2-1-2008

The NEBLINE, February 2008

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Take Steps to Help Protect Your Property from Theft

By Lorene Bartos
UNL Extension Educator

Nationally, losses from residential burglary are in the billions of dollars. Daylight crime is on the increase as many homes are unoccupied during the day. For the most part, criminals look for easy opportunities to steal. They like to take advantage of property owners who dismiss simple crime prevention measures. Six out of ten burglaries take place in homes with unlocked doors and windows.

The office of the Lancaster County Sheriff reminds you to remember the three L’s of Crime Prevention: Lights, Locks & the Law! Light up your residence, lock your doors at all times and call the law when you see something suspicious. Lancaster County Chief Deputy William Jarrett says, “Reporting suspicious activity and jotting down vehicle license plate numbers when you have a concern really helps law enforcement apprehend criminals.”

The average burglar will spend no more than four to five minutes trying to break into a residence. Causing criminals to take more time, be more visible or make more noise will hamper completion of numerous thefts. Whether you live in an urban or rural setting, follow some simple crime prevention practices to reduce opportunities for criminals to steal your property.

**Secure Entryways**

- Always keep entry doors locked. Use quality locks and install easy-to-use deadbolt locks.
- Secure sliding doors to patios and decks with a large dowel in the lower track to prevent the door from being pried open.
- Close garage doors. Open doors are an invitation for theft and advertise your belongings.
- Keep doors closed even when you are home—many burglaries occur when families are in the backyard or doing yard work.

**Protect Property Left Outside**

- Secure outdoor items with cable locks and/or chain and padlock to make removal more difficult.
- Store equipment such as lawn mowers, snowblowers and bicycles in the garage or storage shed equipped with a good lock.
- Always remove keys from vehicles and garage doors. Remind your children of the importance of keeping the code a secret.
- Do not leave money or jewelry lying in view of a window. If possible, keep jewelry and other small valuables and important documents in a home safe. When you are gone for extended periods, have someone pick up newspapers and deliveries and mow your lawn or remove snow.
- Review your insurance policy to determine coverage and adjust if desired.
- Conduct a household inventory and document your belongings by taking pictures of the contents of each room and garage. Record serial numbers. Keep a record of where items are and their value.
- Contact a local neighborhood watch program or work with others about the importance of keeping the code a secret.
- Avoid leaving keys in hidden spots outside your house and resist leaving notes on your door (they inform potential thieves that you are gone).
- Always remove keys from vehicles and lock them. Be mindful that garage door openers left in vehicles are like keys to your house.
- Avoid leaving a vehicle running unattended. It takes only a minute or less to steal a car left running. Annually, thousands of vehicles are stolen from home driveways while the engine is being warmed up or the vehicle is left unattended while the owner is getting a second cup of coffee.
- Be aware that open shades/blinds can expose valuables to criminals.

**Utilize Alarms and Deterrents**

- Consider adding a security system. They can be costly, but will help protect your home.
- Outside motion detector lights also are excellent deterrents.
- Motion detector lights work well and are not expensive to operate.
- Utilize timers to turn lights and/or radio on and off at various times when away from home for a short time or extended periods.
- Identify your property (including outdoor equipment, tools, household items and electronics) with an identification number or marking paint. It is recommended to mark equipment in at least two places. With identity fraud a major concern, do not use your social security number.
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- Review your insurance policy to determine coverage and adjust if desired.
- Conduct a household inventory and document your belongings by taking pictures of the contents of each room and garage. Record serial numbers. Keep a record of where items are and their value.
- It is also good to file receipts for easy reference if needed.
- Electronic equipment are becoming prime items for burglaries. To prevent further loss, store computer backup information in an area away from the computer.
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Be Alert to Your Neighborhood

Is your schedule such that you could be watched and cased for a burglary? Try to avoid predictable absences and routines. Come and go on your property at varying times. Avoid telling strangers your daily routines and others about the valuables in your home. Discuss home security with your family. Teach children not to talk about their home, its contents or family schedules with strangers.

Utilize a neighborhood watch program or work as watchful eyes with your neighbors. On a formal or informal basis, be a good neighbor. Be aware of and report any suspicious activity to law enforcement.
What is the Census of Agriculture? The Census of Agriculture, taken every five years, is a complete count of U.S. farms and ranches and the people who operate them. The census looks at land use and ownership, operator characteristics, production practices, income and expenditures and many other areas. For America’s farmers and ranchers, the Census of Agriculture is their voice, their future and their responsibility.

Why is the Census of Agriculture important? The Census provides the only source of uniform and comprehensive agricultural data for every county in the nation. Through the census, producers can show the nation the value and importance of agriculture and they can help influence decisions that will shape the future of American agriculture for years to come. By responding to the census, producers are helping themselves, their communities and all U.S. agriculture.

Who uses Census of Agriculture data? Census data is used by all those who serve farmers and rural communities—federal, state and local governments, agbusinesses, trade associations and many others. For instance, companies and cooperatives use the information to determine the locations of facilities that will serve agricultural producers. Community planners use the information to determine the location of facilities needed to serve rural residents. USDA uses the information to ensure local service centers are staffed at an appropriate level. Legislators use the information when shaping farm policies and programs. And, of course, farmers and ranchers can use census data to help make informed decisions about the future of their own operations.

How is the census conducted? Report forms for the 2007 Census of Agriculture were mailed to farm and ranch operators on Dec. 28, 2007 to collect data for the 2007 calendar year. Completed forms are due Feb. 4, 2008. Producers can return their forms by mail or, for the first time, they have the option of filling out the census online via a secure Web site.

Can I respond to the census online? Yes, there is a convenient and secure online response option that can not only save you time, but will save taxpayer dollars for return postage costs. In order to take the Census online, you will need to have a unique Census ID code. This code is on the mailing label of the Census form mailed to you. It is a series of 17 numbers and letters appearing on the first line of the label, immediately above the bars. Go to http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/ Online_Response/index.asp for more information about using the online option.

Will my information be kept confidential? Absolutely. Respondents are guaranteed by Title 7, U.S. Code (3) that their individual information will be kept confidential. NASS uses the information only for statistical purposes and publishes data only in tabulated totals. The report cannot be used for purposes of taxation, investigation or regulation. The privacy of individual Census records is protected from disclosure through the Freedom of Information Act.

Must I respond to the Census? Yes. United States law (Title 7, U.S. Code) requires all Census reports to be received even if they did not operate a farm or ranch in 2007.

Forage Calendar
This time of year, most of us have an abundance of new calendars—from the co-op, the bank or maybe as a gift. Dr. Bruce Anderson, UNL forage specialist suggests farmers put these calendars to good use by planning next year’s forage activities now and make notes on a calendar to complete needed work on a timely basis.

