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Successful Shade Gardening

Key is Proper Plant Choice, Care

Don Jansen
Extension Educator

An abundance of large trees and shady areas in your yard can be a challenge to the creative gardener, rather than an obstacle to good gardening. Shady places that provide cool, refreshing areas of beauty during summer’s heat also can contribute color and interest to the landscape throughout the growing season.

Gardening in the shade doesn’t have to be frustrating. Some plants tolerate relatively low light, and a few actually thrive in it. You can choose from an array of flowering annuals, perennials, bulbs and woodland plants for do well in problem areas. In light shade, you might even be able to grow a few herbs or leafy vegetables. The trick is to know which plants are most likely to succeed and then to give them the kind of care that will improve their chances. You also have to be willing to experiment a bit to find which plants grow best on your property.

First, assess how much light the plants will actually receive. Densely shaded areas beneath large trees or under the overhang of a building, present more problems than do situations of partial or light shade. Although partially or lightly-shaded areas receive direct sunlight for only a small portion of the day, light intensity is still quite bright. There are numerous plant choices you can make in these locations.

Light is not the only major concern when gardening in shady areas. Frequently, inadequate moisture can be a problem. The thick canopy of a large tree or the overhang of a house, will act as an umbrella, deflecting rainfall away from the ground directly beneath it. Worse yet, trees and shrubs will compete with smaller plants for a drop of moisture that reaches the ground. It is vital that competition of tree and shrub roots be weak. In most cases, a spring application of a balanced fertilizer, followed by one or two applications as the season progresses, will help your shade plants survive the competition of tree and shrub roots. If root competition is a serious problem, planting in containers above ground is a viable alternative. Containers should be replenished each spring with annuals, since bulbs or perennials cannot be expected to survive winter’s cold.

With few exceptions shade-tolerant plants will do best in well-drained, relatively fertile soil. Both sandy soils and heavy, clay like soils will benefit from the incorporation of organic matter such as peat moss, compost, or well-rotted manure. Such materials are particularly helpful in areas of hard, compacted soils.

Annuals

Which plants will be the showiest in a shady situation? If you’re looking for a continuous display of color from late spring till frost, annuals will work well except in dense shade. Flowering annuals do not bloom well in heavy shade; they all blossom more profusely as light is increased. Some annuals, however, do better in light shade than in full sun, which may fade colors or cause wilting. The moment there is any moisture stress. Imperatons are becoming an increasingly popular annuals, since they are available from Nebraska Forest Service District Foresters, Natural Resource Conservation

Perennials

Many perennials bloom reliably in light shade, but which will blossom in fairly dense shade. Most of these are woodland plants that usually bloom very early in the growing season, so there are some exceptions. The fringed bleeding heart blooms all season, and black snakeroot blossoms mid to late-summer. Most woodland flowers are muted and delicate rather than bold and brightly colored.

Unlike the annuals, which tend to bloom throughout the see SHADE on page 5
Why So Many Weeds?

Growers often ask why they have so many weeds. The answer is quite simple, we plant them!

Weed seeds can blow in, wash in with surface water, or be brought in with the application of soils and organic matter, like manure. Birds and other wildlife also distribute weed seeds. However, the majority of weeds come from seed unsuspectingly planted by the gardener. In other words, weeds we allow to go to seed.

For example, a common pigweed plant, with its long reddish taproot, produces one hundred and seventeen thousand seeds per plant. That means just nine pigweed plants allowed to go to seed disseminate over one million seeds! And these seeds are viable for forty years. Purslane, with its pinkish, fleshy stems and leaves, produces fifty-two thousand seeds per plant. Purslane seeds are viable for twenty-five years. And how about the common dandelion? It typically produces only fifteen thousand seeds per plant. So do not let weeds go to seed. A gardener who does not let seeds go to seed will have significantly fewer weeds each year.

Each time the garden is cultivated or tilled, a new crop of weed seeds are brought to the surface and are ready to germinate. To suppress weed germination, avoid unnecessary tilling. Application of a surface mulch, like grass clippings, also helps suppress weed seed germination. (MIF)

Flowers That Tower

Tall perennial plants in the garden produce flower beds can bring a sense of drama to your yard. Here are a few of these giants.

Boltinia ‘Boltoniora’ — This plant has showy white, aster-like flowers in late summer. It will get 5 to 7 feet tall and may need staking. Thrives in any garden soil and spreads rapidly in moist conditions. Prefers full sun.

Common sneezeweed or False sunflower ‘Helenium autumnale’ — Showy yellow flowers in late summer. 3 to 6 feet tall. Very adaptable, but prefers moist soil and full sun.


Goatsbeard ‘Aruncus dioicus’ — An upright, spreading shrub rose. Lady Elsie May offers a vigorous, uniform growth habit and excellent disease resistance. The flower is coral pink and grows in clusters on strong 12 to 20 inch cutting stems. Each flower is approximately 3 to 4 inches wide and has 12 to 14 petals. The fragrance is slight and the foliage is dark green and glossy.

About Face is a grandiflora with a very novel “backwards” bicolor whose light color of deep golden yellow is carried on the inside of the petals with a darker bronze-orange-red backside. This ELLE.

2005 All-America Roses

The All-America Rose Selections (AARS) is a nonprofit association of rose growers and introducers dedicated to the introduction and promotion of exceptional roses. Since 1939 the AARS seal of approval has graced outstanding new rose varieties that have withstood the test of time and Mother Nature.

AARS operates a nationwide network of twenty official test gardens dedicated to evaluating roses on all of the characteristics consumers desire in a garden plant. Every AARS winning rose completes an extensive two-year trial program in these test gardens located throughout the country and representing all climate zones. New rose varieties in the AARS trials receive only as much care as would be given in the average home garden. This sophisticated evaluation process results in a new crop of AARS winning roses each year, guaranteeing that only the best make it into your garden. Visit the All-America Rose Selections Web site at www.rose.org.

Here are the winners for 2005:

Day Dream is a low-growing compact landscape shrub rose reaching just 2 feet in height. The massive clusters of fuschia blooms will flower all summer long. Each lightly scented single blossom is wide and flat, resembling a little button. Foliage is glossy, deep green and highly disease resistant. Day Dream’s diminutive size and neat round habit make it an appropriate choice for a variety of garden situations.

Lady Elsie May offers a vigorous, uniform growth habit and excellent disease resistance. The flower is coral pink and grows in clusters on strong 12 to 20 inch cutting stems. Each flower is approximately 3 to 4 inches wide and has 12 to 14 petals. The fragrance is slight and the foliage is dark green and glossy.

About Face is a grandiflora with a very novel “backwards” bicolor whose light color of deep golden yellow is carried on the inside of the petals with a darker bronze-orange-red backside. This ELLE.

Russian sage ‘Perovskia atriplicifolia’ — This sage has aromatic gray-green leaves and pale blue flowers in summer. It prefers well-drained soil and full sun. Russian sage will grow to be 3 to 5 feet. White Mugwort ‘Artemisia lactiflora’ — Creamy-white flowers appear in late summer. Attractive foliage reaches 4 to 6 feet. Cut flowers bloom on 10 to 14 inch stems and are 4 to 5 inches wide. (MIF)

About Face combines a strong spicy, citrus fragrance with a high-centered classic rose bud. This is a great tea rose that produces shell pink flowers with deep yellow undertones. The dark glossy foliage provides a nice contrast to the soft, non-fading flower, and offers above average disease tolerance to mildew and blackspot. Flowers bloom on 10 to 14 inch stems and are 4 to 5 inches wide. (MIF)

Flower beds can bring a sense of drama to your yard.
Problems of Snakes. Thirteen-lined ground squirrels are important prey for many predators, including badgers, coyotes, spiders, and many smaller organisms that contribute to the health of the soil.

How can you encourage earthworm activity? First, use a mulching mower (one that leaves the grass on the lawn) or spread the lawn clippings in a garden area to “feed your worms.” Because earthworms are less active when the soil’s dry, watering may be necessary. Since earthworms are beneficial, control measures are not required and there are no treatments registered for earthworm control. If the mounds of soil on your lawn really bother you, you can break them up with a rake. Earthworm activity in your yard is good for your lawn and garden. Earthworm activity should be encouraged. They help incorporate organic matter, improve the soil structure, improve water movement through the soil, improve plant root growth and minimize thatch build-up in lawns.

