5-1-2008

The NEBLINE, May 2008

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SIGN UP FOR
4-H CLOVER COLLEGE!

Four days of fun workshops for youth ages 6 & up, June 17-20!
—see pages 9 & 11

Barb Ogg
UNL Extension Educator

The Ants Go Marching...

Ants everywhere. Ants are found below sea level to altitudes of more than 14,000 feet at every latitude. In the tropics, one hectare (2.47 acres) of soil contains more than eight million ants. Ants are one of the most dominant insect groups worldwide. Residential landscapes in Nebraska are no exception.

Pest control professionals will tell you ants are the number one pest problem in structures. Based on phone calls we get at the extension office, we agree. Homeowners call us more frequently about nuisance ants than any other single group of insects.

There are a number of reasons why ants are such dominant pests.

• First, ants live in colonies, numbering hundreds to thousands of individuals. This means if you kill a few, there are plenty more where they came from.

• There is an abundance of habitat for ant colonies in and around homes. Most ants live in the soil, often under pavement, rocks, patios. Ant colonies can be under a slab of a house, garage or basement. Carpenter ants and acrobat ants live in wet wood, including railroad ties, leaky roofs, under leaky windows, in limbs of trees, tree stumps or firewood.

• Ants are small and can crawl through tiny cracks in foundations or around doors and windows. Theoretically, if people would seal all cracks and crevices, they would prevent ants from getting inside. But, this is easier said than done.

• Ants forage for food in many different types. They need protein in their diet to raise young ants. Many species also feed on sweet substances, like honeysuckle produced by aphids. Ants may forage for different types of food during the year. Because ant food preferences aren’t always predictable, ants won’t always feed on baits. And, ants must feed on a bait for it to be effective.

• Ant scouts travel in a meandering pattern to find food. Somehow they keep track of where the nest is. Once they find food, they don’t go back to the colony the same way they came, but travel more directly to the nest, leaving an odor trail. Once in the colony, the scout ant alerts her nestmates of the food find. These recruited ants follow the odor trail to the food source. This behavior is a very efficient method of exploiting what might be a temporary food resource.

Ants are adaptable. In a period of rainy weather washes aphids off plants, they will forage in other locations for food. In the case of some sweet-loving ants, like honey ants, invasions often occur after a period of wet weather. Sometimes it just takes the weather to dry out to have the ants naturally go back to their aphid-eating behavior.

Controlling Ants

• Sealing cracks and crevices can be helpful and should be attempted.

• During the warmer months, keep your kitchen as clean as possible. Ants will exploit anything in the kitchen they can find—even if it’s only left for a short time.

• Locate where the ants are coming from. Take some time and follow the ants to try to find the ant colony.

• Identify the ants. Different ant species live in different locations, so it is sometimes important to identify the species of ant to help locate the colony. For free identification, bring ants to the extension office at 444 Cherryvire Road, Suite A, Lincoln, weekdays 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Ant identification resources are also online at http://lancaster.unl.edu/pest/pestcontrol/pests/insects.

• Insecticides. If you locate the colony outdoors, you can pour a small amount of diluted insecticide down the ant colony. Use a product labeled for drenching ant mounds, like Bayer Advanced Home Pest Control® (cyfluthrin).

• What about home remedies? There’s no evidence that using bleach or vinegar will help prevent ants or keep them from trailing. Bay leaves or other vinegar will help prevent ants or keep them from trailing. Bay leaves or other home remedies are not likely to work.

• Baits. If ants seem to like sweet foods, try a slow-acting bait that sweet-loving ants will feed on and take back to the colony where it will be fed to other colony members.

• Slow-acting baits include:
  • Terro® Ant Killer II, which contains boric acid, a slow-acting toxicant
  • Pic® Liquid Bait Ant Killer, also contains boric acid
  • Combat® Quick Kill Formula bait stations, contains fipronil
  • Combat® Ant Killing Gel, contains fipronil
  • Raid® Ant Bait II, contains avermectin

If ants feed readily on the baits, they get to the colony. Ants sometimes live in places that are hard to treat, like inside wall voids. Ant colonies are also found under slabs, another difficult location to treat. Experienced pest control professionals have the equipment and products to treat difficult locations.

If you can’t locate the colony or baits don’t work, you’ll need to call a professional. One professional-use product, Termitro® (fipronil), has been shown to be very effective at controlling ants. Pest control professionals apply Termitro® to ant trails or the house perimeter. A study conducted by Purdue University researchers showed a single perimeter application of Termitro® greatly reduced the number of ants for eight weeks. Termitro® is only sold to certified applicators. One restriction with Termitro® for ants is that it can only be used two times per year.

• Don’t expect long-term control. Even if you take control actions, ant invasions are likely to recur regularly, if not annually. One of the biggest problem ants, the odorous house ant, is highly invasive and as on the increase in the central U.S. today. Researchers do not understand reasons for this. Because many insecticides used for ant control also kill other insects, use of some treatments may be actually increasing more invasive ants at the expense of others.

What’s Good About Ants?

Ants are important part of the terrestrial ecosystem. They make up 10-15% of the entire animal biomass in most terrestrial environments. Amazingly enough, ants turn more soil than earthworms. They are important scavengers cleaning up dead plant and animal debris. Many species are predators of other insects. In the grand scheme of things, ants are good in our landscape.

Because they are beneficial, the environmentally sound thing to do is to control ants only if they are causing a problem. If you are patient, the ant problem will often disappear in time, as they find food outdoors.
Establishing a Commercial Vineyard

Paul E. Read, UNL Professor of Horticulture/Viticulture
Stephanie Gonet, UNL Viticulture Research Technologist
Max McFarland, Mac’s Creek Winery and Vineyard
Seth McFarland, Mac’s Creek Winery and Vineyard
Jim Ballard, James Arthur Vineyards

Note: This is part of a series of articles on commercial vineyards in Nebraska.

Preparation for Planting

Planting is done in early spring after the average last date expected for a hard freeze to occur. Generally, dormant bare-root plants are used, but rooted cuttings and green plants are sometimes employed. Certified, #1 size or better, virus-free planting stock is desirable. If planting stock has leafy growth, planting should be delayed until after the last frost date occurs. Because many cultivars are in great demand, orders for planting stock should be placed one year in advance of the desired planting date. This is especially true for newly available cultivars such as ‘Brianna’, ‘Prairie Star’, ‘LaCrescent’ and ‘Frontenac’.

When the shipment of plants arrive, bare-root dormant planting stock should be inspected immediately for damage or other problems such as mold. Then make sure they are kept moist and store in a cool place (less than 40 degrees F, but above freezing) until ready to plant.

Prior to planting, soak the roots of dormant bare-root plants in water overnight or up to 24 hours. Prune off any broken or severely long roots and dig a planting hole that will easily accommodate the root system. The roots should be spread out in the hole, covered with soil and firm well around the roots. Some experts suggest setting the plant to a depth where the first shoot is at ground level, while others suggest planting deeper and/or mounding soil around the base of the plant – both seem to work well in Nebraska soils. It is recommended the plants be watered following planting, even if the soil moisture seems adequate. This aids in settling the soil around the roots, eliminating air pockets and ensuring adequate moisture for the development of the new roots.

The young vine should be given support; often this is accomplished by placing a stout bamboo stake next to each vine and tying the vine to the stake as the vine grows. Alternatively, use of “grow tubes” may help the vine establish a single vertical shoot and protect the developing vine from herbicide and vertebrate pest damage. Ideally, the trellis should be established soon after planting to aid in supporting the developing trunk. Trellis system design is discussed in the University of Nebraska–Lincoln Extension NebFact, ‘Trellising Systems for Nebraska Vineyards.’

