4-1-2006

The NEBLINE, April 2006

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Visioning Process Can Help Communities Shape Their Future

By Yelena Mitrofanova
UNL Extension Educator

Small communities throughout Lancaster County, as well as throughout the whole country, have experienced demographic and physical changes. These changes affect not only land use patterns of the particular community, but also social needs of its residents. For instance, an aging and increasingly diverse population means many communities must re-evaluate how and what they provide in terms of housing, education, social services and infrastructure. Because change happens all the time, a community must decide the specific criteria they will use to judge, manage and even direct change.

In the 1980s, many local governments began long-range planning efforts and created comprehensive development plans to provide a road map for community growth. As a rule, comprehensive plans consisted of evaluating present conditions, identifying problem areas and suggestions on how to overcome existing problems and manage change. The majority of Lancaster County communities now have obsolete comprehensive plans which were developed 25 to 30 years ago and did not articulate community values or provide a rational sense of direction.

Many Lancaster County communities today experience requests for re-zoning, demands for affordable housing and need to provide better infrastructure. Unfortunately, decisions about these issues are frequently made in the absence of a real vision of how residents want their communities to look in the future. Thus, the new concept of public participation called community visioning process has emerged in the last decade. Visioning is a process by which community defines the future it wants. Through public involvement, communities identify their purpose, core values and vision of the future, which are then transformed into a manageable set of community goals and an action plan.

Visioning process does not replace other forms of community planning: comprehensive plan, land use, transportation and capital improvement plans. Actually, visioning is a useful tool in comprehensive planning and can be easily included in the comprehensive planning process. Moreover, it can occur parallel to data collection, analysis and provide a foundation for developing community goals and objectives.

A planning process must be participatory, but usually community residents are involved in the last stages of comprehensive planning. For a planning process to be effective, it must incorporate the people’s vision, not only the planners or local community officials. The goals and action plans should be firmly rooted in the goals and values of the local community residents.

What is Visioning?

• A process by which the community defines its future.
• A citizen-based process to identify core community values, goals and strategies.
• It is a foundation to develop a community comprehensive or strategic plan.
• A process identifying desirable changes for the future.
• A process visualizing what community could be like or should be like in 10 to 15 years.

Why Visioning?

• Emphasizes community assets rather than needs.
• Assesses community options and opportunities on the basis of shared purposes and values.
• Stresses early and continuous public involvement in the process.
• A visioning process brings a community together as people recognize their shared values and purposes; creates a sense of ownership in community residents and serves as a foundation to comprehensive plan.

When is a Visioning Process Needed?

• When there is a confusion about where the community is heading.

Bennet residents involved in Community Visioning Project

Bennet is First in Nebraska to do Visioning Process

The Village of Bennet is the first community in Nebraska going through a community visioning process. Bennet is a small, rural community (about 600 people) located 18 miles southeast of Lincoln.

Last year, members of the Bennet Planning Commission started updating its comprehensive plan and wanted to have broader public input in the process. They contacted the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension office and asked for assistance. Extension Educators Yelena Mitrofanova, Dennis Kahl and Phyllis Schoenholtz offered to facilitate a community visioning process.

First Town Hall Meeting

The first visioning Town Hall Meeting was held in September at Bennet Elementary School. About 75 people participated in the meeting and learned what a visioning process is and why it is important.

Community residents then set up three committee/task groups: logistics, communication and research. Each committee consisted of five to six people. The logistic committee was responsible for getting the word out and informing the public and local media about upcoming visioning events and results/reports of these events. Finally, the research committee worked with Hanna-Keelan Associates planners — hired to update Bennet comprehensive plan — and assisted them in information gathering.

The Extension Educators facilitated the work of committees/task groups and conducted nine listening sessions held in December and January.

Listening Sessions

It is very important for both planning and visioning processes to get as diverse see BENNET on page 10
Easter Egg-Handling Tips

Easter Egg-Handling Tips

**Easter Egg Handling and Safety Tips**

There are some important safety handling notes that you should be aware of when handling eggs or preparing egg dishes. As long as the eggs are handled properly, they will remain edible for several days if stored at the correct temperature. If you are planning to use colored eggs as decorations (for centerpieces, etc.) where the eggs will be out of refrigeration for many hours or several days, discarding them after they have served their decorative purpose.

**Egg Handling**

- **When handling eggs:** Be sure and inspect the eggs before purchasing them, making sure they are not dirty or cracked. Dangerous bacteria may enter a cracked egg.
- **Store eggs in their original cartons in the refrigerator.** As long as the eggs are NOT out of refrigeration over two hours, they will be safe to eat.
- **Do not eat eggs that have been out of refrigeration for more than two hours.**
- If you are planning to use colored eggs as decorations (for centerpieces, etc.) where the eggs will be out of refrigeration for many hours or several days, discarding them after they have served their decorative purpose.

**Egg Salad Week**

**Where to Find Kohlrabi**

Kohlrabi is a popular cruciferous vegetable that is popular in many cuisines. It is known for its round, bulbous shape and crunchy texture. Kohlrabi is a great source of vitamin C and fiber, making it a healthy addition to any meal.

**How to Choose Kohlrabi**

- **Check for firmness:** The skin of a kohlrabi should be firm and not soft or squishy. This indicates that the vegetable is fresh and of high quality.
- **Look for color:** Kohlrabi should have a dark green color with a slight purple hue. Avoid kohlrabi with a yellowish or pale color, as this may indicate that it is not fresh.
- **Smell:** A good kohlrabi should have a mild, sweet aroma. Avoid kohlrabi that has a strong, unpleasant odor.

**How to Prepare Kohlrabi**

- **Peel the Outer Skin:** Use a vegetable peeler to remove the outer skin of the kohlrabi. Be sure to remove any blemishes or imperfections.
- **Slice the Kohlrabi:** Kohlrabi can be sliced into thin strips or rounds, depending on the desired final dish. It can be used raw in salads or dips, or cooked in stir-fries or soups.

**Recipe for Kohlrabi Salad**

**Lemon Dill Kohlrabi Salad**

**Ingredients**

- 6 hard-cooked eggs, chopped
- 2 green onions, finely chopped
- 1 stalk celery, chopped
- 2 strips bacon, crisply cooked and crumbled
- ½ cup red bell pepper, chopped
- ¼ teaspoon lemon pepper
- 1 teaspoon dried dill weed
- ¼ cup reduced fat ranch salad dressing

**Instructions**

1. Toss all ingredients together and chill for at least 1 hour.

**Recipe Source:** Iowa State University

Enjoy Nebraska Foods!

By Alice Henneman, RD, UNL Extension Educator

Enjoy the delicious and easy-to-make recipe below using leftover hard-cooked eggs.

For free egg recipes, egg decorating tips or information related to eggs and food safety, contact Mary Torell, Public Information Officer, Nebraska Department of Agriculture, Poultry & Egg Division at mtorell2@unl.edu or call (402) 472-0752 or go to http://www.nebraskapoultry.org

Food Bank Needs Volunteers, Donations

Food Bank of Lincoln

The Food Bank of Lincoln is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to alleviate hunger by collecting and distributing food through a network of over 200 non-profit programs in Southeast Nebraska.

The Food Bank is funded by the food industry, producers, wholesalers, retailers and groups. Food is collected for safety by the donor and again by the Food Bank to ensure safety.

The Food Bank provides free food to non-profit agencies and organizations for a nominal warehouse handling fee.

In 2005, the Food Bank of Lincoln served 209 agencies, providing the equivalent of 5,634 meals per day. To learn more, go to http://www.lincolnfoodbank.org or call 466-8170.

To Volunteer

The Food Bank has 11 full-time employees and depends on the help of volunteers to aid in all aspects of food distribution. Because of the loss of a food distribution partner, the need for volunteers has increased this year.

Volunteers are asked to volunteer for two-hour time periods. Times are available 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m.

Volunteers can help:

- Pick-up donated food
- Sort, stock and repack food
- Prepare promotional materials
- Prepare mailings
- Telephone follow-up
- Speak to groups
- Work at special events, such as upcoming food drives on May 13 (Postal Food Drive) and Aug. 9 (Dine Out to Help Out)

If you are interested in volunteering, call Cheri at 466-8170, ext. 106.
Tease-Proof Your Child

Teasing is part of growing up for both the teaser and the teased. The more parents know about this troubling behavior, the more a parent can help their child endure and survive these incidents.

• Teasing can be far more painful than broken bones and some kids don’t completely recover. Kids who are targets of persistent teasing may have difficulty studying, sleeping and eating, often suffer from severe stomachaches and dread going to school. Left unchecked, teasing can ruin a child’s peer relations.

• Rest assured, teasing usually stems from a lack of the teaser’s own self-esteem and lack of confidence. Often it’s a way of expressing worries and vulnerabilities. Teasing usually begins in preschool and could carry on into high school. However, in high school, it sometimes will be Mondays and Thursdays. The theme is “My Favorite Nebraska Landmark.” To promote a poster contest for third graders. The theme is “Why Things We Recycle?” Essays and posters are due to the extension office by April 15.