### Winging Termites or Ants? Termite Control Workshop, May 19

To the untrained eye, winged termites look a little like winged ants. To add to the confusion, termites and ants both swarm during the springtime.

Termites swarming outdoors aren’t much cause for alarm. However, swarming termites inside the house are usually a sign the home has a termite infestation that needs attention.

Come to a termite workshop with “Everything Homeowners Need to Know About Termites and Termite Control” will be held Thursday, May 19, 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. Cost for this program is $25 and includes up-to-date reference materials.

UNL, faculty, Barb Ogg, Clyde Ogg and Dennis Ferrari will discuss termite biology, behavior, prevention, inspection, treatment options and effectiveness. Buzz Vance, from the Nebraska Department of Agriculture’s Pesticide Enforcement Program will discuss how to keep and understand the termite label can help protect consumers against fraudulent practices.

### What is Mange?

Most wild animals are hosts of numerous parasites, including ticks, fleas, lice and mites, that feed on blood or animal tissues. We have had calls from concerned citizens about ragged-looking squirrels that have lost large patches of fur. This is a typical sign of mange mites. Mange is a term commonly used to describe the obvious signs of a burrowing mite infestation on an animal host. Mange mites are microscopic eight-legged arthropods, related to ticks and spiders. Each different animal species probably has some kind of burrowing mite parasite associated with it. Most mites are fairly host specific, meaning the mite only survives best on one species of animal or closely related animals (like mice and rats). Some of these mites that infect other animals can attempt to feed on humans, non-related animals and cause some discomfort. However, the discomfort should be short-lived because these mites usually cannot establish on these other hosts.

Mange mites burrow into the skin of animals, feeding on subcutaneous tissues. The site of the infestation becomes irritated, itchy and results in scratching by the host animal. Hair loss results in a very unattractive appearance.

The human “mange” mite is caused by a mite species known as Sarcoptes scabiei. It produces a medical condition commonly called “scabies,” which is usually contracted from an infested person. It is highly contagious. These mites infest body areas where skin is thin, like between fingers, the bend of the knee and elbow. Elderly and babies are often more susceptible to scabies than the general population. Intact itching accompanies scabies, and some result in secondary bacterial skin infections. A medical doctor must be consulted for proper diagnosis and treatment of scabies.

Dogs, cats and most domesticated animals also have mites associated with them. One particular group of mites, called chyleteiellid mites, parasitize small animals, specifically birds, dogs and rabbits. They can cause itchy bites on people, including pet owners, who handle these animals. A veterinarian should be consulted for a proper diagnosis and treatment of the animal.

It is sad to see wild animals looking so ragged and pathetic, but very little can be done to help them. Control of burrowing mites would require catching the animal and treatment from a veterinarian. Like other natural afflictions, mange may be nature’s way of eliminating weak individuals, thinning populations so only the healthiest survive. (BPO)
Soybean Rust is on the Horizon
Prepared to Scout, Assess and Plan for Management

Loren Geisler
Extension Plant Pathologist

Editor’s Note: Geisler has been preparing for an outbreak of Soybean Rust in the United States for a couple of years. He toured the soybean producing areas of Brazil to learn about management strategies that producers were coping with and has become one of America’s leading authorities on this new threat. The following information is taken verbatim from an article which appeared in a recent University of Nebraska Crop Watch Newsletter.

Soybean rust is a serious foliar disease causing millions of dollars of yield loss in soybean production areas around the world. In November 2004 it was first detected in the United States and since then has been identified in several southeastern states. The disease is not expected to have overwintered at all sites identified last fall. The first U.S. case of soybean rust to have overwintered was reported in Florida the week of March 1. This, if it is only the location of overwintering, will supply the needed initial inoculum for the disease to spread and develop over the U.S. soybean crop. Soybean rust, also referred to as Asian soybean rust, is caused by Phakopsora pachyrhizi and is an aggressive pathogen that has spread from the past 10 years from Asia to Zimbabwe, South Africa, Paraguay, Brazil, and now the United States. Yield losses can be severe and have ranged from 10% to 80% of a field. In the last few years, Brazilian soybean producers have been significantly affected by soybean rust. In 2002-2003 they spent $600 million for resistant cultivar adaptations and in 2003-04 it’s estimated they spent more than $1 billion. USDA estimates U.S. losses could be in the range of $640 million to $1.3 billion in the first year and $240 million to $2 billion in subsequent years, depending on the severity and extent of spread.

I want to make note of a key point: This disease is manageable. U.S. producers will adapt to the needed management and our soybean crop will continue to be strong.

Symptoms
Soybean rust symptoms start in the lower canopy and are most commonly observed on the leaves. Lesions also can develop on petioles, pods and stems. Symptom development occurs rapidly once pycnidia are formed and can result in significant levels of defoliation under favorable environmental conditions. Lesions first appear as small yellow and irregularly shaped spots. As the disease progresses, lesions enlarge to 1/16- to 1/12-inch in diameter and are tan to dark reddish brown. Within each lesion is a few to several volcano-shaped uredinia (spore-producing structures). These features can only be seen under magnification (20X recommended). As rust severity increases, plants prematurely lose their leaves and commonly deteriorate early. Lesions from soybean rust can appear similar to other foliar diseases of soybean and can be confused with brown spot and bacterial pustule. See Identifying Soybean Rust (Cooperative Extension EC05-1929) for more information. This L.C.D card is available from local Cooperative Extension offices or online at www.aphis.usda.gov/lpa/issues/ssh/ SBR_IDCard_11-04.pdf (TD)

Fueled-delivered prices increased from $0.90 per gallon in the spring of 2003 to $1.30 per gallon in the spring of 2004 to $1.65 in the spring of 2005. What effect does this have on production costs? To answer this question, one needs fuel consumption estimates for farm operations. If you routinely track fuel use for various tractor and combine operations, you probably already have the information you need. Simply multiply your reported fuel price per gallon by current price and compare.

Most folks don’t track fuel consumption by field operation and need a research-based fuel use estimate to compute the effect a rise in price will have on overall production costs. A good reference that lists fuel use estimates is the “Minnesota Farm Machinery Economic Cost Estimators” (see footnote for Web site information). Using the fuel consumption esti- mates presented in the Minnesota publication, the fuel consumption estimate per hour for power units is presented in Table 1 and the esti- mated fuel consumption per acre for field operations is presented in Table 2. Note that implements with a wide swath width require more horsepower overall but the horse- power hours per acre covered and, therefore, the fuel consumption per acre remain unchanged.

Table 1. Fuel costs per hour.1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field Operation</th>
<th>2003 Cost/ hr ($/GAL)</th>
<th>2004 Cost/ hr ($/GAL)</th>
<th>2005 Cost/ hr ($/GAL)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tillage</td>
<td>3.25</td>
<td>3.75</td>
<td>4.15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Harvester</td>
<td>1.55</td>
<td>1.95</td>
<td>2.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planting</td>
<td>1.05</td>
<td>1.25</td>
<td>1.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crop Maintenance</td>
<td>0.50</td>
<td>0.55</td>
<td>0.65</td>
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<tr>
<td>Equipment</td>
<td>0.50</td>
<td>0.55</td>
<td>0.65</td>
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Table 2. Fuel costs per acre for field operations.1

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Note: Data for Table 1 and 2 taken from “Minnesota Farm Machinery Economic Cost Estimators” (P05-0006). Soybean rust information is available from the University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension in Lancaster County. Soybean rust information is available from the University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension in Lancaster County. Soybean rust symptoms start in the lower canopy and are most commonly observed on the leaves. Lesions also can develop on petioles, pods and stems. Symptom development occurs rapidly once pycnidia are formed and can result in significant levels of defoliation under favorable environmental conditions. Lesions first appear as small yellow and irregularly shaped spots. As the disease progresses, lesions enlarge to 1/16- to 1/12-inch in diameter and are tan to dark reddish brown. Within each lesion is a few to several volcano-shaped uredinia (spore-producing structures). These features can only be seen under magnification (20X recommended). As rust severity increases, plants prematurely lose their leaves and commonly deteriorate early. Lesions from soybean rust can appear similar to other foliar diseases of soybean and can be confused with brown spot and bacterial pustule. See Identifying Soybean Rust (Cooperative Extension EC05-1929) for more information. This L.C.D card is available from local Cooperative Extension offices or online at www.aphis.usda.gov/lpa/issues/ssh/ SBR_IDCard_11-04.pdf (TD)

Soybean Rust Information on Lancaster Extension Web Site
The University of Nebraska Coopera- tive Extension in Lancaster County Web site has extensive information about soybean rust. Go to lancer.nebraska.edu/ag and click on the Crop rust button and then on Crop Diseases. There are links to research-based information on identification, treatment and control, newsletter articles and Cooperative Extension publications. As the season progresses, this site will be continuously updated with the latest information.
Buying High-Quality Trees

When you buy a high-quality tree, plant it correctly, and treat it properly, you and your family will benefit greatly in many ways for many years. When you buy a low-quality tree, you and your tree will have many costly problems even if you take great care in planting and maintaining it.