Care of Young Vines

Weed control in the year of vineyard establishment is a must. Control of perennial weeds by use of an appropriate herbicide should be achieved in the year prior to planting. Approved pre-and post-emergence herbicides will help with annual weed control (see Nebraska Spray Guide for Grapes and Small Fruits for recommendations). Be sure to read and carefully follow all label instructions for any pesticide used, including herbicides.

Young vines may benefit from application of nitrogen fertilizer after growth has commenced. A rate of 20 to 30 pounds of actual nitrogen per acre may be appropriate, depending on inherent soil fertility and organic matter. Placing the fertilizer in a circle about 20 to 24 inches in radius should work well, or in bands along each side of the row at a similar distance from the planting stake. Care should be taken to avoid direct contact with the plant because nitrogen fertilizer has a great potential to “burn” the living tissue contacted. Split applications of nitrogen can be used at 6-week intervals, but in no case should they be applied after mid-July to avoid soft growth that will be vulnerable to winter damage.

Proper management of your pond requires you know its surface area in acres and its volume. Fish stocking and some chemical applications are done using the surface area of the pond; however, pond volume is often used to determine the amount of chemicals to be used. If an Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) conservationist or civil engineer designed and supervised the construction of your pond, that person should be able to provide you with these measurements. Your local USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) office or online/aerial/satellite map such as https://earthexplorer.usgs.gov.gov have an aerial photo of your pond from which the surface area of your pond can be measured. The surface area of an existing pond may also be determined by a survey.

You can determine the surface area by making measurements and using one of the formulas given here.

Rectangular pond

Surface area = length (ft.) x width (ft.) / 43,560

Circular pond

Surface area = (π x radius²) / 43,560

If your pond is rectangular, the surface acreage equals the length in feet times the width in feet, divided by 43,560. This can usually result in an irregular-shaped pond as a rectangle or square and compute the area from straight boundary lines that approximate the actual shorelines. If your pond is circular, measure the total distance in feet around the edge of the pond. Multiply this number by itself and divide by 547,390. The result is the surface area in acres. This formula also works for ponds that are almost round. However, if your pond is more egg-shaped than round, this formula will give you a much larger acreage and will introduce errors in other computations.

Next, you will need to determine the average depth of your pond in feet. Make soundings uniformly spaced over your entire pond surface. This can be done from a boat by using a weighted rope marked off in one-foot increments and lowered to the bottom of the pond. Add the measure- ments and divide by the number of soundings to determine average depth.

Now you have the measurements necessary to determine the volume of your pond in acres x feet. Simply multiply the surface area in acres by the average depth in feet (surface area in acres x average depth in feet = volume in acre-ft.). One acre-foot equals 333,000 gallons.

Tips For Handling Pesticides Safely

Pesticides are designed to kill pests and as such, they should be used, stored and disposed of only as instructed on the container label. Always read and follow the directions on the container label before using the pesticide. Below are some additional tips to remember.

- Use personal protective equipment such as clothing, gloves and a respirator as recommended on the product label.
- Mix fresh spray for each application. Do not save spray mixture for the next application. This is not only unsafe, but also damages the sprayer. Carefully calculate the amount of spray needed so excess does not result and create a disposal problem.
- Do not spray an insecticide during bloom because it is likely to kill pollinating insects such as honeybees.

- Spray carefully and thoroughly to cover all parts of flowers, leaves and fruit until a noticeable amount of water begins to drip from the foliage. Shake the sprayer often while spraying so the chemicals do not settle out.
- In most cases for disease control, apply the pesticide prior to rain; however, sprays should not be applied closer than 2 to 3 hours before rain to allow for sufficient drying.
- Pesticides should be stored in a safe location that is cool and dry. Liquids should not be stored where the temperature will drop below 32 degrees F.
- Read and observe the instructions on the container label for the time interval between the last pesticide application and re-entry into the pond bottom. This interval may vary depending on the pesticide.

http://lancaster.unl.edu/hort/resources.shtml or call (402) 444-7804.

Cost is $39.99 each, bulk discounts available.

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To determine average depth of pond, take soundings at intervals along transects. Average at least 15 such readings.
When you are doing chores around the house this spring, keep an eye out for signs of termites. Termite activity increases during the springtime as temperatures warm up.

Be on the lookout for:

- Swarming termites. In the spring, some of the termites are winged and fly off to start new colonies. These termites are called swarvers. Swarming termites are dark brown to black, have two pairs of nearly equal-sized wings and are weak flyers. You should be concerned about termites swarming in the house because it usually means worker termites have found a way into the house.

- Mud tubes. Termites build and travel through mud tubes about the size of a pencil. If you break the tubes open, you may find light-colored worker termites inside. These innocent-looking insects are the ones that take small bites out of your house! Watch for mud tubes on the side of foundations, inside basement walls and where wood is close to the soil. Homeowners sometimes find mud tubes in wall voids while doing remodeling projects.

- Termite damage is often hidden because termites like to stay inside the wood or wall void. Tapping damaged wood with the handle of a screwdriver may produce a “hollow” sound.

- Dead termite swarvers in a window sill.

Treat Termite Infestations

If you do find evidence of termites, contact a pest control service immediately.

- Cattle may butt any moving object and have an unusual pitch to their bellowing; drooling of saliva
- Horses may kick up and violently attack unsuspecting people. In later stages, paralysis is progressive toward the head.
- Animals exhibiting the “furious” form of rabies may be aggressive and snap or bite at real or imaginary objects. They may viciously and violently attack anything in their path. Dogs may run for miles, cats may leap up and violently attack unsuspecting people. In later stages, paralysis is observed, usually beginning with the rear legs and progressing toward the head.
- Some animals exhibit a “dumb” form of rabies. These animals appear drowsy with paralysis of the lower jaw, drooling and a tendency to snap at movement. They are insensitive to pain and become comatose.

- LIVESTOCK
- Horses and pigs may bite viciously at any moving object or show dullness and paralysis. Focal nerve paralysis in horses may resemble a stroke, with drooping eyes, drooping ears, and drooling of saliva.
- Horses may show signs of colic and restlessness pacing. This animal may urinate frequently or exhibit frequent sexual excitement. Cattle may vigorously scratch or sometimes strain to the point of rectal prolapse.
- Cattle may butt any moving object and have an unusual pitch to their bellowing; drooling of saliva resembles the signs of a foreign object in throat.

Source: “Rabies in Nebraska,” Nebraska Facts NF958, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension

FOR MORE INFORMATION
UNL Extension NebFacts “Rabies in Nebraska” NF958 (English) or NF958a (Spanish) available at the extension office and online at http://lancaster.unl.edu/pest

To become more informed about termites, come to a workshop, “Everything Homeowners Need to Know about Termites and Termite Control” (details at right).

Reduce Your Risk of Rabies Exposure

Rabies is a deadly virus infection that can attack the central nervous system of most warm blooded animals, including humans. In Nebraska, striped skunks and bats are the primary reservoir for rabies. The striped skunk (Mephitis mephitis) is frequently the source of rabies exposure to domestic livestock and accounted for 70 percent of the Nebraska positive rabies diagnosis during 2001–2003. Skunks can carry the rabies virus for long periods without showing signs of the disease. Because skunks are highly susceptible to rabies, any skunk should be considered a possible source of the virus. Brown bat bites are also an important source of human exposure to rabies virus. Because bat bites are small and easy to overlook, finding a bat in a room with a sleeping person, the elderly or very young child or anyone unable to understand and communicate well, should be considered a potential bite exposure. A physician should be contacted immediately.

