February 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. Casing 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 Entrances**
- 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 opened.
- 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.

**Utilize Alarms and Deterrents**
- Consider adding a security system. They can be costly, but will help protect your home.
- Outside motion detector lights are also excellent deterrents.

**Other Common Sense Suggestions**
- 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 are an easy reference if needed.
- Outdoor lighting adds security. Outdoor lighting adds security.
- Conduct a household inventory and make removal more difficult.
- Electronic equipment are becoming prime items for burglaries. To prevent further loss, store computer backup information in an area away from the computer.

**Protect Property Left Outside**
- Secure outdoor items with cable locks and/or chain and padlock to make removal more difficult.
- Vehicle equipment such as lawn mowers, snow blowers and bicycles in the garage or storage shed equipped with a good lock.

**Storage sheds not only provide additional barriers to crime.**
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What is the Census of Agriculture? This is 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, 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 communities and all U.S. agriculture.

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 make sure you get what you want. In March, remind yourself 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 the planting windows. 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.

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 be used as a forage, and shortly thereafter, your summer annuals need to be planted.

In early August, prepare and plant turnips 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.

Census of Agriculture FAQs
Who needs to fill out the Census of Agriculture? All U.S. farmers and ranchers are required to complete the Census of Agriculture. That includes everyone who operated a farm or ranch in the United States during the Census year and who is considered a landlord, owner or operator of the farm or ranch.

How do I fill out the Census of Agriculture? You will receive a letter from the U.S. Census Bureau about how to complete your Census form. The letter will include the code number to help you fill out the Census form. 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) 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 to receive Census report in order to receive even if they did not operate a farm or ranch in 2007.

What if I only have a small operation or do not participate in government farm programs? The Census of Agriculture is the responsibility of every farmer and rancher, regardless of the size or type of operation. For Census purposes, a farm is any place from which $1,000 or more of agricultural products were produced and sold, or normally would have been sold, during the Census year.

When will Census results be released? The Census of Agriculture will be available in both electronic and print formats, beginning in February 2009. Detailed reports will be published for all counties, states and the nation.

Where can I find Census of Agriculture data? Census of Agriculture data is available through the NASS field office in your state, many depository libraries, universities and state government offices. It is available online at www.nass.usda.gov or www.agcensus.usda.gov. For additional information on the Census of Agriculture or any NASS survey, contact the National Agricultural Statistics Hotline (800) 727-9540.

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 Cherryreek Road, in Lincoln.

Preliminary 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 in computerized recordkeeping is necessary. However, some prior experience in bookkeeping and simple single entry accounting system (such as the extension blue book) would be useful. At a 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 the 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 interest of time.

Participants will receive instruction on:• Setting up and starting your financial recordkeeping system. • Developing a customized list 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 statement. • Backing up your data and other frequently asked questions. • Manipulating your farm record keeping system in Excel to create a Cash Flow Plan, a Balance Sheet and an Income Statement.

At the completion of the instruction on generating reports will be done using sample data files at the computer. They will be given 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.

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The training will also be held on Feb. 6 in Falls City and Feb. 11 in Aurora.

Private Pesticide Applicator Trainings
Federal and state law states a private pesticide applicator must be certified and licensed to buy, use or supervise the use of a restricted-use pesticide to produce an agricultural commodity on property they own or rent or on an employer’s property if the applicator is an employee of a farm. No pesticide license is needed if the applicator will only be using general-use pesticides.

Applicants must be 18 years of age or older. The five certification tests are a multiple-choice test, application, a computer test, a written test, and a knowledge test. Certification is due to expire on April 15, 2008 for those who certify this spring.

Private Pesticide Applicator Training Sessions will be offered at the Lancaster Extension Education Center, 444 Cherryreek Road, Lincoln:
• Saturday Feb. 2, 8:30–11:30 a.m. A self study book and associate materials may be picked up at the extension office. The applicator can read the book and then be tested on their knowledge.
• Saturday Feb. 19, 1:30–4:30 p.m., repeated 6:30–9:30 p.m.
• A $30 extension training fee will be collected. A $15 extension training fee will be charged for those who met registration by Feb. 15.

The Study Method of receiving certification can be done at any time throughout the year. A self study study book and associate materials may be picked up at the extension office. The applicator can read the book and then be tested on their knowledge.

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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 to 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 fruit injury increases. 