What Determines Tree Quality?

A High-Quality Tree Has:

- An adequate-sized root ball. If possible, check to ensure there are enough sound roots to support healthy growth.
- A trunk with mechanical wounds and wounds from incorrect pruning.
- A trunk in good form—well-spaced, firmly-attached branches.

A Low-Quality Tree Has:

- Crushed or circling roots in a small root ball or small container.
- A trunk with wounds from mechanical impacts or incorrect pruning.
- A trunk that is askew and may have multiple stems squeeze against each other or where branches squeeze against the trunk.

Any of these problems alone or in combination with the others will greatly reduce the tree’s chances for a long, attractive, healthy and productive life.

When buying a tree, inspect it carefully to make certain it does not have problems with roots, injuries or form. (Remember “R.I.F.” It will help you remember Roots, Injuries and Form.) Here are some details on potential problems and some other considerations that you should be aware of when buying a tree.

Root Problems

Roots on trees for sale are in three conditions:

1. Bare roots, no soil; usually on small trees.
2. Roots in soil, but in place by burlap or some other fabric. The root ball may be in a wire basket.
3. Roots and soil in a container.

BARE ROOT STOCK — Bare roots should not be crushed or torn. The ends of the roots should be clean cut. If a few roots are crushed, re-cut them to remove the injured portions. Use sharp tools. Make straight cuts. Do not paint the ends. The cuts should be made immediately before planting and watering.

ROOT BALLED STOCK — You should be able to see the basal trunk flare. The flare is the spreading trunk base that connects with the roots. Roots shall be flat on top. Roots in soil, in round bags, often have many major woody roots cut or torn during the digging process.

The diameter of the root ball should be at least ten to twelve times the diameter of the trunk as measured 6 inches above the trunk flare.

Roots should not be crushed or torn. When placing the root ball in the planting site, cut the cords and carefully pull away the burlap or other fabric. Do not tuck the bottom of any roots in the soil to avoid crowding. Any roots that are long and thin may come from the soil. If many roots are obviously crushed or torn, do not use these trees. Roots should be flat on top. Place the bare root ball into the planting site. Cut away at the top two inches without disturbing the root ball. Inspect exposed roots for injuries. If many roots are injured, the tree may be in serious growth problems.

CONTAINER STOCK — Roots should not twist or circle in the container. Remove the root ball from the container. Inspect the exposed larger roots carefully to see if they are torn or injured when removing the container. Circling roots often girdle and kill other roots. If only a few roots are circling, cut them away with a sharp tool.

Trunk flare should be obvious. Be on alert for trees planted too deeply in containers or trees “buried” in fabric bags. As with root ball stock, you should be able to see the basal trunk flare with container grown plants.

Injuries

Beware of injuries beneath trunk flares. Trunk wraps may hide wounds, incorrect pruning cuts and insect injuries. Never buy a tree without thoroughly checking the trunk. If the tree is wrapped, remove the wrap and inspect the trunk for wounds, incorrect pruning cuts and insect injuries. Wrap can be used to protect the trunk during transit but should be removed after planting.

Incorrect pruning cuts are major problems. Incorrect pruning cuts that remove or injure the swollen collar at the base of branches can start many serious tree problems, cankers, decay and cracks. Injure the swollen collar at the base of branches and the tree will have severe growth problems. If only a few roots are injured, cut away only injured portions. Use a sharp tool. Use care not to soil ball about the roots. The roots must be flat on top. Place the basket into the planting site. Cut away at the top two inches without disturbing the root ball. Inspect exposed roots for injuries. If many roots are injured, the tree may be in serious growth problems.

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NEP Partners with LPS to Teach Nutrition in Teen Parenting Classes

Hilary Catron Extension Assistant

This winter, Cooperative Extension's Nutrition Education Program (NEP) began a new venture with the Nebraska High School Baseball team, Lincoln High School, to teach nutrition as part of their parenting classes. The UNL Cooperative Extension Service has worked with the Nebraska High School Baseball team for several years to bring nutrition information to their students.

The Guidelines also recommend preparing foods and beverages with little added sugars. When you’re at the fork in the road regarding desserts, grab your fork or spoon — and try some of these recipe ideas.

Cocoa-Berry Yogurt Tarts

(Makes 6 servings • Prep time: 10 minutes)

1-1/2 cups low-fat vanilla yogurt
1-1/2 cups reduced-fat ricotta cheese
3 tablespoons sugar
2 tablespoons unsweetened cocoa powder
6 graham cracker tart shells
1/4 cup strawberries, sliced (raspberries or blueberries also can be used)

DIRECTIONS: Mix yogurt, ricotta, sugar and cocoa powder thoroughly with whisk until creamy. Spoon 1/6 mixture into each tart shell and top with sliced strawberries.

ALICE’S TIP: This recipe also tastes delicious topped with cream and topped with berries. Dress it up for an elegant meal by serving it in a fancy glass!

Fruit Slush

(Makes 4 servings)

3 cups frozen fruit (such as frozen strawberries, blueberries, raspberries or melon)
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1 cup fat-free milk or nonfat plain yogurt

Sweetener as needed: about 1 to 3 tablespoons sugar or the equivalent in artificial sweetener

DIRECTIONS: Blend first three ingredients until smooth.

Sweeter to taste

ALICE’S TIPS:

• This is a great recipe for using odds and ends of frozen fruit. The slush in the picture includes raspberries, strawberries and blueberries.

• It may be difficult to blend very large frozen strawberries in some blenders. You may be more successful if you thaw those strawberries slightly until you can chop them into smaller pieces.

• This slush is best if served immediately. It makes a great breakfast and can be quickly assembled just before serving.

Enjoy Beef Nutrition during May, National Beef Month

As the weather starts warming up, we start thinking of cooler, lighter foods. Consider a cooling main dish salad topped with lean strips of protein- and nutrient-rich beef.

“Congratulations!”

“$20,000 Scholarship for Largest Weight Loss”

The Nebraska Beef Council and the USDA’s Interactive Healthy Eating Index.

For more information on this program, contact the Nebraska Beef Council or visit their website at www.nebeef.org.

Mexican Beef Salad

(Serves 4)

1 pound lean ground beef (95% lean)
1 small onion, chopped
2 teaspoons chili powder
1/2 teaspoon ground cumin
1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
5 cups thinly sliced romaine lettuce
1-1/2 cups (about 8 ounces) grape tomatoes or cherry tomatoes, halved
2 tablespoons snipped fresh cilantro
1/3 cup shredded fat-free or low-fat Cheddar cheese

DIRECTIONS: In a large nonstick skillet, brown the beef and onion over medium heat for 8 to 10 minutes, or until the beef is not pink. Pour off and discard the drippings. Drain the onions over medium heat for 8 to 10 minutes, or until the beef is not pink. Pour off and discard the drippings.

Sprinkle with the chili powder, cumin and garlic powder. Cook for 2 to 3 minutes. Meanwhile, prepare the dressing (recipe follows).

To serve, place the romaine lettuce on a large platter. Top the romaine lettuce with the tomatoes, beans, green chiles, and beef mixture, in that order. Sprinkle with the chili and cilantro. Serve with the dressing.