For example, order alfalfa and other seeds in January and February to have them on hand when planting season begins in late April. If you are a main tiller, remember to pull any soil samples you didn’t get last fall, as well as, get ready to plant oats at your earliest opportunity.

By mid-April, be sure to get alfalfa planted before other planting seasons. This might mean lime and phosphorus or other fertilizers need to be applied even earlier. Cool-season grass pastures should be fertilized by mid-April also.

In late April to early May, get your thistles sprayed and begin checking your alfalfa, so once buds start to form, you can be ready for an early first-cutting—that brings a premium price. In late May, warm-season grass pastures can use some fertilizer, and shortly thereafter, your summer annuals need to be planted.

In early August, prepare and plant turnups or oats for late fall, early winter grazing. Finish your year by sampling and testing all your harvested forages so you can plan and feed animals during the winter to meet their needs at the lowest cost.

Financial Recordkeeping Workshop, Feb. 16 One of the most popular in-depth extension programs, a Computerized Financial Recordkeeping Workshop will be offered Saturday, Feb. 16, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at the Lancaster Extension Education Center, 444 Cherry creek Road, in Lincoln.

Preregistration with payment is required to hold a spot. Stop in at the extension office to fill out a registration form or call 441-7180 and ask for a brochure with registration form to be mailed to you. Registration will be limited to the first 20 farm operations on a first-come, first-served basis (may have one or two people from the same operation at a computer).

The concepts taught in this workshop are applicable to several inexpensive computerized record keeping software programs, with slight modifications in procedure. This workshop will be taught hands on using Quicken 2008 Starter® in the classroom. No prior experience with a computerized recordkeeping system is necessary. However, some prior experience with a computerized single entry accounting system (such as the extension blue book) would be useful. At minimum, participants should have experience with keeping a checkbook ledger, (preferably one that is periodically reconciled with bank statements).

All instruction will be presented in a hands-on teaching style with participants sitting at computers performing the tasks being demonstrated. Participants, therefore, should have a basic familiarity with using a computer and typing on a computer keyboard. But typing is purposely kept to a minimum in the training.

Participants will receive instruction on: Setting up and starting your financial recordkeeping system.

• Developing a chart of accounts (called categories in Quicken) to track income and expenses.

• Entering transactions into the ledger (single transactions and deposits or checks which should be split between multiple categories).

• Retrieving information from your recordkeeping system in the form of various reports.

• Setting up and making payments on term loans within the recordkeeping system.

• Reconciling the ledger with the bank statements.

• Backing up your data and other frequently asked questions.

• Manipulating your farm recordkeeping system on a year-to-year basis.

• Calculating and completing a Cash Flow Plan, a Balance Sheet and an Income Statement.

A detailed checklist of the instruction on generating reports will be done using sample data files at the workshop to represent a typical crop and livestock farming operation. Participants will receive step-by-step written instructions for all tasks being demonstrated. Many folks comment the handouts are one of the best aspects of the training. The training will also be held on Feb. 6 in Falls City and Feb. 11 in Aurora.
Environmental Reasons Why Fruit Trees Fail to Bear

Most hardy fruit trees need a certain amount of cold winter weather to end their dormancy and promote spring growth. When winters are too mild, spring growth is delayed, irregular and slow, the period of blooming is extended and the possibility of frost injury increases.

Extreme cold during winter dormancy, however, may also be a problem. Winter weather rarely threatens apple, pear, plum and sour cherry varieties. Sweet cherry trees are relatively sensitive to cold until they become dormant. Peach trees are very vulnerable to cold weather; peach buds can be killed by mid-winter temperatures of 10 degrees F below zero. The stone fruits—cherry, peach, plum and nectarine—can lose cold hardness even due to extended mid-winter warm periods. Damage to the flower buds can be extensive, especially if the cold is followed by a very cold period. As the fruit buds grow and open, they become more susceptible to frost injury. The exposed buds can usually withstand temperatures near 24 degrees F, but blossoms of practically all fruit trees will be killed if the temperature drops below 24 degrees F. When a heavy frost is expected, covering the trees will protect the trees from temperatures below freezing. A cover of snow is also effective windbreak, provided temperatures do not fall too low and the cold weather is of short duration. Cheese cloth and even old bed sheets may be used.

During spring frosts, some commercial growers beat their orchards, but this method is impractical for most home gardeners. An alternative method is to sprinkle the water with trees. Start when the temperature falls to the low 30’s. Keep the water running until all the ice is melted. Water must be dripped off the ice at all times or the plant will suffer from frost damage. After a severe frost, frozen blossoms may appear normal, but if the pistils (center part of the blossoms) are killed, the tree will not bear fruit.

Fruit trees need full sunlight for best production. Inadequate sunlight delays the beginning of flowering and may reduce the amount and size of fruit. Avoid placing fruit trees where they will be shaded by buildings or by other trees. These trees will grow less vigorously and bear better if they have adequate space and light. Their root system is large. Do not plant where roots of trees or large shrubs will compete with grapevines for water and plant nutrients. Cultivate or mulch as necessary to reduce competition from weeds or grasses.

Apply adequate amounts of fertilizers to produce strong growth. Avoid excess fertilizer, which will produce weak, leggy growth and delay the setting of flower buds. Prune young apple trees to develop a strong framework with a central leader and horizontal branches. Excessive pruning delays fruit bearing and reduces the quantity of fruit produced.

Establishing a Vineyard

Site Selection

Site Selection is one of the most important decisions you will make. The size and success of your vineyard will depend on the type of climate and growing conditions the site can provide. The selection of an appropriate vineyard site: cold temperatures, air movement and soil drainage. Fruit trees need full sun exposure, good air circulation and soil drainage. The old adage that grapevines cannot withstand temperatures near 20 degrees F (-6.6 degrees C) for an extended period of time or the plant may be killed. Cultivars (varieties) vary greatly in their tolerance of cold winter temperatures. Therefore, cultivars should be selected to suit the climate. Cultivars should be selected to suit the climate. Cultivars should be selected to suit the climate. Cultivars should be selected to suit the climate.

Choosing a site that is likely to offer freedom from spring frosts is determined by the mesoclimatic or vineyard site characteristics. Ideally, the site should be exposed to wind from the east and at a higher elevation than surrounding areas. Because cool air is heavier than warm air, cool air flows downhill to lower areas, thus reducing frost risk and additional air drainage during the growing season leads to rapid drying of foliage following rain or heavy dew. This in turn reduces conditions conducive to disease development. Cool winds and air drainage will be avoided because of potential soil erosion problems. Further, site restrictions such as wooded areas and windbreaks at the edges of the vineyard site should be avoided so that the cold air will not “pond” into frost pockets in the lower parts of the vineyard site. Such areas may also harbor damaging wildlife such as birds, deer and other pest species.

