, fill the thermos with cold water first and let stand a few minutes before emptying the water and adding cold foods.

Keep Cold Foods Cold
1. Perishable foods served cold must be kept cold. These include the following foods and items prepared with these foods: meat, poultry, seafood, eggs, tofu, dairy products (milk, cheese and yogurt).

2. Opened, single-serving containers of fruit, juice and pudding, commercially prepared canned meats, poultry, seafood and dried beans (such as beans and franks) that can be opened and eaten immediately.
3. Dry foods such as crackers, cereal bars, cookies, nuts, pasta, rice and cooked vegetables.
4. Opened canned fruit, cooked fruits and vegetables and cut/peeled fresh fruits and vegetables.
5. Pasta, rice and cooked vegetables and fruits.
6. If lunches are packed the night before, keep perishable foods refrigerated until youth are ready to leave with the lunch. Add cookies, chips or other foods that lose crispiness in the morning.

3. Pack already chilled foods in an insulated lunch container. Include a freezer gel pack. At school, go green every day with sack lunch in a cool place out of direct sunlight.

Adding A Rainbow To Your Diet

Red
Fruits and vegetables containing the red color phytochemicals that might help with heart health, memory function and urinary tract health. Red would include cherries, cranberries, red grapes, raspberries, strawberries, beets, red peppers, tomatoes and water-melons.

Yellow/Orange
These fruits and vegetables are a food source of vitamins such as Vitamin C and phytochemicals that can help with heart health, vision health, maintaining a healthy immune system and lower some cancer risks. Examples of yellow/orange would include apricots, cantaloupe, grapefruit, oranges, nectarines, peaches, pineapple, butternut squash, carrots, pumpkin, sweet corn and sweet potatoes.

Green
Fruits and vegetables contain phytochemicals such as lutein and zeaxanthin which are a good source of antioxidants like Vitamin A and Vitamin C. Green added to your diet will help lower some cancer risks, maintain vision health and help with strong bones and teeth. Green fruits and vegetables include green peas and vegetables like green grapes, kiwi, limes, honeydew, green apples, broccoli, celery, green cabbage, cucumbers, leafy greens, spinach, peas and zucchini.

White
These fruits and vegetables, like the others, can be helps some cancer risks but also help maintain urinary tract health, memory function and help with aging. Examples are: blueberries, purple grapes, plums, raisins, black currents, blackberries, purple cabbage and eggplant. So remember to add a rainbow of color to your plate for good health.

White/Purple
These fruits and vegetables, like the others, can be helps some cancer risks but also help maintain urinary tract health, memory function and help with aging. Examples are: blueberries, purple grapes, plums, raisins, black currents, blackberries, purple cabbage and eggplant. So remember to add a rainbow of color to your plate for good health.
**Plan Now for Holiday Spending**

Spending a little extra time now deciding how much can be spent this holiday season will prevent a budget crunch after the holiday fun is over.

Saving money throughout the holiday season, spreading out purchases and keeping track of expenses can make holiday spending easier without a new year of debt.

Before shopping, make a list and decide how much to spend on each person. Most consumer scientists agree people spend more when they shop without knowing what to buy. Look at catalogs or Web sites to get ideas. Sale items might be found in the process. Buying some gifts early also spreads expenses over a longer time period instead of accumulating hundreds of dollars of purchases in one week.

Use debt cards or checks to pay for gifts, not credit cards. It's easier to track spending with a debit card and consumers won't have to work to devote credit card limits after the holiday season. Consumers who must use credit should stick to the same number of credit cards and not spend more than they can pay off in one month.

Being creative also can pay off. Homemade gifts, such as cookies, painted mugs or ornaments, are fun to give and receive. Or, use the holiday season to strengthen relationships by spending quality time with family or friends. Time is much more valuable than money or gifts.

When the January rolls around, start planning for next year. Set aside a few dollars each week and save the money for next year’s gifts. Consumers also should take advantage of clearance sales on lights and decorations to save full price for the same items the following year.

**Chill Out with an Efficient Fridge**

Refrigerators are among the most energy intensive appliances in a home, but with a few steps you can keep your energy costs to a minimum. Choosing a refrigerator isn’t too cold. Recommended temperatures are 37º F to 40º F for the fresh food compartment and 5º F for the freezer section. Long-term storage freezers should be kept at 0º F. (Stick a thermometer in a glass of water and read it after 24 hours; for the freezer, stick the thermometer between frozen packages.)

Front build-up decreases energy efficiency, so regularly defrost manual-defrost refrigerators and freezers. Replace your refrigerator door seals if they are not airtight, and cover liquids and wrap foods — uncovered foods release moisture and make the condenser work harder. Move your refrigerator out from the wall and vacuum its condenser coils once a year unless you have a no-clean condenser.

Finally, if you’re in the market for a new refrigerator, pay attention to the EnergyGuide label, which lists electricity use in kilowatt-hours — the lower the better.

