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Establishing and Maintaining LAWNs IN LOW LIGHT

Don Janssen
UNL Extension Educator

Shady conditions in combination with other plant stresses contribute to the difficulty of growing grasses under trees.

Success with growing grass in shade can be increased if the tree canopy is thinned and branches from the lower third of the tree are selectively removed. Prune trees with dense canopies, such as maples, to allow additional light to pass through to the turfgrass. Prune lower branches to a height of six feet and all the way back to the trunk or a main leader so the area under the canopy is clear. Also, trees can sometimes be removed without disrupting the harmony and function of the landscape. Thinning shrubs in the landscape will improve air circulation and lower humidity.

Select and use grasses that have improved shade tolerance. Most of the fine fescues have very good shade tolerance. The hard, sheep and Chewings fescues are usually preferred over the other fine fescues when using a single episode of scalping. Zoysia grass and buffalo grass should not be used in shady locations. In areas where shade-tolerant grasses fail, consider shade-tolerant groundcovers or mulched beds instead of grass.

Avoid excessive nitrogen fertilization, which promotes shoot growth at the expense of roots, lowers carbohydrates and promotes soft, succulent tissue that is more susceptible to disease. Shade-tolerant grasses such as the fine fescues should receive no more than 2 pounds of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet per year. Apply fertilizer in shady areas in the fall just as leaves begin to drop. Rake and remove leaves before they accumulate on turf. If fall fertilization was missed, fertilize in late winter or early spring, about a month before trees begin to leaf. Mow turf at 2 1/2 to 3 inches to allow maximum interception of reduced light. Zoysia grass and buffalo grass should not be used in shady locations. In areas where shade-tolerant grasses fail, consider shade-tolerant groundcovers or mulched beds instead of grass.

Irrigate only enough to avoid droughty soil conditions in shady locations during summer months. When moisture is needed, water infrequently and deeply. Avoid frequent irrigation that will lead to increased humidity and disease. Irrigate in the early morning to allow maximum time for drying. Do not water in the evening; turf may remain wet throughout the night, thus increasing the chance of disease. Above all, do not overwater turf in shade. Dry conditions are always preferable to wet conditions for fescues growing in shade.

Limit traffic. Core aeriely compacted areas that receive heavy traffic.

Avoid using herbicides in shady areas if weed problems do not exist. Many weeds, especially crabgrass, will not grow in shade.

Some allelopathic trees, the chemicals they produce and the plants they affect.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ALLELOPATHIC SPECIES</th>
<th>TYPE OF CHEMICAL</th>
<th>AFFECTED SPECIES</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sugar Maple</td>
<td>Phenolics</td>
<td>Yellow Birch, White Spruce</td>
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<td>Hackberry</td>
<td>Coumarins</td>
<td>Herbs, grasses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Black Walnut</td>
<td>Juglone (Quinone)</td>
<td>Pines (Australian, Scots, red, white), Apple, Birch, Black Alder, Hackberry, Basswood, Azaleas, et al</td>
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<tr>
<td>Juniper</td>
<td>Phenolics</td>
<td>Grasses</td>
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<td>Sycamore (Planetree)</td>
<td>Coumarins</td>
<td>Yellow Birch, herbs, grasses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Black Cherry</td>
<td>Cyanogenic glycosides</td>
<td>Red Maple, Red Pine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oaks</td>
<td>Coumarins</td>
<td>Herbs, grasses</td>
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UNL Water Web Site

The University of Nebraska–Lincoln long has been known for its expertise on all things related to water. Now, we’re gathering much of that knowledge at one, easy-to-remember site —http://lancaster.unl.edu

UNL research and extension experts from many water-related disciplines are working together to develop the Web site. You’ll find all kinds of information you can use in your daily life, whether you’re an ag producer, homeowner, or in some profession that requires the latest water-related expertise; whether you live in the city, in a small town or in the country.

UNL experts created and provided content for the site in such areas as soil science, horticulture, landscaping, lake and pond management, irrigation, drinking water, wastewater treatment, crop production, watershed protection, storm water runoff, well management, and livestock manure management. Additional areas are being developed, including climatology, fish and wildlife, remote sensing and GIS, management. Additional areas are being developed, including climatology, fish and wildlife, remote sensing and GIS, management.