Aspect of slope is also important in site selection. Although a south-facing slope is warmer, it causes early bud break in the spring which may lead to bud damage from late frosts. Early frost maturation will often occur on southern slopes, which may lead to ripening during excessively hot periods resulting in undesirable fruit characteristics for winemaking. Eastern slopes dry faster in the morning following dew or rain, thus reducing disease pressure. Slopes may also have later bud break in the Spring, but will be colder in the wind. Wind breaks at the edge of the vineyard site can help protect the vine from wind and potential damaging impacts on western or southwestern exposed slopes. High elevation on the side of the prevailing winds. Choice of slope may relate to cultivar selection, that is, cultivars exhibiting early bud break will benefit from north or eastern exposures.

Over time it is not unusual for windbreaks to thin and lose the capacity to block strong winds. However, proper renovation efforts can keep any windbreak in top-notch condition. According to Richard Lodovici, forester, Lower Platte South NRD, “Some landowners choose to renovate a windbreak because it has become aesthetically unappealing while others are forced to take action in order to keep out strong winds. If this is the case, there are particular signs to look for that indicate a windbreak is in need of renovation.”

During winter, an effective windbreak should prevent snow from blowing through to locations where it can block driveways and houses. However, an ineffective windbreak is evident during other seasons of the year. For example, corn stalks and leaves are found near buildings and in corners where debris normally isn’t. This method is the easiest way to regain a clean look, it is expensive and provides no protection to the interior. Remove and replace half of the stand. This method allows the introduction of new growth but still provides some protection against wind.

• Add a row or two inside or outside of the existing stand. This method adds height to produce strong growth. However, many landowners are reluctant to give up either lawn space or farm ground.

• Establish shade-tolerant species within the stand. This method is not always feasible. The ability to set undesirably because it creates a stand of trees usually to grow the desired species. Even so, it greatly increases the density of the windbreak and prevents more wind from getting through. Lodes says it is important to remember that renovating a windbreak, regardless of method, can be a difficult task. Wildlife species that exist in the established windbreak make growing new trees and shrubs especially difficult. Even so, cages can be set around trees to prevent rabbits and deer from eating from the plant.

Renovate Windbreaks to Improve Effectiveness

Renovate Windbreaks to Improve Effectiveness

The picture above shows a live apple bloom and a bloom killed by frost.
Quick Chili

Serving Size: ¾ cup • Yield: 4 servings • Time: 20 minutes

¾ pound ground beef
½ cup chopped onion
1 can (15.5 ounces) kidney beans, drained OR 1 can (15.5 ounces) red kidney beans, drained OR 1 can (15.5 ounces) garbanzo beans
1 can (14.5 ounces) diced tomatoes, no salt added—use the juice
¼ cup chopped onion
½ pound ground beef
1 can (10.5 oz) condensed chicken rice soup
1 cup water
1/3 cup instant rice (uncooked)
1 cup cooked, cubed chicken or turkey
1/2 cup diced carrots
1/2 cup frozen peas
1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
pepper, to taste

Serving Suggestions:
• If you prefer a creamier consistency, add an extra 1/2 cup of water; if a thinner consistency is desired, add more water if a thinner consistency is desired.

Source: This recipe is a slightly adapted version of an adaptation of a recipe from Simply Good Eating Recipe Cards, Vol. 1, 2000, University of Minnesota Extension Service, available at Food Stamp Nutrition Connection Recipe Finder at http://recipefinder.nal.usda.gov/

Alice Henneman, MS, RD, UNL Extension Educator

How should I clean this kitchen item? Is the warranty still good? Where IS the warranty? How EXACTLY do I use this appliance? A product manual for kitchen items is like a cook’s best friend. Finding it for questions like those above can be a problem. Here is a quick way to set up a filing system that can be easily stored and accessed as needed.

First, find as many of your kitchen appliance and other manuals as possible and count the number. You can do other sections of the house later.

You’re missing the manual for an item, try checking the company’s Web site. Some companies make free copies of their manuals available online. Getting—and staying—organized is then as easy as 1, 2, 3:

1. Go to a store selling office supplies and purchase: 1 or more 3- to 4-inch ring binders, depending on how deep the pile of manuals and related materials is.

2. Place a separate manual, warranty and any other related materials in each page protector.

3. Staple the receipt to the warranty or to the manual. You can make a separate warranty paper.

4. Write the serial and model numbers on the front of the manual.

5. Decide how to organize your manuals.

Almost Homemade Chicken Rice Soup

Makes approximately four 2-cup servings

1 can (15.5 oz) condensed chicken rice soup
1 cup milk
1 cup water
1/3 cup instant rice (uncooked)
1 cup cooked, cubed chicken or turkey
1/2 cup diced carrots
1/2 cup frozen peas
1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
pepper, to taste

Mix canned soup with milk and water in large saucepan. Heat to simmering, stirring often. Add remaining ingredients and simmer about 15 minutes or until carrots and rice are tender. Add more water if a thinner consistency is desired. Menu idea: Serve with fresh fruit over yogurt.

By Alice Henneman, MS, RD, UNL Extension Educator

If your chili comes from a can, try this quick-to-make home-made version. It’s chock-full of flavor and nutritious and freezes beautifully!

Mardel Meinke
UNL Extension Associate

Hot foods, especially simmered soups, will stimulate the air and stimulate our sense of smell. This sense is powerfully linked to our memories—perhaps the reason soup brings such pleasant thoughts to mind. Soups have other qualities as well; the reason soup is popular in the winter might be because it helps heal after sickness.

Soups can be served for any meal. Setting a hot bowl of soup before the main dish makes a person feel full and less likely to overeat. Soups can be served for any meal and are very versatile. They often are more flavorful after being reheated and most flavorful when fresh.

Making homemade stock is quite simple. Season and cook meat and vegetables in the cooking pan. When the meat is done, pour off the excess liquid and use the trimmings. Chill the stock so the grease rises to the top and can be skimmed off. It should look like chicken broth when in a freezer. When it cools, it will solidify. Freezing if not used within two days. Prepared broth is also available canned or dried. Canned cream soups, such as cream of mushroom which is seasoned and thickened, are another choice. These canned soups are usually low-fat but are often high in sodium. Look for low-sodium choices.

