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Kids Ag Discovery Zone at County Fair is Interactive Experience

Youth of all ages will have the opportunity to see, touch and smell agriculture at the Kids Ag Discovery Zone at the Lancaster County Fair. Agriculture and agribusiness is Nebraska’s number one industry, with 31 percent of the state’s total employment related to agriculture. Nebraska’s farms and ranches use 45.9 million acres — 83 percent of the state’s total land area.

As agriculture moves away from family farms, each generation of kids is getting further removed from the farm. The Kids Ag Discovery Zone is designed to increase awareness about Nebraska’s connection to agriculture.

"Youth need to know that hamburgers don’t just come from stores — meat, buns, cheese, pickles and ketchup all originate from some type of farming," says 4-H staff member Deanna Karmazin. "While many adults know the primary products which come from livestock and crops, they may not know how many by-products contain ingredients from these products."

**Interactive Displays**

The Kids Ag Discovery Zone will be located in Pavilion 1 between the llamas and swine. It will be open 8 a.m.—9 p.m. all five days of the fair, August 2-6.

During these times, you can check out the interactive displays — “milk” a wooden cow, climb a kid-sized tractor and test your knowledge on oversized quiz boards. There will also be baby chicks on display if they hatch in time!

**Meet & Greet**

A special time for people to interact with animals and their owners will be during the Kids Ag Discover Zone Meet & Greet, which will be Thursday, Aug. 3 and Friday, Aug. 4 from 6-9 p.m. and Saturday, Aug. 5 from 5-9 p.m. Waverly FFA members, along with their advisor Tony Tvrdy, will showcase the livestock they are showing at the County Fair. You can touch the animals, try leading an animal and ask owners questions.

**Fun Facts About Farm Animals**

- Cattle, sheep and goats do not have any upper front teeth.
- Each day, a cow spends 6 hours eating and 8 hours chewing its cud.
- There are more cattle than people in Nebraska.
- One cow hide can make 20 footballs or 18 soccer balls or 18 volleyballs or 12 basketballs.
- A dairy cow can make 40 pounds of milk each day. That is 16,000 glasses of milk each year (enough for 40 people). That is 45 glasses of milk each day!
- 25 gallons of milk can make 9 gallons of ice cream or 25 pounds of cheese or 11 pounds of butter. It takes about 30 cups of milk to make 1 pound of butter.
- Pigs can run one mile in 7 minutes.
- A pig’s squeal ranges from 110-115 decibels. How loud is that? As loud as a Concorde supersonic jet landing, which is 112 decibels.
- Sheep do not see well. However, they hear very well.
- A baseball has 450 feet of wool yarn in it.
- Llamas are related to camels, but they do not have humps on their backs.
- A llama is stronger than a horse. It can carry 30% of its body weight.

Test your knowledge on quiz boards!

Ask youth livestock owners questions about their animals at the Meet & Greet.
Predicting the Last Irrigation for Corn, Milo and Soybeans

Tom Dorn
UNL Extension Educator

One thing irrigators must think about around the first week of August is when to shut down the irrigation system for the season. Ideally, you will want to stop irrigating far enough ahead of the first frost so the crop will extract as much moisture from the soil and produce the highest harvest yield. This makes maximum use of the moisture present in the root zone, minimizes the amount of water pumped (which saves expense) and gives you the driest possible soil at harvest time, which minimizes soil compaction and harvest problems.

Research has shown a medium-season corn at the beginning dent stage of growth, will take approximately four weeks time and will require an additional 5.3 inches of water to reach physiological maturity (beginning dent). At the full dent stage, it will take about two weeks to reach maturity and will require about 2.5 inches of water. 

Grain Sorghum

Mature sorghum requires about 6.5 inches of water to reach maturity from the soft dough stage, and about 1.2 inches of water from the hard dough-stage of growth.

Beans

Beans require about 6.5 inches from the beginning seed fall stage or 3.5 inches from the full seed fall stage to reach maturity. (Check the seed fall stage by examining the development of seeds in the pods at one of the four uppermost nodes on the main stem that has fully developed leaves. The beginning seed fall stage is when bean seeds can be detected by squeezeing with the fingers in one of the pods. The full seed fall stage is when the pods contain full-sized bean seeds.)

An alternative way to figure when to stop irrigating would be to figure on what day a full soil profile would carry the crop through to maturity. The clay to silt loam soils in southeast Nebraska hold 1.6 to 1.8 inches of available water per inch of soil, respectively; If we assume we have a four foot root zone, that would be seven inches total available water holding capacity in the root zone. Research has shown that 60 percent of the available moisture in the root zone can be depleted at crop maturity without reducing grain yield. We can utilize about 4.2 inches of the available moisture without hurting yield.

Having discussed the above, we can now predict the day when a full profile on a silty clay soil would carry the various crops through to maturity. For a medium-season corn, the target date would be when half of the corn kernels have dented. For grain sorghum, it would occur about one week after the soft-dough stage. For soybeans, it would be at, or just before the full seed fall stage.

Remember, these guidelines assume you have a full foot soil profile at field capacity on the profile. If the profile was not filled to capacity (most likely it wasn’t), you would need to continue to irrigate until you have applied enough water to have filled the profile. For example, if the soil would have held another 2.5 inches on the target date, it would take a total of 2.5 inches of rainfall plus irrigation, in addition to the available soil moisture to finish out the crop.

Predicting the date of the last irrigation is an important water management decision. You can minimize expense and leave your soil in good shape for harvest without harming yields by following these simple guidelines.

Effect of Increasing Energy Prices on Irrigation Costs

Tom Dorn
UNL Extension Educator

Question: Diesel prices have increased from about $1.65 in June to $3.45 as this is being written. What effect will this have on the cost of pumping irrigation water? Answer: The cost to pump water depends on the total head the pump must produce to deliver the water and the volume of water pumped. The total head has two components. The lift component is the distance the pump must lift water from the water level in the well to the pump discharge. The second component is the head is the system pressure, measured at the pump. The greater the head produced, the greater the cost per acre-inch of water delivered. The greater the volume of water pumped (acre-inches), the greater the table. Please refer to the table below presents several scenarios that represent the effect the increased cost of diesel has had on typical irrigation situations in Nebraska.