**Challenges and the Physical, Social, and Emotional Impact**

Adolescence can be a very stressful time for today’s youth. Studying for an exam scheduled the next day, working on a science project, trying to keep up with peers, maintaining relationships and staying in tune with family members at home can be enough to worry about. In addition to these stresses, the majority of youth will experience one or more major life challenges or changes in their lifetime, including transferring to a different school, a family move, a death or illness of a family member, an ongoing parental conflict or divorce, substance abuse within the family or family economic stress.

These factors combined with the daily struggles of school, minor peer and family arguments, time-management challenges and the physical, social, hormonal and cognitive changes of growing up, may lead to feelings of stress, anxiety and depression.

Depression, alcohol abuse, delinquency and school problems are all associated with the stresses of adolescence and the feelings of helplessness and frustration some adolescents experience. Some stress is common. Most youth emerge through stressful periods without any long-term negative effects. However, some adolescents are at greater risk.

Research finds three factors influence adolescents’ susceptibility to vulnerability to negative effects of stress, including the number of personal and external demands, the presence of internal and external assets and coping skills.

If only one source of stress is present, it is less likely to be a problem than if there are two or more. Also, assets, such as healthy self-esteem, feelings of competence, close friends, good social skills and close and trusting relationships with parents protect youth from stress. Finally, adolescents who take specific and purposeful actions to change the source of the stress often fare better than those who avoid problems or deny them.

It is important to remember stress is not always bad. It can help adolescents to improve overall coping abilities and to concentrate on problem solving. However, adults need to be supportive during this time in children’s lives.

**FCE News & Events**

**Stress Affects Adolescents Too**

Adolescents Too

Spending some extra time on deciding how much can be spent this holiday season will prevent a budget crunch after the holiday fun is over. Saving money throughout the holiday season, spreading out purchases and keeping track of expenses can make holiday spending easier without a new year of debt.

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**Character Counts! Corner**

**Values**

Important beliefs and desires that shape attitudes and motivate actions. Our values, including our sense of right and wrong, are composed of conscious and unconscious beliefs arising from conditioning, emotion and reasoning.
St. Johnswort is Increasing in Eastern Nebraska

Tom Dorn
Extension Educator

I would like to call readers attention to a weed called St. Johnswort that is invading roadsides, pastures and hayland. This weed is a concern not only because it seems to be increasing in this part of the state, it also can have detrimental effects on animals that consume it.

**Identification**
St. Johnswort (aka St. John’s Wort and Klamath weed) is a taprooted perennial that reproduces by seeds and short creeping stems (above and below ground). Plants height is usually about two feet but in an ideal site, plants can reach five feet in height. Most stems have reddish or rust colored spots on the lower end and are woody at the base. Leaves are about one inch long by about 1/3 inch wide, opposite, attached directly to the stem without a petiole and have distinctive small translucent glands that make them appear pierced when held up to the light. The flowers have five petals with many stamens, are yellowish-orange in color, and may have more than one black dot along the margins. Flowers are numerous and found in flat groups at the top of the plant.

**Toxicity Symptoms**
Consumption of St. Johnswort causes a photosensitizing reaction to non-pigmented skin of livestock exposed to sunlight. Light colored animals are most susceptible, developing dermatitis, which can include skin blisters and hair loss. Symptoms may not show up until the animal has been eating the plants for several days to a week.

**Care of Affected Animals**
There is no antidote for hypericin, the toxin found in St. Johnswort. Care includes, removing St. Johnswort from the animal’s diet and bringing affected animals out of direct sunlight. If the sunburn is mild, conventional treatment and supportive care is all that is required. Animals will remain in hospital, and horses will not be able to be ridden for at least a couple of weeks. More severely affected animals, including animals whose eyes are affected, or where the skin is blistered or sloughing, should be seen by a veterinarian.

**Management**
Livestock prefer grass over St. Johnswort when both plants are present. This may lead to overgrazing of grasses which provides openings into which St. Johnswort may spread. Dried St. Johnswort in hay or processed feeds is less toxic than when eaten fresh but animals are less able to avoid eating it, so feeding hay containing St. Johnswort is a concern. If one must feed hay containing the weed, keep animals in the shade or inside a building during daylight hours while they are being given the hay and for a week after they are no longer consuming it.

**Control**
Several insects have been tested and released as biological controls of St. Johnswort in the Pacific Northwest. These have reduced the spread of the weed in some areas. Some beneficial insect species can be purchased from vendors on the internet (search on St. Johnswort).

Established stands of St. Johnswort are best treated with herbicides in the fall (Sept. 15 to Oct. 15) when the weed is storing reserves in the root system for the winter. Since the plant is easier to spot when in flower, mapping the infested area is recommended. Several insecticide products can be purchased from vendors on the internet (search on St. Johnswort).

Fall is an excellent time to control several species of perennial weeds in pastures and waste areas. Perennial plants such as field bindweed, Canada thistle and leafy spurge translocate food from the upper plant parts into the root system in the fall. Herbicides applied at that time readily move into the roots as well, greatly improving the efficiency of the herbicide. Even if the chemical doesn’t completely kill the weed, the plant goes into winter in a weakened condition and is much more susceptible to winter kill. Fall treatments can be made anytime after mid-September but before hard freezes occur. Treatments can be made after a light frost has occurred as long as the plants are still active and growing. Daytime temperature in the 50’s are satisfactory for effective control.