One of the easiest ways to make soup in a hurry is to start with a canned soup, such as Chicken Rice Soup, and “stretch” it with additional ingredients. Save small quantities of vegetables and beans/legumes in a freezer container to be added to soup later. Leftover rice, potatoes and pasta also are great additions to soup. Try this quick and easy Chicken Rice Soup which smells delicious and warms the tummy.

Almost Homemade
Chicken Rice Soup

Source: This is a slightly adapted version of an adaptation of a recipe from Simply Good Eating Recipe Cards, Vol. 1, 2000, University of Minnesota Extension Service, available at Food Stamp Nutrition Connection Recipe Finder at http://recipefinder.nal.usda.gov/

> See “Red” on Valentine’s Day

*Alice’s Notes: If your chili powder is a hotter variety, you may want to add less chili powder; you can always add more at the end of cooking.

Helping limited-resource families learn to prepare nutritious and safe foods while stretching their food dollar.
Elderly Can Reap Computer Benefits

Though a computer may seem overwhelming or frightening to older adults, those who can learn to use computers can stay connected with the world. It is important for the elderly, defined as people older than 60 to 65 years of age, to be able to stay in touch with their children and adult children and via the Internet. Regularly do people sit down to write a letter. E-mail is a quick way for the younger generations to keep in touch with family and friends.

Although some elderly don’t use the computer at all because it’s not what they grew up with and aren’t familiar with it, others are afraid to try new things because it is overwhelming. Others have no use for it and can still operate well using the paper method and human contact. Some still deliver their bills in person because they are worried the businesses will not receive their envelopes with the check. Some see that some elderly work on the computer for their occupation and are proficient in the use of various programs. Some elderly use the computer for their taxes and financial transactions with their bank and for managing daily living expenses.

Using the computer is one way to keep the mind active and alert. It helps with memory and word retrieval as well as with hand and finger dexterity. Computers also allow for more communication with others, especially the younger people in the elderly’s lives. It is an excellent way to stay in touch with a subset of the family as well as with a large portion of friends, who may be a lot because of their mobile existence.

The computer is an avenue that may help elders stay in touch with others.

If an elderly person is unable to drive or unable to get out of their home much, a computer can help them contact others personally and also conduct their business. Many computer classes are offered at junior colleges and community colleges. Others who are computer literate also offer the elderly assistance. Some of the people who are computer literate are elders, so sometimes it is elders helping elders. Others use the computer must be patient and understanding of those who do not use the computer for whatever reason.

Libraries also have computers for public use. A restriction is that they must be used during library hours, and there may be a user fee. Librarians are usually helpful in helping someone who uses computers or someone with any difficulties or questions. Also, schools have computers for public use.

Once an elderly person has seen that the advantages are in using the computer, such as searching the Internet for information, or in helping him or her to be more apt to use the computer again. Some people already buy many things over the Internet. It may be a way for some elders to buy products they need.

A common problem for the elderly today is loneliness. The computer is an avenue that may help elders stay in touch with others. Of course, there is e-mail or Internet fraud to be aware of, such as telephone fraud or mail fraud. All people need the human touch and human community care. There is nothing that will replace that because it is a human need. However, using e-mail and the Internet provides additional methods to communicate and conduct business.
Plants for Birdscaping

As you sit by the fire or woodstove on a cold, wintry day, leaf through colorful garden catalogs or books, think of the birds outdoors having to fend for food and shelter. Make plans now for this coming season which take into consideration your featured friends.

When choosing and placing plants for the birds, or “birdscaping,” provide for their food and shelter year round. Plants for cover include dense ones with many twigs providing nest sites, plants of various heights and groups of conifers for roosting and protection from winter winds. Mounds and thickets, thorned plants, perches and bird observation towers, wild areas, brambles or vines and seed plots all provide attraction and protection for birds. A favorite, providing both fruits and excellent year-round cover, is the eastern arborvitae. It is often seen near home foundations and windows where birds can be easily viewed. Just leave plenty of room, as these trees can grow quite large.

Consider the mature height and spacing for each type of plant and the specific plant requirements for factors such as light, water and soil. Also choose a mix of plants to provide interest in all seasons. You may use them to screen undesirable sights or to frame good ones.

Do not forget a source of water, such as from water feature, small pond or bird bath. You may want to even install a heated birdbath. There are a couple kinds—those with a heating element built in, and those with a separate element you place in a birdbath. These plug into ordinary outdoor outlets. Just make sure the cords you use and outlets are the correct ones and safe for outdoor use. Even moving or sprinkling water is good and it may attract more birds than stationary water.

By birdscaping, you may be able to provide food and habitat for many bird species on your land year round.

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

Garden Guide

By Mary Jane Frapp, UNL Extension Associate

February 2008

2008 All-America Rose Selections

Dream Come True

Dream Come True is a stunning sight of catchy colors, which lures the likes of even non-rose lovers to its side. This rose produces flawlessly formed yellow blossoms, blushed with ruby-red at the tips, all set amongst abundant matte green foliage. The big, bushy vigorous plant yields long-stemmed, long-lived blooms with mild tea fragrance, making it lovely in the landscape and a great choice for bouquets.

Mardi Gras

With flamboyant blooms in a novel blend of pink, orange, yellow and a delightful peppy scent, Mardi Gras creates a festive atmosphere in any setting. Each high-centered, hybrid tea style bloom begins as an apricot-orange bud that slowly spirals open to reveal a four inch bright pink and orange bloom with a yellow base. As an All-America Rose Selections (AARS) winner, this festive floribunda has proven to perform exceptionally well across the country with little-to-no care. The colorful blooms are perfectly framed with dark green, semi-glossy foliage and its upright columnar habit makes Mardi Gras an ideal rose to use as a hedge or in a border with mixed perennials.

Source: All-America Rose Selections

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Birdscaping

Plants for Birdscaping

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Source: All-America Rose Selections

By birdscaping, you may consider the proper plants for the proper site to reduce future maintenance and have a good chance of success. Avoid overplanting.
Attracting Cardinals to Your Yard

When most people think about the benefits of honey bees, they think about the honey produced. But honey bees’ pollinating activity greatly outweighs the value of hive products. The U.S. Department of Agriculture estimated that about one-third of the human diet is derived from insect-pollinated plants and the honey bee is responsible for 80% of this pollination.

Honey bees gather nectar to produce honey which is the hive’s energy source. They also collect pollen which has significant amounts of protein to feed brood. When flying from flower to flower, bees transfer pollen which fertilizes the next plant. Apple, blueberries, cantaloupes, cherries, cucumbers, strawberries, raspberries, squash, sunflowers, watermelon and many other crops all rely on bees for pollination. Some crops, like corn, are wind pollinated. Tomatoes will do okay if there are no bees, but will produce more if bees are active.