- Mephitis mephitis is the primary reservoir for rabies.
- If your pet comes into contact with a wild animal, wear plastic gloves when handling your pet. Exposed to rabies through them.
- vaccinations available.
- Vaccinate your livestock. If you are in an area with a high skunk population, consider vaccinating cattle, horses and sheep. There are vaccines available.
- If pets or livestock are acting strange and drooling, they should be examined by a veterinarian.
- Don’t put your bare hands in their mouth.
- Stay clear of stray animals and avoid wildlife that act abnormally; report them to animal control authorities.
- If your pet is known to have had contact with a rabid animal in the past, consider vaccinating your pet against rabies.
- Vaccines are available.
- Cattle and horses and sheep. There are vaccines available.
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There is such an array of fruits and vegetables in the year-round, it makes it difficult to know the best time to buy. Buying fruits and vegetables when they are in season, usually means they will have the most flavor and the prices will be lower.

For fruits and vegetables grown in Nebraska, think about when they are available for harvesting. Asparagus and cherries are ripe in spring; greens are best in the spring while sweet corn will taste best from mid-July through September. Berries will be at their peak in the summer. Apples are always available, but we find them in abundance during the months of September and October.

The summer months are a perfect time to increase fruit and vegetable consumption. It’s hard to resist fresh sweet corn, tomatoes ripe on the vine and sweet cherries. Whether obtaining food from the store, the farmer’s market, or the family garden, it is exciting to see the fruits and vegetables become available throughout the summer months.

Some fruits and vegetables, such as bananas, oranges, grapefruits, lettuce and celery, are always in season. These are good choices, along with frozen and canned vegetables, for the winter months.

Tips for saving money when selecting fresh fruits and vegetables include:

• Shop your local farmer’s markets along with the grocery stores.
• Buy when the produce is in season. 
• Check for grocery store specials. 
• Look for freshness. Be sure the produce is ripe, but not over ripe. 
• Avoid fruit and vegetables that are bruised or damaged. 
• Buy only what you can use while the produce is still fresh.
• If you have time and space, plant a garden!

The following is a general guide of when produce is at its peak:

• **Spring:** Strawberries, asparagus and rhubarb.
• **Summer:** Berries, sweet corn, peaches, summer squash, tomatoes, plums, watermelon, apricots and beets
• **Fall:** Apples, grapes, cranberries, sweet potatoes, winter squash and pumpkins
• **Winter:** Apples, grapefruit, bananas and oranges

With a little planning, fresh fruits and vegetables can be enjoyed year-round. For best prices and quality think of what is in season. For more information on buying, storing and using fruits and vegetables, you can check out the following Web site http://www.fruitsandvegetablesmatters.gov.

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**Basic Foods for Cupboard, Fridge & Freezer: Create Your Own List!**

**Fruits**

- Apples
- Bananas
- Grapes, seedless
- Oranges
- CANNED Oranges, mandarin
- Pineapple, canned in juice (pineapple tidbits are a versatile form)
- FROZEN Berries, such as blueberries, raspberries, strawberries, etc.
- DRIED Raisins, dried cranberries, etc.

**Vegetables**

- Bell peppers
- Carrots
- Cabbage, shredded (may wish to buy smallest package size if cooking for just a few people)
- Lettuce, darker green varieties (Romaine, green leafy, etc.)
- Onion (sweet onions may be especially versatile if buying only an onion or two weekly; they’re said to be less likely to make your cry and go well in many recipes)
- Potatoes (white and sweet)
- Tomatoes (cherry and grape tomatoes tend to have the best flavor when other tomatoes are out-of-season)
- CANNED Corn (no-salt-added forms available)
- Tomatoes, diced (no-salt-added forms available)
- CROCKED Potatoes

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**Bread, Cereals and Other Grain Products**

- Bread, whole wheat (can purchase low sodium forms at some stores)
- Cereal (whole grain)
- Crackers (look for varieties that are whole grain and lower in sodium)
- Oatmeal (“Old-fashioned” oatmeal is very versatile; simply add a little water in a blender or if a recipe calls for “quick oats”)
- instant oatmeal whole grain varieties
- Rice (include some whole grain rice, such as brown rice)

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**Meat, Poultry, Fish, Dry Beans, Eggs and Nuts**

- Beans, canned or dry, such as Great Northern, kidney, red, black, pinto beans, etc. (check for “no-salt-added” canned varieties)
- Beef, ground, 90-95% lean
- Chicken breast, skinless
- Eggs, large (large is a suggested size for recipes, guests and eggs are all measured in the same way)
- Fish (frozen fish fillets lend themselves to many quick meals; thaw overnight in the refrigerator in original package on a plate on bottom shelf for easy use the next day)
- Nuts, such as almonds, walnuts, etc.
- Peanut butter
- Pork loin chops, boneless
- Salmon (consider including canned and/or frozen forms of salmon; canned salmon is available in water pack varieties and may be found canned without the skin, if desired)

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**Fats and Oils that Are Mainly Oil**

- Extra virgin olive oil for dressings, dipping and drizzling
- Mayonnaise-type salad dressing (light and low fat forms available)
- Other oil for cooking: canola, corn, cottonseed, soybean, sunflower
- Margarine (spreadable) margarine with no trans fats

**Sugars**

- Sugar, white granulated
- Sugar, brown

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**Seasonings**

- Black pepper (consider freshly ground black pepper)
- Chicken broth, low sodium
- Chili powder
- Cinnamon
- Garlic, fresh or dry (mixed or powdered)
- Italian seasoning (can be used as a quick seasoning for salad dressings, soups, rice for meat, etc.)
- Montreal, Dijon-type (can find no-salt-added forms in some stores)
- Rosemary, dried leafy (crush slightly right before using to release added flavor in recipes; an expensive mortar and pestle works well for this)
- Thyme, dried leafy (see note on rosemary on craving just before using in recipes)
- Italian dressing (consider vinegars such as balsamic, red wine, cider, and white wine or rice vinegar – start with a small bottle and see which you use the most, vinegar easily lasts at least a year)

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**Other**

- None
Time management does not mean becoming an efficiency expert, such as the over-organized person who lives by lists, or the over-doer who is super busy and never relaxes or the time nut who can never waste a minute. Time management does mean you learn to plan, to schedule 20 to 60 percent of each day. Give top priority to how you use your time each day. Give top priority to how you use your time each day. Each of the following scenarios features a different strategy for handling work and tasks. What will happen in each of these situations? What will you do in each of these situations? What will be the outcome in each of these situations?

**Situation 1: A Classroom Teacher**
- Teacher arrives at school at 7:00 a.m.
- Teacher spends the first hour planning lessons and preparing materials.
- Teacher teaches five classes, each lasting 50 minutes.
- Teacher spends the last hour grading assignments and preparing for the next day.

**Situation 2: A Sales Representative**
- Sales representative spends the first hour making phone calls to potential customers.
- Sales representative spends the next hour visiting clients and closing sales.
- Sales representative spends the last hour updating records and preparing for the next day.

**Situation 3: A Homeowner**
- Homeowner spends the first hour cleaning the garage and yard.
- Homeowner spends the next hour painting and weather sealing the house.
- Homeowner spends the last hour watching TV and relaxing.

**Situation 4: A Small Business Owner**
- Small business owner spends the first hour opening the store and setting up for the day.
- Small business owner spends the next hour assisting customers and making sales.
- Small business owner spends the last hour closing the store and preparing for the next day.

Each of these scenarios features a different strategy for handling work and tasks. What will happen in each of these situations? What will you do in each of these situations? What will be the outcome in each of these situations?

**Situation 5: A Family with Children**
- Family spends the first hour preparing dinner and doing homework.
- Family spends the next hour playing games and watching TV.
- Family spends the last hour cleaning up and preparing for the next day.

Each of these scenarios features a different strategy for handling work and tasks. What will happen in each of these situations? What will you do in each of these situations? What will be the outcome in each of these situations?

**Situation 6: A Student**
- Student spends the first hour studying for an exam.
- Student spends the next hour doing homework and preparing for the next day.
- Student spends the last hour relaxing and preparing for the next day.