Extreme cold during winter dormancy, however, may damage fruit trees. 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—peach, plum, and nectarine—can lose cold hardiness due to extended mid-winter warm periods. Damage to the flower buds can be extensive, especially if the injury follows a dormancy break caused by a very cold period. If 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 tender growth. Premature blooming or bud or blossom injury, provided temperatures do not fall too low and the cold weather is of short duration. Cheesecloth 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 trees with water. Start when the temperature falls to the low 30’s. Keep the water running until all the ice is melted. Water must be dripping off the ice at all times or the plant will suffer from frost damage. After a severe frost, doweled 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. Trees with low canopies are more vigorously and bear better if they have adequate spaces above and below their root system. Do not plant where roots of trees or large shrubs will compete for water and plant nutrients. Cultivate or mulch as necessary to reduce competition from weeds or grasses. 

Apply adequate amounts of fertilizer 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 growth early in the season delays fruit bearing and reduces the quantity of fruit produced. 

Renovate Windbreaks to Improve Effectiveness

Over time it isn’t unusual for windbreaks to thin and lose the capability to block strong winds. However, proper renovation efforts can keep any windbreak in top-notch condition. According to Rich Lodes, UNL Extension 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 often are found near buildings and in corners where debris normally isn’t. This may indicate that the windbreak renovation needed as well. 

There are four methods commonly used for windbreak renovation. 
• Cut down the entire stand of trees and start new. Although this method is the easiest way to regain a clean look, it is expensive and provides no protection in the meantime. 
• 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 allows the introduction of new growth as well. However, many landowners are reluctant to give up either lawn space or farmland. 
• Establish shade-tolerant species within the stand. This method is often the most satisfactory because it creates a stand of trees with multiple uses. Even so, it greatly increases the density of the windbreak and prevents root wind from getting through. 

Lodes says it is important to remember that renovating a windbreak, regardless of method, can be a difficult task. Wildsp idea 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 the plant.

Some trees need to tear apart the flower to check and see if the inside is brown. This apple flower was killed by frost, and you can see that the inside of the flower is black.
Quick Chili

Serving Size: ½ cup • Yield: 4 servings • Time: 20 minutes

⅛ pound ground beef
½ cup chopped onion
1 can (15.5 ounces) kidney beans, drained OR ½ cup cooked dry kidney beans, red beans or other bean of your choice
1 cup (14.5 ounces) diced tomatoes, no salt added—do not drain
1 ½ tablespoons chili powder*

Source: This recipe is a slightly adapted version of an adaptation of a home-made version. It's chock-full of flavor and nutrients and freezes beautifully!

Cook ground beef and onion in skillet until ground beef is browned (160 degrees F). Be sure all pink color is gone from meat and juices. Do not under-cook ground beef. Carefully wash your hands and any surfaces that have come in contact with raw meat. Drain off fat into container. Stir in kidney beans, diced tomatoes and chili powder. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat, cover, and simmer for 10 minutes. Add a little water, if needed, to thin the broth. Refrigerate or freeze leftovers within 2 hours of cooking. Refrigerate in shallow pans to speed cooling and promote food safety. Use refrigerated leftovers within 3 to 4 days.

*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.

By Alice Henneman, MS, RD, UNL Extension Educator

How should I clean this kitchen item? Is the warranty still good? Where IS the warranty paper? 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’s 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. If you’ve lost 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 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 material gets.
• 1 or more packs—depending on the number of manuals to file—of clear, heavyweight, top-load- ing sheet protectors. One common available type is an extra heavyweight sheet protector with a fold-over top flap that helps secure items inside. It’s helpful to always have a few extra sheet protectors on hand so new manuals can be filed as soon as items are purchased.

2. Place a separate manual, warranty and any other related materials in each page protector. Staple the receipt to the warranty or to the manual. This is the separate warranty paper.
3. Write the serial and model numbers on the front of the manual.
4. Decide how to organize your manuals. If you refer to the manuals interactively, just placing them in a notebook with the notebook itself attached on top may be sufficient. The time it takes to search through them may be less than the overall time spent organizing.

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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 that the elderly, defined as people older than 60 to 65 years of age, to be able to use computers if they wish to connect with their adult children and friends via the Internet. Regularly doing 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 envelope with the check. Some also worry that some elderly work on the computer for their occupation and are protected by 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 family and friends who live far away.

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

If an elder or disabled person is unable to drive or unable to get out of their home much, a computer can help them contact others personally and do tasks that would normally be impossible for them.