In areas of the country where there are large acreages of insect-pollinated crops, growers hire beekeepers to bring honey bee hives to the field to pollinate the crops. Other bees that pollinate garden crops are pollen bees. What are pollen bees? This term was coined in 1992, to describe all the bees other than honey bees that help to pollinate our crops and wild flowers. They have also been called “native bees,” “wild bees” and “non-Apis bees.” Before Europeans brought honey bees to North America, pollen bees did all of the bee pollination work here.

In North America alone, there are over 3,500 species of pollen bees. Some of the more recognizable pollen bees include carpenter bees, bumble bees, mason bees, sweat bees and leaf cutters. Mating of these pollen bees are solitary, which means all females mate. Each female makes her own simple nest, provisions her cells with a pollen ball and lays all the eggs. Solitary bees create nests in hollow reeds or twigs, holes in wood or in tunnels in the ground.

Although flowers that provide nectar and pollen are important for pollen bees, a lack of nesting sites is probably a greater threat to native bees than a lack of flowers. Providing nest boxes for solitary bees is increasingly popular for home gardeners. To enhance pollen bee experts recommend reducing or eliminating insecticide applications.

Nesting Sites for Solitary Wood-Nesting Bees

The great majority of bees nest on their own, many in holes in wood. Wood nests with a range of hole sizes between 3/32” and 3/8” (2.5 mm to 10 mm) in diameter will support a wide range of pollen bee species. These nests need to be placed so the open holes face the morning sun. Not only will this warm the nests earlier in the day so the bees will become active, but it will also prevent them from overheating at the hottest part of the summer afternoon.

Nesting blocks. Bee blocks can be made by drilling nesting holes between 3/32” and 3/8” in diameter, at approximately 3/4” centers, into the side of a block of preserving-free lumber. The holes need to be smooth inside, as deep as possible and closed at one end. The length of the lumber is not critical—eight inches or more is good—but the lumber should be at least four inches deep. Blocks can be fixed firmly to a stake, fence, building or placed in a tree.

Twig bundles. Some plants, like teasel and bamboo, have naturally hollow stems. Cut the stems into 6- to 8-inch lengths. Be careful to cut the stems close to a stem node to create a tube with one end open and the other closed. Take fifteen to twenty pieces of a variety of internal diameters and tie them into bundles with the closed ends of the stems together. Fix each bundle to a stake, fence or tree with the stems horizontal to the ground. For more information, check out: http://www.xerces.org/Pollinator_Insect_Conservation/Xerces_bee_nests_fact_sheet.pdf

Sources: The Xerces Society, an organization for the preservation of invertebrates (Xerces.org) and Dr. Suzanne Batra, http://www.pollinatorparadise.com/Israeli_Bee.html

Urban Pest Management Conference, Feb. 19–20

The 16th Annual Urban Pest Management Conference will be held Feb. 19-20 at the Cornhusker Marriott Hotel in Lincoln. This will be an excellent opportunity for people interested in stored grain and processed food management, public health and community/structural pest management to receive updated information from state, regional and national wildlife and insect pest management experts.

A few of the nationally-known speakers on the program include Bobby Corrigan, author and rodent control expert; Jerome Goddard, author and medical entomologist, Mississippi; Stephen Kellis, University of Montana; Roger Gold, University of Southern and Structural Entomology, Texas A & M; Frank Meek, Technical Director, Orkin, Inc.; and Dini Miller, Urban Pest Management Specialist, Virginia Tech.

Presentations will include managing cockroaches, termites, rodents, urban birds, trapping vertebrate pests, vector-borne diseases, bedbugs, brown recluse spiders and ants. Several presentations will emphasize low-tox past management approaches that can be used in schools, daycare centers, retirement homes and other sensitive environments.

On March 8, you will learn to:

• manage honey bees by understanding their behavior
• identify the best Nebraska honey plants
• locate hives for best survival and production of honey

On April 12, you will learn to:

• install packaged bees as a hive
• harvest honey and beeswax
• prepare your crop for market

Registration fee: $20 per family (family to include parents and siblings living at home). Registration includes refreshments, one workbook and one lunch. Lunch for each additional family member is $5.00. Please pre-register by calling 471-7802.
Public Speaking Workshop, Jan. 27

A public speaking workshop will be held Sunday, Jan. 27, 2–3 p.m. at the Lancaster Extension Education Center, 444 Cherryrck Road, Lincoln. Veteran 4-H members who completed in national public speaking events will share their expertise with youth and adults. These former 4-H members now judge several public speaking events. This is a great opportunity for 4-H’ers to learn from the experts about the speech contest, presentation content, horse speeches and demonstrations. Need not be in 4-H to attend workshop. Call 441-7180 by Jan. 23 to RSVP.

Seeking New 4-H Council Members

The 4-H Council is composed of youth and adult members working together in the interest of promoting activities of Lancaster County 4-H. Membership meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Lancaster Extension Education Center. Adult positions are open. If you are interested, contact Tracy at 441-7180. Terms are three years.

4-H/FFA Beef Weigh-In, Feb. 2

Lancaster County’s 4-H/FFA Beef weigh-in will be held Saturday, Feb. 2, 8–11 a.m. at the Lancaster Event Center in Pavilion 2. All market heifers and steers need to be weighed and tagged. If you have any questions, call Deanna at 441-7180.

“NEW” Procedure for 4-H Livestock

It has been officially approved by the state: any market beef, sheep or swine entry having a chance of participating at the Nebraska State Fair or All Sue Ben Livestock Exposition will need to have a hair sample pulled for DNA tests. All sampling for these species will be pulled at weigh-in times. Any exhibitor wanting samples pulled for market swine will need to call Deanna Karmazin to set up an appointment. The storage fee for these collections are $6 per head. Please direct any questions or concerns to Deanna at 441-7180.

Camp Scholarship Applications Due March 1

The following scholarships go towards attending Nebraska 4-H summer camp(s). Applications are due March 1.

Windstream 4-H Camp Scholarship—Thanks to the generosity of Windstream Communications, two Lancaster County 4-H members will have full scholarships to attend a 4-H summer camp at the Eastern Nebraska 4-H Camp near Grand Island. Scholarship applications must be received by March 1. Scholarship is based on need. Deadline is March 1.

Joyce Vohle Memorial Scholarship—$100 scholarship is awarded to a 4-H’er in the ages of 8–14 to be used towards attending a 4-H camp. Applications should be currently, or have had at some point been, enrolled in 4-H. Scholarship is based on need. Deadline is March 1.

Horse utterments or concerns to Deanna at 441-7180.