• The Council sponsors a $300 scholarship to a student majoring in Family and Consumer Sciences or a health occupation at a college. Call the extension office for more information, due May 1.

• The Council and individual clubs support and promote community activities, such as, the Food Bank, the Gathering Place, Teddy Bear Cottage, Cedars Home, Friendship Home, earth wellness festival, etc. I hope members are working on safety and heritage skills entries. This year’s categories are rug making, spinning/weaving, handcrafted toy or poetry. Bring them to the June Council meeting. Tuesday, July 11, 6 p.m., will be our annual Szilagyi Summer Sampler. Clubs are asked to make baskets which will be raffled off. The proceeds will fill the school library fund. Watch for details.

• Mark Monday, Oct. 16 for our Achievement Night. Bring a friend — it was 39 years ago at Achievement Day I met ladies from Waverly and joined their club.

• See you March 28, 7 p.m. for the Council meeting.

The Nebliner

March 23

The next community and FCE leader training lesson will be held on Thursday, March 23, 1 p.m. This lesson will examine how a parent can help meet the needs of an elderly person or disabled person. Utilizing community resources, personal health and satisfaction of caregivers and determining if help is needed will be addressed. Relationship dynamics of the person in need and the caregiver, in addition to other important issues are discussed to aid in making preliminary plans.

Non-FCE members or groups should call Pam at 441-7180 to register for these loss materials so can be prepared for your needs.

Council Meeting March 27

The FCE Council meeting will be Monday, March 27, 7 p.m. (Note the change back to Monday for an evening meeting.) The program will be making Easter embroidered cards. Supplies will be furnished, cost will be $3.50 payable at the meeting. All FCE members are invited to attend. Call Pam at 441-7180 by March 20 so supplies can be prepared. Belfline and Live and Learn Clubs are hosting the meeting.

FCE Scholarship Applications Due May 1

A $300 scholarship provided by Lancaster County FCE Council is available for a graduate of a high school in Lancaster County or a permanent resident of Lancaster County majoring in Family and Consumer Science or a health occupation. This is open to full-time students beginning their sophomore, junior or senior year of college in the fall of 2006 or who have at least 24 credits and are in their last year of study. Applications are due May 1 (note new date) in the extension office.

Poison Prevention

Poison Prevention is important year round. Poison Prevention Week draws attention to these facts:

• U.S. poison control centers handle an average of one poison exposure every 15 seconds.

• More than 90 percent of poison exposures occur in the home.

• The most common poison exposures for children were ingestion of household products such as cosmetics and personal care products, cleaning substances, pain relievers, foreign body substances, and pesticides.

• For adults, the most common poison exposures were paint removers, sedatives, cleaning substances, antidepressants and bites/stings.

Poison Prevention Tips

Basic poison prevention tips to follow are:

• Keep all chemicals and medicines locked up and out of sight.

• Use child-resistant packaging properly by closing the container securely after each use or choosing child-resis- tant blister cards, which do not need to be re-secured.

• When products are in use, never let young children out of your sight, even if you must take them along when answering the phone or doorbell.

• Keep items in original containers.

• Leave the original labels on all products and read the label before using.

• Do not put decorative lamps and candles containing lamp oil into children’s reach. Lamp oil can be very toxic, if ingested by young children.

• Always leave the light on when giving or taking medicine. Check the dosage every time.

• Avoid taking medicine in front of children. Recommend a medicine as “medicine, not candy.”

• Clean out the medicine cabinet periodically and safely dispose of unneeded or outdated medicines.

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FCE News & Events

Leader Training Lesson, March 23

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Tom Dorn
Extension Educator

Farm delivered diesel 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 and now $2.20 in 2006. What effect has this had on production?

To answer this question, you need fuel consumption estimates for farm operations. If you routinely track fuel use for various tractors and combines and while performing farm operations you probably already have the information you need. Simply multiply your historical fuel consumption by the former price per gallon and by current price and compare.

Most folks don’t track fuel consumption by field operation and need a research-based fuel use estimate. You can compute the effect a rise in price will have on overall production costs. A couple of estimates that live up to this standard are presented in this article.

Oats for Extra Pasture, Hay and Silage

Bruce Anderson
UNL Extension Forage Specialist

Pasture and hay could be sparse again this spring unless we receive lots of rain. Planting oats might be one of the surest ways to have something for your cattle to eat.

With dry subsoils and pastures weakened by several years of drought, growing extra forage this spring might be wise. I think oat forage could be more important than ever this spring. I like oats for several reasons. First, oats can be grazed earlier than anything else you plant this spring, often ready a month after planting. It grows during cool spring weather when we are most likely to receive some rain and when soil moisture is most efficiently to produce forage. So risk is low and seed is relatively cheap. Plus, you can use oats several ways.

If you don’t need the grazing, make hay that’s ideal for young livestock by cutting when oats just begin to head out. Or, you can increase yield by about one-third and cut oats in the milk stage for hay that’s excellent for stock cows.

If you get lucky and receive enough rain so that neither hay or pasture are needed, you still can cut oats for grain and straw. Oats planted under irrigation, can be grazed or cut for hay early enough to permit double cropping to soybeans or a summer annual forage crop or even for corn for silage.

Drill about three bushels per acre by late March and oats will be six to eight inches tall and ready to graze in late April or early May. With good soil moisture and 30 to 60 pounds of nitrogen, oats can provide a couple months of grazing for one or two cows per acre.

You probably need a cheap and reliable temporary feed source this year. Oats may be your best option.

Effect of Increasing Energy Prices on Farming Costs

Bruce Anderson
UNL Extension Forage Specialist

For most folks, the rising cost of fuel is not a new idea. As fuel costs increased in 2004 and early 2005, the cost of field operations increased as well. In the spring of 2005, the cost of fuel per acre was $3.00 per bushel. The cost of fuel per acre has now increased to $5.00 per bushel.

Consider Burning Shelled Corn as an Alternative Heating Fuel

Shelled corn, a relatively new heating fuel, is a heating alternative worth consideration. Like wood stoves, corn stoves can save you a lot of money, especially if you have a lot of acres of land.

Shelled corn is appealing for many reasons. First, dry, shelled corn is abundant. Corn with a moisture content of 15 percent or less can be stored in open piles that can be worked through with one unit weight and moves more freely through the auger than high-moisture corn. Second, the corn does not have to be top quality, stover can be chopped into pieces of cobs. Farmers must make sure stover is specified to design corn to burn dry, granular fuels such as shelled corn. In common designs, the fuel should not be stored in a storage hopper and fed into the burning chamber by a small auger. The speed of the auger can be adjusted to regulate the amount of corn burned and heat produced. A small fan blows oxygen into the chamber and allows combustion to take place. Outside air is normally used for the air to move inside the room that has already been heated.

In the burning room continues, a heat exchanger removes heat from flue gases. These gases are used to heat air pushed through the store by a fan and back into the room. Corn burning stoves are sold in a variety of styles and colors. They can be sold as space heaters, hot-air furnaces or boilers for use in hot water radiators and systems. However, the greatest difference is the size of the fuel hopper. Some stoves hold only enough fuel for one day while others may hold up to 10 to 15 days.

Some manufacturers are developing stoves that burn corn at the bottom of the hopper to radiate heat into the surrounding room. Because electricity is not required to stoke the fire and move the heat, electrical outages will not cause the heat to shut down. Although a corn-burning stove has many advantages, it is important to make sure such an investment is worthwhile. Before purchasing a stove for personal use, consider the following:

• How much heat is needed to maintain the desired temperatures? Different stoves have different levels of heat output.
• Does the layout of the house allow heat to move from room to room? A corn-burning stove should not be expected to heat large areas if the floor plan doesn’t allow it.
• Is the stove used as a primary or secondary heat source? Small stoves and fuel hoppers cannot be expected to warm an entire house for long periods of time.

Whether you have a need for winter operation? Space is required to keep corn dry when considering burning shelled corn as an alternative heating fuel.
Tornado – Will You be Ready?

Whether or not you decide you need a shelter in your house, you can take two important steps to protect yourself and your family during a tornado: prepare an emergency plan and put an emergency supply kit together. If you decide to build a shelter, your emergency plan should include notifying local emergency personnel and family members or others outside the immediate area you have a shelter. This will allow emergency personnel to quickly free you if the exit from your shelter becomes blocked by debris.

Emergency Supply Kit

You should also prepare an emergency supply kit and either keep it in your shelter or be ready to bring it with you if you need to evacuate your house. Prepare the kit in March so it has fresh supplies for the upcoming tornado season.

Some of the items the emergency supply kit should include are:

- an adequate supply of water for each person in your household
- a first aid kit.
- flashlight (do not bring candles or anything that lights with a flame)
- battery-operated radio
- cellular phone
- extra batteries
- wrench (to turn off household gas and water)
- clothes
- for babies—formula, diapers, powdered milk
- for adults—contact lenses and supplies, extra glasses

Shelter Location

There are possible locations in your house for a shelter. Perhaps the most convenient and safest is below-ground level, in your basement. If your house does not have a basement, you can install an in-ground shelter beneath a concrete slab or on grade near a concrete garage floor. Basement shelters and in-ground plans provide the highest level of protection against missiles and falling debris. Another alternative shelter location is an interior room on the first floor of the house.