Many computer classes are offered at junior colleges and community centers. Others who are computer literate also offer classes to the elderly. Some of the people who are computer literate are elders, so sometimes it is elders helping elders. This 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 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, some 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 she is 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. It is usually a 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 huddled over 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, thorny 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. The beautiful Northern cardinal is attracted to berries of dogwood, sumac and viburnum. Berries from the eastern red cedar and black cherry are eaten by bluebirds. Cedar waxwings also eat berries from eastern red cedar, as well as viburnum, crabapple and privet.

When choosing plants for birds, keep in mind the season they bear fruits. Plants with summer fruits include several viburnums, raspberry, blueberry and mulberry. For fruits later into the fall consider oaks, crabapples, hawthorn, sumac, spruce and white pine. For winter fruits there are crabapples with their persistent fruits, honey-suckle, birch and spreading cotoneaster.

When birdscaping, choose the proper plants for the proper site to reduce future maintenance and have a good chance of success. Avoid overplanting. 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 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 F. Perry, Extension Professor, University of Vermont

Garden Guide

THINGS TO DO THIS MONTH

By Mary Jane Frogge, UNL Extension Associate

Prune fruit trees and grapes in late February or early March after the worst of the winter cold is passed but before spring growth begins.

Check any vegetables you have in storage. Dispose of any that show signs of shriveling or rotting.

Late February is a good time to air-layer such house plants as dracaena, schefflera and rubber plant, especially if they have grown too tall and leggy.

Order perennial plants and bulbs now for cut flowers this summer. Particularly good choices are phlox, daisies, coreopsis, asters and lilies.

Check stored bulbs, tubers and corms. Discard any that are soft or discolored.

Order gladiolus corms now for planting later in the spring after all danger of frost has passed. Locate in full sun in well-drained soil.

Branches of forsythia, pussy willow, quince, spirea and dogwood can be forced for indoor bloom. Make long, slanted cuts when collecting the branches and place the stems in a vase of water. Change the water every four days. They should bloom in about three weeks.

The new dwarf varieties on the market which use less space while growing before; it may be better than what you are already growing.

This year plan to grow at least one new vegetable that you have never grown before; it may be better than what you are already growing.

Fruits of dogwood, sumac and viburnum. Berries from the eastern red cedar and black cherry are eaten by bluebirds. Cedar waxwings also eat berries from eastern red cedar, as well as viburnum, crabapple and privet.

When choosing plants for birds, keep in mind the season they bear fruits. Plants with summer fruits include several viburnums, raspberry, blueberry and mulberry. For fruits later into the fall consider oaks, crabapples, hawthorn, sumac, spruce and white pine. For winter fruits there are crabapples with their persistent fruits, honey-suckle, birch and spreading cotoneaster.

When birdscaping, choose the proper plants for the proper site to reduce future maintenance and have a good chance of success. Avoid overplanting. 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 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 F. Perry, Extension Professor, University of Vermont

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 peppery 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 foribunda 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

Dream Come True

Mardi Gras

Washington Hawthorn

Flowering Crabapple

Eastern Red Cedar Berries

Eastern Arborvitae

Dogwood

Honeysuckle

Source: All-America Rose Selections

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Source: All-America Rose Selections
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 estimates 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. Apples, 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 areas 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 cutter bees. Most 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 boxes, 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 approximate 3/4” centers, into the side of a block of preservative-free lumber. The holes need to be smooth, 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.

Twin bundles. Some plants, like teasel and bamboo have hollow stems which are 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 end 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.com) and Dr. Suzanne Batra, http://www.pollinator- paradise.com/entomology_BeeStyle.htm

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**Attracting Cardinals to Your Yard**

Female cardinal

Cardinals are one of the most popular of all songbirds. The male cardinal is easily identified by its brilliant red feathers and crested head. Female cardinals are also beautiful with their tan and rosy coloration.

Cardinals are not shy about taking food from a feeder. They’re usually the first birds at the feeder in the morning and the last ones to eat at dusk. You’ll hear their sharp “chip, chip, chip” as they make their way to the feeders. At the feeder, male cardinals will often fight other birds for the seed; they’ll even fight their own mates. But the possessive male will eventually relent and allow other birds to feed.

As the breeding season approaches in late March, the male cardinal becomes more interested in his mate. In later winter, he will begin to open sunflower seeds and feed the tender nuts to his mate.

Cardinals prefer feeders that are four to six feet from the ground. They prefer steady, stationary or platform feeders. Be sure you protect your bird feeder from pets who will eat the seeds.

Cardinals prefer black-oil sunflower seeds. They’ll also eat safflower if they don’t have access to the sunflower seeds.