All Riding Skills Level Tests Must be Done in Group Testings

Attention all Lancaster County 4-H horse riders: all riding skills level tests must be done in group testings! All testing will be held at the Lancaster Event Center. All disciplines, western, English and dressage are encouraged to attend. Helmets and boots are required. Riders are being asked to bring horses which are fairly well trained and mannered as the clinic will be focusing on teaching the rider fundamental riding skills, not on training the horse. For more information, contact Rodney at 782-2186 or springrabbitshow@unl.edu. Please RSVP at least one week in advance of the test date.

Riders wishing to complete their level IV must be done in group testings! All testing will be held at the Lancaster County Extension Education Center, Pavilion 3 Exhibit Hall, 84th & Havelock, Lincoln. The classes are an educational opportunity in equine science for the professional or amateur horse person. Through Feb. 26

Please RSVP to Marty at 441-7180 or e-mail mcruckshan2@unl.edu.

Showmanship, April 9

A Showmanship Clinic will be held Wednesday, April 9 at the Lancaster Event Center beginning at 6:30 p.m. The clinic is open to members and club leaders. Clinicians are Mindy Leach, Scott & Tammy Merritt and Rich & Katie Fortner. Participants will need to bring their horse, as emphasis will be placed on teaching the horse how to pivot, how to lead out and how to set up. Areas covered will be:

• Voicings: proper body position of handler
• Teaching & executing correct pivot
• Roping & strong execution of set ups & quarters
• Pattern & execution
• Polish—fine tuning moves, grooming essentials, proper fitting of halter & attire
• Maintenance: length, hand position, “flow,” body position & ring presence, exhibitor attire

Please RSVP to Marty at 441-7180 or e-mail mcruckshan2@unl.edu.

Equestrian Academy, Through Feb. 26

University of Nebraska and Purina Mills will present “Equestrian Academy – Equine 105,” a series of classes held every Tuesday night through Feb. 26 from 7-9 p.m. at Chase Hall on UNL East Campus, Lincoln. The classes are an educational opportunity in equine science for the professional or amateur horse person. Pre-registration cost is $60 per participant or $15 a session. Registration forms are available from your local Purina dealer and extension office. For more information, please call Kathy Anderson at 472-6414 or Fran Minnaert 650-6150.

R.B. Warren and Grand Island Saddle Club 4-H Scholarships Due March 1

$1,000 scholarships are available to youth active in the 4-H horse program. For complete directions and applications, go to http://4h.unl.edu/kids/scholarships.htm — applications are due March 1.

Jammie Jamboree, April 12

Join us at the Jammie Jamboree and make jammie bottoms on Saturday, April 12, 9 a.m. at the Lancaster Extension Education Center. 444 Cherryrck Road, Lincoln. Bring your own pull-on pajama bottom pattern, prewashed flannel or 100% cotton fabric (not flannel) and sewing thread. Also bring your sewing machine, basic sewing equipment such as scissors, pins, measuring tape, etc. and a sack lunch. Open to all youth (need not be in 4-H). Adults are welcome. Sign up by April 1 by calling 441-7180. Jammie bottoms may be entered at the county fair and styled in the 4-H Style Revue.

ORSE BITS

Spring Clinics

The Horse VIPS committee and UNL Extension in Lancaster County are sponsoring the following free clinics for Lancaster County 4-H horse members ages 8–18 and club leaders.

Riding Fundamentals, March 26–27

Clinician Felice Rose will present a Riding Fundamentals Clinic—Youth on March 26 and the Adult seminar on March 27 at the Lancaster Event Center (Pavilion 2 - Warm-up Arena). All disciplines, western, English and dressage are encouraged to attend. Helmets and boots are required. Riders are being asked to bring horses which are fairly well trained and mannered as the clinic will be focusing on teaching the rider fundamental riding skills, not on training the horse.

Please RSVP to Marty at 441-7180 or e-mail mcruckshan2@unl.edu.

Horser’ Around, Feb. 9–10

The 11th Horser’ Around will be held Feb. 9–10, 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. in the RB Warren Arena, UNL Animal Science building. Clinicians this year include Bill and Tina Kaven who have been one of the most successful training teams in the western pleasure industry. Tina is the highest money earning open western-pleasure-division woman rider in the NSBA. Both are highly respected AQHA and NSBA judges. Video taping is allowed.

Pre-registration cost for adults is $25 for both days or $15/day; youth is $15 for both days or $10/day. Cost at the door for adults is $35 both days or $20/day; youth is $25 both days or $15/day. Registration information and registration forms are available from your local Purina dealer or by going to http://4h.unl.edu/kids/scholarships.htm. All information is $15 for both days or $10/day. Cost at the door for adults is $35 both days or $20/day; youth is $25 both days or $15/day. Cost at the door for adults is $35 both days or $20/day; youth is $25 both days or $15/day. Cost at the door for adults is $35 both days or $20/day; youth is $25 both days or $15/day.
Lancaster County 4-H and 4-H Council invite 4-H'ers and their families to

4-H Achievement Night

Tuesday, Feb. 12 • 6:30 p.m.

University of Nebraska–Lincoln
Animal Science Complex, East Campus

EVENING INCLUDES:
• 4-H Awards Presentation
• Fun, educational presentations by UNL Animal Science Professors
• Optional tour includes a behind-the-scenes look at animal science/vet science teaching labs, research facilities and projects (for example, see "fistulated" cattle used in ruminant research)

4-H members, 4-H clubs and 4-H leaders will be recognized for their 2007 achievements. Lancaster County 4-H congratulates all 4-H youth who work throughout the year on their 4-H projects and commit themselves to excellence! We also thank the 4-H leaders who volunteer their time and talents to youth!

New 22 Silhouette Shooting Sports Discipline

A new 22 silhouette shooting sports discipline will be available to 4-H youth this spring! Mark your calendars to attend the first organizational meeting on Monday, May 5, 7 p.m. at the Lancaster Extension Education Center, 444 Cherry-creek Road, Lincoln. Interested youth must be at least 12 years old and not older than 18 by January 1, 2008. More information will be in upcoming Nebline issues.

4-H Clubs Needed to Help Provide Booths at Kiwanis Karnival

The annual Kiwanis Karnival, a FREE family event is sponsored by the Lincoln Center Kiwanis. This year, it will be held Saturday, April 12, 7-9 p.m. at Elliott Elementary School, 225 S. 26 Street, Lincoln. 4-H clubs are needed to help, please contact Tracy at 441-7180. All help is very much appreciated!