Spicy Ranch Dressing

1 cup fat-free or light ranch dressing
3/4 teaspoon garlic powder
1/8 teaspoon red hot-pepper sauce

In a small bowl, whisk together the dressing ingredients.

Nutrients per serving: Calories 320; Total Fat 7.9 g; Saturated Fat 3.3 g; Polyunsaturated Fat 4.2 g; Monounsaturated Fat 3.1 g; Carbohydrate 24 g; Fiber 6.1 g; Cholesterol 60 mg; Protein 30 g; Sodium 456 mg; Niacin 7.1 mg; Vitamin B6 0.6 mg; Vitamin B12 2.2 mcg; Calcium 19 mg; Zinc 6.8 mg; Iron 4.8 mg.
**Surrounded by Pest Habitat, Acreages Can Be Plagued by Pest Problems**

Barb Ogg  
Extension Educator

The list of pests plaguing acreage owners is long. Millipedes, spiders, crickets, ladybeetles, flies and mice invading homes. Ticks and chiggers biting people so they can’t enjoy the outdoors. Rabbits, grasshoppers, deer, and voles eating newly planted vegetation. And, snakes basking in the sun, just doing what snakes do.

**Why Are Pest Problems Greater for Acreage Owners?**

The quick answer is there’s more “habitat” in rural settings compared with city living. Habitat is defined as the physical location and conditions where a community of organisms live. A single habitat can support many species. Let’s look at this more closely. If you drive through a city neighborhood, you see rows of houses on relatively small patches of land (i.e., lots), each house surrounded by a moot of grass, typically bluegrass or fescue, nicely mowed to conform with city codes. Lawns are separated by driveways, sidewalks, and streets. Urban areas are made up of isolated patches of habitat. Ecologists call this patchiness, habitat fragmentation, which can support relatively small populations of animals.

In contrast, in rural areas, you see a house on a much larger patch of land (3-20 acres), next to even larger patches of land (fields). This habitat is not nearly as fragmented as an urban setting. The greater amounts of vegetation and land creates more habitat for more pest animals, whether they be small arthropods (insects, ticks and spiders) or vertebrates (mice, deer, rabbits). When a new home is built on an acreage, it is placed in the midst of an area where these animals are thriving. Normal movement of animals will include movement toward the house, and, if there are small entry points, some will probably get into the house. Over time, if a suitable lawn is established, the problem will abate somewhat, but there will still be more habitat for animals than in the city — simply because of the expanse of fields surrounding the acreage. See PESTS on next page.
Wire Fences for Livestock

Tom Domn
Extension Educator

The basics of building a wire fence for livestock are:
1) Choose brush and trees that would interfere with building the fence.
2) Establish corner post/brace assembly at the corners of the property where gates are wanted.

Surveyors use a measure of distance called a rod. A rod is 16.5 feet. Barbed wire comes in 80 rod (quarter mile) spools. One should attempt to stretch more than 80 rods of wire in one pull. On longer runs, a puller assembly should be installed so each half of the fence can be stretched separately.

Use a single brace post assembly (shown) when fence length is less than 300 feet. Use a double span brace post assembly for fences more than 300 feet.

Posts should be made of wood or heavy or they can be made of steel. Corner posts, it is easier if one works from corner to use as a guide for installing line posts. Line posts can be wooden corners to use as a guide for installing ones required easy if one works from the top down, stretching and fastening one wire at a time. Staples are used to hold wire to wooden posts. Always leave at least 1 1/2 inch staples and leave the staple a little bit loose so you don’t pinch the wire. Wire fence fasteners are made for each specific type of steel post. These come inside the fence post and are loose for easier attachment and upper stories. Seal it to help reduce cracks and millipede holes in the home. Make sure there aren’t rock piles or junk on the property that will provide harborage for rabbits, mice, snakes.

Wood piles left for many seasons is easy pickings for predators, including raccoons. If you have young trees and shrubs in a backyard, consider low fences around clusters of plants, individual trees, shrubs, flower bulbs, garden areas to prevent damage. Some small mobile herbivores, like grasshoppers, will be difficult to deal with. If you have animals, regularly clean up waste/food that attract flies, rodents, and birds.

Remember that mosquitoes breed in water, including barrels, water troughs, a pond or lagoon. Ponds

Wood and plastic fences may cost $4 to $10 per running foot. Wire fences can be built for less than $1 per foot. For some situations, a compromise may be a wire fence with a single rail at the top or flexible vinyl fence at $3 to $5 per foot.

One should not attempt to build the fence without using a single brace post, as the fence may sag.

PESTs continued from preceding page

Forest pests are a more of a problem on acreages is many pests thrive in rural settings. Those pests may be associated with livestock and wild animals (flies and ticks) or specific conditions found abundantly in rural settings such as barns, sheds, piles, millpeds, millipedes, crickets, ladybeetles, chiggers, mice, rabbits and deer have specific requirements often found in greater abundance in rural areas. Rural homeowners may also have a pond or water feature which increase habitat for some pests.

A third reason is that some pests, like face and cluster flies, multicolored Asian ladybeetles and mice seek overwintering shelter and a home with hiding places to them to stay through our colder winters. Because of the relative abundance of these pests in rural areas and relatively few hiding places, rural homes are often inundated by these pests in the fall. And finally, many acreage owners are unprepared for predatory animals, like coyotes, hawks and owls that are attracted to acreages where they kill livestock.

Minimizing Pests

1. Decrease habitat by creating more uniformity surrounding the home. Establishing and maintaining a well-kept lawn will reduce the number of insects. Decrease habitat further by creating a vegetation free zone of about 18” adjacent to the foundation.

2. Because lights attract night flying insects that serve as food for spiders, choose carefully what type of exterior lighting you install. Use yellow or sodium vapor lights near the home. Lighting you install. Use yellow or sodium vapor lights near the home. Use a single brace post assembly when fence length is less than 300 feet. Use a double span brace post assembly for fences more than 300 feet.

3. Spend as much time as needed to make assemblies at the corners of the property. Those pests may be associated with livestock or wild animals (flies and ticks) or specific conditions found in certain situations, a compromise may be a wire fence with a single rail at the top or flexible vinyl fence at $3 to $5 per foot.

Fencing for Appearance

Shawn Shoos
Iowa State University Extension Ag Engineering Specialist

Fences serve many purposes in the landscape. They can be built to contain or exclude animals, to mark property boundaries, to provide privacy or to add beauty to the property. When the primary purpose is appearance, board or rail fences are chosen.

For small enclosures such as yards, picket fences or vertical board fences provide privacy and wind protection. For larger enclosures such as pastures or entire properties, horizontal board or rail fences are more practical and economical.

The common horizontal wooden fence uses three or four boards (1” x 6” lumber) nailed or screwed to wooden posts every 8 to 10 feet. This fence adds striking contrast and definition, especially when painted white. The boards may be parallel horizontal or arranged in decorative “crossbuck” patterns. Rail fences consist of horizontal rails that generally have their ends chiseled down and inserted into holes in the posts. The rails may be

wood. Flexible vinyl fencing uses high- tensile wires ensaced in a flexible PVC jacket that looks like a thin board. The resulting fence looks like a board fence at a lower cost.

If wire fence looks great when they are new and straight, but show the slightest imperfections. Be prepared to straighten leaning posts or replace those sections of the fence that will require frequent touch-up.

Fencing for Appearance

Eastern cottontail rabbits are common in Lancaster County. These rabbits can cause damage any time of year. For the gardener, the most permanent solution is to build a rabbit-proof fence around your garden. A one-inch mesh is suitable. You might also try a two-foot high fence made of poultry netting and 3/8-inch fence rods spaced at three feet apart. For about $50 (2003 prices), you can protect a 25 x 50 foot garden space.

For the owner of a perennial flower bed, the best approach may be to use motion-activated water sprays or a vigilant dog during the day to distract rabbits. You might also use a low, aesthetic plastic-mesh fence around flowers to protect the emerging blossoms. Keeping the soil wet may also repel rabbits from gardens or flower beds.

If you have young trees and shrubs in a backyard, consider low fences around clusters of plants, individual trees, shrubs, flower bulbs, garden areas to prevent damage. Some small mobile herbivores, like grasshoppers, will be difficult to deal with. If you have animals, regularly clean up waste/food that attract flies, rodents, and birds.