Fall is also the best time to control Musk thistle and related species. Musk thistle is a biennial (sometime a winter annual), that spreads by seeds. Young plants will have a rosette form (a round cluster of leaves that lies nearly flat on the soil). They overwinter in the rosette form, then shoot up (bolt), form blossoms and go to seed in June, July and August. After producing seed, the plant dies. Fall is a good time to control Musk thistle because the newly germinated plants are small and more easily killed. As with the perennial plants, plants that are not killed outright go into winter in a weakened condition and are much more susceptible to winter kill.

In addition to obtaining excellent control on the target weeds, the potential for drift damage to non-target species is lessened in the fall. Most field crops and gardens are finished producing by this time, and the current year’s growth on perennial species that persists into winter is hardened off making them less susceptible to damage.

For chemical control recommendations on specific weeds in livestock, consult the University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension publication 2004 Guide for Weed Management in Nebraska (EC 04-130-D), available for $3 at the extension office or free on the Internet at www.lanr.unl.edu/pubs/fieldcrops/ec04-130.pdf.
Deep Watering in Fall can Prevent Tree Death

Symptoms of winter injury appear the following spring and summer, making some think a tree is suddenly dying when actually the damage was done several months before.

Drought conditions during the fall may mean serious injury to trees if it continues into winter. Trees should be thoroughly watered in the fall to help prevent winter drying injury. Fall watering may not be necessary when soil moisture is adequate, but when soil moisture is lacking, fall watering may be critical to help a tree survive the rigors of winter.

All trees lose water during normal metabolic processes. During the growing season when trees are in full foliage, large amounts of water are lost through their leaves. Even during winter months when the leaves are gone and photosynthetic processes have stopped, trees lose water to a lesser extent from exposed bark, twigs and buds. However, sometimes the loss of moisture exceeds the amount of water the roots can absorb from dry, frozen soil. Tissue drying is the result of the tree being unable to replace lost water. Winter drying injury occurs most frequently during warm, dry, windy conditions. This especially is true of evergreen trees because they lose much more water through their foliage. Damaged trees may exhibit only a few dead twigs or entire branches may die depending on severity of the injury. In very severe cases, the entire tree may die. The side of the tree facing the prevailing winds is most susceptible. Light brown, dry, appearing needles are typical of winter injury on evergreen trees. This type of injury usually is temporary, and most evergreens recover rapidly as the growing season progresses.

Usually, large, well-established trees can tolerate temporary droughts without injury, but young trees are more susceptible to drought injury. They do not have the extensive root system to draw moisture from the soil and need supplemental water during dry conditions.

In some cases, relying on a lawn sprinkler is not enough. Trees should be deep watered to a depth of two or three feet before the ground freezes. A watering basin two to three inches deep and three to four feet in diameter, constructed around the base of a young tree will hold water until it can percolate into the soil.

The loss of trees from winter drying is unnecessary and costly, not only in monetary terms, but in intangible values such as shade, protection and beauty. If drought conditions continue, deep watering trees this fall may mean the difference between live and dead trees next spring.

SOURCE: Dorene Adams, forester, NU/EXT (DJ)

Watch for Saltcedar in Wetland Habitats

Saltcedar is an evergreen weed shrub invading wetland habitats and suppressing the growth of native species. The shrub was initially introduced as an ornamental plant in the western United States. However, saltcedar has been placed on Nebraska’s watch-list for invasive species due to its highly pernicious influence on natural habitat.

Saltcedar has brown or reddish-brown bark, scale-like leaves and small pink flowers creating finger-like clusters. Saltcedar reproduces by seeds as well as root and stem and grows up to 20 feet tall.

The shrub establishes in wetland habitats where there soil is saturated enough for the seedlings to develop. The worst infected states include Wyoming, Colorado and New Mexico. In Nebraska, saltcedar can be found along the Platte River, especially near Lexington in Dawson County.

The shrub suppresses the growth of native species creating a monocultural state which brings about negative changes in wildlife habitat. Saltcedar’s long taproots interfere with the natural aquatic system, lowering the water table in streams and canals. In addition, the salt excreted from the leaves to the soil surface under the plant inhibits germination and growth of competing species. Thus the name saltcedar is derived from the salty residue that collects on the small scale-like leaves that resembles cedar foliage. As a result, many wildlife species are negatively affected by habitat changes and native species displacement due to encroachment of saltcedar.

The first line of defense against the weed is to monitor wetland areas. The shrub grows in “hard to approach” habitats. Therefore, it is essential to apply control measures at an early stage so it does not expand. Individual trees (plants) can be controlled by cutting. Larger infestations can be managed by herbicide application.

Spraying in August and September has proved to be the most effective. If you see the saltcedar on your land area, contact a local University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension office or your county weed superintendent who will help identify the species and recommend control measures.