Cardinals don’t migrate and rarely move more than a few miles from their nest. Fortunately, you can establish a home landscape where cardinals are nesting, you could have the same family in the area for several years.

Cardinals prefer landscapes with a mixture of evergreen and deciduous trees. They like to nest in shrubs or thickets that face an open lawn. Viburnums, raspberry, elderberry, hackberry, dogwood, grapes and hawthorns all will provide suitable habitat for cardinals.

**Cool Facts About Cardinals:**

- The Northern Cardinal is the most popular state bird in the United States. Seven states record this bird as their state bird.
- Cardinals have benefitted from urban park-type habitats created by humans. Their population and range has increased over the past 200 years.
- The female Northern Cardinal sings, often from the nest. The song may give the male information about when to bring food to the nest. A mated pair shares song phrases, but the female may sing a longer and slightly more complex song than the male.
- The male cardinal fiercely defends its breeding territory. When a male sees its reflection in a window or other shiny surface, it will “fight” its own reflection.
- Male cardinals with the brightest red feathers are more successful. The brightly-colored males have better territories, feed at higher rates and have more reproductive success than male cardinals with duller coloring.

*Sources: eXtension at www.extension.org and Cornell Lab of Ornithology*

**Bee as Pollinators**

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 Kells, University of Montana; Roger Gold, University of Utah; and 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-toxic past management approaches that can be used in schools, day care, libraries, retirement homes and other sensitive environments.

- Nebraska Department of Agriculture certified applicators in Structural (08), Public Health (09) and Fumigation (11) categories can be re-certified by attending this training.
- Registration is $150. For more information, go to http://entomology.unl.edu/upm.shtml or contact Shripat Kamble at 472-6857.

**Beginning Beekeeping 2-Day Workshop**

Beginning Beekeeping 2-Day Workshop

Saturday, March 8, 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Lancaster Extension Education Center, 444 Cherrycreek Road, Lincoln

- On March 8, you will learn to: manage honey bees by understanding their biology and behavior; identify the best Nebraska honey plants; locate hives for best survival and production in the state; and care for a hive in winter.
- On April 12, you will learn to: install packaged bees; assemble 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 $10. Please pre-register by calling 441-7180.
Public Speaking Workshop, Jan. 27

A public speaking workshop will be held Sunday, Jan. 27, 2-8 p.m. at the Lancaster Event Center, 444 Cherrycreek Road, Lincoln. Veteran 4-H members who competed 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.

Spring Rabbit Show

Saturday, March 29, 9 a.m.
Lancaster Event Center, Pavilion 3 Exhibit Hall
84th & H dove, Lincoln, Registration: 7:30-9:00 a.m.
Trophies & ribbons will be awarded!
CLASSES: Fancy Rabbis, Commercial Rabbis, Pet Class and Pee Wee Class.
REGISTRATION FEES: $2.50 per rabbit or entry, $5 class, $15 showmanship.
FREE CONTENTS: Rabbit Quiz & Rabbit Breed ID
All rabbits must be tattooed in the left ear and displayed in a solid color cage.
For more information, call Rodney at 792-3216 or Tolto at 441-7180.
Sponsored by Lancaster County 4-H Rabbit VIP’s Committee and Rabbit NI 4-H Club.

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 County Event Center (Pavilion 2 - Warm-up Arena). Dates and times are as follows:
• Tuesday, April 22, 6:30 p.m.
• Tuesday, June 24, 6:30 p.m.
• Tuesday, May 6, 6:30 p.m.
• Tuesday, July 8, 6:30 p.m.
• Saturday, Sept. 7, 9 a.m.
Please RSVP at least one week in advance of the test date to Marty at 441-7180. Jammers must be entered at the county fair and styled in the 4-H Style Revue.

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 Karen Mees at 472-6140 or Karen Mee at 472-6140 or FAX 472-6142 or email mcruickshank2@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. Clinic leaders are Misty Meach, 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:
• Formal, teaching basics in walking & trotting, proper body position of handler
• Teaching & executing correct pivot
• Obeddy schools, executing set ups 8 4 quarters
• Pattern & execution
• Polish — fine tuning moves, grooming essentials, chairs, trot over jumps, control in length, hand position, “flow,” body position & ring presence, exhibitor attire
Please RSVP to Marty at 441-7180 or e-mail mcruickshank2@unl.edu.