Remember that mosquitoes breed in water, including barrels, water troughs, a pond or lagoon. Ponds

provide water for deer and attract Canada geese. Small garden ponds attract mosquitoes.

If you have confined pets or livestock, be aware that they may be easy pickings for predators, including coyotes, hawks and owls, raccoons, opossums and others. Livestock will also attract rats, which may be very difficult to eliminate once established.

By Soni Cochran, Extension Associate
Hardy Plants for Acreage Landscapes

Are you trying to raise plants on your acreage and not having much luck? You are not alone. Your landscape plants have a lot of obstacles against them. Drought, rabbits, deer, the list goes on and on. Here is a list of plants drought tolerant once they are established and less likely to be eaten by our wildlife friends. (MJF)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMMON NAME</th>
<th>SCIENTIFIC NAME</th>
<th>PLANT TYPE</th>
<th>FLOWER COLOR</th>
<th>BLOOM TIME</th>
<th>HEIGHT</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barberry, Japanese</td>
<td>Berberis thunbergii</td>
<td>Shrub</td>
<td>Yellow</td>
<td>May</td>
<td>4–6'</td>
<td>Sun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beebealm</td>
<td>Monarda fistulosa</td>
<td>Perennial</td>
<td>Lavender</td>
<td>June–Aug</td>
<td>24'</td>
<td>Sun to part shade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black-eyed Susan</td>
<td>Rudbeckia fulgida</td>
<td>Biennial or short lived perennial</td>
<td>Yellow, brown center</td>
<td>July–Aug</td>
<td>24'</td>
<td>Sun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blanket Flower</td>
<td>Gaillardia aristata</td>
<td>Perennial</td>
<td>Rod with yellow</td>
<td>June–Aug</td>
<td>18'</td>
<td>Sun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boltonia</td>
<td>Boltonia asteroides</td>
<td>Perennial</td>
<td>White</td>
<td>Aug–Oct</td>
<td>48'</td>
<td>Sun to part shade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butterfly Milkweed</td>
<td>Asclepias tuberosa</td>
<td>Perennial</td>
<td>Orange</td>
<td>July</td>
<td>24'</td>
<td>Sun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coneflower, Purple</td>
<td>Echinacea purpurea</td>
<td>Perennial</td>
<td>Purple</td>
<td>July–Aug</td>
<td>36'</td>
<td>Sun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coreopsis</td>
<td>Coreopsis lanceolata</td>
<td>Perennial</td>
<td>Yellow</td>
<td>June–Aug</td>
<td>24'</td>
<td>Sun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cotoneaster, Spreading</td>
<td>Cotoneaster divaricatus</td>
<td>Shrub</td>
<td>Rose</td>
<td>May</td>
<td>5–6'</td>
<td>Sun to part shade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dogwood, Redosier</td>
<td>Cornus sericea</td>
<td>Shrub</td>
<td>White</td>
<td>May</td>
<td>8–10'</td>
<td>Sun to part shade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gayfeather, Rough</td>
<td>Liatris aspera</td>
<td>Perennial</td>
<td>Deep purple</td>
<td>Aug–Sept</td>
<td>36'</td>
<td>Sun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gayfeather</td>
<td>Liatris spicata</td>
<td>Perennial</td>
<td>Purple</td>
<td>Aug–Sept</td>
<td>18–24'</td>
<td>Sun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honeylocust</td>
<td>Gleditsia triacanthos</td>
<td>Tree</td>
<td>Greenish yellow</td>
<td>May</td>
<td>40–50'</td>
<td>Sun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lilac, Common</td>
<td>Syringa vulgaris</td>
<td>Shrub</td>
<td>White, Pink, Purple</td>
<td>May</td>
<td>8–15'</td>
<td>Sun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potentilla</td>
<td>Potentilla fruticosa</td>
<td>Shrub</td>
<td>Yellow</td>
<td>June–Oct</td>
<td>2–4'</td>
<td>Sun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sedum, Tall</td>
<td>Sedum telephium</td>
<td>Perennial</td>
<td>Rose to salmon</td>
<td>Aug–Oct</td>
<td>18'</td>
<td>Sun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spirea, Bridal Wreath</td>
<td>Spiraea prunifolia</td>
<td>Shrub</td>
<td>White</td>
<td>May</td>
<td>6–10'</td>
<td>Sun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spirea, Colorado Blue</td>
<td>Picea pungens</td>
<td>Tree</td>
<td>Gray</td>
<td>July–Aug</td>
<td>24–36'</td>
<td>Sun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sumac, Staghorn</td>
<td>Rhus typhina</td>
<td>Shrub</td>
<td>Greenish yellow</td>
<td>July–Aug</td>
<td>15–20'</td>
<td>Sun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wormwood</td>
<td>Artemisia absinthium</td>
<td>Perennial</td>
<td>Gray</td>
<td>July–Aug</td>
<td>24–36'</td>
<td>Sun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yuca</td>
<td>Yuca flamentosa</td>
<td>Perennial</td>
<td>Creamy white</td>
<td>June–Aug</td>
<td>36'</td>
<td>Sun</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Staying Connected in the Country

For people who live in the country, options for staying connected in a digital age may be limited and/or more expensive than if you lived somewhere with a denser population.

**INTERNET**—Dial-up connections are readily available, but finding an Internet Service Provider (ISP) with a local number may be more of a challenge. Distance may also play a factor in the quality of connection you may get once you set up your account.

Broadband options are usually not as varied as cable. One service may not extend past city limits. A Digital Subscriber Line (DSL) from the phone company is limited by the number of ‘wire miles’. A satellite is located from the central office that serves your phone. Point-to-point wireless may be available. This type of connection works much like a broadcast television station, but the communication is two-way. An external, directional antenna is required. Connections via satellite are literally available anywhere, but are two to three times more expensive than wired broadband services.

For more information, look the yellow pages of your phone book under Internet — Access Providers or contact your local cable, satellite or phone company.

**CELL PHONE**—While signing up for cell phone service may be as easy as in the city, the quality of service may not be as homogeneous. Generally, cell tower concentrations mimic population densities, providing service in rural areas that is sometimes described as ‘hill-top cellular.’

**ELECTRICAL RELIABILITY**—Electrical service to power your equipment may not be as reliable in the country. A range of devices that can prevent digital disaster start with an Uninterrupted Power Supply (UPS) and end with a portable electric generator. A UPS is a battery back-up you can purchase separately to power your computer or other devices for a short time if the power goes out. Another option would be to use a laptop, most of which have a built-in battery.

—By Jim Wies, Extension Assistant

Septic Tanks Must Be Pumped By Certified Professionals

Sharon Skpton
Extension Water Quality Educator

It is illegal for anyone to pump septic tanks, including homeowners pumping their own tank, unless they are certified by the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ). Septage that is improperly handled and applied can be a public health hazard due to the pathogens it contains, and can be harmful to the environment if pathogens, organic matter or nutrients enter lakes, streams or groundwater. There are also Federal regulations and record keeping requirements for the proper disposal, including land application, of septage.

The Private On-site Wastewater Treatment System Contractors Certifiers Certification and System Registration Act requires anyone who works on a septic system to apply to NDEQ to become certified to perform the work. The requirement for certification includes pre-installation tasks such as doing a site evaluation, a soil evaluation, or a percolation test. It also covers all aspects of working on a system including designing, installing, inspecting, repairing, or altering. And, it includes pumping and disposal of the septage.

If a homeowner wants to pump a tank, including his or her own, he or she must be certified. Individuals pumping a tank without proper certification would be in violation of NDEQ regulations and subject to enforcement action including potential fines.

Hiring a certified professional to pump a septic tank is the best option available for most homeowners. NDEQ has posted a list of certified professionals on their Web site at www.deq.state.ne.us. For more information, contact NDEQ at 471-2186.
Acreages Can Offer 4-H Families “Room to Grow”

Emily Henshaw raises goats and poultry on an acreage south of Lincoln. She also helps with the family’s large garden and fruit trees.

The University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension 4-H Youth Development program offers more than 600 project areas. Youth can choose which, and how many projects, they participate in. Some projects take more resources than others.