New PSA Contest Guidelines

This year, for the 4-H Public Service Announcement (PSA) Contest will not be held face to face. The contest will be held via audio only. Any 4-H member ages 8-18 can submit a PSA via cassette tape or CD playable on any standard stereo equipment to Deanna by Monday, April 14. Awards and comment sheets will be announced and handed out at the Speech Contest on Sunday, April 20. As always, sound effects and background noises are encouraged. If you do not have the capabilities to record a PSA, contact Deanna to set up a recording time. Additional contest information, PSA guidelines and examples can be found online at http://lancaster.unl.edu/4h/Content/speech.shtml

Directions and parking:
From either 33rd Street or Holdredge Street, follow East Campus Loop to N. 39th Street. Turn left on 38rd Street to Fair Street. Front entrance of Animal Science Complex is at corner of 39th and Fair Streets. Park in parking lot south of Animal Science Complex, with signage “Area C—Commuter Student Parking” (non-metered spaces)(no cost for 4-H families to park during event)
This camp is 2 days and 1 night of fun, educational and confidence-building activities. As middle school approaches, this is an opportunity to: • Enhance effective communication including expressing emotions • Learn more about body image and sexuality • Explore techniques to handle peer pressure and stress • Discuss the importance of individual family values Cost includes meals, snacks and lodging at Carol Joy Holling Center. Fee is $100 per pair (4 people per room) or $135 (2 people per room)—each room has two double beds. Carol Joy Holling is located at the end of Ranch Road off Highway 66 between Interstate 80 and Ashland. Co-sponsored by UNL Extension, Sheridan Lutheran Church and Camp Carol Joy Holling. For more information or a registration form, go to http://lancaster.unl.edu/famliv/GUF.shtml or call Extension Educator Maureen Burson at 441-7180.

Help Form a New 4-H Club Families are encouraged to help organize a new club — which is a lot easier than you may think! 4-H staff provides guidance and resource materials. Clubs range from 5 to 60 members and are led (or co-led) by club leaders — often club members’ parents. Members choose their own club officers and set up their own meeting schedule. Parents are encouraged to attend meetings. In most clubs, members complete several projects a year.

Join an Existing 4-H Club Lancaster County has more than 100 4-H clubs. Currently, there are more youth wanting to be in 4-H clubs than there are clubs.

Be an Independent Member With family schedules becoming increasingly busy, more and more youth are becoming independent 4-H members. This means you don’t belong to a formal club, but work on 4-H projects on your own.

For more information about Lancaster County 4-H, go to lancaster.unl.edu/4h or call 441-7180.

Applications Open for 4-H Camp Staff

The three 4-H Camps in Nebraska are currently accepting applications for our 2008 summer staff. All positions provide endless opportunities for growth in a fun, fast-paced outdoor atmosphere.

• Camp Staff — Salaried youth ages 18 and older who lead camp programs. Spend mid-May to August working full time to provide day to day leadership of camp activities and teaching groups of all ages. A great summer job for college students with any major. Application deadline is Feb. 15.

• Cabin Mentors — Youth ages 17 and up who provide cabin supervision and assist in leading camp programs. Mentors receive an honorarium for their service and are scheduled according to their availability and counseling is offered at night. Camp counselors are scheduled according to their availability and counseling is a fantastic leadership experience for any young person. Application deadline is March 15.

• Camp Counselors — Youth ages 15–18 who assist with cabin supervision and leading of camp programs. Join over 150 volunteer teens in providing valuable leadership to a group of campers by day and assist with cabin supervision at night. Camp counselors are scheduled according to their availability and counseling is a fantastic leadership experience for any young person. Application deadline is March 15.

More information and applications are online at http://4h.unl.edu/camp/staff — need not be in 4-H to apply.

Explore Career Options at Big Red Academic Camps

The 2008 Big Red Summer Academic Camps are a chance for high school youth to spend time investigating an interest or potential career, explore the UNL campus, meet people from across the state and have lots of fun. Held in June, Big Red Summer Academic Camps features 12 career exploration camps hosted by Nebraska 4-H and UNL faculty members. The camps are residence camps held on the University of Nebraska–Lincoln campus. Housing and food are provided.

After spending several fun-filled days exploring a specific topic such as movie-making or food molecular biology, youth showcase their work at a special “capstone” event which family members are invited to attend. Brochures and registration forms are available at http://bigredcamps.unl.edu or at the extension office. For more information, call 472-2805. 4-H members are encouraged to apply for a scholarship — application is on the Web site.

Save $50 by registering before April 1!

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Save $50 by registering before April 1!
January
27 4-H Public Speaking (Speech & Presentation) Workshop .......... 2 p.m.
28 Family & Community Education (FCE) Council Meeting .......... 1 p.m.
31 Family & Community Education (FCE) & Community Leader Training Lesson: “What’s New and Nutritious”. .......... 1 p.m.

February
2 4-H/FFA Beef Weigh-In, Lancaster Event Center - Pavilion 2 .......... 8–11 a.m.
2 Private Pesticide Applicator Training Session .......... 8:30–11:30 a.m.
5 Initial Commercial Pesticide Applicator Training Session .......... 9 a.m.
7 Commercial Pesticide Applicator Recertification Training Session .......... 9 a.m.
8 Extension Board Meeting .......... 8 a.m.
10 4-H Teen Council Meeting .......... 3 p.m.
11 4-H Horace VIPS Meeting, Lancaster Event Center 4-H Office .......... 7 p.m.
14 4-H Achievement Night, Animal Science Complex, UNL East Campus .......... 6:30 p.m.
16 Computerized Form Financial Recordkeeping Workshop .......... 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
19 Private Pesticide Applicator Training Session .......... 1:30–4:30 p.m.
25 and 26 Guardian/Conservator Training .......... 1:30–4:30 p.m.
21 Parents Forever/Kids Talk About Divorce .......... 5:30–9:30 p.m.
21 4-H Rabbit VIPS Meeting, Lancaster Event Center 4-H Office .......... 7 p.m.
22–23 Strengthening Family Treasures: Daughter/Mother Camp, Carol Joy Holling Center near Ashland, .......... 5 p.m.–5 p.m.
28 Initial Commercial Pesticide Applicator Training Session .......... 9 a.m.
28 Family & Community Education (FCE) & Community Leader Training Lesson: “Make Every Drop Count in the Home” .......... 1 p.m.

Photography Workshop at Halsey State 4-H Camp, April 26–27

The 6th Annual Photographic Workshop will be held April 26–27, at the Nebraska State 4-H Camp near Halsey. Work and learn side by side with professional photographers:

• Jeff Beiermann, photojournalist with the Omaha World Herald
• Brad Norton, photojournalist with the Kearney Hub
• Randy Hampton, retired photojournalist and teacher
• Brad Mellem, photo teacher and portrait photographer

Photographers of all skill levels age 15 and up are invited to sign up. There will be classroom instruction and field demonstration workshops in the areas of Digital Photography, Outdoor and Nature, Photoshop Elements, Portraiture, Basics, Digital Painting, Lighting instruction and a U.S. Forest Service Tour.