ORSE BITS

Spring Clinics

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

Riding Fundamentals, March 26 – 27

Clinician Felicia Rose will be presenting a Riding Fundamentals Clinic on March 26 and 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 and riders are asked to bring their own horses. All horses are fairly well trained and630 of the clinic will focus on teaching the rider fundamental riding skills, not on training the horse.
On Wednesday, March 26 there will be two sessions for 4-H’ers: elementary age group from 3:30–7 p.m. and a junior and senior session from 8–9:30 p.m. Only eight horse and rider teams per session will be accepted on a first come, first basis, but all are welcome and come observe. Please RSVP to Marty at 441-7180 or e-mail mcruickshank2@unl.edu.

Island Saddle Club 4-H

Spring 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 Sea Bon Livestock Exposition will need to have a hair sample pulled for DNA tests. All market beef, sheep and swine samples 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. 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 Gretna. Applicants must be 9 or older and currently enrolled in 4-H. Scholarship is based on need. Deadline is March 1.

Joyce Vahle Memorial Scholarship — $100 scholarship is awarded to a 4-H’er for the ages of 8-14 to be used towards attending 4-H camp. Applicants should currently be in 4-H and have at some point been, enrolled in at least one sewing project. Deadline is March 1.

Spring Rabbit Show Bunny Auction

Saturday, March 29, 7:30 a.m.
Lancaster Event Center, Pavilion 2—Warm-up Arena
Registration: 7:30-9:00 a.m.
Trophies & ribbons will be awarded!
CLASSES: Fancy Rabbis, Commercial Rabbis, Pet Class and Pee Wee Class.
REGISTRATION FEES: $2.50 per rabbit or entry, $5 class, $15 showmanship.
FREE CONTENTS: Rabbit Quiz & Rabbit Breed ID
All rabbits must be tattooed in the left ear and displayed in a solid color cage.
For more information, call Rodney at 792-3216 or Tolto at 441-7180.
Sponsored by Lancaster County 4-H Rabbit VIP’s Committee and Rabbit NI 4-H Club.

Jammie Jamboree, April 12

Join us at the Jammie Jamboree and make jammin’ bottoms on Saturday, April 12, 9 a.m. at the Lancaster Extension Education Center, 444 Cherrycreek Road, Lincoln. Bring your own pull-on pajama bottom pattern, prewashed flannel or 100% cotton fabric (minky will be here) and matching 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 11 by calling 441-7180. Jammie Jam will be entered at the county fair and styled in the 4-H Style Revue.

Riders must be 12 years of age and have a level II in order to compete at the State 4-H Show in Grand Island. District and State entries are due May 9. Anyone wishing to compete their level IV or II in order to compete at the State must show their testing done before the May 9 date.

Horsin’ Around, Feb. 9 – 10

The 15th Annual Horsin’ 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 trainer in the NSBA. Both are highly respected AQHA and NSBA judges. Video taping is allowed.
Pre-registration cost 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. For more information and registration forms contact Karen Mees at 472-6140 or FAX 472-6142 or email mcruickshank2@unl.edu/unl/extension/equine/producer/horsinaround.html

All 4-H & Youth

4-H & Y outh

http://lancaster.unl.edu

February 2008
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!

4-H Speech Contest
The 2008 4-H Speech Contest will be held Sunday, April 20 at 1:30 p.m. at the Lancaster Extension Education Center, 444 Cherry Creek Road, Lincoln. The Speech Contest provides 4-H’ers the opportunity to learn to express themselves clearly, organize their ideas and have confidence. Register by April 14 by calling 441-7180 or e-mailing dkarmazin2@unl.edu with same, speech title and age division.

Contest divisions and requirements:
- **Clover Kid:** 5-7 years old, read or recite any short story, nursery rhyme, poem, pledge, etc.
- **Novice:** 8-9 years old, 2-minute length, any topic related to 4-H.
- **Intermediate:** 10-11 years old, 2-3 minutes in length, any topic about a 4-H experience.
- **Junior:** 12-13 years old, 3-5 minutes in length, encouraged to talk about a 4-H project you would like others to enroll in.
- **Senior:** 14-19 years old, 5-8 minutes in length, a timely topic related to 4-H.

For speech resources check out our Web site at http://lancaster.unl.edu/4h/Contest/speech.shtml

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.

New PSA Contest Guidelines
This year 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/Contest/speech.shtml

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 provide carnival-type booths.

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 provide carnival-type booths. For more information, call Lorene at 441-7180.