Acreages offer 4-H families a range of resources. Land is the primary one, providing space to raise animals or garden and for other needs. In Lancaster County, acreages provide: and baking within driving distance of city opportunities.

Here is a look at two Lancaster County 4-H families living on acreages.

Henshaw Family — South of Lincoln

Emily’s three older siblings, Carrie, James and Erin. The children were in 4-H and participated in projects such as rock collection.

When the family moved to the acreage in 1986, they found expanded opportunities for 4-H projects. Though they had a garden in Lincoln, the acreage has room to raise animals. There is room to raise animals. Even rocke Velley seemed easier, because instead of having to go to a park to do launches, it was easier for them to come to various activities. They joined 4-H Teen Council (both are officers) and they are officers of Waverly FFA. Whitney is currently the 4-H Council secretary and is involved in the 4-H Citizenship Development program.

Every morning, Whitney Davis gets up at 5 a.m. to feed her show cattle. Washington Focus group.

Jim and Bonnie Henshaw lived in Lincoln with Emily’s three older siblings, Carrie, James and Erin. The children were in 4-H and participated in projects such as rock collection.

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Three Strategies to Help Manage Anger

All of us get angry. It is a normal and healthy human emotion. Anger tells us something is wrong and we need to fix it. Anger gives us energy and motivation to right a wrong, solve a problem and find a solution. Anger can also be a destructive force that hurts relationships, robs health and shatters peace of mind. When anger is habitual and uncontrolled, it can destroy the love in our homes or the positive atmosphere at work.

While we may have legitimate reasons for feeling angry, how we handle this strong emotion will determine whether we have a positive or negative outcome. Learning to handle anger in positive ways is a life long challenge for most of us. These 5 gift- strategies are key in managing anger positively:

- Recognize early warning signs of anger.
- Learn to calm yourself down.
- Think and solve the problem.
- Calm Down

It’s time to slow down and get calm when you recognize your first early warning sign. It’s too late if you have already climbed to the top of the anger ladder. Take three deep breaths. This will help your body relax. Your mother was right, counting to ten really helps. Sometimes you must count to 20. Avoid expressing your anger aloud, this will usually make you angrier. Instead say things to yourself like:

- Calm down and think!
- I’m not going to say or do anything until I can think straight.
- I will deal with this when I am calm.
- I will use this energy to fix things.
- Will this matter next year?

These are examples of de-escalating thoughts that can reduce anger. Escalating thoughts can make us angrier. Most of us recognize them. They include thoughts like: “Oh, the boss is a jerk. He would never be kind to me!” or “He never… or “He always…” or “Stupid so and so.” Most of us have favorite escalating thoughts. Sometimes, we even say them aloud. This is bound to escalate an argument and now two people teeter on top of the anger ladder. If you can keep quiet, you won’t say something hurtful you will later regret.

- One person makes you angry. It’s not really the boss, the wife, the husband, the kids. It’s control of how we handle our anger, and no one else can do it for us. Accept that you have to calm down and look for solutions.

Solve the Problem

When we get angry, our bodies prepare us to either fight or flight. Other people calm down by listening to soothing music, petting a cat or drinking tea. What calms you down?

Prevention is the most important anger management tool. It is easier to not allow anger to get out of control, than to pull it back once it is unleashed and doing damage. What calms you down? Is comfort by installing an automatic setback or programmable thermostat.

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Quality Assurance Training, May 4
Quality Assurance (QA) certification is required for all 4-H or FFA youth wanting to exhibit market livestock. There will be a QA training on Wednesday, May 4 at 6 p.m. at Waverly High School. Exhibitors who have not yet been certified need to call Deanna at 441-7180 to get certified.

Sheep Tagging Days, Week of May 16
4-H members who will be exhibiting sheep at this year’s county fair need to have their animals tagged by June 15. Deanna Karmazin will be visiting farms the week of May 16. Contact her at 441-7180 to set up a tagging time. All lambs which might go on to the Ak-Sar-Ben Youth Livestock Exposition need be DNA tested — cost is $5 per head.

CWF Reorganization Meeting, May 19
Lancaster County 4-H Citizenship Washington Focus (CWF) is now taking applications for the June 2008 trip to Washington D.C. One you will be the age of 15-18 as of June 1, 2008 and are interested in joining in a adventure of a lifetime, please call Deanna Karmazin at 441-7180. A reorganization meeting will be held Thursday, May 1 at 7 p.m. held at the Lancaster Extension Education Center.

Pre-Fair Leader Training, May 24
New leaders, experienced leaders, 4-H members and participants must attend this training on Tuesday, May 24, 9:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. at the Lancaster Extension Education Center. Come and receive information on how to fill out the new entry tags, the in’s and out’s of interview judging, Life Challenge information, the presentations Contest and other valuable county fair information. Pre-register by May 20 by calling 441-7180.

Senior Life Challenge Contest May 25
A county-level Senior Life Challenge (for ages 12 and up) will be held Thursday, May 25, 7 p.m. at the Lancaster Extension Education Center. Pre-registration is not needed. Contest questions will be based on the following 4-H manuals: Financial Champions “Money Moves” Book 2, Clothing Level 1, The Sitter, Youth in Motion and Fast Foods. Books may be checked out prior to the contest for studying purposes.

The statewide FCS Life Challenge (for ages 12 and up) will be held Monday, June 27 and Tuesday, June 28 on UNL East Campus. To participate, please call Tracy at 441-7180 by May 27. Information is online at 4h.unl.edu/programs/passec.

4-H Sewing Fun Class, June 22
The Bernina shop at Hancock Fabrics will teach a Craze of Fashion class Wednesday, June 22. There will be two sessions: 1-4 p.m. and 5:30-8:30 p.m. Cost is $15 for the class and $5 for materials. Participants must be 4-H members enrolled in Clothing Level II or higher.

Learn about foundation piecing, decorative stitching, couching and decorative threads. The block you will work on could be part of a wall hanging or pillow for home environment or a Deco- rate Your Duds project. Register by June 17 by calling 464-0505. Please indicate at registration if you will bring your own machine or will use one provided by Bernina. Special arrangements could be made for a club. (TK)

Clothing Level 1 Patterns Available
The 2005 pattern selection for 4-H Clothing Level 1 has been developed. Contact Tracy at 441-7180 for pattern brands and numbers.

Seeking Style Revue Superintendents
Volunteers are needed to help facilitate the 4-H Style Revue Contest. If interested, please contact Tracy Kulm at 441-7180.

Salt Creek Wranglers Hold Pre-Districts Practice for 4-H’ers, April 24 and June 12
Because district horse shows follow a different format than “regular” horse shows, the Salt Creek Wranglers are providing a chance to practice for districts within their 4-H Silver Dollar Series. In the Sunday, April 24 show, all English Equitation and English Pleasure horses will have the chance to practice for districts within their 4-H Silver Dollar Series. In the Sunday, April 24 show, all English Equitation and English Pleasure classes will follow the district format. The show being held on Sunday, June 12, will highlight the Western Pleasure and Horsemanship classes using the district format. Registration for both shows start at 8 a.m. on the Wranglers grounds. For more information, call Tusha Dybdal at 76-2070. Showbills on these and other horse shows are online at 4h.unl.edu/news.htm.

2005 4-H Incentive Program Starts May 1
Back by popular demand! The Lancaster Horse VIPS Committee will again be sponsoring an incentive program for 4-H members enrolled in a horse project. The incentive program will run from May 1 to June 30. Participants need to log the hours spent doing horse activities during that time period. The more hours invested, the more valuable the reward.

Entry forms for 4-H Horse District competitions and State 4-H Horse Exposition are due to the extension office by Friday, May 13. No entries or changes will be excepted!

Anyone planning on going to state must also have their horse blood and level tests passed by May 13. In order to qualify for state, you must be 12 years of age before January 1 and must have passed all level two requirements.

Participating horse classes:
- 40 hours will receive a T-shirt.
- 80 hours will receive either an embroidered bomber jacket or an embroidered folding event chair.
- 160 hours will receive an embroidered hoodie or embroidered English pants.

For complete information and log sheet, go to lancaster.unl.edu/4h/news.htm or stop at the extension office.