SOURCE: Susan Knutze, Ph. D., weed specialist, NU/EXT (DJ)

Hydrogen Sulfide

Hydrogen sulfide is a nuisance form of sulfur found in drinking water. Sulfur reducing bacteria, which use sulfur as an energy source, are the primary producers of hydrogen sulfide. Their bacteria live in anaerobic, low oxygen deficient environments such as deep wells, plumbing systems, water softeners and water heaters. They usually flourish on the hot water side of a water distribution system. Hydrogen sulfide also occurs naturally in some groundwater.

Hydrogen sulfide produces an offensive “rotten egg” or “sulfur water” odor and taste. In some cases, the odor may be noticeable only when water is initially turned on or when hot water is run. A nuisance associated with hydrogen sulfide includes its corrosiveness to metals such as iron, steel, copper and brass. It can also tarnish silverware. Coffee, tea and other beverages made with water containing hydrogen sulfide may be discolored and the appearance and taste of cooked foods can be affected.

The offensive odor of hydrogen sulfide usually makes testing unnecessary. Hydrogen sulfide is one of a few water contaminants detected at low concentrations by human senses.

Hydrogen sulfide is not regulated by the EPA since concentrations high enough to be a health hazard makes water unpalatable. If excessive hydrogen sulfide is present in your water supply, you have two basic options, obtain an alternative water supply or use some type of treatment to remove the impurity.

Hydrogen sulfide formation may be reduced in some instances by performing a shock chlorination. This procedure will reduce, but not eliminate, sulfide producing bacteria. Low levels of hydrogen sulfide may be removed by passing water through an activated carbon filter. Hydrogen sulfide concentrations up to about six parts per million can be removed using an oxidizing filter and concentrations exceeding six parts per million can be removed by injecting an oxidizing chemical and using a filter. (DJ)

How Much Hay to Stock

During the winter when there is no pasture grass to eat and your livestock are getting all of their nourishment from hay, here is a good rule of thumb to figure out how much hay you’ll need to have to last through the winter.

Each full grown horse or cow will need about 1 ton. (for four cows you would need to buy four tons, etc.) For sheep and goats, you can count on 1 ton for every four fall-grown animals. (Eight sheep would need two tons)

This estimate would be for good hay. Always get a little extra just-in-case. (DJ)

Can You Guess It?

As of August 10, Lancaster County was in abnormally dry conditions.

Latest U.S. Drought Monitor Map

As of August 10, Lancaster County was in abnormally dry conditions.

Can You Guess It?

Watch for Saltcedar in Wetland Habitats

Saltcedar is an evergreen weed shrub invading wetland habitats and suppressing the growth of native species. The shrub was initially introduced as an ornamental plant in the western United States. However, saltcedar has been placed on Nebraska’s watch-list for invasive species due to its highly pernicious influence on natural habitat.

Saltcedar has brown or reddish-brown bark, scale-like leaves and small pink flowers creating finger-like clusters. Saltcedar reproduces by seeds as well as root and stem and grows up to 20 feet tall.

The shrub establishes in wetland habitats where there soil is saturated enough for the seedlings to develop. The worst infected states include Wyoming, Colorado and New Mexico. In Nebraska, saltcedar can be found along the Platte River, especially near Lexington in Dawson County.

The shrub suppresses the growth of native species creating a monocultural state which brings about negative changes in wildlife habitat. Saltcedar’s long taproots interfere with the natural aquatic system, lowering the water table in streams and canals. In addition, the salt excreted from the leaves to the soil surface under the plant inhibits germination and growth of competing species. Thus the name saltcedar is derived from the salty residue that collects on the small scale-like leaves that resembles cedar foliage. As a result, many wildlife species are negatively affected by habitat changes and native species displacement due to encroachment of saltcedar.

The first line of defense against the weed is to monitor wetland areas. The shrub grows in “hard to approach” habitats. Therefore, it is essential to apply control measures at an early stage so it does not expand. Individual trees (plants) can be controlled by cutting. Larger infestations can be managed by herbicide application.

Spraying in August and September has proved to be the most effective. If you see the saltcedar on your land area, contact a local University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension office or your county weed superintendent who will help identify the species and recommend control measures.

SOURCE: Susan Knutze, Ph. D., weed specialist, NU/EXT (DJ)

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4-H Thanks Sponsors

Lancaster County 4-H would like to thank all of the businesses and individuals that sponsored 4-H events, activities, programs and trophies at this year’s county fair. This support enhances the educational experience of the 4-H’ers who participate in the county fair.

Ace Rent-to-Own
Anonymous
Avery Unlimited
Chet Axthelm Memorial Cup
Bauman Livestock Feed and Supply Inc.
Jim and Cindy Bauman
Craig and Carol Billsbach
Blazing Saddles 4-H Club/Shelia Scheider
Bullers Dairy Farms
Capitol Pork Producers
Chapelle Polled Herefords
Craig and Kim Cheney Family
Warren Cheney Family
Circle D Ranch