Landscaping for Energy

When landscaping for energy efficiency, choose evergreens for the north and northwest sides of the house where they will block winter winds without limiting winter sun. Block early morning and late afternoon summer sun by planting deciduous trees to the east and west of the house, including the southeast and southwest corners. Don’t plant shade trees to the direct south of the house; the summer sun including the southeast and southwest corners. Don’t plant deciduous trees to the east and west of the house, they will block winter winds without limiting winter sun.

Planting B&B Plants

Many balled and burlapped (B&B) trees and shrubs are now sold wrapped in synthetic burlap that will not rot in the ground, resulting in a rootbound plant that doesn’t grow well if the burlap is left in place. Some of this material strongly resembles cotton burlap; if in doubt about the burlap’s makeup, cut it away from the root ball once the plant is in place.

Planting Peonies

Plant roots of both garden and tree peonies in September or early October so they will have time to become established in the soil before winter. Dig a hole 18 inches across and 18 inches deep for each tuber. Space the holes so the plants will be at least 3 feet apart. Make sure the roots are buried only 1 to 2 inches below ground level. Deeper planting keeps the plants from blooming.

Scrap Tire Collection
Sept. 27 & 28
9 a.m.–9 p.m.
South parking lot, Shoemakers Truckstop
NW 48 & West O Streets, Lincoln, NE

Well Abandonments

At one time, the term “abandoned well” was used to refer to wells not being used and in a state of disrepair. Today these wells are called “illegal wells.” Illegal wells represent one of the greatest threats to groundwater and are a serious liability.

Groundwater normally is provided with some protection by a natural filter of soil, sand and gravel. Illegal wells are holes in the filter that can allow contaminants to flow directly into our groundwater supply. After contaminants enter the groundwater supply they can move with the natural ground-water flow and may show up in public or private wells used to provide drinking water.

In addition, illegal wells are a safety hazard to humans and animals. A child can easily fall into a large diameter illegal well. To reduce or eliminate these risks, Nebraska regulations require all illegal wells be decommissioned. All illegal water wells must be decommissioned following requirements of the Nebraska Health and Human Services System and must be carried out or supervised by an individual with a valid Nebraska Water Well Standards and Contractors’ license.

The decommissioning process will include removal of well equipment, disinfection, filling and sealing, capping and reporting. The price for decommissioning a well will depend on several factors including accessibility, construction technique and materials, depth and condition. Financial resources to help defray the cost of well decommissioning may be available from the Natural Resources District (NRD) serving your area.
The Mothball Mishap and Other Thoughtless Ways to Misuse Pesticides

Barb Ogg
UNL Extension Educator

Reading and following pesticide label directions seems like a reasonable thing. After all, the label tells how to use the product most effectively and safely. But do people think about ways to use products differently than what they are intended? Unfortunately, misuse can pose real hazards to human health and the environment.

Misusing Mothballs

Shirley and Jack have a wildlife problem. They have mice in their garage, kitchen and basement. Their neighbor told them he heard that mothballs would mice away, so they bought three containers of mothballs and spread them in the garage and basement. In the kitchen, he dropped moth ball units under the kitchen sink. Some children in the neighborhood. The next day, their 10-year-old daughter, Amanda, was coughing and wheezing. Her asthma was acting up.

Shirley wondered if Amanda’s breathing problems were related to the mothballs. She looked at the label on the mothball container and found mothballs should only be used in airtight containers, such as cheap burlap bags. The label also gave the National Pesticide Information Center (NPIC) number (1-800-885-7378) for emergency medical treatment information. She called the NPIC. The NPIC specialist told her mothballs are pesticides that come in a solid form, but, over time, volatilize—or slowly blow into a gas. Inhalation of mothballs can result in headache, nausea, vomiting and disorientation. She also learned people like her daughter Amanda, who have previous impaired respiratory function, may be more susceptible to the adverse effects of mothballs.