Fall is the Best Time to Stop Henbit

Tom Dorn
UNL Extension Educator

Henbit is a biennial weed normally germinating in the early fall but may germinate in early spring, depending on moisture conditions. It grows in an upright position, seldom reaching heights greater than 12 inches. Typical of plants in the mint family, the upper stems are square. The ½ to 1-inch leaves are opposite, dark green and hairy above and lighter below. The lower leaves have petioles but the upper leaves are borne directly on the stem. The leaves are triangular to oval in shape. If Henbit was a problem in the fall, the seed supply will be there to start the cycle again this fall. In crop fields, apply pre-emergent crabgrass control will do a good job of controlling henbit. As when applying products for pre-emergent crabgrass control, the chemical application must precede henbit germination to be effective. Apply the first pre-emergent treatment around the first of September followed by a second application of pre-emergent herbicide a month later or follow up with a post-emergent application at the end of October. There are no pre-emergent chemicals registered for use in pastures.

Post-emergent control can be achieved with products containing 2,4-D mixed with dicamba, and/or MCPP in late-October followed by a second application, if necessary, in March.

If Henbit was a problem in crop fields, the seed supply will be there to start the cycle again this fall. In crop fields, apply 2,4-D (1 quart), Basis + 2,4-D (0.5 oz + 1 pint), Gyphosate (2 quart), Gyphosate + 2,4-D (1.5 pint + 1 pint), or Gamozone Max (1.3 pint) in late fall after harvest.

You can achieve fair control in the spring with 2,4-D (1 pint) or 2,4-D + Dicamba (1 pint + 0.5 pint). Better control is achieved in the spring with atrazine in combination with 2,4-D or Dicamba but the field cannot be planted to atrazine-sensitive crops. See UNL Extension publication EC 130 “2006 Guide for Weed Management,” page 41.
**Water Trees During Drought**

There may not be enough moisture in the soil during dry months to maintain healthy trees. Extended drought puts trees under stress that can cause death. Dennis Adams, for- ester, says “Large, established trees survive even the worst drought periods, but young trees, particularly newly-planted trees, need supple- mental water to help them maintain vitality throughout summer.” Water is necessary for flowering, lawns and showers or sprinklers usu- ally do not provide adequate amounts of water.

Trees should be thor- oughly watered. If only lightly watered, soil will dry quickly and trees will receive very little benefit. During an extended drought, trees should be deep watered every 10 days to two weeks, depending on soil type. Deep watering is done by thor- oughly-soaking the soil to a depth of two to three feet, equivalent to applying 50 gallons of water.

A soil ball three to four inches in height and three to four feet in diameter around the base of the tree will hold water until it can percolate into the soil. Also, when planting a garden hose to run slowly for several hours will provide water. Mulching around the base of the tree will help conserve soil moisture and tree root soils.

When people see their woody plants (shrubs and trees) decline, they often want a “magical” treatment to make them lush, green and healthy again. This is what magic is all about.

All living organisms exist in a world of stresses. Unusual stresses that negatively affect normal health and growth of woody plants in a home land- scape commonly arise from physical factors.

Consider a plant’s native environment. Any time a plant is placed into an environment where it is not native, you are removing it from conditions that mirror its native environment. Be observant and monitor woody plants in their natural environment. Be them to deal with conditions similar to their natural environment. Be observant and monitor woody plants in their natural environment.

Good management of your valuable woody plants may involve “healing” and “curing” factors. First, plant species adapted to Nebraska weather and soil conditions should be used.

**Woody Plants Under Stress**

A research paper co-authored by two professors at Purdue University strongly advises using local, American black walnut wood shavings for animal bedding.

Daniel Cassen, professor and extension wood products specialist, and Stephen Hooser, head of Purdue’s extension wood products specialist, strongly advise against the use of wood shavings in animal housing. “In many cases, wood shavings and sawdust are considered residues by the wood industry and the manu- facturer simply wants to dispose of the product giving it to farmers. This is not a good use to the other party that pro- cesses and markets it,” the professors note. “There is a suggestion that bedding be purchased or otherwise obtained only from reputable suppli- ers who are aware of the relationship between black walnut and laminitis... If there is the possible problem of contamination, sawdust and shavings should be kept to trees and shrubs adequately watered during dry periods. If needed, fertilize in early spring to im- prove growth.”

Penstemon, a Great Acreage Flower

A great perennial to add to acre- age gardens is beardtongue, bearded tongue or Penstemon, pronounced pen-stay-mon. Penstemon is a member of the snapdragon family, having long, tubular flowers that open to five petals. Flowers are produced on tall, showy flower spikes with most species having flowers in shades of red, pink, purple and blue. All Penste- mon have opposite leaves in varying shapes forming a basal rosette. They have rounded leaves of P. digitalis, smooth white Penste- mon to the rounded, waxy, bluish-gray Penstemon, a Great Acreage Flower.

Penstemon species are drought tolerant, and in fact, the great- est limitation to Penstemon survival in the home garden is poorly drained soil, over watering in summer and winter soils.

*Wyoming Penstemon, Penstemon grandiflorus,* "War Axe," is an excep- tional strain of the beautiful native, shell-leaf Penstemon. This selection has a wide range of colors including pink, maroon, red, reds, purples and reds. Plants with black-colored flowers are successfully used by reducing the risk of disease incidence. Black walnut (Juglans nigra) andく

**Add Mulches to Landscapes to Protect Plants from Temperature Changes**

Plastic is an effective mulch material for some crops, such as tomatoes.

Plastic, as straw or coarse sawdust, should be fortified with a nitrogen fertilizer. One table- spoon of ammonium sulfate per one bushel of mulch, ap- plied once or twice in spring, will prevent yellowing of plant material.

Dormant season or winter mechanical injury by moderating temperature fluctuation and reducing foliar moisture loss until the crown and upper roots are released from the effects of thawing and freezing of soil water. In the fall, apply a loose mulch after several hard freezes have occurred. The mulch will delay the plant processes that allow the plants to tolerate cold tempera- tures. After mulching, avoid pruning, adding nitrogen or any activities that stimulate new growth. Strawberries and other old rose varieties need winter mulch.

**Woodchips are a good mulch for landscape plants containing trees or shrubs.**

Crops, such as straw- berries or tomatoes, where the plastic is removed each year. Plastic is a good mulch for landscape plants containing trees or shrubs. It helps create space for air and water. Some mulches are intended to function for only a brief time, such as mulch ap- plied to newly seeded lawns. These mulches reduce soil and plant moisture loss until the turf is established. For warm-season crops, such as toma- toes, apply mulch when soil temperatures reach 70 degrees.

Cool-season annuals, such as pansies, are mulched in early spring, as soon as new growth begins. In summer, mulching materials in low nitrogen, such as straw or coarse sawdust, should be fortified with a nitrogen fertilizer. One table- spoon of ammonium sulfate per one bushel of mulch, ap- plied once or twice in spring, will prevent yellowing of plant material.
Are You Winning the “Fruit & Vegetable Bowl Game”? 