Dave and Liz Cockrell
Containment Contracting Services—Brock and Chris Peters
Crawford Family Shorthorns
Steve and Marty Crouckshank
DTT Angus
Ted DeFalla & Sons
Dun Dohrer Family
Ted and Alice Doane
Dorchester Farmer’s Coop
Douglas Theatre Company
Ron Dowding Family
Martin and Marilyn Dye
East Campus Stary
Edward D Jones—Gary & Jolene Schleppenbach
Equiloids 4-H Club
Eissink Horseboarding
Larry and Senator Carol Hulkins
Express Stop
4N Angus
4-H Teen Council
4-H/HFA livestock
Farm Credit Services of America
Farmers Bank (Waverly)
Farmers Cooperative (Waverly)
First State Bank
Fifth Cooperative
Firth Energy
Dr. Dan Fisher, DVM
Fitch Trucking, Inc.
Foster Quarter Horse—Rich and Katie Fortner
Four Winds Farm
Franklyn Manning Family
Joe, Lois and Julia French
Gagner Construction
Galena Morgan Horse Farm—Irved Nedved
Gana/Nisley Show Cattle
Blayne Ghislam Family
Laverne Grage Family
Green Gateau Restaurant
Kim-Ashleigh Memorial
Haes Contracting
Hancock Fabrics
Heidbrink Farms
Irene Heidbrink Memorial
Holthus Family
Red Holland
Home Remodeling—Richard Ebeling
Hooper-Creek Saddlle Shop—Jim Gregory, Maker
In Memory of Chuck Henneussy, Starlize Quarter Horse/Phylis Hennieussy and Tim Fishery
Wayne, Joyce and Eric Houser
Deanna and Steve Karmazin Family
Kent Family
John, Cassie and Josh Krueger
LaKillyDrFarms
Lancaster Agricultural Society, Inc.
LANT OTOE Farm—David and Tina Scheidler
Lincoln Women’s Chamber
KV Enterprises
Mr. and Mrs. Mike Lessmann
Dr. Kent Lovelace, D.D.S.
First State Bank
Merrick Quarter Horses—Brenda and Tom Messick
Moser Well Drilling and Service Inc.
Mueller Farms
Clyde and Helen Nauber
Abbey and Corney Neumann
Jen Neumann
Steven and Stephanie Nelson
Nebraska Tire
Nisley Brother’s Shorthorns
Norris FFA
Nitsch Public Power
Oak Creek Plants & Flowers
Diane Parish Farm
Parrott Family
Larry Pershing
Pheasant View Farm
Tim Powers Memorial
Lois Princ
Russell Prin Registered Angus
Quality Horse Hay—Jon Summert
Rabbits-R-U 4-H Club
Rainbow Ends
Rick, Tammy, Nick and Andrea Radzy
Raymond Central FFA Alumni
Barbara Reifschneider
Riding Wranglers 4-H Club
Rock Creek Ranchers 4-Club
Evin Rolofson/Raymond Grange
Rotella’s Bakery
Dr. Elliott Rustad
Pat and Larry Ruth
Saline State Insurance Agency—
Dan James Agent
Salt Creek Wranglers 4-H Club
Salt Valley Grange #413
Scheuer’s TV & Appliance
Shepherd of the Hills Church
Hickman
Shimmering Shamrocks 4-H Club
John and Patty Sieer
Daren and Deb Shratler
Stew Castle—Allan and Charlene Sieck
Sid Dillon Buick Nissan Hyundai
Deb Snell Memorial
Ron & Donna Snover
Triple RRR Farms
Young Riders 4-Club
Union Bank & Trust Company
Union Bank & Trust Com-
pany—44th Street
Union Bank & Trust Com-
pamy—Alyce Dowding
Michael Vaughn Family
Vo-Acres Dairy
Voice News (Bickman)
Wal-Mart
Kelly and Colen Warner
Ritchie Rabinaw/Nebraska Pump
Wavelry FFA
Wavelry Orange #369
Wetter-Bleie Farm, Doug and Cheryl Johnson
Women’s Classic of Lincoln, P.C.—Dr. Stephen Swanson and Dr. James Maly
Woods Bros Realty—Gene Ward
Woods Bros Realty—Carl and Nancy Brown
We apologize for any inaccuracies. If you notice any corrections please call us so we will include the information in next week’s Nebline.

Thank You to Volunteers

The county fair would not be possible without the dedicated work of hundreds of volunteers. The Lancaster Agricultural Society and Lancaster County 4-H thank all of the people who donated their time and talents to help make this community event a success!

4-H Award Nominations Due Oct. 31

Nominees are needed for the following awards. Application forms are available at the extension office.

4-H Meritorious Service — presented to an individual who has contributed significant support of the 4-H program. 4-H members are not eligible.

Outstanding 4-H Member — presented to an individual who has exhibited consistent and strong support of 4-H activities.

1 Dare You Youth Leadership Award — awarded on behalf of the American Youth Leadership Foundation (AYF) to high school seniors active in 4-H in Nebraska and are 14 years of age or older. The basis for selection appraises the variety and depth of 4-H experience.

4-H Scholarships Due Oct. 31

The Lincoln County 4-H program offers a variety of scholarships. Deadline is Oct. 31. Information and applications are available at the extension office or online at lancaster.unl.edu/4h.*

Lancaster County 4-H Council provides awards to individuals from two groups: 4-H-ers who are active in Teen Council and help with at least one major fundraiser. Lincoln Scholarship —awards one $200 scholarship to a 4-H’er attending Raymond Central High School.