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Cloveer
Tues., June 21–Fri., June 24
Lancaster Extension Education Center, 444 Cherry Creek Rd.
Open to 4-H & non-4-H youth ages 6–19
Fees for all workshops included in registration fee.
Youth may attend as many workshops as they wish. Youth attending workshops that overlap the lunch period should bring a sack lunch. Food and beverages are not available (unless otherwise stated in workshop description). If you have questions, contact Tracy Kuhl at 441-7180.

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION

FOR A CLOVER CIRCLE REGISTER FOR A CLOVER CIRCLE
TO REGISTER, COMPLETE THE REGISTRATION FORM (ONE PERSON PER FORM) AND RETURN WITH PAYMENT (MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO LANCaster COUNCIL). REGISTRATION IS ON A FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE BASIS. REFUNDS ARE AVAILABLE ONLY IF CLOVER CIRCLE CANCELS WORKSHOP. REFUNDS FOR WORKSHOPS CANCELED DUE TO LACK OF ENROLLMENT. REGISTRATIONS ARE HANDLED ON A “FIRST COME” BASIS AND WILL BE OPENED UP ONCE RECEIPT OF PAYMENT IS RECEIVED. FEES ARE NONREFUNDABLE UNLESS A CLASS IS FILLED TO CAPACITY OR CANCELED. MAY COPY FORM IF NEEDED.

CLOVER CIRCLE RED "12% DISCOUNT "

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Workshop Title</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
<th>Ages</th>
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<th>Date &amp; Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>2-Day Workshops</td>
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<tr>
<td>Money, Money, Money</td>
<td>Kucera, 4-H volunteer</td>
<td>8 and up</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>Wed., June 22; 8-10AM</td>
<td>Lancaster Extension Education Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gardening Projects: Fun in the Kitchen</td>
<td>Zimmerman, Full Image Consultant</td>
<td>10 and up</td>
<td>$5</td>
<td>Thu., June 23; 12:45-2:45PM</td>
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<td>Fun, Sun, Pinata</td>
<td>Cochran, Extension Associate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gel-quarium</td>
<td>Bartos, Extension Educator</td>
<td>11 and up</td>
<td>$5</td>
<td>Tue., June 21; 12:45-2:45PM</td>
<td>Lancaster Extension Education Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Style Revue Workshop</td>
<td>Hurdle, Extension Staff</td>
<td>4-H volunteer</td>
<td>Free</td>
<td>Thu., June 23; 10:15-12:15PM</td>
<td>Lancaster Extension Education Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sensational Summer Crafts</td>
<td>Cochran, Extension Associate</td>
<td>8 and up</td>
<td>$5</td>
<td>Fri., June 24; 8-10AM</td>
<td>Lancaster Extension Education Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fishing Fun</td>
<td>Rutt, Extension Intern</td>
<td>7 and up</td>
<td>Free</td>
<td>Sat., June 25; 8-10AM</td>
<td>Lancaster Extension Education Center</td>
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CLOVER CIRCLE REGISTRATION FORM

To register, complete the registration form (one person per form) and return with payment (make check payable to Lancaster County Extension). Registrations are on a first come, first serve basis. Registrations are nonrefundable unless a class is filled to capacity or canceled. May copy form if needed.

Name ____________________________
Age ____________________________
Parent(s) Name(s) ____________________________
City ____________________________
State ____________________________
Zip Code ____________________________
Daytime Phone ____________________________
Evening Phone ____________________________
Special Needs (allergies, etc.) ____________________________
Workshop(s) # _____ Title ____________________________________________ Fee __________

(Allow additional sheet of paper if needed)

I give permission to use my child's name/photograph in publications, news articles, advertisements or Web sites posting to 4-H. Yes ☐ No ☐
Parent/Guardian Signature ____________________________
Date ____________________________

UNL Lancaster County Extension, 444 Cherry Creek Rd., Ste. A, Lincoln, NE 68528
Analyzing Community Problems

Yelena Mitrofanova
Extension Educator

Communities have problems just like people. Problems are one aspect of our lives—they go together with being alive. Everyone being, sooner or later, experiences some kind of problems in their lives. And every community has problems, too. That is a fact of community life.

In the dictionary, the word “problem” is defined as “a difficult situation or an obstacle.” We usually define a problem fairly negatively: a problem is a hassle; it is a damage, suffering, stress, etc. This is often true, but more generally, a problem can be considered the difference between what we want or should have.

Defining Community Problems

Below are examples of problems seen in community: crime, drugs, child abuse, poverty, unemployment, housing deterioration, teenage pregnancy, neighborhood disinvestment, vandalism, etc. What you see as a problem can vary from neighborhood to neighborhood, and from group to group in the same community.

There is no official definition of a community problem, but there are some criteria, which might be used to define a problem in some particular community/neighborhood.

Criteria for defining a community problem:

- FREQUENCY — the problem occurs frequently (frequency of violent crime, improper parking in the neighborhood, etc.).
- DURATION — the problem has lasted for a while (for the last five years, 40 percent of neighborhood housing has deteriorated).
- SCOPE OR RANGE — the problem affects many people (in some community, half of the youth drop out of high school).
- SEVERITY — the problem is disturbing and possibly intense; it disrupts personal or community life (neighborhood traffic—speeding on neighborhood streets causes many injuries of local residents, etc.).
- LEGALITY — the problem deprives people of legal or moral rights (debtors with the properties owned by absentee landlords).
- PERCEPTION — the problem is perceived as a problem (if people think the neighborhood school is rotten, that is a problem, no matter what objective facts are offered).

The last criterion, perception, is perhaps the most important one. A problem does not have to be based on statistical data or any other hard evidences. If people perceive the neighborhood streets as unsafe, that is a problem; otherwise, they will not feel this way.

Why Analyze a Community Problem?

Communities, like people, try to solve their problems. How do you solve a problem if you do not know what a problem is? Community/neighborhood problems must be identified before they can be resolved and analyzing those problems helps find solutions.

It may seem obvious the first step to solving a problem is figuring out exactly what the problem is, but a surprising number of problem-solving efforts fail when groups skip right to the solution part of the process without first clearly identifying the issues and concerns of the community.

Before you start identifying community problems, remember two general principles:

- DEFINE THE PROBLEM IN TERMS OF SOLUCTIONS. If you define the problem in terms of possible solutions, you will never get to the “root” of the problem, only to the “symptoms.” For example, kids gather on a street, sometimes they drink; sometimes they get rowdy. The violence and vandalism in our neighborhood is unacceptable high. Without thinking, people immediately are jumping to the solution: “We need more police patrols on our streets.” What is the problem here? The drinking? The rowdy gathering itself? Attitudes toward vandalism? Or the possible fact teenagers have nowhere else to go and nothing else to do? Unless you are clear about the problem, it is hard to move forward.
- DEFINE THE PROBLEM AS ONE EVERYONE SHARES; AVOID ASSIGNING BLAME FOR THE PROBLEM. This is particularly important if different people (or groups) with a history of bad relations need to be working together to solve the problem. For example, teachers may be frustrated with low attendance rates, but blaming students uniquely for problems at school is sure to alienate students from helping to solve the problem.

Gathering Information

Now the group has defined the problem and agreed to work toward a solution, the next step will be gathering information on the problem. You might collect several types of information available. Most commonly, it will fall into one of the following categories:

- FACTS (15 percent of the children in our community do not get enough to eat).
- INFERENCE (a significant perception they drink; sometimes they get rowdy. The violence and vandalism in our neighborhood is unacceptable high. Without thinking, people immediately are jumping to the solution: “We need more police patrols on our streets.” What is the problem here? The drinking? The rowdy gathering itself? Attitudes toward vandalism? Or the possible fact teenagers have nowhere else to go and nothing else to do? Unless you are clear about the problem, it is hard to move forward.
- SPECULATION (many of the hungry children probably live in the poorer neighborhoods in town).
- OPINION (I think the reason why kids go hungry because their parents spend all of their money on cigarettes).

When you are gathering information, you will probably hear all four types of information and all can be important. Speculations and opinions can be especially important in finding out how people feel about this particular issue. If public opinion on your issue is based on faulty assumptions, part of your solution strategy will probably include some sort of informational campaign.