Alice Henneman
UNL Extension Educator

If your dinner plate were a playing field, would you be winning or losing the “fruit and vegetable bowl game”? Choose the one best answer for each of the following questions.

1. Which colors of fruit and vegetables are healthiest to eat?
   A. Red
   B. Green
   C. Blue/purple
   D. Yellow/orange
   E. White
   F. All of the above

2. How many cups of fruit should a person eat daily at the 2,000 calorie level?
   A. 1 cup
   B. 1 1/2 cups
   C. 2 cups
   D. 2 1/2 cups
   E. 3 cups
   F. All of the above

3. Which of the following are equivalent to 1 cup of vegetables?
   A. 1/2 cup cooked
dried carrots
   B. 1 cup cooked or frozen green beans
   C. 2 cups raw or leafy greens
   D. 2 1/2 cups
   E. A and B
   F. All of the above

4. How many cups of vegetables should a person eat daily at the 2,000 calorie level?
   A. 1 cup
   B. 1 1/2 cups
   C. 2 cups
   D. 2 1/2 cups
   E. 3 cups
   F. All of the above

5. Which of the following are equivalent to 1 cup of vegetables?
   A. 1/2 cup cooked
dried carrots
   B. 1 cup cooked or frozen green beans
   C. 2 cups raw or leafy greens
   D. 2 1/2 cups
   E. A and B
   F. All of the above

6. How many cups of fruit should a person eat daily at the 2,000 calorie level?
   A. 1 cup
   B. 1 1/2 cups
   C. 2 cups
   D. 2 1/2 cups
   E. 3 cups
   F. All of the above

7. Which of the following are equivalent to 1 cup of fruit?
   A. 1/2 cup dried fruit
   B. 1 cup juice
   C. Both of the above
   D. Neither of the above

8. BONUS POINT: Are YOU eating a variety of colorful fruits and vegetables daily?
   A. Yes, I am eating all of the colors of the fruit and vegetable rainbow.
   B. Yes, I am eating the colors of the fruit and vegetable rainbow, but not all of the colors.
   C. No, I am not eating a variety of colors of the fruit and vegetable rainbow.
   D. I am not eating any fruit or vegetables at all.

ANSWERS

1. A
2. C
3. E
4. E
5. E
6. E
7. E
8. B

NEP Helping limited-resource families learn to prepare nutritious and safe foods while stretching their food dollars.

Zainab Rida
UNL Extension Assistant

Living a busy lifestyle makes many families rely on fast food or ready-prepared food for their meals. Fortunately, families can meet the demands of a busy lifestyle and still make healthful choices by planning and shopping smartly. Here are the most important tips to keep in mind:

1. Family Time — Family meals offer routine and regularity in a busy modern world. Family time is the opportunity to learn together about communication skills, manners, nutrition and good eating habits, planning meals, and making a grocery list. A fast food environment cannot offer this atmosphere for helping build strong, happy and healthy families.

2. Save Time — Many parents blame their busy lifestyle for not having time for cooking; however, you would be surprised to know how little time it takes to make a low-fat taco salad, burrito, pasta dish or grilled chicken. To save money, try to make a meal for the days of the week ahead of time. Then, to save time, you can freeze the meals you don’t need for later. To serve the meals, just reheat them in the microwave. This is a good money-saving tip, but you must make sure the food is cooked through and the meat is cooked to your liking.

3. Save Money — Cooking at home is an excellent way to save money. Many dishes are inexpensive, tasty and very healthy.

4. Balanced Meals — Fast foods are more likely lacking in fruits, vegetables and milk. Adding these foods in the children’s diet will help reduce risk for several chronic diseases. Some studies show a strong association between high fruit and vegetable consumption and reduced risk of cancers, infections, diabetes, hypertension and bone loss.

5. Less Fat, sugar and salt — When you cook at home, you have control of how much fat, sugar and salt. When eating out, sugary beverages are more often chosen over healthier beverages, including milk, water and juice.

6. Physical activity — An active lifestyle is important when eating at home is you burn calories because of the preparation before and after the meal, such as shopping, cooking, setting the table, serving and cleaning up after the meal.

7. Involved children — Invoking children in food preparation is a fun activity. You teach your child about healthy food and you also spend time with your child.

Cook once, eat twice — Cook twice as much as you need and freeze the leftovers. Then, when you don’t have time, you can simply heat up the dish for a delicious meal. It is very easy to make the ingredients for one recipe to help serve as the basis of the next day’s meal, or it can be served on the nights you won’t be able to cook.

9. Food safety — Eating at home maintains an awareness of what you are eating and how it is prepared...

10. Relieve stress — You cannot find a better place that is more convenient and pleasant as your home.

Grilled steak plus a salad is a summertime favorite. Here’s a quick new idea for you to try: steak salad! Without reading the recipe, you’d never guess the rich-tasting dressing provides only 1/2 teaspoon of oil per serving. The shoulder cut used in this salad is one of 29 cuts of lean beef that meet government guidelines for "lean.”

Summertime Steak Salad
(Total preparation and cooking time: 30 minutes)
(Making time: 6 hours or overnight)
(Makes 4 servings)

Recipe as seen in The Omaha Star Cookbook. Published by John Wiley & Sons, authorized by Chef Richard Cham-berlain and Betsy Hornick, M.S., R.D.

1. Beef shoulder steak, cut 1 inch thick (about 1 pound)
2. 1 can (5-1/2 ounces) spicy 100% vegetable juice
3. 1 cup chopped tomato
4. 1 cup finely chopped green bell pepper
5. 1 tablespoon red wine vinegar
6. 1 tablespoon chopped fresh cilantro
7. 2 teaspoons olive oil
8. 1 clove garlic, minced

8 cups mixed greens or 1 package (10 ounces) romaine and leaf lettuce mixture
1 cup baby pear or grape tomatoes, halved
1 cup cucumber, cut in half lengthwise, then into thin slices
1 cup chopped green bell pepper
Salt and black pepper, as desired
Crunchy Tortilla Strips (recipe follows)

Place beef steak and 1 can vegetable juice in food-safe plastic bag; turn steak to coat. Close bag securely and marinate in refrigerator 6 hours or as long as overnight.

Remove steak from marinade; discard marinade. Place steak on grill; turn to coat. Close bag securely and marinate in refrigerator 6 hours or as long as overnight.
Whisk Spicy Tomato Dressing ingredients in small bowl until blended, refrigerated. Combine lettuce, baby pear tomatoes, cucumber and green bell pepper; refrigerate.