Each of these scenarios features a different strategy for handling work and tasks. What will happen in each of these situations? What will you do in each of these situations? What will be the outcome in each of these situations?

**Situation 7: A Farmer**
- Farmer spends the first hour feeding the livestock.
- Farmer spends the next hour checking the crops and making repairs.
- Farmer spends the last hour preparing for the next day.

Each of these scenarios features a different strategy for handling work and tasks. What will happen in each of these situations? What will you do in each of these situations? What will be the outcome in each of these situations?

**Situation 8: A Volunteer**
- Volunteer spends the first hour preparing for the day.
- Volunteer spends the next hour assisting at a local shelter.
- Volunteer spends the last hour cleaning up and preparing for the next day.

Each of these scenarios features a different strategy for handling work and tasks. What will happen in each of these situations? What will you do in each of these situations? What will be the outcome in each of these situations?

**Situation 9: A Community Leader**
- Community leader spends the first hour planning for the next week.
- Community leader spends the next hour meeting with community members.
- Community leader spends the last hour preparing for the next day.

Each of these scenarios features a different strategy for handling work and tasks. What will happen in each of these situations? What will you do in each of these situations? What will be the outcome in each of these situations?

**Situation 10: A Retiree**
- Retiree spends the first hour reading and enjoying leisure activities.
- Retiree spends the next hour doing volunteer work.
- Retiree spends the last hour preparing for the next day.

Each of these scenarios features a different strategy for handling work and tasks. What will happen in each of these situations? What will you do in each of these situations? What will be the outcome in each of these situations?
Rental Arrangements Changing with the Times
Part 3—Leasing Pastures and Hay

Cash Leases for Hayland
Cash leasing is not as different as cash leasing other types of land. The costs you save in the long run, a lease is drawn up and the tenant receives 100% of the production costs. Often, the lease will stipulate the tenant’s responsibility will be controlled in the field and perhaps along the roadside.

Small hay fields of less than a couple of acres (usually associated with acreages), often are planted primarily as a way to keep weeds down on the areas not used for the land and grass, and are relatively more expensive for the tenant to move equipment from place to place and it takes more time per ton of hay to cut, bale and haul from small patches of hay where the operator is spending a greater percentage of time turning around.

Leafy spurge is a persistent, deep-rooted perennial which reproduces by seeds and roots. Leafy spurge has a somewhat woody crown below the soil surface. Each crown produces several upright stems giving the plant a clump-like appearance. In addition, new stems arise from buds on lateral, secondary roots (rhizomes) growing underground, making leafy spurge an early, vigorous competitor with forage and pasture plants. The plant bears numerous linear-shaped leaves with smooth margins. Leaves have a bluish-green color but turn yellowish or reddish-orange in late summer. Leafy spurge produces a flat-topped cluster of yellowish-green, petal-like structures called bracts, which bear the true spurge flowers. The showy, yellow bracts appear in May and give the plant a “blooming” appearance. The true spurge flowers, however, develop about 10 days later and have small, green bracts. The distinction between yellow bract appearance and true flowering is important for timing herbicide applications. Depending on when applied on plants with developing true flowers, seed production is suppressed (Plateau or Impulse) on warm-season grasses for several years). Overdrive at four ounces + Tordon at 16 ounces at several years). Imazipic (Plateau or Impact) or Impulse at 8–12 ounce per acre (in the fall up to 15 feet from the plant parent. About 140 seeds are reasonable yield and storage may remain viable in the soil for up to eight years. Leafy spurge peak germination time is in late May; New seedlings develop throughout the summer and do not flower during the first year. Leafy spurge seeds, emerging from deeply reproduce from root buds within 7–10 weeks after germination.

Certify Hay as Weed Free to Open Up New Markets
Normally when you think of selling hay, you think of dairy cows, beef cows, feedlots or horses. But hay also is used to feed wildlife in national parks, as mulch along many roadsides or other disturbed soils.
Selling hay for use as animal feed or in parks as mulch can be a challenge, especially if your hay needs to cross state lines. Many state and federal agencies will refuse to buy your hay unless it can be guaranteed it does not contain any noxious weeds.

To prevent the spread of noxious weeds via hay, the North American Weed Free Forage Program has been established. This program has been adopted by most state Departments of Agriculture and is implemented in Nebraska by your county weed control office.
To participate, your pasture must be inspected in the field prior to cutting for noxious weeds or other designated weeds. If any are found, the hay still might be able to be certified if prescribed treatments are followed; these treatments will vary depending on the type of weed. Then, if your hay passes, you will receive an inspection certificate verifying the results.
When shipping hay across state lines, a transit certificate or certification marking must accompany the hay to avoid rejection. Contact your local weed control for more details. The Lancaster County office is located in the county shop building across the street south of the extension office, phone (402) 441-8717.
Certifying hay as “weed free” can offer other marketing benefits. If a farmer just cut his hay, it will take several weeks to be certified.

Leafy Spurge in May
Tom Dorn
UNL Extension Educator

In my travels around the county, I have seen several patches of leafy spurge. Leafy spurge is a noxious weed according to the Nebraska Seed Law and the Nebraska Noxious Weed Act. Leafy spurge is found primarily on undisturbed land such as pastures, range, roadsides, woodlands and farmsteads. It is mildly poisonous to cattle and can effectively ruin the carrying capacity of pastures where it is growing because cattle soon learn to avoid grazing near it.

Identification
Leafy spurge is a persistent, deep-rooted perennial which reproduces by seeds and roots. Leafy spurge has a somewhat woody crown below the soil surface. Each crown produces several upright stems giving the plant a clump-like appearance. In addition, new stems arise from buds on lateral, secondary roots (rhizomes) growing underground, making leafy spurge an early, vigorous competitor with forage and pasture plants. The plant bears numerous linear-shaped leaves with smooth margins. Leaves have a bluish-green color but turn yellowish or reddish-orange in late summer. Leafy spurge produces a flat-topped cluster of yellowish-green, petal-like structures called bracts, which bear the true spurge flowers. The showy, yellow bracts appear in May and give the plant a “blooming” appearance. The true spurge flowers, however, develop about 10 days later and have small, green bracts. The distinction between yellow bract appearance and true flowering is important for timing herbicide applications. Depending on when applied on plants with developing true flowers, seed production is suppressed (Plateau or Impulse) on warm-season grasses for several years). Overdrive at four ounces + Tordon at 16 ounces at several years). Imazipic (Plateau or Impact) or Impulse at 8–12 ounce per acre (in the fall up to 15 feet from the plant parent. About 140 seeds are reasonable yield and storage may remain viable in the soil for up to eight years. Leafy spurge peak germination time is in late May; New seedlings develop throughout the summer and do not flower during the first year. Leafy spurge seeds, emerging from deeply reproduce from root buds within 7–10 weeks after germination.