4-H Camp
New this year is a scholarship for attending 4-H summer camp(s).

Youth Valie Memorial Scholarship —awards one $1,500 scholarship to a youth age 8-14. Applicants should currently be, or have been, enrolled in at least one sewing project.

Community Service Corner

Recognize the Outstanding Youth in Your Community!

The Nestle Very Best in Youth program, co-sponsored by Reading Is Fundamental (RIF) and Nestle USA, honors young people ages 10-18 who have made reading a priority, have contributed significantly to the quality of life in their communities and have inspired other young people to do their very best.

At least 25 winners will be selected. Prizes include a trip with a parent/guardian to Los Angeles for an awards ceremony, a Certificate of Appreciation from Nestle USA and RIF, a $1,000 donation to the winner’s charity of choice and a profile in the 2005 Very Best In Youth publication.

Nomination forms are available online and must be received by Nov. 1, 2004. For more details, visit http://www.rif.org/what/eventcontests/verybestinout/youthfaulx.pmx. (TK)
4-H Council Positions Open — Opportunity for Adults and Youth to Contribute to 4-H

Serving on the Lancaster 4-H Council is an excellent opportunity to contribute to the youth development of local 4-H members. The 4-H Council is composed of youth and adults working together in the interest of promoting activities of Lancaster County 4-H. They assist extension staff in planning, conducting and evaluating 4-H activities and events.

Council membership terms are three years for adults and two years for youth. Council members are limited to two consecutive terms. The council consists of volunteer 4-H leaders, sponsors, community leaders; school, church and civic officials. Interest in extension education and youth is essential. Individuals interested in serving on the 4-H Council are encouraged to contact Tracy Kulm, 4-H extension associate at 441-7180 for more information or to join! (TK)

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4-H Shooting Sports Recertification Training Sept. 11

The Nebraska 4-H Shooting Sports program will be offering a leader recertification training on Saturday, Sept. 11, at the Eastern Nebraska 4-H Center near Gretna, NE. Leaders who have successfully completed certification training since October 1, 2003, and wish to become certified in an additional discipline are invited to attend. This one-day training gives leaders the opportunity to become certified in one of the following additional disciplines: archery, rifle or shotgun. Registration information will soon be available on the 4-H Shooting Sports Web page at 4h.unl.edu/programs/shootingsports. (TK)

“Fair’s Over, Now What?” Parent/Leader Training Sept. 23

Leaders, parents, and interested volunteers are invited to attend this 4-H training Thursday, Sept. 23, 9:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. Discover how to complete the current 4-H year and 7 p.m. Discover how to complete the current 4-H year and 7 p.m. Discover how to complete the current 4-H year and 7 p.m. Discover how to complete the current 4-H year and 7 p.m. Discover how to complete the current 4-H year and 7 p.m. Discover how to complete the current 4-H year and 7 p.m. Discover how to complete the current 4-H year and 7 p.m. Discover how to complete the current 4-H year and 7 p.m. Discover how to complete the current 4-H year and 7 p.m. Discover how to complete the current 4-H year and 7 p.m. Discover how to complete the current 4-H year and 7 p.m. Discover how to complete the current 4-H year. Awards, project completion/selection and club formation are discussed. (TK)
Many of today’s leaders in education, business and community development are coming to realize schools alone cannot prepare our youth for productive adulthood. It is evident schools and communities should work closely with each other to meet their mutual goals. Schools can provide more support for students, families and staff when they are an integral part of the community. On the other hand, agencies can make services more accessible to youth and families by linking with schools, and they can connect better with and have an impact on hard-to-reach clients. Appropriate and effective collaboration and teaming are seen as key factors to community development, learning and family self-sufficiency.

Partnerships should be considered as connections between schools and communities.

Partnerships

The following list reflects community resources that could or currently partner with schools:

County Agencies and Bodies (Departments of Health, Mental Health, Children & Family Services, Public Social Services, Office of Education, Police & Fire Departments, Planning Area Councils, Recreation & Parks, Library, Housing Authority, etc.)

Municipal Agencies and Bodies (Parks & Recreation, library, courts, civic event units)

Post Secondary Education Institutions/Students (Community colleges, state universities, Cooperative Extension, public & private colleges and universities, vocational colleges; specific schools within these such as Schools of Law, Education, Nursing, Dentistry, etc.)

Service Agencies (PTA/PTSA, United Way, Lincoln Action Program, Mediation Center, clothing & food pantry, Visiting Nurses Association, Cancer Society, Red Cross, Salvation Army, volunteer agencies, Human Services Federation)

Service Clubs & Philanthropic Organizations (Lion’s Club, Rotary Club, veteran’s groups, Woods Charitable Fund, Lincoln Community Foundation, Southeast Community Foundation, Cooper Foundation, Community Services Fund, etc.)

Youth Agencies & Groups (Boys & Girls Clubs, scouts, 4-H, Cedars Youth Services, Child Advocacy Center, etc.)