Meanwhile, prepare Crunchy Tortilla Strips. Add steak to salad mixture. Drizzle with dressing and top with tortilla strips.
Crunchy Tortilla Strips
Cut Healthy Beef

1. Beef steak, cut in strips in half, then crosswise into 1/4-inch wide strips. Place strips in single layer on baking sheet. Spray tortilla strips lightly with nonstick cooking spray. Bake 4 to 8 minutes at 400 degrees F or until crisp.

2. Crunchy Tortilla Strips

Crunchy Tortilla Strips
Cut Healthy Beef

Mediterranean Diet: Positions paper

Dietary fiber provides. Some studies also show an inverse association between high fruit and vegetable consumption and risk of cancers, infections, diabetes and bone loss.

2. 1-1/2 cups
3. 2 cups
4. 2 1/2 cups
5. E
6. C
7. C
8. B

Top 10 Reasons to Eat At Home

1. Family time — Family time is comfortable, convenient and a good source of fiber. Some studies also show an inverse association between high fruit and vegetable consumption and risk of cancers, infections, diabetes and bone loss.

2. Save time — Save time by planning and shopping ahead of time. Many dishes are inexpensive, tasty and very healthy. Some studies also show an inverse association between high fruit and vegetable consumption and risk of cancers, infections, diabetes and bone loss.

3. Balanced meals — Save money by planning and shopping ahead of time. Many dishes are inexpensive, tasty and very healthy. Some studies also show an inverse association between high fruit and vegetable consumption and risk of cancers, infections, diabetes and bone loss.

4. Save money — Cooking at home is an excellent way to save money. Many dishes are inexpensive, tasty and very healthy. Some studies also show an inverse association between high fruit and vegetable consumption and risk of cancers, infections, diabetes and bone loss.

5. Less fat, sugar and salt — Save money by planning and shopping ahead of time. Many dishes are inexpensive, tasty and very healthy. Some studies also show an inverse association between high fruit and vegetable consumption and risk of cancers, infections, diabetes and bone loss.

6. Physical activity — Save money by planning and shopping ahead of time. Many dishes are inexpensive, tasty and very healthy. Some studies also show an inverse association between high fruit and vegetable consumption and risk of cancers, infections, diabetes and bone loss.

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FAMILY & COMMUNITY EDUCATION (FCE) CLUBS

President’s Notes — Alice’s Analysis

Alice Doane
FCE Council Chair

Ted and I have just returned from Seattle, Washington and a one day trip to White Rock, BC in Canada. We attended the closing ceremonies for the Japanese students Ted had in class for three months in Lincoln. They have now returned to Japan.

Fair time is just around the corner. I remember the time and frustration of this time of year. It was busy for me as a 4-H member and then as a leader helping my daughters get all of their projects done and exhibited.

By the time you read this analysis, the Sizzling Summer Sampler will be over and plans for next year will be under way again. From the early registration we will have a good size group.

At the June meeting, volunteer report forms were passed out. These reports will help to verify FCE is a non-profit organization. When I read over the reports, I see what FCE promotes. The categories we support are organizations and groups such as the Food Bank, Teddy Bear Cottage, Cedar’s Home, Gathering Place and Earth Day. The members do many other activities in the community. I am looking forward to adding up the number of hours Lancaster County members volunteer in the community. Return the forms by the September Council meeting.

I hope to report then, rewarding opportunities and experiences.

Hope to see you at the County Fair.

FCE News & Events

2006 Scholarship Recipient

Kerri Merkel of Lincoln received the $300 Lancaster County FCE scholarship for 2006. She is a senior at the Bryan/Lincoln College of Health Sciences and will graduate in December with a Registered Nurse degree.

Upcoming Dates

- **August 28** — Reorganizational Packets available.
- **Sept. 25** — FCE Council Meeting, 1 p.m.
- **Sept. 28** — FCE & Community October Lesson Training, “Have It Your Way — Putting Legal & Financial Affairs in Order,” 1 p.m.
- **Sept. 29 — Oct. 1** — Nebraska Association for FCE Clubs State Convention, St. Paul, NE

Over 120 Attend Summer Sampler

The Family & Community Education (FCE) Sizzling Summer Sampler held on July 11 was a success with more than 120 FCE members and friends in attendance.

Attendees enjoyed a light supper and dessert. Many wore hats to carry out the theme of Applebee’s performance “Hats, Women & Song.”

Fourteen baskets were raffled off, raising $390 for the FCE Scholarship Fund.

Kerri Merkel received the $300 FCE scholarship.

Planning Leaves More Time for Family Fun

Families are finding themselves frustrated and over-booked with all the activities and obligations necessary day to day. By scheduling events on paper, cutting down on clutter and using technology, families can learn to better manage their time.

Family organization begins with a written master plan or calendar, which lists all projects, meetings and events. It is best if this calendar can be kept close at hand at all times.

Post a permanent calendar of events in a high-traffic area of the home also is helpful. Each person’s activities should be coded in a different color. This calendar should include scheduled family time.

To protect family time, let the answering machine take all calls during a family event. The number of evening meetings for family members can be limited and planned ahead of time.

Time management requires not only organization, but the drive to stick to the plan and keep calendars current.

Benefits of Family Meetings

Family meetings are an excellent way to practice problem-solving skills, promote communication and build family unity. When a particular plan is needed and mutually agreed upon in a family meeting, everyone — even the youngest child — feels a sense of “ownership” and, thus, is more likely to comply with the plan.

Regularly scheduled meetings might deal with daily decisions such as who will drive the car, what sports or hobbies will be engaged in and how chores are to be distributed. One-time meetings might be needed for a specific project such as planning a vacation trip, holiday party or family project, solving a problem such as how to make Grandma’s moving in more comfortable for everyone or cleaning the air after a crisis or squabble.

Energy Management in Automatic Dishwashing

The heating of water accounts for about 80 percent of the operating cost of a dishwasher. Here are some ways to help save on energy costs:

- Operate dishwasher only when a full load is accumulated.
- Avoid overloading.
- Use the “rinse-hold” cycle or hand rinse soiled dishes while accumulating a full load.
- Dishes wash 6 to 10-gal. lots of hot water per load depending on the cycle selected. When dishes are lightly soiled, use a cycle requiring less water.
- Prewashing dishes is not necessary. Simply scrape off food particles and bones, let the dishwasher do the rest.
- Dishes and casserole with baked-on foods will probably need pretreating, soaking or prescrubbing.
- Gel automatic dishwasher detergents may be used to pretreat heavily baked-on foods on stainless steel, glass, glass ceramic, porcelain, enamelled and other dishwasher safe items. Caution: Avoid direct contact with skin or clothing when using gel automatic dishwasher detergent to pretreat dishes. Wear rubber gloves. If detergent accidently comes in contact with skin, wash immediately with water.
- Use the recommended amount of automatic dishwasher detergent.
- The drying cycle on most dishwashers may account for about 15 percent of the total operating cost, so skip it whenever possible. When there is no “energy saving” air/no heat cycle, simply advance the dial after the final rinse to the “off” position.
- Use of a rinse agent may help promote drying.
- If necessary, insulate water heater and delivery pipes to avoid heat loss between the supply and the dishwasher.