Researchers, emergency response personnel and people cleaning up after a tornado often have found an interior room of a house still standing when all other around parts of the house have been destroyed. Closets, bathrooms and small storage rooms offer the advantage of having a function other than providing occasional storm protection. Typically, these rooms have only one door and no windows, which makes them well-constructed for survival in a shelter.

The Department of Homeland Security has developed the Ready.gov Web site. You can find emergency planning and preparedness guidance for all types of potential hazards. To obtain a copy of “Preparing Message Sense, Get Ready Now,” go to http://www.Ready.gov

Protect Woody Plants Before Planting

However you make your plant buying decisions — whether on the basis of careful research or on impulse at the garden center — plants may not have a good track record with you if you had a chance to prepare the planting site.

Many of you have been looking for a particular plant and bought it when you ran into it. You may not buy if you go back for it later. Or, maybe your mail-order plants arrived before you expected.

Or, perhaps the demands of work or family are such you just can’t go right out and plant.

If the plant is in a container, you can simply set it in a protected area and water as needed to keep the root ball moist. After a few days to be planted, group them in a shaded, sheltered spot and outdoors. Don’t water with compost or some other organic material. Keeping the roots moist will prevent the roots from drying until you can plant.

Sandy roots are more susceptible to drying than plants in containers and need to be checked daily and watered as needed to keep the roots moist. If they have to wait several days to be planted and sun will cause plants to dry out rapidly, so place plants in a shaded area with protection against the wind.

Bare-rooted and balled-and-burlapped plants are more

Septic Tanks Must Be Pumped By Certified Professionals

By Sharon Skipton
UNL Extension Educator

As of January 1, 2004, it is illegal in Nebraska to pump septic tanks, including homeowner pumping their own tanks, for any of the seven certified professionals by the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ). The Department oversees the pumping of septic tanks and land application of the septic has increased tremendously in rural Nebraska areas.

The new law makes it illegal without a certified professional. 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 near the pathogens, organic matter or nutri-

Financial Resources and Skills

Don Janssen
UNL Extension Educator

Note: This is a part of a series of articles related to acreage enterprises.

When committing to any one of your farm enterprises, many financial risks are involved. For each enterprise, research areas related to cost of production and marketing needs. On the other hand, expecting to make a profit in a particular enterprise, require enough financial resources and skills are necessary for success.

Finances

Farming, like any business, involves financial risk. All farmers have to require money in advance to establish the crop. What is returned when the crop is harvested is determined to how good the skills of the farmer, the weather and what happens in the market. Some crops, such as tree fruits, might require several years before any income is realized.

Knowing in advance where you stand financially and your capacity for risk taking will influence the types of choices that best fit your situation. Consider these questions:

- What can you invest in startup and operating costs without putting your family in monetary risk?
- How long can you wait for the crop to begin to create some cash flow? How long can you wait for the crop to generate some profit?
- How much can you afford to risk financially to fluctuations in the market? If the market price for your fruits is down but low when you harvest, what will happen?
- How much time and money can you allocate toward “selling” your crop? Most farmers will not plant the crop that does not have a reasonably predictably market.
- What financial obligations are you taking on with the farm? Make up cash flow and enterprise budgets and evaluate them against your experience often.

Credit

Many people think there is money waiting to be given to “creditworthy” farmers. Nothing could be farther from the truth. The farm credit crisis of the early 1980’s had some banks totally out of agricultural lending and made the remaining banks more selective. The federal government sometimes is a lender of last resort, but the role has diminished greatly.

For most small farmers, financing is a major concern. But they can show several years of successful experience. If you are a new farmer, expect to finance your enterprise from other resources for several years. If you have a good track record with one or more crops, you might be able to get a loan to try a new crop.

When you do decide to seek financing, what are some of the issues you face?

- Many small farmers are terrible record keepers and simply cannot back their veriﬁcation on their production capabili-

- Lenders want tangible collateral or a loan history.
- Experience is the hardest quality to prove and the most difficult one for a lender to assess. A documented three-year progressively suc-

- keep meticulous records and analyze them from a business perspective.
- Small farmers represent a large part of the potential credit market in terms of numbers but not in volume.
- From a bank’s perspective, the earning potential from a large loan is much greater than that from a small one. (The same time and paperwork are needed for both.)

- It probably takes a farm loan of at least $50,000 to be proﬁtable for a bank if it isn’t secured as a personal loan (since a farm loan requires asset appraisal and signiﬁcant (financial analysis). On the other hand, personal loans of any size are hard to get with a solid credit history and a stable non-farm income source.
- Many small farms lack “bankable” ability. A small farm might need all the resources with two incomes but have little hard collateral or a loan his-

- If the first mortgage on a property is relative to a conservative estimate of liquid net income, it might be tricky to get operating capital as well.
- Lenders look for a capacity to weather mistakes, market changes, etc.

- It is not impossible, by any means, to secure credit, but it takes a lot of planning, no fiction and a solid record. As a practical matter, many small farms expand into new crops or increase credit on existing crops. This method is riskier and expensive, but often the only path avail-

- When you obtain money, make it work productively for your farm enterprise from every decision. Don’t buy a tractor because you like to smell diesel. Any asset (time, money, skills or equipment) needs to be employed for the greatest benefit of the business.
All-America Selection Selection Flowers for 2006

Zinnia 'Zowie! Yellow Flame' Flower Award Winner

'Zowie! Yellow Flame' is the first semi-tall zinnia with a unique bicolor pattern. Each bloom flowers with a scarlet-center and yellow petal edges. There is no other zinnia with this fiery design. In addition, this bicolor pattern is consistent from one plant to another. As expected, there are more desirable traits from 'Zowie! Yellow Flame.' Gardeners will be glad to learn 'Zowie! Yellow Flame' is easy to grow from seed or young bedding plants. 'Zowie! Yellow Flame' will prove its long flowering season with dazzling blooms from early summer to final killing frost. During this season-long color, 'Zowie! Yellow Flame' blooms can be cut for bouquets. The University of Maryland conducted cut flower trials and found 'Zowie! Yellow Flame' had a flower vase life of up to two weeks.

Salvia farinacea 'Evolution' Flower Award Winner

'Evolution' is the first Salvia farinacea with lilac flower spikes. From a distance, 'Evolution' flowers are several shades lighter than its close competitor. This new color is desirable for garden use as it widens the color choices for blue flowering annuals. Belonging to the mint family, 'Evolution' is easy to grow. Gardeners can begin with seed or young bedding plants with the confidence 'Evolution' will provide continuous color from early summer to the first hard frost. 'Evolution' is low maintenance. No deadheading is needed for all season color. Relatively disease and pest free, 'Evolution' will perform best in a full sun location. There are two more advantages of 'Evolution' offers gardeners. The plants are quite adaptable and can be grown in patio contain- ers or ceramic pots. The lilac flower spikes can be cut, dried and used as everlasting flowers for bouquets, decorations or craft projects. 'Evolution' deserves a sunny spot in your garden for its non-stop color.

Ornamental Pepper 'Supra Purple' Flower Award Winner

'Black Pearl' is a handsome plant, with black foliage. In the standout quality is 'Black Pearl' looks better as the summer season progresses. The plants branch and flower into many clusters of black, pearl-like, shiny peppers. The plant grows taller and wider developing into a black pyramid shape without pinching, pruning or grooming. 'Black Pearl' is exceptionally heat tolerant and requires minimal water and fertilizer. It is easy to grow from seed. There are no serious insect or disease problems. As the plant matures, the black peppers turn red, adding a new color to the plant. While edible, the peppers are very hot. Use with care! 'Black Pearl' is an effective background plant particularly with silver, white or pastel flowering annuals in the foreground. Never out of bloom, 'Black Pearl' has already been selected as a "most popular" new plant by consumers visiting a trial ground. Its foliage, color and low care will attract many gardeners. It performs exceptionally well in containers and deserves to be featured everywhere.

Dianthus 'Supra Purple' Bedding Plant Award Winner

'Supra Purple' fills garden space with color. This plant is strong and will flower under hot summer growing conditions. 'Supra Purple' plants remain under a foot in height, but they are vigorous and continue flowering through the growing season. 'Supra Purple' plants adapt to different growing conditions. They are recommended for containers and rock gardens.

Nicotiana 'Perfume Deep Purple' Bedding Plant Award Winner

'Perfume Deep Purple' flowers are shaped like stars. The stars shine at night and this when 'Perfume Deep Purple' begins its performance. The unique quality is the strong fragrance which société the air in the evening. The fragrance is not wasted during the day when many people are working. The nightly release of the perfume will encourage gardeners to relax and linger in their gardens. The rich, lavish deep purple flower color is another unique trait, distinct from other nicotianas. 'Perfume Deep Purple' is easily grown from seed, young bedding plants or flowering pot plants. Nicotiana needs a sunny location and is perfectly adaptable to container culture.