Control
Chemical control recommendations listed in the UNL Extension “2008 Guide for Weed Management” (EC130) include Tomasetta P-D at 12–14 ounces per acre at flower bud stage (for suppression of seed production — annual treatments necessary), Grazon P-D at two quarts per acre at flower bud stage (for suppression of seed production — annual treatments necessary), Grazon P-D at two quarts per acre at flower bud stage (for suppression of seed production — annual treatments necessary), Grazon P-D at two quarts per acre (retreatment necessary for several years), Ortho at four ounces per acre at flower bud stage. Spottreatment of seedlings and shoots emerging from deeply reproduce root buds will be necessary for many years after a stand appears to be controlled. Always follow label directions.
Tough Landscape Plants

**Barberry, Japanese**  
*Berberis thunbergii*  
Perennial  
Sun

**Cotoneaster, Spreading**  
*Cotoneaster horizontalis*  
Shrub  
June–August  
May  
2–4 feet  
White  
24 inches

**Gaillardia, Firewheel**  
*Gaillardia aristata*  
Perennial  
Yellow  
June–August  
June–August  
8–15 feet  
24 inches

**Monarda, Beebalm**  
*Monarda fistulosa*  
Perennial  
Low-water  
June–August  
24 inches  
Sun to part shade

**Potentilla, Cinquefoil**  
*Potentilla fruticosa*  
Shrub  
White  
June–August  
36 inches  
18–24 in.

**Coreopsis, Tickseed**  
*Coreopsis lanceolata*  
Sun  
Greenish yellow  
24 inches  
6–10 feet  
Yellow  
August–Sept.

**Liatris, Gayfeather**  
*Liatris aspera*  
Biennial or short-lived perennial  
May  
Sun  
August–Sept.  
24 inches  
Deep purple

**Rudbeckia flower garden.**

**Rudbeckia, Black-eyed Susan**  
*Rudbeckia fulgida*  
Biennial or short-lived perennial  
Yellow, brown center  
July–August  
24 inches  
Sun

**Tree, Yucca**  
*Yucca filamentosa*  
Tree  
Red with yellow tips  
August–October  
8–15 feet  
Rose to salmon

**Tree, Sumac, Staghorn**  
*Rhus typhina*  
Tree  
Gray  
July–August  
24–36 in.

2008 Year of the Rudbeckia

Rudbeckia is an all-American treasure. Widely known as black-eyed Susan, this native to North America can be found growing as a wildflower in fields and along roadsides throughout the country. These reliable plants shine in the landscape, offering brilliant yellows and oranges of the summer sun. Rudbeckias are easy to grow, adapt to a wide range of garden conditions, have few insect or disease problems and require only minimal care for a spectacular show of cheerful color during the summer and fall.

There are 25 species of Rudbeckia including perennials, biennials and annuals. All are native to North America and are easily grown and found growing in the East and Midwest, though they have now naturalized throughout most of the United States and can be seen in fields and gardens from Canada to Mexico.

A member of the Aster family, the Rudbeckia’s daisy-like flowers come in single, semi-double and fully-double forms in a range of colors from lemon-yellow to gold, chestnut, mahogany and bronze, as well as multi-colored blooms. Most species are in bloom from mid-summer through fall.

**How to Grow**

Rudbeckias are easy to grow, low-maintenance flowers ideal for beginning gardeners, yet their wide range of sizes, colors, shapes and forms appeal to the most experienced horticulturist. They are easy to start from seed, which is readily available from retail, mail order and internet seed sources.

The plants grow best in full sun in average, well-drained soil, but will tolerate light shade and dry conditions. In areas of heat and high humidity, powdery mildew can be a problem. Minimize the occurrence and spread of the disease by planting in an area with good air circulation and maintaining adequate spacing between plants.

**How to Care**

Rudbeckias are easy to grow, low-maintenance flowers ideal for beginning gardeners, yet their wide range of sizes, colors, shapes and forms appeal to the most experienced horticulturist. They are easy to start from seed, which is readily available from retail, mail order and internet seed sources.

The plants grow best in full sun in average, well-drained soil, but will tolerate light shade and dry conditions. In areas of heat and high humidity, powdery mildew can be a problem. Minimize the occurrence and spread of the disease by planting in an area with good air circulation and maintaining adequate spacing between plants.

**Planting**

Rudbeckias are easy to start directly in the garden, generally when daytime temperatures are around 60 degrees F. Perennial varieties can be sown in fall or early spring. Scatter seeds then gently press them into the soil or cover very lightly with soil. Water regularly so the seedbed stays moist. As seedlings grow, thin to 6 to 8 inches apart.

**Garden Uses**

Rudbeckias are versatile plants that add bright sunny color to perennial beds, mixed borders and containers. They can be used alone in mass plantings, as a border or along a fence. Ideal for attracting wildlife; bees and butterflies are drawn to their colorful flowers while the ripe coneheads provide seed during the fall and winter to feed hungry birds, especially finches and chickadees.

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**Common Names**

- **Barberry, Japanese**: *Berberis thunbergii*
- **Cotoneaster, Spreading**: *Cotoneaster horizontalis*
- **Gaillardia, Firewheel**: *Gaillardia aristata*
- **Monarda, Beebalm**: *Monarda fistulosa*
- **Potentilla, Cinquefoil**: *Potentilla fruticosa*
- **Rudbeckia**: *Rudbeckia fulgida*
- **Tree, Yucca**: *Yucca filamentosa*
- **Tree, Sumac, Staghorn**: *Rhus typhina*

**Scientific Names**

- **Barberry, Japanese**: *Berberis thunbergii*
- **Cotoneaster, Spreading**: *Cotoneaster horizontalis*
- **Gaillardia, Firewheel**: *Gaillardia aristata*
- **Monarda, Beebalm**: *Monarda fistulosa*
- **Potentilla, Cinquefoil**: *Potentilla fruticosa*
- **Rudbeckia**: *Rudbeckia fulgida*
- **Tree, Yucca**: *Yucca filamentosa*
- **Tree, Sumac, Staghorn**: *Rhus typhina*

**Plant Types**

- **Shrub**
- **Biennial or short-lived perennial**

**Flower Colors**

- **Yellow**
- **Greenish yellow**
- **Red with yellow tips**

**Bloom Times**

- **June–August**
- **July–August**
- **September**

**Height**

- **2–4 feet**
- **8–15 feet**
- **24–36 in.**

**Location**

- **Sun**
- **Sun to part shade**

**Source**: National Garden Bureau
Camp Scholarships
Deadline May 1

Deadline for the following 4-H Camp scholarships have been extended to May 1:
1. Winders 4-H Camp Scholarship
2. Joyce Vahle Memorial Scholarship

Applications are available at the extension office and at http://lancaster.unl.edu/4h/Programs/award.shtml

22 Silhouette Shooting Sports Meeting, May 5

A new .22 silhouette shooting sports discipline will be available to 4-H youth! Plan to attend the first organizational meeting on Monday, May 5, 7-9 p.m. at the Lancaster Extension Education Center, 444 Cherry creek Road, Lincoln. Interested youth must currently be in grades 6-12 and between ages 11-18.

Swine DNA Testing, May 19 – 23

All 4-H/FFA youth who want to exhibit in the market swine county fair must pass a DNA test. Contest must call Deanna at 441-7180 to set up an appointment during the week of May 19-23 to have their swine tested. You will need to bring your swine to the Extension office. 

District & State Entries
Due May 9

4-H district and state horse show entries are due to UNL Extension in Lancaster County, 444 Cherry creek Road in Lincoln by May 9. No late entries will be accepted. Anybody planning on going to state must also have their horse ID's turned in and all parts of their horsemanship level tests passed by that date. Entry forms, entry guidelines, entry procedures and the 2 and 3 year old western pleasure affiliations are available at http://www.animalscience.unl.edu/extension/equine/4h/districtstateshow.html and at the extension office.

Upcoming 4-H Horse Judging Contests

UNL Extension is presenting two upcoming 4-H Horse Judging Contests:
1. Wednesday, May 28 at Pitzer Ranch Arena near Ercion
2. Mon., July 7 at Pine Ridge Stables near Ashland/Yutan

Contests begin at 8:30 a.m. Teams to consist of 3 or 4 individuals. For more information, go to http://lancaster.unl.edu/4h

4-H & Youth
April 2008

The Nebraska Cooperative Extension Service 2008

Lancaster County Fair
August 6–10

Pre-Fair Leader Training, June 5

New leaders, experienced leaders, 4-H members and parents are invited to this leader training on Thursday, June 5, 9:30 a.m. or 7 p.m. at the Lancaster Extension Education Center. Come and receive information on how to fill out the entry tags, the in's and out's of interview judging, Life Challenge, presentations contest and other important county fair information. Preregister by June 4 by calling 441-7180.