What a nightmare! The next step was to remove the mothballs. The mothball label directs users to avoid skin contact so Shirley and Jack wore gloves when removing them. After all the mothballs were collected, they opened doors and windows to ventilate the house. In the kitchen, they turned on the hood fan to increase air circulation and blow kitchen air outdoors.

Misunderstanding Boric Acid

Marla hates the ants, spiders and boxelder bugs that invade her home. She tells her boric acid is a safe way to kill insects so she thinks it would be smart to put a barrier of boric acid around the outside of her home to prevent bugs from coming in.

At the hardware store, she finds boric acid costs about $5 for a 12 oz. container. She knows she will need to buy a lot of boric acid to treat the whole perimeter. She decided to call the extension office to find out where to buy boric acid in bulk. From her local extension educator, Marla learned boric acid probably isn’t going to be effective as an outdoor barrier treatment and will likely be a waste of time and money. The boric acid label says it can be applied indoors behind appliances, in cupboards corners and in cracks and crevices. Powder with boric acid on it must be brushed into cracks and crevices and removed. The product does not mention outdoor use.

How boric acid works.

When cockroaches walk through a dusting of boric acid, it attaches to spines on their legs and body. Cockroaches ingest boric acid as they groom themselves. It is primarily a slow-acting stomach poison. Boric acid is not very effective against spiders or insects, like boxelder bugs, which do not groom or brush their bodies through a dusting of boric acid.

An outdoor barrier of boric acid would not be effective against spiders and boxelder bugs, which are two pests Marla wants to control. In addition, humidity and rain would quickly reduce the effectiveness of boric acid outdoors. Marla was encouraged to use boric acid outdoors. She was told that sealing cracks and crevices prevents insects from coming indoors would be time well spent.

Exploding Foggers

A family had a bad German cockroach infestation in their small two-bedroom house. They decided to use foggers to control their cockroach infestation because they are easy to buy and use. They bought 19 foggers from the hardware store and set them off all at the same time. Fortunately they left the house, because the water heater pilot light ignited the vapors and the resulting explosion blew the house off its foundation.

This explosion could have been prevented if only they would have read and followed the label directions. On the product label, it clearly says “PUT OUT ALL FLAMES AND PILOT LIGHTS.” The label also say to use one fogger unit to treat 6,000 cubic feet of space—equivalent to a 25’ by 30’ room. Nineteen foggers was many more than should have been used in a small house.

Take Home Messages

These are true stories and actual examples of what can happen when pesticides are used inappropriately and thoughtlessly. Reading, understanding and following label directions helps determine where the product can be used, what pests it will be controlled and how to use it correctly and safely. If you use the help you have in mind isn’t given on the label, rethink the problem, make a phone call to the extension office and try a different approach.

Household Hazardous Waste Collections

These collections are for household only; not for businesses. Only residents of Lincoln and Lancaster County can bring items to collections.

Saturday, Sept. 20, 9 a.m.–1 p.m.
Veyance Technologies (Goodyear) 4021 North 56 St., includes Usable Latex Paint Exchange

Friday, Oct. 17, 3–7 p.m.
Waverly County Shop, 1125 North 141 St.
Saturday, Oct. 18, 9 a.m.–1 p.m.
Lincoln Industries, 600 West E St.

Saturday, Nov. 15, 9 a.m.–1 p.m.
State Fair Park (4-H Youth Complex)

Some items you can bring for disposal: Thermometers, thermostats containing mercury, solvents, oil-based paint, paint thinner, pesticides, (even banned products like DDT), items containing PCB’s (ballasts from fluorescent fixtures and capacitors from old appliances). Compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFL’s) contain mercury and will be accepted. On Sept. 20 only, you may bring interior thermostats.

Do not bring: asbestos, tires, batteries, used oil, antifreeze, medicines, fertilizers, explosives and ammunition.

Still unsure what you have will be accepted? Call the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department at 441-8040.

Kids Are Back in School and So Are Head Lice

Soni Cochran
UNL Extension Associate

You thought you had everything figured out: soccer schedules, music lessons, school supplies, lunches, new hair and shoes. But, did you plan for head lice? Schools are back in session and this is a great time to plan for head lice.