Diascia 'Diamonte Coral Rose' Cool Season Bedding Plant Award Winner

'Diamonte Coral Rose' is an improved Diascia cultivar that was relatively unknown five years ago. Diascia is native to South Africa. 'Diamonte Coral Rose' flowers are tubular with backward pointing spurs. The five-lobed blooms have broad lower lobes. 'Diamonte Coral Rose' plants are very drought resistant and may overwinter and flower next spring. The 'Supra Purple' singles flowers have highly fringed petal edges. The color is closer to a rosy-purple than the dark, almost black-purple, seen on some plants. 'Supra Purple' may become one of your favorites.

'Black Pearl' has a spreading habit and are perfectly designed for container culture. By bringing them close to the lip will encourage the plant to cascade over the edge. 'Black Pearl' is an amazing sun growing location. 'Diascia Coral Rose' combines well with other cool season annuals, such as snapdragons or dianthus. Exceptional garden performance can be expected from 'Diamonte Coral Rose'.

'Zowie! Yellow Flame' has a spreading habit and are perfectly designed for container culture. By bringing them close to the lip will encourage the plant to cascade over the edge. 'Black Pearl' is an amazing sun growing location. 'Diascia Coral Rose' combines well with other cool season annuals, such as snapdragons or dianthus. Exceptional garden performance can be expected from 'Diamonte Coral Rose'.

'Skippy XL Red-Gold' is the first Viola cornata to earn the prestigious AAS Award. Three improvements were exhibited in AAS trials. The unique combinations of colors in flower petals are to be observed. 'Skippy XL Red-Gold' flowers are ruby red with a violet red shading falling below the golden yellow face containing whiskers. This combination is found only on 'Skippy XL Red-Gold'. The flower shape and size are definitely improved. The round 1.5-inch flower is similar to a pansy and larger than many viola blossoms. The lasting and enduring flower color pro- vided by 'Skippy XL Red-Gold' is another notable trait. The freedom of bloom is attributed to the plant's ability to bud and flower under a wide range of temperatures. It is this adapt- ability that results in continuous bloom.

When buying an Easter lily, look for a plant with flowers in various stages of bloom from buds to open or partially opened flowers. Foliage should be dense, rich green in color and extend all the way down to the soil line. This is a good indication of a healthy root system. Look for a well-proportioned plant, one about two times as high as the pot. You should also check the flowers, foliage and buds for signs of insects and disease. At home, keep your lily away from drafts and drying agents such as air conditioners or appliances or heating ducts. Bright, indirect light is best with day- time temperatures of 65 to 75 degrees F. Water the plant only when the soil feels dry to the touch. Do not water too heavily. To prolong the life of the blossoms, remove the yellow anthers (pol- len-bearing parts) found in the center of each flower. Do not throw away your Easter lily after it is done blooming. You can save the bulbs and plant it outdoors. Easter lilies can be replanted outside after the blooms are gone. Plant outdoors as soon as the garden is the ground can be worked. Select a sunny site with well-drained soil. Set the top of the bulb six-inches below the soil surface. Cut off the old flowers, but leave the stem and leaves. Do not cut back the stem until it dies down in the fall, then cut it off at the soil surface. After the soil surface freezes in late fall, mulch the soil and do not remove the mulch until next spring growth begins in the spring.
The Important First Step is “Reduce”

We all know how important it is to recycle. But let’s stop and think about why we recycle. For many people, it’s to reduce waste and save landfill space. By recycling, we don’t have to throw things away, helping us to conserve our precious resources. Recycling is working, but recycling alone cannot solve all of our solid waste problems.

Remember the three “R’s”: reduce, reuse and recycle. Which one comes first? It’s reduce. And it’s first for a reason. It’s better not to create waste than to have to figure out what to do with it. As Benjamin Franklin said, “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.”

In order to reverse the trend of resource depletion, we need to take the lead, rethink our lifestyle and become less wasteful.

Waste reduction begins when you make purchasing decisions. Decisions you make while shopping can save you money and reduce the amount of trash that goes to the landfills. A family of four can save approximately $3,000 a year by buying products in the largest size they can use and by buying reusable items. A Special Pullout Section of The Nebraska Daily

Prepared by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension in Lancaster County and the City of Lincoln Recycling Office

Shop S.M.A.R.T (Save Money and Reduce Trash)

- Buy cereal in a large box instead of individual serving sizes.
- Buy juice in concentrates and use reusable bottles.
- Reject excessively packaged products.

Avoid Unnecessary Packaging

More than $1 of every $10 we spend on food goes toward packaging. One-third of the trash from households is product packaging. Product packaging has its purpose, such as making products safer and supplying information. But many items are overpackaged.

- Large-quantity items usually have less packaging per unit, lowering your costs. This could include purchases such as laundry soap, shampoo, toilet paper, pet food and cat litter. For food items, select the largest size you can use before spoilage would occur.
- Also, ask store managers to stock products you prefer.

Express your Opinion

- Contact manufacturer about packaging. If you believe a product has too much packaging, write the manufacturer. Go a step further and compliment manufacturers who use the minimum amount of packaging needed.

Buy Reusable and Recyclable Products

- Buy reusable products. Disposables such as razors and paper towels create unnecessary waste unless safety is a factor. Use and return disposable or refillable products. Refilling pens and markers and shopping bags are two examples of reusable products.

Rent or Borrow Items You Only Need Temporarily

- Rent products you only need temporarily. Sometimes a borrowed or used item is available and would better fit your needs than buying a product.

- Rent reusable dishes and linen for events and gatherings can prevent the disposal of disposable cups, plates and silverware.

- Renting items can save you money and time, and it can reduce the amount of trash created at an event.
Energy Saving Tips

- **Lighting**
  - Turn off non-essential lights and appliances.
  - Install dimmer switches on lights.
  - Use outdoor lights with photocell units or timers to go off during the day.
  - Replace lights in high-use areas with fluorescent. By replacing 25 percent of your regular bulbs, you can save about 50 percent of your lighting energy.
  - Use task lighting instead of whole room lighting.

- **Insulation**
  - Check the insulation in the attic, ceiling, exterior and basement walls, floors and crawl spaces to see if it meets the levels recommended for your area. Suggested R-values include: ceilings below ventilated attics, R-49; cathedral ceiling, R-38 to R-60; walls, R-18 to R-28; floors over unheated crawlspaces, R-25; crawl spaces if dry; ventilation blocked and floor not insulated, R-19; slab edge, R-8, basement interior walls, R-11 to R-19 and basement exterior walls, R-10 to R-15.

- **Heat Recovery**
  - Caulk and weatherstrip windows and doors and keep them closed unless a fire is going.

- **Energy Savings**
  - Use programmable thermostats—down to 68 degrees or below.
  - Whole house fans help cool the home by pulling cool air and exhausting warm air through the attic.

- **Cathedral Ceilings**
  - Whole house fans help pull air from the attic and improve ventilation.
  - Clean and replace furnace filters once a month or as needed.

- **Eco-Friendly**
  - Keep windows on the south side of your house clean to maximize solar gain.

- **Appliances**
  - Use energy-saving appliances.
  - Wash full loads of dishes in the dishwasher but don’t overload.
  - Letting your dishes air dry or using energy-saving dry —adds up to significant saving.

- **Flow Water**
  - Use the condenser coils on your refrigerator once a year.
  - Use electric pans or toaster ovens for small meals rather than heating the large stove or oven.

- **Dishwasher**
  - When doing laundry—adjust water levels in washing machines. Switch water temperature from hot to warm to cut the energy use in half. When washing clothes 80-85 percent of energy used is heating the water.
  - Install low-flow faucets and showerheads.

- **Exterior Walls**
  - Keep Lincoln and Lancaster County away from sun—enjoy air conditioning thermostats.

- **Wastewater**
  - Clean the condenser coils on your refrigerator once a year.

- **Toxic Materials**
  - Keep hazardous and less toxic.

- **Hazardous Products**
  - Keep hazardous and less toxic.

- **Household**
  - Keep hazardous and less toxic.

- **Recycling**
  - Keep hazardous and less toxic.

- **Water Conservation**
  - Keep hazardous and less toxic.