For example, teen pregnancy is a problem in your community and you find most people incorrectly believe only teenagers from dysfunctional families and poor neighborhoods get pregnant. As a part of your solution strategy, you will probably want to make it true. Where and how do you find this information? It depends on what you want to know. A very few of the possibilities may include:

- Surveys.
- Interviews.
- The Library.
- The Internet.

The Next Steps

The next step in analyzing a community problem is recognizing barriers and resources associated with addressing the problem. It is a good practice and planning to anticipate barriers and obstacles before they arise.

Also, it will help you understand and find resources you need to address this problem. After you have finished this analysis, you can start identifying the information you need to know and developing an action plan.

Source: Community Tool Box, ctk.unl.edu/.

At Nebraska, this Lincoln Student Works Smarter, not Harder

Alexis Wismer, a junior industrial and management systems engineering major at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln and a Lincoln Christian alumn, knows there isn’t one solution for every problem. In her two years here, she has learned to make work safer, and working with Dr. Susan Hallbeck in tools.” We went to the Medical and a couple of companies have great chance to be a part of the work the professors really well.”

Admissions
700-842-8800
admissions.unl.edu

For Hands on Experience, There is no place like Nebraska.
EXTENSION CALENDAR

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

APRIL
24 Nebraska State 4-H Camp Open House, near Halsey ........................................... 1-4 p.m.
24 Salt Valley Wranglers Pre-Districts Practice for 4-Hers.................................................. Wranglers Grounds ........................................... 8 a.m. registration

MAY
1 Eastern Nebraska 4-H Center Open House, near Gretna .......................... 1-4 p.m.
2 4-H Community Coffee Meeting................................................................. 7 p.m.
3 4-H MGA Meeting, Waverly High School, Ag Room ................................. 6 p.m.
5 Beef Clinic, Lancaster Event Center ............................................................ 6:30–9 p.m.
13 Lancaster Extension Board Meeting .......................................................... 8 a.m.
13 County Deadline for District/State 4-H Horse Show Entries, I.D., Level Tests

17–18 “You Get What You Measure” Workshop ................................................. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
19 “Everything Homeowners Need to Know” Workshop ................................ 6:30–9:30 p.m.
20 2008 4-H Citizen Washington Focus (CWF) Reorganizational Meeting 7 p.m.
24 4-H Pre-Feeder Leader Training ................................................................. 9:30 a.m. & 7 p.m.
25 4-H County-Level Senior FCS Life Challenge Contest .................................. 7 p.m.

Sewn Bags Needed by May 5 for Community Service Project

The Lincoln Coop Action Program (LAP) is distributing disaster materials to families in need and are asking people, including 4-H’ers, to donate their sewing skills and fabric and make bags for the materials. They would like the bags to be made of durable fabric (strong polyester, denmus) and be 12 x 15 inches with a strong drawstring cord that would also serve as a handle. They are in need of hundreds of bags by May 5. If you can help out please call Tracy at 441-7180.

Painting Workshop for Youth, July 15

The “Let’s Paint Run-A-Ways” organization is presenting a workshop for youth ages 8-18 on Friday, July 15, from 9 a.m. to noon at the Lancaster Extension Education Center, 444 Cherrycreek Road, Lincoln. Instructors use a step-by-step method of instruction. Acrylic paint, brushes and canvases are supplied. Registration is due by July 8, is limited to the first 25 youth. Cost is $15 and due upon registration (checks payable to Lancaster County Extension). For more information, or to register, call 441-7180.

Lancaster County Fair Books Now Available

The 2005 Lancaster County Fair will be held Aug. 3–7 at the Lancaster Event Center. The Fair Book includes all the information needed to enter an exhibit or participate in a contest. Anyone can enter “Open Class” categories, which include youth divisions (no entry fee for youth). The Fair Book is distributed at numerous locations throughout Lincoln and Lancaster County, including the Lancaster Event Center, Lancaster County Extension office, Lincoln City Libraries, grocery stores, shops, Wal-Marts, and village banks, post offices and co-ops. It is also online at www.lancastereventcenter.com

Beef Clinic Focuses on Nutrition & Showing, May 5

UNL Cooperative Extension in Lancaster County and Farmers Cooperative Co. will present a Beef Clinic on Thursday, May 5 from 6:30-9 p.m. at the Lancaster Event Center. This event is free and open to anyone. 4-H and FFA youth are especially encouraged to attend.

The evening starts with a meal at 6:30 p.m., followed by a nutrition workshop featuring Cheryl Leonard, the beef specialist for Purina Land O’ Lakes. The evening will conclude with a fitting and showing demonstration by former 4-H members Greg Gana, Anthony Nisley and Squire Johnson. Livestock will be provided to practice on. Preregistration is requested by May 2. To preregister or for more information, call Deanna Karmazin at 441-7180.

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Nearly 2,500 fifth graders from Lincoln Public Schools and other Lancaster County classrooms attended the 11th annual *earth wellness* festival (ewf) held mid-March. Students rotated among 25-minute sessions to discover the relationships and interdependency of land, water, air and living resources. The ewf steering committee is comprised of ten local educational agencies, including University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension in Lancaster County. Hundreds of volunteers, area educators, environmentalists and donations from local businesses make this educational experience possible.

**UNL Pesticide Education specialist Larry Schulze discusses nature's role in field pest management.**

**A stream table demonstrates the dynamic nature of rivers and streams.**

**Students learn about the factors that affect water quality as they limbo in a session presented by Lancaster County 4-H staff and volunteers.**

**At the end of the "Rep-Tales" presentation by the World Bird Sanctuary of St. Louis, students had the opportunity to touch a seven foot-long boa constructor.**

**Can You Guess It?**

Did you guess it from the April NEBLINE? The answer was the strong mouthparts of a pine sawyer beetle grub.

**Embryology is a 4-H School Enrichment project sponsored by the UNL Cooperative Extension. Classrooms receive a dozen fertile eggs and students care for the eggs during the 21-day incubation period. In Lancaster County, nearly 3,000 third graders participate in Embryology each spring. This year, the University of Nebraska Poultry Division supplied some “mystery” eggs for the project. The students learned after the hatch these were White-Crested Black Polish chicks. Messiah Lutheran’s third grade classroom captured on video one of the little Polish hatching. A special thanks to university poultry specialists Lyle Robeson and Chad Zadina for gathering and donating the mystery eggs! The hatchling video can be viewed on the 4-H Embryology Web site at lancaster.unl.edu/4h/Embryology. In the upcoming weeks, EGG Cam will feature a live view of chicks and guinea hatching.**

**Students Watch Eggs Hatch in the Classroom!**

**4-H Speech/PSA Contest Winners**

This year’s Lancaster County 4-H Speech and Public Service Announcement (PSA) Contest was split into two events and dates to make it easier for youth to participate in both contests. The PSA contest was held April 5 at the Lancaster Extension Education Center and the Speech Contest was held April 9 at the State Capitol Building. These are the first 2005 Lancaster County Fair 4-H competitions. Waverly Grange and Lancaster County Farm Bureau donated cash awards. The top three winners in each division will go to regionals, held May 31 in Seward. Complete results and photos are online at lancaster.unl.edu/4h/Fair.

**SENIOR PSA:** Nicole Pedersen (1st), Amanda Peterson (2nd)

**INTERMEDIATE PSA:** Ryan Keys (1st), Hannah Spencer (2nd), Terra Garay (3rd)

**JUNIOR PSA:** Lisa Keys (1st), Jessica Stephenson (2nd), Spencer Farley (3rd)

**NOVICE PSA:** Jamie Stephenson (1st), Amy Keys (2nd), Matthew Grimes (3rd)

**SENIOR SPEECH:** Amanda Peterson (1st), Nicole Pedersen (2nd), Grace Farley (3rd)

**INTERMEDIATE SPEECH:** Carmen Clausson (1st), Ryan Keys (2nd), Kyle Pedersen (3rd)

**JUNIOR SPEECH:** Jessica Stephenson (1st), Erica Peterson (2nd), Lisa Keys (3rd)

**NOVICE SPEECH:** Abigail Swanson (1st), Jaime Stephenson (2nd), Sadie Hammond (3rd)

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