Sports/Health/Fitness/Outdoor Groups (YMCA of Lincoln, Cornhusker Place, athletic leagues, local gyms, conservation associations, etc.)

Community-Based Organizations (Neighborhood and homeowners’ associations, Neighborhood Watch/Patrol, block clubs, housing project associations, economic development groups, community development corporations, civic associations)

Faith Community Institutions (The Lincoln Interfaith Council, Catholic Social Services, Lutheran Family Services, congregations and subgroups, etc.)

Ethnic Associations (Asian Community Center, Hispanic Community Center, Indian Center, Germans from Russia Society, etc.)

Artists and Cultural Institutions (Museums, art galleries, zoo, theater groups, TV & radio stations, literary clubs, art groups, writers’ organizations, collector’s groups)

Businesses/Corporations/Unions (Neighborhood business associations, Chamber of Commerce, Goodwill Industries, local shops, restaurants, banks, AAA, school employee unions)

Media (Local newspapers, TV & radio, local access cable)

Family Members, Local Residents, Senior Citizens Groups

There are a variety of activities in which schools can become involved to build/improve school-community partnerships; below are some suggestions:

1. Encourage Community Use of School Facilities: Often the school buildings sit empty after the end of the normal school day. Encouraging non-profit community groups to use the facilities is not only good use of resources but also provides opportunities for the school to get involved in community projects.

2. Senior Citizens Banquet: At least once a year, perhaps around the time of music concerts, invite senior citizens to a luncheon banquet at the school; banquet can be sponsored by a school service organization, by non-profit corporation, or by private industry. Usually, parents are willing to come to assist in the preparation of the meal.

3. Back to School Week: Choose a week during the school year to invite parents and community members to your school. Make a special effort to personally invite community and business leaders to attend school for the day, or part of the day.

4. Career Day: Hold annual career days; this is not only good educational experience for the students, but also helps local business people to learn more about the school and school’s needs. In addition, it helps to understand the employment needs in the area.

5. News Releases: News releases mailed to local media could be a good strategy for public relations and community outreach programs.

6. Newsletters: Provide periodic newsletters not only to the families of the students, but also to board members, business leaders and other community members. A simple database can be used to include new people; encourage members of the school community to suggest other folks who might be included in the mailing list.

7. Honor Roll: In the local media, publish a list of students who made significant accomplishments during the school year.

8. Gold Cards: Give students who earn a place on the Honor Roll a Gold card which is sponsored by participating businesses who provide discounts to those students for marking period. Some businesses provide reduced prices on items in their stores, while others allow students to have something for free, for example, a free video rental, etc.

Online Resources Relevant to School-Community Partnerships

Building Coalitions
http://schooline.osu.edu/fe-fact/index.html

Center for Effective Collaboration and Practice
http://www.air.org/cecp/

Center for Community Partnerships
http://www.upem.edu/csp

Center for Schools & Communities
http://www.center-school.org/

Collaboration Framework:Addressing Community Capacity
http://www.cyfenet.org/mnclo/framework.html

##EXTENSION CALENDAR

###AUGUST

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<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Acreage Insights: Rural Living Clinics — “Ponds”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Composting Demonstration, City Yard Waste Composting</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>Demonstration Site, 50th &amp; Colby</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>ABC's of Good Health (part 3 of 3)</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>State Fair 4-H Static Exhibit Check In, State Fair Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Salt Creek Wranglers 4-H Silver Dollar Series #3, Wranglers Grounds</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**August 28–September 6: Nebraska State Fair, State Fair Park**

For complete schedule, go to [www.statefair.org](http://www.statefair.org).

###SEPTEMBER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>21–26</td>
<td>4-H Horse VIPS Committee Meeting, Event Center</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>“Healthy One Dish Dinners for 1, 2, or 4” more class, BryanLGH Medical Center East, Plaza Conference Center East</td>
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<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>“Fair’s Over, Now What?” 4-H Parent &amp; Leader Training — 9:30 a.m. &amp; 7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Acreage Insights: Rural Livings — Windbreak Design &amp; Maintenance</td>
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<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Family &amp; Community Education (FCE) Council Meeting — 12:45 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Aging Friendly Communities FCE and community leader training session</td>
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**55 ALIVE Driver Safety Course Sept. 14 & 15**

UNL Cooperative Extension in Lancaster County is co-sponsoring a 55 ALIVE Driver Safety Course scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 14 and Wednesday, Sept. 15, 12:30–4:30 p.m. with instructor Dewaine Alcorn. Classes will be held at the Lancaster Extension Education Center, 444 Cherry Creek Road, Lincoln. Cost is $10 payable at the first class. Call 441-7180 to register.

The eight-hour course is taught in two, four-hour sessions spanning two days. The course helps drivers refine existing skills and develop safe, defensive driving techniques. AARP membership and members may take the course. There are no tests. Drivers aged 55 and over, compared with drivers aged 30 to 54, are involved in more accidents per mile driven. The number of accidents per mile rises sharply at about age 75. The AARP Driver Safety Program is the nation’s first and largest classroom driver re-

###School Aged Care Alliance Conference Oct. 9

The sixth annual Nebraska School Aged Care Alliance (NeSACA) Conference will be held Oct. 9, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Lancaster Extension Education Center. NeSACA is a professional support network promoting programs for children and youth in their out-of-school time.