Who To Contact For More Information

**CITY OF LINCOLN**
- Recycling Operations (recycling hotline) – 441-8215
- Solid Waste Operations (landfill disposal and collection) – 441-8190
- Watersetter Operations (wastewater or sewer assistance) – 441-7961
- Water Production & Distribution (water distribution, quality or conservation) – 441-4495
- Wastewater Management (storm drain, erosion control or mud in street) – 441-8495
- Parks and Recreation Department (parks and green space) – 441-7487
  http://lincon.ne.gov

**LINCOLN-LANCaster COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**
- Hazardous Waste (assistance for households and businesses) – 441-8021
- Air Quality – 441-8040
- Keep Lincoln and Lancaster County Beautiful – 441-8023
  http://lincon.ne.gov

**WASTECAP OF NEBRASKA**
(Business recycling assistance) 436-2383
http://wastecap.org

**UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN EXTENSION IN LANCASTER COUNTY**
(Information on recycling, yard waste alternatives, agricultural pesticide container recycling, and more.) 441-7180
http://lancaster.unl.edu

Energy savings start with an energy reduction plan. Considering the average family spends $1,300 a year on energy bills, finding ways to cut energy is important. Tips for energy conservation include:

- **Lighting**
  - Insulate ducts—many are so leaky that 25 percent of the conditioned air is lost before it arrives at the target room; the ducts can easily leak, wasting more than 20 percent of the energy used to condition the air.
  - In the summertime, close window coverings during the day to hold out heat. Open window coverings in the winter to let in solar heat.
  - Close shades and blinds at night.
  - Caulk and weatherstrip doors and windows that leak air.
  - Install programmable thermostats—down to 68 degrees or below.

- **Household**
  - Whole house fans help cool the home by pulling cool air and exhausting warm air through the attic.

- **Construction**
  - Build Energy Star Homes which include tighter construction, tight ducts, improved insulation, high performance windows and energy efficient heating and cooling systems.

Reduce Hazardous Waste For Home

The best way to protect your home from toxic materials is to keep them out of the home. To keep these materials out of the home, buy less hazardous materials.

- **Flammable or Combustible:** They can easily ignite.
- **Explosive or Reactive:** They detonate or explode through exposure to heat, sudden shock or pressure.
- **Corrosive:** They can cause a chemical reaction that can burn or destroy living tissue or other materials.
- **Toxic:** They are capable of causing injury or death through ingestion, inhalation or skin absorption.

Read the Label

Labels of hazardous products are required by law to include certain warnings. Hazardous product labels offer the principal hazards such as “flammable,” “causes burns to skin and eyes,” or “vapor harmful.” Key words to look for are called “signal words.” Signal words indicate the level of toxicity of the product. Purchase the products with the safest or lowest level of hazard.

- **No word:** If the label contains no signal word or special warnings, or if it explains you can use water or soap in clean up, the product is safe to use.
- **Caution:** The product is slightly toxic. This product with this signal word on the label is not as safe as the first product but is safe to use than products with any other signal word on the label.
- **Warning:** The product is moderately toxic. This product is more hazardous than one with “caution” on the label.
- **Danger:** The product is highly toxic, doing so invites dangerous accidents. If you feel uncomfortable with the ingredients or the product label says the product can be cleaned up with water, the product is slightly toxic.

Minimize Your Risk

Make sure the product you want to buy poses the lowest level of risk by reading and understanding the label. Purchase the product with the lowest level signal word. If the label does not contain words like “flammable,” “corrosive,” “explosive,” “reactive,” “poison,” “toxic,” or “hazardous,” the product may be safe to use.

The words “natural” or “organic” do not indicate a safe product. A product labeled “all natural ingredients” can still contain hazardous materials. If you feel uncomfortable with the ingredients or the instructions for use, do not purchase the product.

When choosing which products to buy, the labels on the products.

Businesses Toxics Reduction

The best way for businesses to avoid the health risks and costs of hazardous materials is to reduce or eliminate the materials.

The first step is to reduce the amount of hazardous materials businesses own or use. Some people will read the directions on a product and use twice as much as is recommended. They believe more is better or will work faster. The amount not needed to do the job is waste. A smart choice is to buy smaller units just before it is needed. Don’t buy large quantities and store them on site, doing so invites dangerous accidents. Buying what is needed when it is needed, reduces the risk of accidents.
Lincoln’s Compost, LinGro, Recycles Grass and Leaves

LinGro Compost

LinGro Compost is produced primarily from grass clippings, leaves and wood chips. These materials are blended by the Public Works and Utilities Department, Solid Waste Operations. Constant monitoring is performed on all materials to ensure a consistent and high-quality product. LinGro Compost is a humus-like material high in organic matter. It is screened with a 1/2 inch screen to ensure uniform texture. It generally has the following characteristics:

- **pH:** 7.2-8.0
- **Total Nitrogen (N):** 2.6-3.2 percent
- **Phosphorus (P):** 0.3 percent
- **Potassium (K):** 1.2-2.0 percent
- **Electrical Conductivity:** pH 7.2-8.0

LinGro Compost is the natural choice for improving the quality of turf and soil. LinGro Compost should be incorporated into the root zone of plants and turf to be most effective. Generally, one inch of compost applied, will be six inches of soil. In heavy clay soils, it is recommended the clay be loosened then applied compost is then followed by another rototilling. This ensures the compost is thoroughly distributed throughout the soil.

**Established Lawns—**Aerate the lawn and broadcast spread LinGro Compost on the lawn. Spread approximately 1/3 to 1/4 inch deep and water thoroughly. Some professionals use a 60/40 mix of compost and sand or topsoil, which is heavier than pure compost and settles into aeration holes or thatch layers more readily. Repeat spring and fall on cool season lawns. One cubic yard of LinGro Compost will cover 1,296 square feet at a depth of 1/2 inch. New Lawns (prior to seeding or sodding)—Apply one-inch of LinGro Compost to the area to be seeded or sodded. Additional compost may be applied. For every inch of surfacing, till the area three times and apply the LinGro Compost. One cubic yard of LinGro Compost will cover a 325 square foot area. Many homes home builders will dig out a basement for the home and apply the soil on the homeowners lot. For heavy clay soils, it is recommended the clay soils be rototilled prior to application of the compost.

**Flower and Vegetable Gardens—**In spring or fall, apply a one to two inch layer of LinGro Compost over the entire garden area and till into the soil.

LinGro Compost Recommended Application Rates

**Indoors**
- Fix leaky faucets and plumbing joints.
- Check toilet for leaks.
- Shorten your shower.
- Install water-saving shower heads or flow restrictors.
- Run only full loads in the washing machine and dishwasher.
- Keep a bottle of drinking water in the refrigerator.
- Use the garbage disposal less and the garbage more when full.
- Insulate hot water pipes for more immediate hot water at the faucet.
- Consider installing an instant water heater on your kitchen sink.

**Outdoors**
- Water your lawn only as needed. Stop watering your lawn when runoff occurs.
- Don’t water the lawn on windy days.
- Don’t water the sidewalks, driveway or gutter.
- When washing the car, use soap and water from a bucket. Use a hose with a shut-off nozzle for the final rinse.
- Use a broom instead of a hose to clean driveways and sidewalks.
- Choose drought tolerant or drought resistant shrubs and groundcovers for the landscape.
- Group plants according to their watering needs.
- Use a rain gauge to determine how much irrigation your yard has received.

**City of Lincoln’s compost facility:** There is a $5 cubic yard charge for delivery of LinGro plus a delivery fee of $50 per dump truck load. Delivery will be made anywhere in Lancaster County. Individuals may also arrange their own transportation of the compost and individuals will need to pre-pay for the material and delivery. Persons can place an order by calling any of the following:

- **Bluff Road Landfill and Compost Facility:** 441-8102
- **Crops Planting Supervisor:** 441-8336
- **Recycling Coordinator:** 441-7043

**Woodchips Also Available**

Woodchips can also be obtained directly through the City of Lincoln’s compost facility. There is a $5 cubic yard charge for the woodchips plus delivery. For more information, call 441-8102.
Recycling is Easy and Conserves Resources

One of the easiest things for people to do to help conserve resources is to recycle. If you currently don’t recycle, please start. If you recycle aluminum cans or newspapers, you can recycle other items such as glass bottles, #1 or #2 plastic containers, cardboard, or junk mail. If you recycle at home, consider starting a recycling program at work. If you recycle at work, consider starting to recycle at home.

In fiscal year (FY) 2004–05 a total of 6,550 tons of recyclables were collected at the recycling drop-off sites in Lincoln and Lancaster County. This represents an 8.4 percent increase over the 6,042 tons of material collected in FY 2001–02. The amount of material recycled last fiscal year represents an all-time high for the amount of recyclables collected through the drop-off program.

Not only does recycling conserve limited resources, it also saves valuable landfill space. Since 1992, government-sponsored recycling programs have added close to 4 years to the life of the landfill. If we stopped recycling and let everything be buried in the landfill we would close the landfill seven years sooner, in 2023 instead of the current projection of 2030.

In the first two years of the decade we saw a 5 percent decline in the amount of material recycled at the drop-off sites. We are very pleased we have reversed that trend and more material is being recycled. We’d like to continue this increase, and in order to accomplish it, we need your help. Make a pledge and increase the amount of material you recycle and buy recycled-content products.

For more information on recycling, please check our Web site at www.lincoln.ne.gov: Type in the keyword recycle. You can also contact the recycling office at 441-8215.

Recycling of aluminum cans saves 95% of the energy required to make the same amount of aluminum from its virgin source. One ton of aluminum recycled saves the energy equivalent of 40 barrels of oil.