4-H/FFA Animal ID’s Due June 15

All identifications for 4-H/FFA sheep, goats, swine, breeding cattle, trucked calves, feeder calves, dairy cattle and rabbits which will be entered in the Lancaster County Fair are due to extension by June 15. Note: Animal ID forms are not available online because they are carbon copy triplicates. Forms are available at the extension office.

Bicycle Safety Contest, June 28

This year’s 4-H Bicycle Safety Contest will be held BEFORE the county fair on Saturday, June 28, 9 a.m. at the Lancaster Extension Education Center. Must preregister by June 23 by calling 441-7180 (there is no entry form). See Fair Book p. 34.

FREE Sewing Help on May 3

4-H/FFA members who plan on sewing will need to register with 4-H. 4-H members can sew and have their questions answered by experts. If your sewing machine does not make good button holes or will not sew through six layers of denim, then there are classroom machines available. The Bernina Sewing Center is located inside Hancock Fabrics, 6800 P St., Lincoln.

New Leader Orientation

April 25 or sooner. RSVP to Marty by 441-7180 for more information.

Free Sewing help on May 3

4-H/FFA members who plan on sewing will need to register with 4-H. 4-H members can sew and have their questions answered by experts. If your sewing machine does not make good button holes or will not sew through six layers of denim, then there are classroom machines available. The Bernina Sewing Center is located inside Hancock Fabrics, 6800 P St., Lincoln.

life Challenge Contests

4-H Life Challenge judging contests help youth learn more about issues related to family and consumer science (FCS). Contests are open to all 4-Hers, not need to be enrolled in a specific project. Preregistration is not needed for the county level contests. Contact Tracy at 441-7180 for more information.

County-level Senior Life Challenge (for ages 12 and up) is scheduled for Saturday, June 7, 9:30 a.m. at the Lancaster Extension Education Center. Contest questions will be based on the following 4-H materials. You’re the Chef, Foodworks, Money PUDsamentals, Money Moves, Design Decisions and Shopping in Style. They may be checked out prior to the contest for study.

Statewide FCS Life Challenge (for ages 12 and up) will held Monday, June 30 and Tuesday, July 1 on UNL East Campus. To participate, please contact Marty by calling 441-7180 by June 9. Information is online at http://4h.unl.edu/programs/County-level-Junior-Life-Challenge-(for-ages-8-11) will be held Saturday, July 12 at 9:30 a.m. at the Lancaster Extension Education Center. Contact Tracy for study packet.

Horse Judging Contests

4-H Horse ID forms are due to the extension office by Sunday, June 1. Late ID forms will not be accepted. Please take the time to fill them out completely and thoroughly. Be sure to draw your horse’s coloring on the picture as accurately as you can. Also, be sure and indicate the horse’s color on the drawing. ID forms can be picked up at the extension office.

Horse Course Challenge to be a County Fair Contest

The first ever 4-H Horse Course Challenge will be part of the Lancaster County Fair! It will be held Tuesday, July 7, 29, 9 a.m. at the Lancaster Extension Education Center, 444 Cherry Creek Road, Lincoln. There will be three age divisions: elementary, junior and senior. The Horse Course Challenge will cover material from lessons 1-15 and 17-23 of the e-mail Horse Judging Contest. The testing will be administered at District and County identification stations and a written test. Premiums and ribbons will be awarded at the fair. Top 10 ribbon winners and Champion Trophies will be announced and awarded at the 4-H Horse Awards Night.

Upcoming 4-H Horse Tying Tests

UNL Extension is presenting two upcoming 4-H Horse Tying Tests:
1. Monday, April 28 at Pitzer Ranch Arena near Ercion
2. Monday, July 7 at Pine Ridge Stables near Ashland/Yutan

Contests begin at 8:30 a.m. Teams to consist of 3 or 4 individuals. For more information, go to http://lancaster.unl.edu/4h

Free 4-H Roping/Ranch Clinic, May 3

A free roping clinic will be held Saturday, May 3 beginning at 9 a.m. at the Salt Creek Wranglers Arena. Areas covered will be dummy roping and dummy roping from a horse using a hot heals machine. The clinic is intended for those who have never tried to rope but think it might be fun to try and for the advanced roper who would like to polish their skills. Registration deadline April 25 or sooner. RSVP to 441-7180 for more information.

Feeder Calf DNA Testing

All 4-H/FFA youth who plan on showing feeder calves at Ak-Sar-Ben Livestock Expo will need to have DNA pulled on all eligible calves. Please call Deanna at 441-7180 to set up a time to have DNA collected.

Contact Tracy for study packet.
Four days of “hands-on” workshops full of fun and learning! Youth may attend as many workshops as they wish. Youth attending workshops that overlap the lunch period should bring a sack lunch. Meals will not be available (unless otherwise stated in the workshop description). If you have questions, contact Tracy Kuhl at 441-7180.

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

4-Day Workshops

1. Clover Kids 4-Day Day Camp
   Clover Kids will participate in various hands-on activities while learning about animals, food, science, the outdoors and more.
   TUE, JUNE 17–20; 8-10AM AGES 6 & UP • FEE $25 Extension Intern; Ron Spring, 4-H volunteer

2. Open House: Countdown to Family Fun
   Plan your family vacation as pretty as can be. Paint the face, the hair and the clothes for the cottage look.
   TUE, JUNE 17–19; 12:45-2:45PM AGES 6 & UP • FEE $6 Instructor: Karen Wedding, Extension Staff

3. Insect Collecting for Beginners
   Learn the most common insect orders and how to identify them as a start to your science study.
   TUE, JUNE 17–20; 8-10AM AGES 6 & UP • FEE $15 Instructor: Barb Ogg, Extension Educator

2-Day Workshops

1. Checkmate Baseball
   Learn the early rules and practice to play baseball.
   TUES & WED, JUNE 17–18; 10:15AM-12:15PM AGES 8 & UP • FEE $5 Instructor: Mike Wolter, Extension Intern

2. Classic & Antique Cars
   Learn about the automobile and how it became so important in our lives.
   TUE, JUNE 17–18; 12:45-2:45PM AGES 6 & UP • FEE $15 Instructor: Jill Grof, 4-H Volunteer

3. Primitive Rope Making
   Learn how to make primitive rope as it was done by the indigenous cultures.
   TUE, JUNE 17–19; 8AM-10AM AGES 10 & UP • FEE $2 Instructor: Rhonda Gries, 4-H volunteer

4. How to Paint
   Explore the art of painting.
   TUE, JUNE 17–19; 1:30-3:30PM AGES 10-14 • FEE $5 Instructor: Paul Kreikemeier, 4-H volunteer

5. Babysitting Basics
   Learn how to create different designs on your nails using decorative techniques and beautiful nail art.
   WED, JUNE 18; 8-10AM AGES 10-14 • FEE $5 Instructor: Jhoni Kucera, 4-H volunteer

6. Terrific Table Setting
   Learn to create an impressive table setting that will be a great asset in their life.
   WED, JUNE 18; 12:45-2:45PM AGES 8 & UP • FEE $3 Instructor: Kay Kreimeyer, 4-H volunteer

7. Sensational Surfing
   Learn to surf and read the ocean to become a successful surfer.
   WED, JUNE 18; 4-6PM AGES 8 & UP • FEE $70 Instructor: Shane Brown, Surfing Instructors

8. Photography II
   Learn how to capture different angles of the world and create beautiful photographs.
   WED, JUNE 18; 4-6PM AGES 10-14 • FEE $5 Instructor: Lori Spring, Extension Intern

9. Sensational Summertime Outdoors
   Learn to enjoy the outdoors while being safe and healthy.
   WED, JUNE 18; 6-8PM AGES 8 & UP • FEE $6 Instructor: Chris Spomer, 4-H volunteer