Schools are the perfect place for head lice. If you forget to check for lice or comb out eggs, you might bring lice home with you.

1. Inspection: Check your child’s scalp at least once a week for evidence of head lice. By the time a child starts scratching, she may have had lice for 30 days. Some children with head lice never scratch. Look closely at the nape of the neck and behind the ears. You may not see any adult lice, but you may find the eggs or “nits” attached to the hair shafts or eggs close to the scalp. The eggs are attached to individual hair shafts.

2. Combs and Brushes: Everyone in the household should check their child’s scalp for evidence of head lice.

Inspect your child’s scalp for evidence of head lice.

3. Head Lice: If your child has lice, pull it back into a ponytail, braid or put the hair up when your child is at school or participating in activities. Short hair cuts are easier to manage if you happen to have a head lice infestation.

4. Sharing: Teach your child to not share hats, hair accessories or combs with their friends at school or playmates in their child’s play group.

5. School: Work with the teachers, health specialists and administers of your school. If you find head lice on your child, report it immediately. The school can check the other children in the class and send a note home to parents asking for their help monitoring for head lice. By working with your school, you can help prevent reinfestations.

Head lice are found in children of all socioeconomic classes. They are very contagious and spread easily. If you find head lice on your child, there is no cure to panic. Head lice do not carry serious disease. Taking appropriate action quickly is the best way to prevent the infestation of other family members. Parents should also remain calm because you’ll need to remove all nits from your child to successfully treat the lice.

Resources to help you safely and effectively manage head lice are available from the Lancaster County Health Department. You can also check out the “Head Lice Resources You Can Trust” Web site at http://lancaster.unl.edu/pest/lince. The site features researched-based information on head lice treatments and photos. You can also view the award winning video “Removing Head Lice Safely” online at your convenience.

The Truth about Head Apples

Hedge apples are the fruit of the Osage orange tree. The belief about the use of hedge apples as an insect repellent is widespread and persistent. It is claimed placing hedge apples around the foundation or inside the basement will repel or control insects.

The truth: Iowa State University toxicologists have chemically extracted compounds from hedge apples. When concentrated, these compounds have a repellent effect. But, these researchers found the normal concentration of these compounds in the hedge apple itself was too low to be an effective repellent. We don’t recommend hedge apples as an insect repellent.

One homeowner reported she found the source of an Indian meal moth infestation in a bag of hedge apples she had in her basement to keep spiders away.
Frozen Cheese Sandwich (for grilling)

This is a great recipe for using up odds and ends of different cheeses!

Ingredients for EACH sandwich:
(may vary with breed size and personal preference)

2 slices bread
1/4 to 1/3 cup grated cheese (use natural or processed hard and semi-hard cheeses such as Swiss, Cheddar, etc.)

Directions: Top one of each pair of sandwich bread slices with grated cheese; spread almost to the edges. Follow directions in previous section: “Basic steps in assembling and freezing sandwiches.”

Frozen Tuna or Salmon Salad Sandwiches

Use this basic recipe for your frozen tuna or salmon salad sandwiches. Then, just before serving the thawed sandwiches, pop in such additions as: tomato slices; pickle relish; lettuce; a slice of cheese; thin slice of your favorite onion; chopped red, green or yellow peppers or a few pepper rings; fresh basil leaves. NOTE: Check for water-packed versions of tuna or salmon to avoid added salt if you are limiting fat and/or sodium in your foods.

Ingredients for EACH sandwich:
(may vary with breed size and personal preference)

1/2 to 1/3 of a 6-ounce can of tuna or salmon, drained
2 to 3 teaspoons salad dressing, such as Miracle Whip
Soft butter or margarine (do not use melted form), about 2 teaspoons
2 slices bread

Directions: Mix tuna or salmon with Miracle Whip type salad dressing. Spread a thin layer of soft butter or margarine to the insides of the sides of bread that will be the “insides” of the sandwich. Top one of each pair of bread slices with meat mixture; spread almost to the edges. Follow directions in previous section: “Basic steps in assembling and freezing sandwiches.”