### Recycling in Lincoln

#### Drop-Off Site Locations

**North**
- N.W. Roundhouse Dr. 32 & “P” Streets
- UNL Food Stores Warehouse, 122 N. 17th Street
- University Place, 47th & St. Paul Streets
- Gates of Praise Church, 70th & Vine Streets
- Russ’s Market, 63rd & Plate Avenue
- Centro Plaza, 48th & “R” Streets
- Southeast Community College, 88th & “O” Streets
- 48th Street Transfer, 5101 N. 48th Street
- Air Park Recreation Center, 3710 N.W. 46th Street
- Highlands Fire Station 5435 N.W. 1st Street

**South**
- Leon’s Food Mart, 32nd & South Streets
- Union College athletic field parking lot, 53rd & Calvert
- East High School Seacrest Field parking lot, 70th & “A” Streets
- Hamilton College parking lot, 19th & “L” Streets
- Trabert Hall, 12th & South Streets
- Pepsi Cola Distribution Facility 1901 Windshocks Drive
- Russ’s Market, 1550 S. Coddington limited hours of operation
- Russ’s Market, 33rd & Highway 2

#### Newspaper ONLY Drop-Off Sites

**North**
- UNL East Campus Parking Lot
- Banker’s Hardware, 33rd & Holdgen Streets

**South**
- St. John XXIII Center 3710 Sheridan Boulevard
- Willard Community Center
- Palomino & West 9th Streets
- All Saints Lutheran Church 6251 Pioneers Boulevard
- Indiana Stage 13th & High Streets

### NEWSPAPER CONSERVATION GUIDE

**YES**
- Newspapers
  - Inserts OK
  - Put newspapers in paper bag
- Cardboard Boxes
  - Flattened cardboard paperboard (i.e. cereal boxes) OK
  - All boxes must be flattened and placed inside recycling containers
- Cans
  - All food and beverage cans
  - Rinse clean, and flatten aluminum and tin cans and place in separate recycling compartments
- Glass Bottles and Jars
  - All food and beverage glass
  - Green, brown and clear glass OK
  - Labels OK
  - Rinse clean. Take off lids. Separate by color and place in separate recycling compartments.
- Plastic
  - #1 and #2 plastic bottles and containers
  - Labels OK
  - Rinse clean. Take off lids. Place in separate recycling compartments.
- Residential Mixed Papers
  - Mail, magazines, office and school paper and telephone directories
  - Put clean paper together in a paper bag.
  - Keep newspapers separate.

**NO**
- Newspapers
- No other paper
- Cardboard Boxes
- No packing material
- No dirty boxes
- No waxed cardboard
- Cans
- No aluminum foil
- No aluminum pie pans
- No metal cookware
- No scrap metal
- Glass Bottles and Jars
- No drinking glasses
- No window glass
- No dishes
- No light bulbs
- No ceramics
- No lids
- Plastic
- No motor oil containers
- No plastic toys
- No other plastic bottles or containers
- Residential Mixed Papers
- No tissue paper
- No milk cartons or juice boxes
- No paper plates
- No newspaper

### Roll-Off Recycling

- Tin
  - Rinse clean. Take off lids.
- Gla
  - Separate by color and place in separate recycling compartments.
- N
  - Cardboard
  - Separate by color and place in separate recycling compartments.
- Pla
  - Separate by color and place in separate recycling compartments.
- Mix
  - Separate by color and place in separate recycling compartments.
- Containers
  - Separate by color and place in separate recycling compartments.

### Recycling Office

Contact 441-8215 for more information on proper separation of recyclables.

### Private Curbside Recycling

The following recyclers provide the convenience of curbside recycling for a monthly fee:

- Midwest Recycling
  - 475-0244
- Recycling Enterprises
  - 421-6655
- Star City Recycling
  - 890-4320

The following recycling offers a curb-side pick-up service in their customer area:

- Kitzinger Bros. Recycle
  - 423-0191
- Schaal Recycling Services
  - 423-2705
- Weber & Sons
  - 423-8204

### Additional Curbside Recycling

- Recycle Bin Locations
  - John XXIII Center 3710 Sheridan Boulevard
  - Willard Community Center
  - Palomino & West 9th Streets
  - All Saints Lutheran Church 6251 Pioneers Boulevard
  - Indiana Stage 13th & High Streets

###后期处理

- Paper recycling: Recycle newspapers, mixed papers, and office paper.
- Glass recycling: Recycle all food and beverage glass.
- Cans recycling: Recycle all food and beverage cans, and Tin.
- Plastic recycling: Recycle #1 and #2 plastic bottles and containers.
- Mixed Papers: Recycle mail, magazines, office and school paper and telephone directories.
Clover Mites Invading Local Homes Already

Barb Ogg
UNL Extension Educator

With the recent warm sunny days, people are already reporting clover mite invasions. Watch for this tiny pest crawling in windows and doors, especially where the sun warms the house.

The mite is an eight-legged relative of spiders and ticks. It is slightly smaller than the head and has a reddish-brown body. They have an unusual long pair of front legs, which distinguish them from other mites (see photo). They appear as brick-red specks crawling around windows, drapes, curtains and furniture.

Clover mites do no damage or injure humans. They are so tiny they come through tiny cracks accidentally. They cannot survive inside. Outdoors, they feed on turfgrass and other plants, but do not seem to cause any damage.

Management Strategies

Outdoor—Effective control means preventing entry into buildings in the spring or the fall. The best way to prevent entry is to remove grasses and weeds in a three-foot strip around foundations, although mites may cross mulch and peat gravel to enter the home anyway.

A chemical barrier outside the home may help reduce or prevent infestations inside the home. Treat five to ten feet out from the base of the foundation and a few feet up on the walls. Successful chemical control requires a very thorough treatment and may need to be repeated because many products on the market registered for clover mite control are short-lived. Treat when daytime temperatures will be at least 60 degrees F because chemical effectiveness may be reduced with cooler temperatures.

Indoors—Clover mites inside are best controlled with a vacuum cleaner. Avoid crushing or smearing the mites, especially on fabrics, because they may leave a red stain. It is not recommended to use chemicals indoors for clover mites. A vacuum cleaner works just as well and eliminates pesticide exposure.

Whitney Cranshaw, Colorado State University entomologist, suggests using a fine layer of dust around windows, in cracks and other areas where clover mites may enter. Try using take—containing baby powder, diatomaceous earth and even baking soda. The mites coated with the fine dust will die in the barrier.

Clover mites are so tiny they stick easily to almost any type of sticky tape. Place double-sided masking tape on windowsills or other areas where mites are entering to catch the tiny mites as they cross the tape. When the tape becomes filled with mite bodies, simply peel it up, throw it away and replace, if needed.

Spring Turkey Hunting Workshop, March 23

A Spring Turkey Hunting workshop will be held Thursday, March 23, 6:30–9:30 p.m. at the Lancaster Extension Education Center, 444 Cherry Creek Road, Lincoln. If you are interested in hunting in the spring season, this is a workshop you can’t miss.

Experts will share information about the hunting tips that will make you more successful. Topics covered will include turkey calls, camouflage, using ground blinds, choosing the best shot load, field dressing, guns, safety and state regulations.

This free seminar is offered by Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, but seating will be limited, so reservations are required. Call 471-5558.

Other Homeowners Need to Know About Termite Control Workshop, May 18

University of Nebraska–Lincoln Extension will present a workshop, Everything Homeowners Need to Know About Termite Control, on Thursday, May 18, 6:30–9:30 p.m. at the Lancaster Extension Education Center, 444 Cherry Creek Road, Lincoln.

Attendees will:

• Learn unbiased information about the benefits of treative treatments, based on re—search results.
• Learn why treat—
ments cost so much.
• Receive up—date refer—
ence materials.
• Be informed consumers and be able to evaluate building and structural treatments.

Cost is $25 and includes reference materials. Call 441-7180 for more information.

Barb Ogg
UNL Extension Educator

Q. Why are woodpeckers beating on my house?
A. Many people think all ants are wingless, but ant colonies eventually produce ants with wings. These are the reproductive—a queen and kings—that fly away to start new colonies.

Queen and king ants do not keep their wings very long. After they have found a new colony location, they shed their wings.

Swarming occurs when colonies are mature and there is plenty of space for the colony to expand. ant colonies can afford to put extra resources into swarvers. Most of the colony stays in the original location—only the swarmers leave.

Some ant species even swarm in the wintertime—usually when the ant colony is under the slab of a house or in a warm location. In Nebraska, most ant colonies swarm during the spring and summer months. Ant swarming is a natural phenomenon that occurs regularly, but most people don’t notice, unless it occurs under the basement slab or in the walls of the house. When this happens, it might be a good idea to have the ant species identified to see if it is an ant species which damages wood, like carpenter ants.

Vacuuming swarming ants is safer than using insecticides and just as effective. If they swarm inside the house, they die quickly, even if you don’t do anything.

Sometimes people think swarming termites look like swarming ants. See figure at left to see how they are different.