10. Outdoor Cooking
   Learn outdoor cooking techniques for the campfire, the grill and the oven.
   WED, JUNE 18; 6-8PM AGES 10-14 • FEE $5 Instructor: Rhonda Gries, 4-H volunteer

11. Canine Cuisines & Crafts
   Learn to make a meal for your dog while learning to craft items for your canine. Create a canine. Create a bone.
   THU, JUNE 19; 1-3PM AGES 6 & UP • FEE $3 Instructor: Jami Rutt, Extension Intern

12. Gardening II
   Join in the fun of starting seeds at home and learning about growing vegetables such as snapdragon, zinnias and petunias for the garden.
   THU, JUNE 19; 1-3PM AGES 5-10 • FEE $6 Instructor: Chris Spomer, 4-H volunteer

13. Bike Repair
   Learn how to fix your bike and keep it on the go.
   THU, JUNE 19; 1-3PM AGES 8 & UP • FEE $8 Instructor: Jhoni Kucera, Extension Intern

14. Creativity with Clay
   Learn how to create clay sculptures using airbrush and different techniques.
   THU, JUNE 19; 4-6PM AGES 8 & UP • FEE $6 Instructor: TierOne Bank, Cloacketower

15. Classic Cars Basics
   Learn to create an impressive table setting that will be a great asset in their life.
   THU, JUNE 19; 4-6PM AGES 8 & UP • FEE $6 Instructor: Shane Brown, Surfing Instructors

16. Sensational Surfing
   Learn to surf and read the ocean to become a successful surfer.
   THU, JUNE 19; 4-6PM AGES 8 & UP • FEE $70 Instructor: Shane Brown, Surfing Instructors

17. Gardening III
   Learn how to grow and use flowers in your garden.
   THU, JUNE 19; 6-8PM AGES 8 & UP • FEE $6 Instructor: Rhonda Gries, 4-H volunteer

18. Gardening III
   Learn how to grow and use flowers in your garden.
   THU, JUNE 19; 6-8PM AGES 8 & UP • FEE $6 Instructor: Rhonda Gries, 4-H volunteer

19. Gardening III
   Learn how to grow and use flowers in your garden.
   THU, JUNE 19; 6-8PM AGES 8 & UP • FEE $6 Instructor: Rhonda Gries, 4-H volunteer

20. Gardening III
   Learn how to grow and use flowers in your garden.
   THU, JUNE 19; 6-8PM AGES 8 & UP • FEE $6 Instructor: Rhonda Gries, 4-H volunteer

21. Gardening III
   Learn how to grow and use flowers in your garden.
   THU, JUNE 19; 6-8PM AGES 8 & UP • FEE $6 Instructor: Rhonda Gries, 4-H volunteer

22. Gardening III
   Learn how to grow and use flowers in your garden.
   THU, JUNE 19; 6-8PM AGES 8 & UP • FEE $6 Instructor: Rhonda Gries, 4-H volunteer

23. Gardening III
   Learn how to grow and use flowers in your garden.
   THU, JUNE 19; 6-8PM AGES 8 & UP • FEE $6 Instructor: Rhonda Gries, 4-H volunteer

24. Gardening III
   Learn how to grow and use flowers in your garden.
   THU, JUNE 19; 6-8PM AGES 8 & UP • FEE $6 Instructor: Rhonda Gries, 4-H volunteer

25. Gardening III
   Learn how to grow and use flowers in your garden.
   THU, JUNE 19; 6-8PM AGES 8 & UP • FEE $6 Instructor: Rhonda Gries, 4-H volunteer

26. Gardening III
   Learn how to grow and use flowers in your garden.
   THU, JUNE 19; 6-8PM AGES 8 & UP • FEE $6 Instructor: Rhonda Gries, 4-H volunteer

27. Gardening III
   Learn how to grow and use flowers in your garden.
   THU, JUNE 19; 6-8PM AGES 8 & UP • FEE $6 Instructor: Rhonda Gries, 4-H volunteer

28. Gardening III
   Learn how to grow and use flowers in your garden.
   THU, JUNE 19; 6-8PM AGES 8 & UP • FEE $6 Instructor: Rhonda Gries, 4-H volunteer

29. Gardening III
   Learn how to grow and use flowers in your garden.
   THU, JUNE 19; 6-8PM AGES 8 & UP • FEE $6 Instructor: Rhonda Gries, 4-H volunteer

30. Gardening III
   Learn how to grow and use flowers in your garden.
   THU, JUNE 19; 6-8PM AGES 8 & UP • FEE $6 Instructor: Rhonda Gries, 4-H volunteer

31. Gardening III
   Learn how to grow and use flowers in your garden.
   THU, JUNE 19; 6-8PM AGES 8 & UP • FEE $6 Instructor: Rhonda Gries, 4-H volunteer

32. Gardening III
   Learn how to grow and use flowers in your garden.
   THU, JUNE 19; 6-8PM AGES 8 & UP • FEE $6 Instructor: Rhonda Gries, 4-H volunteer

33. Gardening III
   Learn how to grow and use flowers in your garden.
   THU, JUNE 19; 6-8PM AGES 8 & UP • FEE $6 Instructor: Rhonda Gries, 4-H volunteer

34. Gardening III
   Learn how to grow and use flowers in your garden.
   THU, JUNE 19; 6-8PM AGES 8 & UP • FEE $6 Instructor: Rhonda Gries, 4-H volunteer

35. Gardening III
   Learn how to grow and use flowers in your garden.
   THU, JUNE 19; 6-8PM AGES 8 & UP • FEE $6 Instructor: Rhonda Gries, 4-H volunteer

36. Gardening III
   Learn how to grow and use flowers in your garden.
   THU, JUNE 19; 6-8PM AGES 8 & UP • FEE $6 Instructor: Rhonda Gries, 4-H volunteer

37. Gardening III
   Learn how to grow and use flowers in your garden.
   THU, JUNE 19; 6-8PM AGES 8 & UP • FEE $6 Instructor: Rhonda Gries, 4-H volunteer

38. Gardening III
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Registration opens April 22 for currently enrolled 4-H members. Registration opens April 29 for non-members.

To Register, Use Form on Page 11 of This Issue!

Telephone registration not accepted. For current class availability, go to http://lancaster.unl.edu/4h/programs/clovercollege
Dorn Receives Teaching Excellence Award

In March, Tom Dorn, extension educator with University of Nebraska–Lincoln Extension in Lancaster County, received one of four senior faculty Holling Family Awards for Teaching Excellence presented by UNL Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

The Holling Family Awards are given annually for outstanding teaching in the university’s Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources. The Holling Family Award Program was made possible by a gift from the Holling family to honor their pioneer parents.

Over the past 15 years, Tom has provided Computerized Farm Financial Recordkeeping workshops to 940 people. Surveys indicate participants keep more complete and accurate financial records as a result of the five-hour workshops. Tom has provided statewide leadership in updating teaching materials to stay current with software advances.

A Lancaster County resident, “Tom’s teaching style is down to earth and presented in a way in which we could understand it,” said Tom’s University of Nebraska–Lincoln Extension in Lancaster County, received this award.

Food Entrepreneur Workshops

The University of Nebraska–Lincoln Food Processing Center offers one-day seminars for individuals interested in exploring the idea of starting a food manufacturing business. Upcoming “From Recipe to Reality” seminars at UNL East Grant Management provides one-day seminars for individuals interested in starting a food manufacturing business.

The Nebraska LEAD Program is specifically designed for thirty highly motivated individuals with demonstrated leadership potential to be selected. Application deadline is June 15. The Nebraska LEAD Program is designed specifically for thirty highly motivated individuals with demonstrated leadership potential to be selected. Thirty highly motivated individuals with demonstrated leadership potential will be selected.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

The Nebraska LEAD Program (LEAD) offers disaster education resources to reduce the impact of natural and man-made disasters. To find out more, visit http://www.lincoln.ne.gov/City/civil/index.htm

Many myths surround spring severe weather, but knowing all of the facts about safety and preparation can save lives.