Freeze Sandwiches

It’s often referred to the word “sandwich” originated with John Montagu, 4th Earl of Sandwich. The Earl supposedly ate bits of meat between pieces of bread so he could continue to play cards while eating and not get his hands greasy from the meat.

Sandwiches continue to be a popular food today because of their versatility and convenience. Freezing sandwiches offers several additional benefits:

• Save money by making your own “fast food” sandwiches for a sack lunch or meal at home.
• Save time by making several sandwiches at once.
• Utilize “leftovers” or cook extra at a meal for use in tasty and different ways at future meals.
• Control the type of bread (such as choosing a whole grain bread), type of filling and spread (amount, salt, fat and so forth) by being in charge of the ingredients.
• Enjoy a wholesome, homemade sandwich as part of an inexpensive, quick meal.

Sandwich Ingredients that DO and DO NOT Freeze well

Some common sandwich fillings that DO freeze well include:

• Peanut butter and other nut butters
• Canned tuna and salmon
• Cooked roast beef, chicken and turkey (especially tasty when the meat is finely chopped and mixed with “salad dressing,” such as Miracle Whip, to add flavor and moistness)
• Natural or processed hard and semi-hard cheeses, such as Swiss, Cheddar. NOTE: As frozen cheese may crumble more after thawing, you may be more satisfied with the result if you grate it before freezing it in sandwiches.

Some common sandwich fillings that DO NOT freeze well include:

• Hard-cooked egg whites (freezing toughens them)
• Jelly or jam (soaks into bread and makes it soggy)
• Tomatoes, lettuce, pickles, onions, etc. become limp when thawed; they can be added to thawed sandwiches just before eating them.

IMPORTANT: “Salad dressings,” such as Miracle Whip, work better as a binder in sandwiches than mayonnaise. Mayonnaise tends to separate on thawing. In comparison to mayon- naise, a Miracle Whip-type salad dressing tends to have a sweeter, tangier flavor, so experiment to see how you like the result before making a freezer full of sandwiches.

Basic steps in Assembling, Freezing and Thawing Sandwiches

The same basic steps may be followed for assembling most frozen sandwiches:

1. For sandwiches where the filling might soak into the bread, spread a thin layer of soft butter or margarine to the edges of the sides of bread that will be the “inside” of the sandwich. DO NOT use melted margarine or butter. NOTE: Bread that is at least a day-old may be slightly firmer and easier to spread.
2. Make your sandwiches “assembly line” fashion, completing one step for all sandwiches before moving on to the next step.
3. A quick way to freeze sandwiches is to:
   a) Place them in self-sealing plastic sandwich bags, labeling the bag with the date and type of sandwich. Squish out as much air as possible before sealing them.
   b) Lay them in a single layer in the freezer on a cookie sheet or other flat surface and freeze them for about an hour until they hold their shape. Then place the sandwich bags in a larger freezer-quality bag, such as a gallon freezer bag. Squish out extra air before sealing. The thin sandwich bags aren’t satisfactory for maintaining food quality during longer-term freezer storage.
4. Use frozen sandwiches within 1 to 3 months for best flavor and quality.
5. Thaw individual sandwiches in their sandwich bag or on a piece of wax paper in the refrigerator. Transfer them to the refrigerator the day before you plan to eat them.
6. To keep perishable sandwich foods like meats and cheeses cold, pack them in an insulated lunch bag or lunch box; include a small frozen gel pack. Or, if there’s a refrigerator available, store perishable items there upon arrival.
7. Add tomato, onion slices, lettuce, a squirt or dab of horseradish, pickles, etc. before eating them. A small container or snack-size plastic bag of these add-ons can be packed with a sack lunch.

Freezing Meals for Future Use

Thursday, Sept. 11, 7-8:30 p.m.
Plaza Conference Center, BryanLGH Medical Center East, 1600 S. 48th Street, Lincoln

How would you like to come home and have most of your meal already prepared? Or, perhaps, you’d like to avoid staying up late or getting up early to fix food for a special event? Alice Henneman, extension educator and registered dietitian with UNL Extension in Lancaster County, will teach you how to freeze foods for future use.