Source: Soap and Detergent Association
A Morning with Herbs
Pioneers Park Nature Center
Saturday, August 26th, 9:30-Noon
Explore the forms, smells, and uses of scented geraniums - the 2006 Herb of the Year
9:30: Tour of the Louise Evans Doole Herb Garden scented geraniums
10:00: Workshop - 'Scentual' Delights make bath balms and scented waters
11:00: Workshop - Pelargoniums on the Palate demonstrations, recipes and samples
Another exciting collaboration between Pioneers Park Nature Center and the Nebraska Herbal Society
Fee: $5/Herb Society members*, $8/non-members
Pre-payment required, registration deadline: August 21
* Please send membership fees ($8/individual, $10/family) directly to the Nebraska Herbal Society, P.O. Box 4495, Lincoln, NE 68504-0493 before registering at member rate.
Call 441-7895 to register

Mandevilla’s Showy Flowers
Mandevilla is known for its shaggy flow- ers and there are about 100 species of this tropical woody vine. Most spe- cies over-winter only in the tropical South. In Nebraska, they can be treated as an-imals or grown indoors. They can be brought indoors before the first freeze and treated as a houseplant during the winter months. In the spring, mandevilla can be placed outside after the threat of freezing weather has passed. Mandevilla is great trellised in containers or in hanging baskets.
Indoors, mandevillas need bright indirect sunlight. Provide night temperatures of 60 to 65 degrees F and day temperatures above 70 degrees F. Plant in a mixture of equal parts peat moss, potting mix and sand. In spring and sum- mer, fertilize every two weeks.
Outdoors, grow mandevilla in partial shade. They need rich, well-drained soil. Provide a frame, trellis or stake to support. Finch young plants to induce bushiness. Since 45 to 50 degrees F is the minimum tempera- ture that can be tolerated by mandevilla, plants should be moved indoors for the winter. Before bringing them indoors, examine them carefully for pests. Look under the leaves and on the plant stems for insects and their eggs. Remove any diseased or dead leaves by hand. Insect-infested plants can be doused with a forceful spray of water to dislodge the pests, or you can use insecticidal soaps or other appro- priate insecti- cides labeled for use on your plant.
The most common pests are mealy- bugs, scale, whiteflies and spider mites.
Move the plants to a lighter location where the temperature is above 55 de- grees F. Reduce the frequency of watering to coincide with the plant’s rest periods induced by the cooler temperatures and reduced light.
In late winter or early spring before growth be- gins, prune by removing old, crowded stems and shorten others. Even if mandevilla is pruned almost to the ground, it will bloom the same sum- mer on the new shoots, which develop from the base of the plants.

Nasturtiums are Versatile Plant
The nasturtium is a versatile plant used for edging in flower beds or in window boxes, patio containers or hanging baskets. The abun- dant colorful blooms are edible and can be cut for use as an elegant entrée garnish or salad decoration. The leaves, which contain a good dose of vitamin C, can be used to add a pappy flavor to fresh salads. 'Tropaeolum minor'; the scientific name for the nasturt- ium, comes from the Greek word meaning "to twine," which is descriptive of some of the 50 species in this genus. Nasturtium was first found growing in Mexico and Peru where it was used instead of cress to flavor foods. It was brought to Europe in the 16th century and considered a sym- bol of conquest and victory in battle. Victorian women later used it in tussie-mussies to ward off bad smells.
Nasturtiums come in three types: dwarf, semi-trail- ing and single flower climbing. Dwarf types are bushy and compact and include the cul- tivars "Alaska", "Empress of In- dia", "Strawberries and Cream" and "Whirlybird". Semi-trailing types reach a length of two-to-three feet, making them ideal for hanging baskets. The single flower climbing types like "Jewel of Africa" send out six to ten eight foot runners that climb trellises like vines. Colors of this type are bright and range from yellow and orange to rose and crimson. Vines are strong and have fragrant flowers.
Nasturtium is one of the easiest flowers to grow from seed. The best flower- ing will be in full sun, but they will tolerate par- tial shade. Seeds can be sown directly in the garden begin- ning in late April. Nasturtiums are not choosy about their soil. Do not spoil them with rich, fertile soil and fertilizers

August Blooming Perennial Flowers
Are most of your early summer perennial flowers done blooming for the year? Wouldn’t it be nice to have a selection of perennials that bloomed late in the summer? There are many attractive Au- gust blooming perennials available and many bloom up until frost. Maybe next year you can add a selection of late summer blooming perennials to your flower garden.
Of course this list is not complete. It is just to get you started. Check garden books and catalogs for more late blooming perennials. With these new additions, plan on enjoying your perennial garden until the cold weather sets in.

Mary Jane Frogge
UNL Extension Associate

Source: Dr. Leonard Perry, Extension Professor, University of Vermont
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Common Bees

Bumble Bees

Bumble bees are large hairy bees, with distinctive yellow and black stripes—similar. Both often have bright warning coloration. But, they will sting if provoked. Honey bees have a barbed stinger and die after they sting because the bee becomes eviscerated after the stings.

Bumble Bees

Bumble bees are large hairy bees, with distinctive yellow and black stripes. Unlike honey bees, bumble bees can regulate their body temperatures and can be active in cool weather, even in the rain and on cloudy or windy days, when temperatures are as low as 41 degrees F.

Bumble bees are important pollinators of tomatoes, eggplants, peppers, melons, raspberries, blueberries, cranberries, strawberries and many other crops. They are the exclusive pollinators of some wildflowers.

Unlike honey bees, bumble bee queens begin their colonies new each spring.

Sweat Bees (family Halictidae)

People become intimately associated with sweat bees when they are working hard outdoors because it’s hot. These bees are attracted to the salts in human perspiration. Most sweat bees are small to medium sized (1/10 to 1/4 inches). They are black or metallic colored. They are the many species of sweat bees in North America.