Be Prepared

The first thing a family can do to prevent harm is buy a weather radio. A weather radio costs roughly the same as a family of four going to see a movie. Instead of using a phone or looking outside, find out about severe weather through a weather radio.

When traveling in a car during severe weather, make sure to listen to the radio. Take out the CD, the MP3 player or turn from an FM station to a local AM station covering the weather going on in the area. Make a photocopy of everything on pages of value in a home or business. This may include insurance information, car information, licenses, passports or other important documents. Keep those copies stored in a safe location, preferably away from home. Surviving severe weather is important, but returning to normal life will be much easier with these materials. Families should also have a communication plan set in place. Relatives or friends could overload authorities’ phone lines trying to find out if their loved ones are safe. Designate a relative to be the head of a “communication tree.” That person can find out information about family in the disaster and let relatives and friends know about their condition.

Families need to have plans in place for safety areas and meeting places during a storm. Kids home alone on school days need to know a meeting place and designated tornado shelter area in their home. Children have died from panicking during a storm and not knowing a safe place to take cover.

Watch vs. Warning

People should know the difference between a warning and a watch. A watch is telling the hazard, to be more aware of the weather. A warning means something is happening now and everyone near should seek shelter and safety.

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Lightening

Many myths surround lightning from severe thunderstorms. Many people believe no phones are safe during an electrical storm. Phones on land lines are not safe because charges can travel through wires. However, cell phones are completely safe.

Get inside immediately after hearing thunder during a storm. A house, car or well-enclosed picnic area in parks are good options. If caught outside, crouch to the ground, don’t lie on it. Lying on the ground could be deadly close to the ground, which increases the chance of an electrical charge striking the heart and stopping it.

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Don’t hide under a tree. Trees that are found by the ground and a charge can run through them. If a person’s heart begins standing up, it means static electricity is in the air and he or she should find cover immediately. However, don’t run. Running in a storm increases static electricity that attracts lightning.

Another huge myth is visible seeing the sun or being outside rainfall means lightning won’t strike close. Lightning can strike more than 15 miles away from the storm. A “bolt in the blue” occurs when lightning strikes out the side of a storm system. These are some of the most common lightning fatalities. In fact, lightning is more dangerous than tornadoes. Lightning is the number one severe weather killer.

Many people think a human body will hold the charge from a lightning strike, but that’s not true. The person struck needs CPR immediately. He or she may just need a few chest pumps to get the heart going again, but if you don’t the person could be dead by the time paramedics can talk a person through CPR over the phone.

Tornadoes

Tornadoes have their share of myths as well, though many are disappearing. Bathrooms aren’t safe to stay in if they are connected to an exterior wall. Also, it doesn’t matter if a window is opened or closed during a tornado. Windows will be damaged either way, though if closed, they could prevent debris from coming inside. Many myths surround the hazard, to be more aware of the weather. A warning means something is happening now...
Composting Workshops and Demonstrations

Each spring as you begin the new gardening season there are grass clippings and other garden materials that need to be removed. Instead of throwing it away, recycle it. One of the key components of good composting is brown or dried organic matter as well as green grass clippings and other duff materials that need to be removed. Learn how to be successful with composting by attending a composting workshop or demonstration sponsored by UNL Extension in Lancaster County and the City of Lincoln Recycling Office. Attendees will receive a free compost bin or soil thermometer.

**Composting Workshops**

- 10 a.m. to noon on April 26
- Free to the public

- **Deadline for Family and Community Education (FCE) Scholarships**
  - April 10, 2008

- **Composting Workshop, Gere Library**
  - 312 N. 4th St.
  - April 26, 10 a.m. to noon

- **4-H Horse Level Testing, Walt Library**
  - 10 a.m. to noon

- **Composting Workshop, Walt Library**
  - 7 p.m.

- **Composting Workshop, Eiseley Library**
  - 7 p.m.

- **Everything Homeowners Need to Know About Compost Teletube Control Workshop**
  - 6:30–9:30 p.m.

- **Extension Board Meeting**
  - 8 a.m.

- **County Deadline for District/State 4-H Horse Show Entries, I.D.’s, Level Tests**
  - April 19

- **Parents Forever/Kids Talk About Divorce**
  - April 20, 7 p.m.

- **Guardian/Conservator Training**
  - April 21, 8 a.m.

- **Composting Demonstration, Backyard Composting Demonstration Area**
  - May 10, 10 a.m.

- **4-H District Speech Contest, UNL East Campus - Animal Science Bldg**
  - May 28, 6:30–9:30 p.m.

- **Paws-on Dog Workshop, Lancaster Event Center**
  - May 31, 10 a.m.

**Composting Workshops and Demonstrations**

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Can You Guess It?

Lancaster County 4-H is proud to announce Karol Swotek as winner of May’s “Heart of 4-H Award” in recognition of outstanding volunteer service. Karol is leader of the 4-H Explorers club, which she started four years ago when her daughter was old enough to be in 4-H. Karol had been a 4-H member herself for 12 years in Sheridan County.

“I like being a 4-H volunteer because 4-H provides an opportunity for interaction doing everyday activities at an enlightening, educational level,” says Karol. “4-H activities encourage development of skills and abilities that otherwise may go untapped or undiscovered. My favorite experience as a 4-H volunteer is seeing the opportunities try new activities with supportive structure. Our members are building friendships on shared interests and teamwork. Club members find out working can be fun, such as helping at the 4-H Food Booth, building a positive work attitude. In addition to volunteering for 4-H, Karol also volunteers in school, church and community events.

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

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

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

Did you guess it from the April Nauna?
The answer was an egg tooth on a baby chicken’s beak.

U.S. Drought Monitor Map
As of April 8, Lancaster County was not in drought conditions.

4-H Rabbit Show Top Winners

The Lancaster County Rabbit VIPS Committee held their annual Spring 4-H Rabbit Show on March 29 at the Lancaster Event Center. Congratulations to all the youth who participated! Top award winners were:

• Best Fancy Rabbit — Jacob Ronnau, member of South Prairie 4-H Club
• Best Commercial Rabbit — Austin Hurt, member of Rabbits R Us 4-H Club

Fifth Graders Learn About Water, Air and Land and Living Resources at earth wellness festival

Nearly 3,000 Lancaster County fifth graders attended earth wellness festival on March 19 and 20 at Southeast Community College. Students discovered and explored the relationships and interdependency of land, water and living resources through hands-on activities. Now in its 14th year, the festival is organized by 10 local agencies, including University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension in Lancaster County. Classrooms attending the festival received pre-festival learning kits in October. Additional photos from this year’s festival are online at http://lancaster.unl.edu/ewf

Ag Awareness Festival Teaches 4th Graders About Agriculture

More than 600 fourth graders from Lincoln area schools attended the Ag Awareness Festival held on April 8 and 9 at the Lancaster Event Center. Students gained a greater understanding of agriculture and how it impacts their daily lives. Students rotate between the following 10 interactive stations: Grain Products, Grain By-Products, Farming Technology, Swine, Horse, Dairy Production, Ruminant Nutrition, Dairy Calves, Beef Production and Hay & Forages.

The Ag Awareness Coalition, led by University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension, organizes the festival with the help of agriculture businesses, commodity associations and food industry companies. This is the seventh year the festival has been held in Lincoln.

Dawn Hromanik from Osbao Animal Health demonstrates the importance of roughages (fiber) in animal diets.

Extension Educator Monte Stauffer shows 4th graders a preserved cow stomach as he teaches ruminant nutrition.

Extension Educator Mark Simmons discusses the role of farm equipment and technology.

Students interpret evidence during a Wildlife CSI session presented by Extension Associate Tracy Kulm.