Vacuuming swarmers is a non—toxic alternative to pesticides, the queens and kings—those that fly away to start new colonies.

Swarming termites look like swarming ants. See figure at left to see how they are different.

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Lancaster County 4-H is pleased to announce Kitt Saathoff as winner of April’s “Junior 4-H Award” in recognition of outstanding volunteer service.

Kitt has been a 4-H volunteer for 6 years and is an organizational leader of two 4-H clubs, The American Cuts and Crazy Clovers. Members in both clubs complete a wide variety of projects, including clothing, food, celebrate art and photography. She has also been an instructor at Clover College for several years. “I have enjoyed being a leader and watching my daughters and their friends having fun doing the things I remember enjoying as a 4-Her,” says Kitt. “I enjoy spending time with kids. 4-H provides activities for my daughters and I to enjoy together. Most of the activities I enjoy as an adult, I learned from 4-H.”

A Lancaster County 4-H alumnus, Kitt was a 4-H Ambassador and camp counselor. Her mother, Linda Dempsey, was leader of Kitt’s club. Linda still volunteers for 4-H, assisting with Kitt’s 4-H clubs and Clover College classes.

Kitt lives in Lincolns with her husband Steve and their daughters Elie and Annabelle. She is owner of A Page In Time scrapbooking store. Kitt also volunteers at their church and their daughters’ school.

Congratulations to Kitt! Volunteers like her are indeed the heart of 4-H!

Nominate your favorite 4-H volunteer by submitting the form online at http://lancaster.unl.edu/4h or available at the extension office. Nominations of co-volunteers welcome.

4-H Speech & PSA Contest
The 4-H Speech and Public Service Announcement (PSA) contests are open to all 4-H members—need not be enrolled in a specific project. Register by Friday, April 7 by calling extension at 441-7180. For more information, contact Karen Barlow.

PSA Contest, April 20
The PSA contest will be held at the Lancaster Extension Education Center on Thursday, April 20 at 6:30 p.m. PSA’s must be 60 seconds topic is 4-H. Emphasis is on the presentation of a PSA for radio. Contestants must give their PSA in person, no prerecorded tapes allowed. After the contest, youth qualifying for districts will record their PSAs on tape with the help of extension staff. Tips for writing successful PSAs can also be found online at http://unl.edu/programs/communication/psa.htm.

Speech & PSA Contest, April 23
This year’s Speech Contest will be held at the Lancaster Extension Education Center on Sunday, April 23 at 1 p.m. Please note the contest location has changed from past years. Topics can be anything, but a 4-H theme should be maintained.

Length depends on division:
• Novice (ages 8–9): 2 min. or less
• Intermediate (ages 10–11): 3–5 min.
• Senior (ages 14–19): 5–8 min.

More information is online at http://unl.edu/programs/communication/speech.htm and click on “As You Speak, 4-H Public Speaking Guidelines.” When registering please know what age division you are in and the title of your speech.
Livestock Judging Contest, March 25

All 4-H youth are invited and encouraged to attend the Capitol Pork Producers 5th Annual Livestock Judging Contest. This event will be held Saturday, March 25, 10 a.m. in the Kimmel Building on the Otsego County fairgrounds. A free lunch will be provided. If you plan on attending, please let Deanna know so she can assist in a car pool. If you need anymore information call 441-7180.

4-H Day at Omaha Royals, April 30

The Omaha Royals are hosting the first annual 4-H Day at Rosenblatt Stadium, 1202 Bert Murphy Ave., Omaha. All 4-H members, family and friends will receive half off admission to see the Royals in action against Colorado Springs Sky Sox on Sunday, April 30 at 1:35 p.m. Tickets and reserved seats must be made in advance as a group (minimum of 50), by calling Jeremie Larkins at 402-738-5132. All 4-H families and friends are encouraged to wear 4-H gear.

Quality Assurance Training, May 9

Lancaster County will be holding a Quality Assurance training on Tuesday, May 9 at 7 a.m. If you have not attended a training yet through your school or club, please plan to attend. This year’s topics for the quality assurance trainings are animal handling, carcass and product quality. Every 4-H and FFA youth planning to exhibit livestock this year must complete this certification class prior to June 15. Call Deanna at 441-7180 for further details.

Jammie Jamboree, June 17

Join us at the Jammie Jamboree and make jammy bottoms on Saturday, June 17, 9 a.m. Bring the Simplicity pattern 5358, prewashed flannel or 100% cotton fabric for the bottoms and matching thread. Also bring your sewing machine, basic sewing equipment such as scissors, pins, measuring tape, etc. and a snack lunch. Adults are welcome. Sign up by June 12 by calling 441-7180. Open to 4-H youth, jammy bottoms may be entered at the fair and styled in the Style Revue.

Clove College, June 20-23

Do you want to learn some new and exciting things? Do you like making projects and meeting new people? Plan to attend one or more of the workshops at the 2006 Clove College! Open to 4-H and non-4-H youth ages 6-18. Look in next month’s Nebraska 4-H Magazine for a full list of workshops, information and registration forms. A small fee will be required for most workshops. Call Tracy if you have any questions or may be interested in volunteering to assist with various workshops.

Two New Resources for Clubs

Computer CD — A 4-H Resources CD is now available for each 4-H club. The CD provides information on the 4-H career portfolio, officer guides and a 4-H video. Stop by and pick up your copy!

Videotape – The “Winter Horse Warm-up” 4-H leader training was videotaped and is available for checkout. Helpful handouts are also available. For more information, contact Tracy, 441-7180.

4-H Rabbit Clinic

Thursday, April 6, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Lancaster Extension Education Center, 444 Cherrycrest Rd, Lincoln

Learn about the 4-H Rabbit Program. FREE to attend!  
SESSIONS INCLUDE: Buying a Rabbit, Information about Rabbit Breeds, Care of Rabbits, Rabbit Showmanship, Showmanship, Static Exhibits

Spring Rabbit Show

Saturday, April 8, 9 a.m. 
Lancaster Event Center, 84th & Havelock, Lincoln, Pavilion 3 Exhibit Hall • Registration: 7:30–8:30 a.m.

Trophies & ribbons will be awarded!

CLASSES: Fancy Rabbits, Commercial Rabbits, Pet Class and Pee Wee Class. 
REGISTRATION FEES: $5.25 per rabbit or bunny, $1 for fur class, $1.50 Showmanship.

OPEN TO ALL YOUTH

4-H & Youth

Kiwianis Karnival, April 22

The annual Kiwanis Karnival, a FREE family event is sponsored by the Lincoln Center Kiwanis. This year, it will be held Saturday, April 22, 7-9 p.m. at the Elliott Elementary School, 235 S. 26 Street, Lincoln. Elliott school students and their families will be invited to share the fun.

The Karnival features carnival type games for the kids, bingo for adults, prizes, snacks, fun and fellowship. Lincoln Center Kiwanis has sponsored this event for over 50 years providing prizes and snacks. 4-H clubs are needed to provide carnival-type booths. This is a great community service and leadership activity for clubs. If your 4-H club or family would like to have a booth or for more information, call Lorene at 441-7180. Come join the fun.

Lancaster County 4-H member Kyle Pedersen is the State Awards Book winner in the area and plant science. Awards Books are a cumulative record of an individual’s 4-H and other leadership activities. This honor gives Kyle the opportunity to attend the 2006 National 4-H Congress held Nov. 24–28 in Atlanta, Georgia.

Kyle Pedersen is Plant Science State Awards Book Winner

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Community Focus

Visioning

continued from page 1

• When your community does not have agreement on such issues as growth and change. • When there is lack of hope and the future looks dim.

Visioning is a useful tool in community planning; it can assist a community in identifying important and current issues, understanding of its strengths, weaknesses and challenges of meeting community needs and pulling community residents together in developing a shared vision based on community values.

Who should determine a community’s future, other than its residents? Should it be a consultant hired by the local government to develop a plan, a state or federal agency making decisions about highway bypass or a private developer constructing a residential subdivision or a strip mall? All these implications could have a large impact on a community’s future. A small group of individual residents in the community may be making decisions about the community’s future without input from a broad range of residents.

Community residents need to participate in and actively envision the future of their community; otherwise, it will be making decisions about the minor themes were identified:

1. What are the major problems and challenges in Bennet to participate in the process. The participants were asked three questions:

1. What are the major problems and challenges in your community?
2. What are the major strengths and assets of your community?
3. What is your vision of Bennet 10 to 15 years from now?

Results of the Listening Sessions

The listening sessions were quite successful and attended by 106 community residents. The answers were recorded by facilitators and analyzed and compiled into a report. Through the report, the major themes were identified:

Major Issues & Concerns:

• Lack of appropriate infrastructure (water quality issues)
• Fear of growth
• Business development
• Recreation opportunities for all ages

Major assets of Bennet:

• Small town atmosphere
• Great school system
• Rural environment
• Proximity to Lincoln

Vision of Bennet:

• Recreation opportunity
• Controlled growth
• Improved infrastructure (residential growth)

Second Town Hall Meeting

A second Visioning Town Hall Meeting was held in February. The results of the listening sessions were presented back to the community. Residents then divided into small groups and discussed the results of the listening sessions.