This year’s conference is sponsored by “Children and the Physical Changes that can occur in all older persons. The loss of vision, hearing and physical strength is gradual and can go virtually unnoticed until older drivers are faced with a driving emergency that they are no longer able to handle.

By being aware of these normal age-related changes and learning how they affect driving, older motorists can compensate for them and become better drivers. (LB)

###5004 Make It Yourself with Wool Contest

The object of the contest is to promote the beauty and versatility of wool fabric and yarn. To encourage personal creations of weaving, knitting, crocheting, spinning and weaving of wool fabric, yarn and to recognize creative skills.

In January 2004 at the National Contest in Sacramento, CA, Nebraska walked away with two winners. Linda Knecht of Albion was the National Junior winner with 30 contestants in her division and Andrea Hammon of Spencer was the Butterick Vogue Patterns designer with 60 contestants in her division. Again this year, we are promoting the category of “Made for Others” at the district and state levels. The ages are as follows:

- Preteen, 12 and under
- Junior, 13–16
- Senior, 17-24
- Adult, 25 and over

You may enter any district contest. Dates, location and directors as follows:

**District I, Oct. 16**

- Scotshill:
  - Contact: Rosalene Tollman, (308) 665-2415 or Donis Rush, (308) 635-0156

**District II, Oct. 9**

- Holdrege:
  - Contact: Sandy Erickson, (308) 263-4721 or Terri Uden, (308) 784-2455

- Lincoln:
  - Contact: Pam Schlickbernd, 372-3658 or Lara Grundman, 264-4825

For further information, contact the Nebraska State Director, Alice Doane, 13705 Bluff Road, Waverly, NE 68462, (402) 786-3553.

Lancaster County Extension has information and entry forms.

###NEBLINE FEEDBACK

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**NEBLINE**

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**USE OF COMMERCIAL AND TRADE NAMES**

Use of commercial and trade names does not imply approval or constitute endorsement by the University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension in Lancaster County.
More in '04 at the Lancaster County Fair!

Thousands of Lancaster County residents “Discovered More in ‘04” at the Lancaster County Fair! Ron Snover, president of the Lancaster County Agricultural Society, estimates total attendance at 60,000 — up from last year’s total of 45,000. New this year was a Kids Ag Discovery Zone which featured hands-on agriculture activities for youth of all ages to see, touch and smell.

A total of 4,262 4-H exhibits were entered. 4-H staff member Tracy Kuhn stated, “I saw a lot of talent showcased in the static exhibits this year. Our county is sending very impressive exhibits on to the State Fair.” She added, “The teens on the 4-H Teen Council were amazing and showed great leadership. They set up everything for the Ice Cream Social, Cookie Eating Contest and Teen Dance.”

Deanna Karmazin, 4-H staff member and Lancaster County Ag Society board member, said “I’m very proud of all the 4-H’ers and their families for their dedication and follow through on their projects. A hand goes out to all the volunteers who made it all come together.”

More than 400 youth from 19 child care groups participated in Fair Fun Day, up 33 percent from last year. In this event, child care groups are given an interactive tour of the fair. Extension staff organized Fair Fun Day and 4-H teen volunteers served as tour guides. Members of the Lancaster County Extension Board were involved in the fair. Many helped serve watermelon at the free Watermelon Feed. Kendra Penrod had the “pleasure” of participating in the Celebrity Swine Show. Complete 4-H county fair results, as well as photos, are online at lancaster.unl.edu/4h/Fair.

The relationship between animal and exhibitor was on display in every animal show, including the 4-H Dairy Show. Cathy Blythe from KFOR was celebrity judge for the 4-H Rabbit Speciality Show. Here she steps back after one of the rabbits had an accident on its 4-H owner.

Lancaster County 4-H and Waverly FFA members put on farm safety demonstrations and a puppet show during the Kids Ag Discovery Zone Kick Off.

4-H members modeled their sewing skills on clothing ranging from costumes to elegant dresses at the 4-H Style Revue.

This young 4-H’er explained that baking soda and vinegar “don’t get along” as she created a volcano during Clover Kids Show and Tell.

The Lancaster County Agricultural Society board members Ron Snover (front left) and Roger Powell (front right), along with members of the VFW Post #131 Color Guard. Snover and Powell are 4-H alumni as well as veterans.

The Lancaster County Agricultural Society dedicated a 4-H and FFA Veteran’s Memorial on the first day of the Lancaster County Fair. The memorial is located near the front entrance of the Lancaster Event Center. The dedication ceremony was led by members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post #131.

The memorial features two flags poles placed in concrete which is in the shape of a “V”. A brass plaque will commemorate the local 4-H and FFA alumni who went on to serve in the armed forces of the United States.

According to Scott Nicholson, member of the Lancaster County Agricultural Society board of directors, “We just wanted to honor 4-H and FFA kids who went on into the service, because 4-H and FFA taught them a lot and that learning continued on in the military.”

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