You’ll receive an extensive booklet giving specific freezing directions for common foods. Plus, you’ll receive several recipe ideas for make-ahead foods. No cost to attend.

Register by calling BryanLGH at 481-8886.
Parents Coaching Athletes to be Good Sports

As parents of athletes, we love to watch our children play in games and events. We want to help them achieve success in every play of each game. We sit on the edge of our seats waiting for the next moment in time when our child goes into the game and the team works together like a well-oiled machine. At the same time, it’s hard for us to walk the fine line between being supportive and becoming over-involved.

However, through example and conscious teaching, we can help our children to have a positive experience in their activities and to become a good sport.

Ten Tips for Teaching Your Children About Sportsmanship

1) Expect and reinforce good sportsmanship with your child. Point out and reward good sportsmanship. Have a plan for dealing with poor sportsmanship.

2) Model sportsmanship. Describe how you would normally show sportsmanship. Describe how you can show respect to the opponent by shaking their hand's after the event. Describe the good feelings you get from being a good sport yourself.

3) Help your child remember to play. Discuss both the competitive and fun parts of the event. Discuss the fun that comes from doing their best, performing well and spending time with friends—regardless of the outcome of the event.

4) Discuss the headlines. When you watch TV or read the newspaper, point out actions related to sportsmanship. Ask your child what they think the competitors or "showboat" or about the cost to the team for a technical foul. Look for examples of positive behavior as well.

5) Read books together with a sportsmanship theme. Particularly younger children, you can use this time to discuss examples of good sportsmanship and poor sportsmanship behaviors.

6) Reflect. Use the language of sportsmanship (respect, integrity, responsibility, fairness) with your child when discussing practice and games. Ask them to think about why they had a bad or good game and what role sportsmanship played.

7) Emphasize teamwork in team events. Help your child to think "we" instead of "me."

8) Make sure you and your child know the rules of the event. When you know the rules of competition, you can help your child to follow the rules as well.

9) Emphasize good sportsmanship at home. Games or contests at home are great family activities. Keep sportsmanship in-line during these activities. Watch for teachable moments when your family is engaged in competition.

10) Emphasize good character in daily life. The same behaviors that demonstrate good sportsmanship extend beyond the competitive arena. Promote respect, responsibility, trustworthiness, fairness, caring and citizenship in your daily lives.

Written by: Deb Weitzenkamp, UNL Extension Educator. Source: www.greatfansgreatsports.com
**Controlling Winter Annual Grasses in Pastures**

**Tom Dorn**
UNL Extension Educator

Winter annual grass weeds like Downy brome and Japanese brome can be a big problem in pastures. They reduce pasture quality and carrying capacity, and with overgrazing and management, the annual brome spots are guaranteed to get larger year by year. Cattle or horses will eat the palatable forages and leave the annual bromes, especially once the heads start to appear. This puts extra pressure on the desirable species while the annual bromes go to seed.

**Warm-Season Pastures**

In pastures dominated by warm-season grasses, like Big bluestem, Little bluestem, Indiangrass, Switchgrass, etc., one control option is to spray one pint of glyphosate, like Roundup, per acre on the newly emerged winter annual grasses in mid- to late October after the warm-season grasses have gone COMPLETELY dormant and the weedy grasses have some top growth. Note: This treatment will also kill perennial cool-season grass species like Smooth bromegrass and Kentucky bluegrass, so only use this treatment if you want to reduce or eliminate the cool-season grasses in your warm-season pasture along with the annual bromes. For best control, pick a day with temperatures in the 60’s. Studies have shown the level of control achieved by glyphosate is directly related to the time of day it is applied. The brighter the sunshine, the better the control.

**Cool-Season Pastures**

Getting control of grassy weeds in cool-season grass pastures is trickier than in warm-season pastures. Since the cool-season grasses don’t go dormant, you can’t use glyphosate without killing most or all of the cool-season species in the sprayed area. Gramoxone is a better herbicide choice in cool-season pastures because it only kills the plant tissue it comes in contact with. Spray Gramoxone in the spring when the weedy grasses are about to form seed heads. Since the weedy bromes are nearing the end of their life cycle, killing the top at this growth stage should keep them from producing seed. The top growth of the perennial grass species will be killed as well, but these species should regrow from the crowns in two to three weeks (about like regrowing following a controlled burn).