Clover College Instructors and Volunteers Needed
The 2008 4-H Clover College will be Tuesday, June 17-19, Friday, June 20 at the Lancaster Extension Education Center. Clover College is four days of fun-filled, hands-on workshops for youth ages 6 and up. If you have workshop topic ideas, or if you would like to teach a workshop or volunteer to help, please contact Tracy at 441-7180. All help is very much appreciated!

Directions and parking:
From either 441-35th Street or Holdredge Street, follow East Campus Loop to 39th Street. Turn right 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)

Lancaster County 4-H is proud to announce Amber Nore as winner of February’s “Heart of 4-H Award” in recognition of outstanding volunteer service. Amber has been a 4-H volunteer for three years. She began as an independent leader for her daughter, Chloe. Two years ago, as the leader for the Everett After School program sponsored by the Everett Community Learning Center and Lincoln Parks & Recreation, Amber formed a 4-H club for the after school youth. “4-H Kids” meet every week and completes 4-H projects such as Track to Treasure, Snack & Healthy and Theatre Arts. Amber is also the leader for the McPhee After School program and is in the process of forming a 4-H cub there.

“I like being a 4-H volunteer because I get to spend time with my daughter, Chloe, and help her and her friends learn about all the fascinating things that can be done with 4-H,” says Amber. “My favorite experience as a 4-H volunteer was getting ready for our first county fair entries!

In addition to volunteering for 4-H, Amber volunteers in her daughter’s classroom which is part of Everett’s Montessori program and is active in Everett Elementary School’s PTA. She also teaches Sunday school at her church and volunteers for several women’s organizations. She is an AmericaCorps member serving at the Eiseley Branch Library. Congratulations to Amber. Volunteers like her are indeed the heart of 4-H!
STRENGTHENING FAMILY TREASURES
Daughter/Mother Camp
A retreat designed for 5th grade girls and their mothers (or grandmothers or other adult females)
Friday, Feb. 22, 5 p.m. to Saturday, Feb. 23, 5 p.m.

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.

February is Nebraska 4-H Month
2008 theme is 4-H HSET
Science, Engineering & Technology

The University of Nebraska–Lincoln Extension 4-H youth development program is open to all youth ages 5–18. A learning-by-doing program, 4-H teaches practical skills and develops life skills. Youth can choose from more than 150 projects — project manuals are written by university experts. There are three ways to join 4-H:

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.

4-H Summer Camp Brochures Now Available
2008 4-H Summer Camp brochures are now available online at http://4h.unl.edu/camp/youth or at the extension office. Camps are open to all youth ages 5–18 — need not be in 4-H. With three unique Nebraska locations at Halsey, Gretna and Alma, there are more than 40 camps ranging from half day to four days/three nights.
UNL Extension, through its 4-H Youth Development Program, has been operating 4-H Camps for over 40 years. The 4-H camps and centers all meet over 300 standards established by the American Camping Association. Brochures have complete information about all camps.
Discover the adventure!

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.

You may apply for a variety of positions:

**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 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://4hacademiccamps.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.

**Camp** | **Dates** | **Grade**
--- | --- | ---
Child Development | June 15-20 | 9-12
Culinary Arts | June 15-20 | 9-12
Culinary Arts* | June 15-20 | 10-12
Dance | June 15-20 | 9-12
Food Molecular Biology | June 15-20 | 9-12
Landscape Design | June 15-20 | 9-12
Movie Making | June 15-20 | 10-12
Quilt Design* | June 15-20 | 9-12
Spiders* | June 15-20 | 9-12
Theatre | June 15-20 | 9-12
Web Design and Animation | June 15-20 | 9-12
Unicameral Youth Conference | June 8-11 | 9-12

*New camp for 2008
**Grade for Fall ‘08. Students who graduate in May ‘08 are welcome to attend.

Save $50 by registering before April 1!
Save 10% by registering before April 1!
**EXTENSION NEWS**

**Gamma Sigma Delta Inducts Two Nutrition Staff**

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 alumni. 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.
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 33d 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 a 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 Harlin 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 receive a monthly e-mail reminder. To find out about upcoming public programs, go to www.quiltstudy.org or call 472-6349. Guided group tours 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 Frost 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 sturdy 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 with the well-organized quilt collection. If you would like to learn more about volunteer opportunities, e-mail akonin2@unl.edu or call 472-7030.

One of the gems of the IQSC collection is the Reconciliation Quilt by Lucinda Ward Honstain, 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 quilling 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 UNL Extension in Lancaster County at 441-7180. You can download a 4-H Quilt Block Design at http://www.quiltquest.unl.edu

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!