Most sweat bee species nest in the ground. Nests usually consist of a single main tunnel with one or more clumped cells arising from lateral branches.

One sweat bee that has an important role in pollinating alfalfa is the alkan bee, native to arid regions of the western United States. This bee pollinates alfalfa more efficiently than honey bees. Commercial alfalfa seed growers use the alkan bee for pollination in parts of the West by constructing special alkan bee beds to cultivate thousands of bees. Sweat bees are frequently seen in flowers. They sting only if handled or if squashed.

Leafcutter Bees (family Megachilidae)

If you have seen a nearly perfect, smooth semicircular cutout about 3/4 inch in diameter at the edge of a leaf, you have seen the work of a leafcutter bee. Most common leafcutter bees are approximately the size of the common honey bee.

Leafcutter bees are solitary bees and don’t produce large colonies as do honey bees and bumble bees. Leafcutter bees nest in a variety of places, such as tunnels in the ground, under stones, in the pith of rose and other cultivated plants. Leafcutter bees don’t eat the cut pieces of leaves they remove. They carry these leaves back to the nest and construct nest cells inside the previously constructed tunnels. They provision each leaf-lined cell with a mixture of nectar and pollen. The female leafcutter bee lays an egg and seals the cell, producing a fin-ished nest cell that somewhat resembles a cigar butt. The young bees feed on the nectar and pollen and emerge the next season. Leafcutter bees are not aggressive and rarely sting.

Steps to Take if Exposed to a Bat

In August, young bats begin to leave their nursery colonies. These young bats sometimes become disoriented and enter areas of buildings where they may come into contact with people and pets.

What happens if you find a bat in your home?

States like Nebraska have changed protocols when dealing with potential bat exposures. Part of the reason is bat bites don’t leave a mark large enough for most people to notice. Even if you think you haven’t been exposed, you may have. You should assume you or your child was bitten by the bat if:

• you awaken to find a bat flying in your room,
• you find a bat in a room with an unattended child whether sleeping or not,
• you find a bat in a room with someone who was mentally unable to assess whether him/her was bitten by a bat.

Take Action:

• If you suspect you, your family or pet have come into contact with a bat do not let it out of your house! The bat must be captured, without damaging its head, and then tested for rabies. Do not try to hit or stun the bat.
• Remain calm.
• Do not lose sight of the bat. If you can, you’ll need to show authorities where the bat is so they can capture it.
• If you live in Lincoln, contact Animal Control at 441-7900. Authorities will come to your home, capture the bat and test the bat for rabies.
• If you live outside of the Lincoln area, contact your local county/state health department or police and inform them of your situation.
• If your pet has been exposed to a bat, don’t handle your pet without proper hand protection. Rabies can be carried in the saliva of the bat. If you must handle your pet, do so with rubber gloves. Contact your veterinarian for the proper course of action. Your chances of contracting rabies from bat saliva on your pet is remote, but you should still be cautious.

For more information on bats, visit the website Center on Wildlife Damage at http://cwdm.org/.
**4-H & Youth**

**August 2006**

**Lancaster**

**Kay Clinch**

Lancaster County 4-H is proud to announce Kay Clinch as winner of August’s “Heart of 4-H Award” in recognition of outstanding volunteer service.

Kay has been a 4-H leader for 10 years. She was a winner of the Hands Across America 4-H club for one year and organizational leader of Clovers and Company for nine years. Clovers and Company has been recognized four times as an Outstanding 4-H Club based on club participation at county fair. Kay and her husband Ron have been longtime superintendents of the Lancaster County Fair 4-H Bicycle Safety Contest. “I like to see kids having fun while they learn,” says Kay. “It was so much fun to see them learn new skills such as baking, sewing, woodworking, horticulture, etc. My favorite experience as a 4-H volunteer was all the activities we did as a group: the community service projects, launching rockets, woodworking, baking and especially the mother/daughter breakfasts. Once a year, we would meet in the morning in our pajamas and cook breakfast together — it was a blast!”

Kay runs her own business, Kays Kwilts and she belongs to the Quilt Guild. She helps makes quilts to give to the poor through organizations such as Quilt Guild, the Linus Project and People’s Mission.

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

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

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**District Horse Show Results**

This was the first time since 1995 a 4-H horse district show was held in Lincoln, and the first time at the Lancaster Event Center. Nearly 110 4-H’ers participated in the Lincoln show. Thanks to the many volunteers who helped make it successful!

Lancaster County 4-H exhibitors participated in district shows held across the state during the last week in June. Below are purple ribbon winners. Full results are online at http://4h.unl.edu/disthorseshow. Congratulations to all participants!

**Lincoln**

- English Pleasure 14+ hands 12–14: Alex Scheideler, Champion
- Western Pleasure 15 & up: Morgan Marshall, Reserves
- Western Pleasure 12–14: Allison Hurburt, Champion
- Western Horsemanship 12–14: Alex Scheideler, Reserve
- Reining 15 & up: Micael Messick, Champion
- Pole Bending 15 & up: Nicole Zuhlke, Reserve
- Pole Bending 12–14: Dustin Ehrlich, Reserve
- Barrels 15 & up: Amanda Essink, Reserve

**Beatrice**

- English Pleasure 14+ hands 12–14: McKenzie True, Champion
- English Equitation 12–14: McKenzie True, Reserves
- Pole Bending 15 & up: Anna Russell, Champion
- Barrels 15 & up: Anna Russell, Reserves

**Oakland**

- Pole Bending 15 & up: Lyndsy Larson, Champion
- Barrels 15 & up: Ryan Hagon, Reserve
- Barrels 15 & up: Lyndsy Larson, Champion

**Lexington**

- English Equitation 12–14: Cara Peters

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**Ak-Sar-Ben 4-H Youth Expo, Sept. 26–Oct. 1**

The 79th Ak-Sar-Ben 4-H Youth Livestock Exposition will be held Sept. 26-Oct. 1 at the Qwest Center in Omaha. More than 2,000 4-H families from an eight-state area participate in the Expo. Categories of this 4-H only competition are Dairy, Feeder Calf & Breeding Beef, Horse, Market Goats, Market Lambs and Market Swine. For more information, entry forms and tentative schedule, go to http://ak-sarben.org/4-h

**Entries Due Aug. 6**

Entries from Lancaster 4-H members are due to extension staff no later than Sunday, Aug. 6. Please make sure to include all entry fees, chutes and parking. Please note this year Ak-Sar-Ben will require 15-day health certificates for livestock, and 30-day health certificates for horses! Please call Deanna or Marty if you have questions.