For more information and a registration form, go to http://4h.unl.edu/camp/family or call the Nebraska 4-H camp at (308) 533-2224.

The Nebraska chapter of Gamma Sigma Delta, the Honor Society of Agriculture, recently inducted two Lancaster County Nutrition Education Program (NEP) staff in recognition of their accomplishments.

Extension Assistant Kelly Fisher was initiated as a UNL graduate student. She has worked with NEP for over one year and focuses on teaching nutrition to Head Start youth, middle schoolers and high school parents. She is a registered dietitian and is taking UNL graduate classes in Nutrition and Health Sciences.

Extension Associate Zainab Rida was initiated as a UNL alumna. She has worked with NEP for five years and teaches nutrition to WIC clients, afterschool youth, People’s City Mission and new immigrants/refugees (she is fluent in three languages: English, Arabic and Persian). She has a master’s degree in Nutrition and Health Sciences and is taking classes at UNL to become a registered dietitian.

Extension is a Division of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln cooperating with the Counties and the United States Department of Agriculture. University of Nebraska–Lincoln Extension in Lancaster County 444 Cherry creek Road, Suite A Lincoln, NE 68528-1507 (402) 441-7180 http://lancaster.unl.edu E-mail: lancaster@unl.edu • Fax: 441-7148
UNL International Quilt Study Center &
Museum Grand Opening, March 30

For the past couple of years, the Lincoln community has watched with anticipation the construction of a new International Quilt Study Center & Museum on the northwest corner of 33rd and Holdrege Streets. The grand opening will be Sunday, March 30, 1:30–4:30 p.m. The public is invited to attend the free event which will include tours and activities.

The mission of the International Quilt Study Center & Museum is to collect, preserve, study, exhibit and promote discovery of quilts and quilt-making traditions from many cultures, countries and time periods.

The International Quilt Study Center & Museum is the dynamic center of formal and informal learning and discovery for students, teachers, scholars, artists, quilters and others. The comprehensive, world-wide and accessible collection of quilts, related textiles and documents is a primary text for study, insight and inspiration. The Center’s quilt collection totals more than 2,300 quilts.

Events and Activities

The International Quilt Study Center & Museum provides a wide selection of opportunities to explore the wonderful world of quilts. Exhibitions, family activities, classes, speakers, tours—something for everyone.

The inaugural exhibitions of the Center & Museum will be “Quilts in Common,” running March 30–Aug. 17 and “Nancy Crow: Cloth, Culture, Context,” running March 30–Aug. 31. Exhibition hours will be Tuesdays–Saturdays, 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. and Sundays, 1:30–4:30 p.m. Admission is $5 for adults, $3 for youth ages 5–18 and family savings of $10 for two adults with children. Memberships will be available. Nancy Crow will present a public lecture on March 30 at 4 p.m. in the auditorium of UNL’s Hardin Center, located directly east across 33rd Street from the Museum.

You can view past and virtual exhibitions by going to the Web site www.quiltstudy.org and clicking on “Search the Collections” to browse through the online database. Numerous lectures, gallery talks and discussions are available online as podcasts or streaming video. The Web site also features a “Quilt of the Month”—users can subscribe to the Center’s e-newsletter to receive a monthly e-mail reminder. To find out about upcoming public programs, go to www.quiltstudy.org or call 472-6349. Guided tour groups can be scheduled by calling 472-7030.

Why is the Quilt Study Center at UNL?

The International Quilt Study Center at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln was formed in 1997 as a result of the generous gift of nearly 950 quilts from the Ardis & Robert James Collection, along with a substantial pledge of financial support. Many factors influenced Robert and Ardis James’ decision to donate their quilt collection to UNL. Bob James grew up in Ord and Ardis James grew up in Lincoln, so both had Nebraska ties. This connection to Nebraska made the University a natural consideration as a future home for their collection.

Another factor influencing the James’ decision was the book, Nebraska Quilts and Quiltmakers (University of Nebraska Press, 1991). The book is the result of the Nebraska statewide quilt documentation project initiated by the well-organized quilt community in the state. The quilters contacted the UNL Department of Textiles, Clothing and Design for assistance. The book documents highlights of the project and has been a quilt best-seller.

When “Nebraska Quilts and Quiltmakers” won the Smithsonian’s Froitz Prize for Distinguished Scholarship in American Crafts in 1993, it caught the James’ attention. The James’ were impressed by Nebraska’s strong grassroots support for what they envisioned in a Quilt Study Center. They knew that Nebraska had a strong quiltmaking tradition and a August 31. They have a group of dedicated quilters to conduct such a successful statewide documentation project.

Another important consideration was the Department of Textiles, Clothing & Design, academic home of the Center, had a strong textile history graduate program upon which to build.

Volunteer Opportunities

Caring for the International Quilt Study Center & Museum’s collection of over 2,300 quilts is an ongoing process. Volunteers assist Center staff with a wide range of activities, including leading tours, vacuuming and refolding quilts, attaching sleeves on quilts for exhibition and helping with a myriad of administrative tasks. Volunteers are trained to assist in the many different responsibilities and are a valuable part of the international quilt collection. If you would like to learn more about volunteer opportunities, e-mail akoniz2@unl.edu or call 472-7030.

One of the gems of the IQSC collection is the Reconciliation Quilt by Lucinda Ward Honston, dated 1867. It depicts scenes from the post Civil War North/South reconciliation.

4-H “Quilt Quest” Project

Nebraska 4-H recently worked in conjunction with the International Quilt Study Center and the UNL Department of Computer Science and Engineering to produce an exciting new quilting curriculum. “Quilt Quest” combines technology, textile design, history, communication and more to create a fun, meaningful and interactive project for youth. To learn more about the 4-H Quilt Quest project, go to http://4h.unl.edu/programs/curriculum/quilt.htm or contact 4-H Extension in Lancaster County at 441-7180. You can download a 4-H Quilt Block Design at http://www.quiltquest.unl.edu

Can You Guess It?

Did you guess it from the January Nub? The answer was bones in the hoof of a horse.

U.S. Drought Monitor Map

As of Jan. 8, Lancaster County was not in drought conditions.

Watch Chicks Hatch Online with EGG Cam!

http://lancaster.unl.edu/4h/Embryology

This spring, EGG Cam will feature chickens, ducks and peacocks hatching!