Afterwards, a Citizen Advisory Committee was formed. The primary role of this committee is monitoring the visioning process, assisting the Village Board and Planning Commission in establishing communication linkages between the citizens and local officials, ensuring incorporation of vision statement and the results of the listening sessions into the comprehensive plan.

Next Steps

Information from the entire community visioning process is being used by local officials and the Citizen Advisory Committee to develop a vision statement. Hanna-Keelan Associates is developing a comprehensive plan for Bennet based on the community input. The comprehensive plan is expected to be finished by the end of April.

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 alum, knows there isn’t one solution for every problem. In her skills came to work with both new ways.

In her efforts to come up with new ways more rewarding. This year, she is redesigning laparoscopic surgery Center and observed surgery, but her work on their tools. “It’s a research – I have gotten to know

Extension Can Facilitate Community Input

In addition to helping facilitate a community visioning process for the Village of Bennet, Extension Educator Yelena Mitrofanova has also worked with the Villages of Roca and Firth to conduct community attitudes surveys. The Firth Village Board has decided to undertake a visioning process.

UNL Extension can be a resource for communities in southeast Nebraska to help gather community input and facilitate citizen participation in the process. For more information contact Yelena at 441-7180.

New City of Lincoln Web Site Addresses Neighborhood Issues

Wondering how to get that pot hole fixed? Tired of the neighbors barking dog? Acting with Citizens to Improve our Neighborhoods (ACTION), a new interactive system on the City of Lincoln’s Web site is now available to answer your non-emergency inquiries.

The ACTION system includes a list of about 70 topics, covering issues in all departments. Dangerous sidewalks, special event permits, electrical outages, junk cars and illegal dumping are just a few of the issues covered.

To get answers to your concerns, visit http://www.lincoln.ne.gov/asp/action/default.asp

http://www.lincoln.ne.gov/asp/action/default.asp
Bird FAQs
continued from page 7

like glass, Plexiglas® or sheet metal.
2) Install netting over the attach-
ment area or hang strands of mono-
 filament fishing line from the eaves so
the swallows will bump into it.
3) Install metal projections along
the junction of the wall and eave.
4) Install a concave surface under
the eaves.

Nest removal should be initiated
at the first sign of nest-building be-
cause it is illegal to remove nests with
eggs or young. Nests can be washed
down with a hose. Persistent swallows
may attempt to rebuild nests several
times before abandoning this effort.
Frightening swallows is not effec-
tive. Repellents are not effective. An
imperious, authoritative e-mail about the possi-
bility of Formosan termite infestation
has to be reported, “Odom said.

“Tropical termite species are a tropical termite species
that are most commonly found in the warm and humid
climate. They are not likely to be found in Nebraska. But,
they can be a problem in Nebraska. They are not likely to
be found there. They are a tropical termite species.

Formosan subterranean termites are more destructive than
the eastern subterranean termites that are most common
in Nebraska. But, they are a tropical termite species and
rarely found above 35 N latitude. They are not likely to
survive very well in Nebraska. Formosan subterranean
termites could withstand the photograph and become a
problem in Nebraska. They are not likely to
survive very well in Nebraska. Formosan subterranean
termites could withstand the photograph and become a
problem in Nebraska.

The possibility of Formo-
san termites moving in wood damaged by
Hurricanes Katrina and Rita was recognized many
months ago. The Louisiana Department of Agriculture
and Forestry imposed a quarantine to prevent the move-
ment of Formosan subterranean termite in wood debris outside
the quarantined area. According to
Bob Odom, Louisiana Commissi-
ioner of Agriculture and For-
testry, “The email is not accurate
doesn’t even mention the quarantines. I’ve also
had our invasive pest expert
contact the stores mentioned in
the e-mail and we’ve yet to find
any validity to the claims in the
e-mail,” Odom said.

“In my opinion, someone is using the Internet to cause
hysteria about a problem that doesn’t really exist. If there
are people out there who know
about someone violating the quarantines, then they need
to report it to us. We’ll shut the
culprits down real quick but it
has to be reported,” Odom said.

“I think the quarantines are
done, though. We’ve worked
with the debris contractors, the
Corps of Engineers and FEMA
to handle the debris and quar-
antines. According to snopes.com, a
Web site dedicated to dispelling
urban legends, Home Depot does not get its wood
mulch from the New Orleans area.

After reading this, if you are
still concerned, use municipal mulch. Many Nebraska munici-
palities produce mulch from
tree trimmings which should be
safe to use and termite free.

If you want to use bagged mulch and are still concerned,
lay the bags of mulch out in
the warm sun for a few hours.
According to Mike Merchant,
Urban Entomologist at Texas A&M University, raising mulch
temperatures to 120 degrees for
an hour or more is generally sufficient to kill all insect life.

A recent press release from Kansas State can be found at:
http://www.oemt.k-state.edu/
news/topstory.asp

The lesson learned is don’t believe everything you read on
the Internet!”

For More Information

Visit our website:
http://www.oznet.k-state.edu/
Kansas State can be found at:
http://www.oznet.k-state.edu/

Lancaster Extension Education Center
444 Cherry Creek Road, Lincoln
Lobby Phone: 441-7170
4-H’ers Help Install Flower Garden at Northeast Family Center

By Spencer Farley
4-H member

A special place in Lincoln for me is the Northeast Family Center at Whitehall Mansion. I’ve grown up going to the Mansion with my mom for meetings and special family gatherings. Whitehall Mansion is a great old house about a hundred years old.

Two new playgrounds were being donated and I wanted to help. The installation was moved from the summer to fall during school hours. Since I couldn’t help put the playground in, my mom and I tried to think of other ways to help. We came up with the idea of planting hybrid iris along the playground fence to help beautify the area. Our project started out small, but before we knew it our garden grew to 25 feet by 58 feet and would include plants and flowers that would bloom all season. With a project this big we needed help.

I am a member of the Lincoln Iris Society. I asked my fellow members if they would be willing to help. I was a little nervous getting up and speaking to the whole group but they were wonderful! Not only did they agree to help, but they voted to donate money to the project! Members also donated hybrid iris, daylilies and other plants.

I called on some local businesses to donate needed chemicals and flowering bulbs. We even got a park bench!

More than 25 4-H Teen Council members and parents helped shape and put granite stepping stones in the garden. Some Teen Council members also helped with planting.

It was really fun seeing all the people come together and work on the project. In all, we had nearly 100 volunteers. Even my best friend, who has never gardened, helped! The garden has nearly 500 flowering bulbs, around 200 hybrid iris, 30 hybrid daylilies and many other flowers and grasses. All donated.

It was fun seeing the garden come together. Giving something back to the community feels good.

Note: For more photos, go to the 4-H Web site at http://lancaster.unl.edu.

Garden Opening Celebration, April 22

The flower garden is located in the carriage way of the Northeast Family Center building, the historic Whitehall Mansion, 5903 Walker Avenue, Lincoln. A formal opening, entitled Northeast Family Center in Bloom, is scheduled for Saturday, April 22, 1-4 p.m. and will include informal tours and activities.

Visit the Garden Anytime

The public is welcome to visit the Northeast Family Center garden and playgrounds anytime. Flowers will be in bloom from April through late fall.

Volunteers Needed to Maintain Garden

Northeast Family Center is seeking volunteers to help maintain the garden throughout the season and give educational tours to requesting groups. If you are interested in helping, please call 471-3700.

Special Thanks

Spencer Farley and his family would like to thank the nearly 100 volunteers who helped with this community service project. Special thanks to Jean Pedersen (a 4-H parent and Extension Master Gardener) who helped with this community service project.

Food Safety Tips for Teens Online

If you’re a teen, tween or work with this age group, you can download a PowerPoint "Cold Pizza for Breakfast: MyPyramid Food Safety Tips for Teens & Tweens Who Cook" at http://lancaster.unl.edu/food/pizza.shtml.

To view the PowerPoint directly on the Web, click on the slide show link.

This is a great way to learn about food safety in the kitchen and will complement your 4-H food and nutrition projects! There are LOTS of graphics with teens and tweens giving food safety advice. It ends with a game of “Keep or Toss.”

These materials were developed by University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension, Nebraska Department of Education and the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department.

Can You Guess It?

Did you guess it from the March Naunus? The answer was Leafy Spurge—a Nebraska noxious weed.

2006 Nebraska Agricultural Youth Institute Conference

The Nebraska Agricultural Youth Institute (NAYI) is a conference open to high school juniors and seniors interested in agriculture. The 2006 NAYI conference will be held July 9-13 at the Kauffman Center on University of Nebraska–Lincoln City Campus. The conference is a five day educational exposure to many areas of the agriculture sector.

All meals, lodging and conference fees are paid by the Nebraska Department of Agriculture. Applications and further information can be obtained from the extension office. Applications are due April 19.