**Horse Exhibitor Eligibility**

For the Ak-Sar-Ben horse show, exhibitors are eligible to show only in classes they received a BLUE or PURPLE at districts. However, only a Level III is needed to enter classes (list available on Web site). Each exhibitor is only allowed to show in courses once, regardless of the number of blue or purple awards received at districts.

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**Horse BITS**

- openings for the 4-H Life Challenge contest were held June 26–27 at UNL East Campus in conjunction with PASE. 4-H members participating in this contest were Catherine Dowd, Helen Dowd and Jessica Stephenson. Their team received 3rd place in the Clover Challenge, an interactive, computer-based contest where teams of youth test their understanding of family and consumer sciences subject matter.

**The County Junior Life Challenge contest** was held July 7 and Analise Santhoff was awarded the Grand Champion rosette.

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**Goering Earns Jr. Champion at Pitzer Judging Contest**

Lancaster County 4-H member Courtnie Goering participated in the 2006 Pitzer 4-H Horse Judging Contest held at Pitzer Ranch in Ericson, earning Junior Division Champion! The judging contest consisted of placement of stationery, exhibition classes, performance classes, and answering four sets of questions. Congratulations Courtnie!
4-H Robotics Club Informational Meeting, Aug. 15

4-H is launching a Robotics Club in Lancaster County and is looking for youth ages 9-14 who are interested in join- ing the club. Robotics is a great way to combine a love of fun and technology, such as mechanical engineer- ing, mathematics and computer programming. Robots can help transform abstract concepts into concrete real-world un- derstandings through hands-on experimentation. Plus, robots are just plain fun.

The Robotics program is based on Lego Mindstorms robots and an icon-based pro- gramming language so it’s easy to get started. If 4-H robotics sounds interesting, please join us Tuesday, Aug. 15 at 7 p.m. at the Lancaster Extension Education Center for hands-on demonstrations and information about the program.

Are You an Entrepreneur? The Nebraska 4-H Curric- ulum team is seeking youth and adult entrepreneurs from across the state to share their stories and expertise! Please call Michelle Garwood at 472-5788.

An Update on Avian Bird Flu for 4-H Poultry Projects

Dr. Sheila E. Scheideler UNL Extension Poultry Specialist

As 4-H members prepare their 4-H poultry projects for county fairs, the recent press and news about Avian Influenza (AI) is on many of our minds. Fortunately, the highly pathogenic strain of AI has not entered North America at this time and really looks like it will not get here by migration for quite some time (if ever). The real threat to the poultry industry is under relatively good control in Asia and Europe at the present and there does not appear to be any detection on the decline in Asia.

So the good news is that 4-H members can go about their business as usual showing their prized chicken(s) at county and state fairs. Please be sure to purchase your birds from reputable suppliers that are pullorum free and practice good husbandry when bringing your chicken/poultry to the fair. Do not bring sick chickens to the fair as many poultry diseases such as bronchitis and pox are highly contagious and could easily be passed on to others.

If the situation for AI changes in North America, 1 year is a prudent amount of time to wait until all 4-H poultry facilities are physically isolated from flocks that have been infected to determine what to do for their 4-H Poultry Projects. An emergency plan in play will both show how well you have managed your chicken/poultry projects and have fun.

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Traffic Calming Process Generally Takes Three Years for Neighborhoods Who Want to Control Speeding

Spreading on residential streets is a perennial and apparently growing problem affecting the quality of life in every urban neighborhood. One time or another you have all observed cars speeding on your street. Speeding creates noise, causes difficulties for pedestrians, and jeopardizes the safety of our children. We all want to discourage speeding on streets in neighborhoods, especially on the street where we live.

If you see cars speeding down your street or through your neighborhood, what can you do about it? There are several actions that can be taken with your neighbors and city officials. Do you want a traffic calming process to address this problem in your residential neighborhood?

Steps in Traffic Calming Process

Get involved in your neighborhood — contact your city or town government, neighborhood, or homeowner’s association to address the speeding problem on your residential streets.

Form a task force or committee which will deal with this problem — take part in creating a neighborhood coalition or homeowners’ association.

Educate your neighborhood about the speeding problem and its reduction in a very powerful tool in reducing neighborhood speeding. Design the flyer distributed in the neighborhood and sent home with children in the school district.

Posters distributed through the community.

Banners hung across arterial and collector streets.

Create and distribute “Slow Down! It’s Our Neighborhood!” lawn signs.

Submit press release to local newspapers and high school/college newsletters.

Identify problem area and routes to collate on the streets on your neighborhood.

• Crash statistics (the police department may maintain a listing of crashes including causes of incidents). Where crashes occurred? How fast are the cars typically traveling? How many cars can use a street in one day?

• Arrangement to loan “speed trailers,” a portable radar display is used to encourage speed compliance in a targeted area. The display is available to individuals, neighborhood associations and school groups after a short training orientation. For more information, you need to contact Traffic Enforcement Unit at (402) 441-6587.

The unit specializes in resolving special problems in residential neighborhoods; the officers in the unit have the ability to perform traffic and speed studies in problem areas. (For statistical information, visit: http://interlinc.cl.lincoln.ne.us/city/police/annual/05Annual.pdf).

• Contact your local planning department to define the information on width of the streets. The planning department also has maps showing the locations of parcels, roadways, streetlights, block length, schools, shopping areas and other land uses.

• Contact municipal public works or transportation department. Local government unit has data on traffic volumes, speeds, level of service for major streets and roads in its jurisdiction.

Organize a meeting with your city or town government, city engineers, local city officials to address these issues and identify feasible traffic calming solutions. Appropriate traffic calming solutions can be identified. A neighborhood or homeowners’ association must submit a written request for traffic calming on a specific street segment. They must collect signatures from at least 70 percent of the residents in the affected area.

The city will evaluate the request and the following criteria must be met:

• Street is a through street and not a transit route or primary emergency access route.

• Posted speed limit is 25 mph or less.

• Traffic-calming devices will not cause safety problems.

• Neighborhood must participate in the traffic calming process and enforcement program for three to six months.

If the city determines these efforts have not fixed the problem, the neighborhood can proceed to the next community steps.

The city will design appropriate traffic calming measures and obtain the necessary measures for installation in a neighborhood, plans for them must be reviewed and approved by city staff and often by elected leaders. The traffic calming measures can be combined with many other roadway needs for limited funding.

The city will prioritize the project. The city will pay for and install traffic calming measures for high priority projects depending on how serious the speeding problem is and how expensive the measure is. However, if your neighborhood is able to raise some funds the city is more likely be able to pay for matching funds to construct traffic calming in your neighborhood.