**Non-Chemical Control**

Downy brome and Japanese brome will be utilized by grazing animals early in the spring. The annual bromes also make acceptable grass hay when cut early—before the seed heads appear. Since the goal is to reduce the weedy brome invaders and increase the desirable species, it makes sense to get as much utilization from the weedy species as possible while letting the desirable species grow as long as possible. You likely will need to put up temporary electric fences to confine the animals. On small acreages consider staking your cow or horse to confine their grazing to the weedy brome spots.

The weedy bromes will become less palatable as they mature. Once the seedhead emerges, they are essentially worthless as a forage. When the winter annuals start to head out, allow the animals to graze the entire paddock and begin mowing the weedy spots to prevent seed production. Mow the weedy area whenever the plants start to produce a head. You might need to mow a couple of times.

**Be Diligent**

The seed of these grasses can last several years in the soil, which means you should plan to continue your treatment regimen for several years. After preventing seed production for two years, consider inter-seeding the affected areas with a mixture of desirable grasses.

**Practice Good Pasture Management**

Be sure to graze the pasture properly to maintain the vigor and competitiveness of the desired grasses. A best management practice, no matter the size of the pasture, is to cross-fence the pasture creating two or more paddocks. Confine the animals to a smaller area results in better utilization of all species of plants. It also allows the most palatable species an equal chance to recover when the paddock is not being grazed.

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**Fall is a Good Time to Control Problem Weeds**

**Tom Dorn**
UNL Extension Educator

Fall is an excellent time to control several species of perennial weeds in pastures and waste areas. Perennial plants such as field bindweed, Canada thistle and leafy spurge translocate food from the upper plant parts into the root system in the fall. Herbicides applied at that time readily move into the roots as well, greatly improving the effectiveness of the herbicide. Even if the chemical doesn’t completely kill the weed, the plant goes into winter in a weakened condition and is much more susceptible to winter kill. Fall treatments can be made anytime after mid-September but before hard freezes occur. Treatments can even be made after a light frost has occurred as long as the plants are still active and growing. Daytime temperature in the 50’s is satisfactory for effective control.

Fall is also the best time to control Musk thistle and related species. Musk thistle is a biennial, (sometimes a winter annual), that spreads by seeds. Young plants will have a rosette form (a round cluster of leaves that lies nearly flat on the soil). They overwinter in the rosette form and those with sufficient growth, then shoot up (bolt), form blossoms and go to seed in June, July and August. After producing seed, the plant dies. Fall is a good time to control Musk thistle because the newly germinated plants are small and more easily killed. As with the perennial plants, plants not killed outright, go into winter in a weakened condition and are much more susceptible to winter kill.

In addition to obtaining excellent control on the target weeds, the potential for drift damage to non-target species is lessened in the fall. Most field crops and gardens are finished producing by this time, and the current year’s growth on perennial shrubs and trees is hardened off making them less susceptible to damage as well.

**Choosing Small Grains for Early-Season Grazing in the Spring**

Small grains commonly planted for use as forage are wheat, rye and triticale. Let’s look at some of the characteristics of each crop to help you select the one that meets your needs.

**Rye** is your best choice for the earliest pasture possible. It also may be the best match for double cropping to another crop after the rye has grazed out. Some varieties of rye provide quite a bit of fall growth, if planted early. Rye also may be the most reliable when planted under stressful conditions. But rye has some drawbacks. It turns stemmy and matures much earlier than wheat or triticale, losing feed value and palatability earlier in the spring. One caution is if the field is planted to wheat next year, there is a risk of volunteer rye contaminating the wheat crop.

**Triticale** holds on to its feed value into late spring. This makes it well suited for hay and silage, or for stretching grazing well into June if you don’t mind starting the grazing season two or three weeks later than rye. Triticale also tends to be a bit more susceptible to winter injury than rye.