Taking Responsibility for America’s Electronic Waste

Jeff Thiele

UNL Partners in Pollution Prevention

Each year in America, several million tons of elec-
tronics become obsolete. This electronic waste, or e-waste, is composed of hazardous materials such as lead, mercury and many others that can harm people and the environment. Recy-
cling this material into new electronics is the best option for safely disposing of it, but many consumers aren’t aware of ways to recycle it. For example, the Basel Ac-
cord on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal (BAN), a group that monitors the interna-
tional trade of toxic materials, estimated between 50 and 80 percent of all e-waste collected in America for recycling was simply exported.

Why does America send its e-waste overseas? While recycling the materials in e-waste is the best option for our environment, it may not be the best option for our checkbooks. Due to the low cost of new materials and the profit in the recycling process, recycling e-waste generally costs a recycler more than they will make by selling materi-
als. For example, on average it costs a recycler $10 or more to recycle one computer monitor, which most consumers aren’t willing to pay. While some recycling is done using inexpensive prison labor, domestic recyclers may not be able to sell this product and are forced to look for other options. As a result, those options is to send materials overseas.

The labor needed to recycle e-waste costs much less in other countries and some are developing nations welcome e-waste because they can extract the materials and sell them.

The price of the recycling process, cost of labor and treatment of toxic materials, vary. Many of America’s recyclers can’t match this price since the rest of the e-waste is sent to nations in Asia and Africa.

Russia where it is broken down, usually by hand, for the small amounts valuable material inside. Cost of the e-waste is usually thrown into make shift landfills which are often damaged by chemicals or water supplies. People in the area are exposed to the hazardous materials in e-waste through direct contact or their polluted environment. They see ELECTRONIC WASTE on next page.
Spencer coached the team. son and Hannah Spencer was the field site for the best manage habitat, designing an urban plan of identifying wildlife foods, near Cozad. The contest consists Habitat Evaluation Program was simply won’t notice the extra recycling costs. Consumers goods enough to cover their overseas. Manufacturers would America’s dumping of e-waste. While it may take time for government to solve the problem? Groups such as BAN think government and manufacturers are the answer. They feel enacting federal laws requiring manufacturers to take back their products and recycle them would stop America’s dumping of e-waste overseas. Manufacturers would raise retail prices of their $10 to $30 they spend buying computer. Hopefully, if manufacturers recycle their own products, they will work to make them using less hazardous materials and easier to recycle. BAN also believes exporting toxic materials should be illegal, which would force nations to deal with their waste instead of making it someone else’s problem. Interestingly, while the United States is the wealthiest nation in the world, it is also one of the few developed nations still exporting its e-waste. While it may take time for government to solve the problem, there are things people can do now to responsibly recycle their e-waste. Consumers can donate reusable electronics to non-profit organizations. Also, people can contact recyclers to see how they recycle e-waste. By sending e-waste to responsible recyclers and paying the service fee for their materials, consumers can take responsibility for their e-waste instead of making it someone else’s problem. Information on organizations accepting donations as well as recycling companies can be found at http://www.wastecaprec.org/pub/2006/guidebook.shml, and more information on e-waste from the Basel Action Network can be found at http://www.ban.org.

Lancaster 4-H Team Wins Wildlife Habitat Contest

This year, the 4-H Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Program was held in June at Camp Comesa near Coraz. The contest consists of identifying wildlife foods, interpretation of aerial photos for habitat, designing an urban plan for benefit of wildlife, evaluating a field site for the best management practices for specific wildlife and writing a wildlife plan for a tract of land to meet land owners objectives. The Lancaster County 4-H senior team consisting of Grace Farley, Carson McNeil, Kaylee Nelson and Hannah Spencer was the winners of this year’s contest! Leah Spencer coached the team.

Grace Farley, Kaylee Nelson, Hannah Spencer and Carson McNeil was this year’s senior winning team at the Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Program.

Community CROPS Will Hold a Garden Open House, July 29

Community CROPS, Lincoln’s community garden and farm project, will host a garden open house on Saturday, July 29, 10 a.m.–2 p.m. (note: date has been moved from June as was previously published). Select gardens will be open for visiting, including: 4th and Pioneers Community Garden 23rd and P Community Garden Gardener will be on-site to showcase their plots. There will be various garden and food-related demonstrations. Refreshments will be available.

Community CROPS: Combining Resources, Opportunities & People for Sustainability is a Lincoln, Nebraska organization, which works with local gardeners and farmers to grow and market agriculture products. Now in its fourth year, Community CROPS has six community gardens throughout Lincoln. For more information about the open house, go to http://www.communitycrops.org or call 730-2532.
Learning is Fun at Clover College!

Held each June, 4-H Clover College is a four-day series of hands-on workshops for youth presented by University of Nebraska–Lincoln Extension in Lancaster County. Now in its 10th year, Clover College has grown from eight workshops offered in 1996 to 43 workshops and 572 total registrations this year! Two classes, Bird House or Feeder taught by Shirley Condon and Rockets taught by Ron Suing, have been offered all 10 years! A special thanks to the 76 instructors and assistants who helped make this year’s Clover College a success! More photos are online at http://lancaster.unl.edu/4h.

Can You Guess It?

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

The answer was anthracnose on hackberry tree leaves.

Penstemon

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to increase longevity of the plant or allow it to self-sow in the garden. Penstemons perform best in full sun and well-drained soil. This great plant was discovered by Harlan Hamernik of Bluebird Nursery near the War Axe Wildlife Management Area in south central Nebraska.

The ’Prairie’ Penstemon series, including ’Prairie Dawn’ (pale pink), ’Prairie Dusk’ (clear purple), ’Prairie Fire’ (coral red), and ’Prairie Snow’ (white) are hybrids of mixed parentage. ’Prairie Splendor’ is a hybrid mix with flower colors including white, rose, lavender and pink. Plants reach between two-four feet in height, with a mounded to upright growing habit and narrow lance-shaped green foliage.

P. mexicaule x ’Red Rocks’ (bright, rose-colored flowers) and ’Pike’s Peak Purple’ (violet-purple flowers) have narrow, dark green foliage and grow to 15 inches tall. Finally, P. digitalis ’Husker Red’, 1996 Perennial Plant of the Year, has deep maroon foliage and spikes of white flowers, growing to 24-30 inches in height.

Since sunny, dry locations in the garden can be challenging for some plants, why not try a Penstemon in one on your acreage?

U.S. Drought Monitor Map

As of July 11, Lancaster County was in moderate drought conditions.

For the most recent map, visit http://www.drought.unl.edu/dm