**Winter wheat** has been the small grain of choice for winter and spring grazing in the southern plains where higher winter temperatures allow some growth to continue all winter long. In Nebraska where wheat goes dormant, though, its carrying capacity is not as high as triticale or rye. But the forage value is top quality before stems develop. And it’s the clear choice if you want the double use of pasturing early then letting it grow and produce grain.

There it is. Rye for early pasture, triticale for hay, silage and later grazing and wheat for forage plus grain. You may have other factors affecting your choice, but in general, these guidelines work well.

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Source: Bruce Anderson, UNL Extension Forage Specialist

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Farm Views

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September 2008

http://lancaster.unl.edu
Aster Yellows on Purple Coneflower

Mary Jane Frogge, UNL Extension Associate

Do the flowers on your purple coneflower look weird? If yes, your coneflowers may be suffering from a common disease called aster yellows. Aster yellows causes chlorosis or yellowing of the plant, stunting, irregular growth and distortion of the flower head. This unusual growth is often mis-diagnosed as herbicide damage. Aster yellows is a disease that is carried from plant to plant by insects and survives winter in infected plant material.

To manage aster yellows, all infected plants should be removed from the garden and destroyed. There are no chemical treatments available for aster yellows. Since the disease can also survive in neighboring weeds, it is important to maintain good weed control in and around your garden.

Trees Reverting

Among the “What’s wrong with my tree?” calls, some of the most interesting deal with a phenomenon called reversion. When a conifer or hardy tree with an unusual ornamental characteristic begins to send out shoots with normal foliage or growth for the species, the new growth is said to have reverted.

How does a reversion take place? Many ornamental cultivars begin when an alert plantperson notices a tree or part of a tree with a unique growth characteristic, like unusual leaf color or weeping growth habit. These atypical plants or shoots arise through genetic mutation. Buds or cuttings from the plants are then grafted onto standard trees and, if they remain true to form and have horticultural merit, they ultimately make their way into the nursery trade, just as the original genetic mutation occurred to produce the unique character. Occasionally a reverse mutation occurs and portions of the plant ‘revert’ back the species’ normal growth. Some of the more common examples of reversions occur in dwarf spruces and variegated plants such as Harlequin maple. In the case of dwarf spruces, homeowners will often report “a tree growing out of my tree.” When a reversion occurs, it is time to follow the advice of the wise TV sage, Barney Fife, “a tree growing out of my tree.”

Examine the tree and determine where the reversion originated and prune off the reverted shoots. Often reverted shoots grow more vigorously then the rest of the tree. If left unpruned, reversions will dominate the tree and the homeowner who paid extra for a dwarf Alberta spruce or variegated maple is eventually left with a plain old white spruce or Norway maple.

Source: Bert Cregg, Michigan State University

Control Winter Annual Weeds Now

Annual broadleaf weeds such as chickweed, henbit and shepherd’s-purse are winter annuals that germinate in the fall. If you had these weeds in your yard or garden this spring, the seeds will germinate soon. The appropriate pre-emergence herbicide should be applied early to mid-September for control of these weeds.

— Mary Jane Frogge, UNL Extension Associate

2008 Great Plants

The Great Plants program is a joint effort of the Nebraska Nursery & Landscape Association and the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum that selects and promotes ornamental plants. These plants are reliably hardy, easy to care for and ornamental.

2008 Tree

Ostrya virginiana, American Hophornbeam. A graceful, medium-sized native tree with horizontal branches forming an interesting zig-zag pattern. Hops-like fruits in summer; heart-shaped leaves are soft to the touch and change color from green to yellow as the fruit approaches maturity. Pears should be picked at the hard ripe stage and allowed to finish ripening off the tree. The base color of yellow pears should change from green to yellow as the fruit approaches maturity.

Source: Western Arborist

2008 Shrub

Eumyrsus alatus, The Wahoo. This native shrub is also referred to as a burning bush with its orange/ red fall color and attractive rosy-pink fruit capsules that persist into winter. But do not confuse this plant with the common winged euonymus, Euonymus atropurpurea, Eastern Wahoo. This native shrub is attractive when used as a burning bush with its orange/ red fall color and attractive rosy-pink fruit capsules that persist into winter. But do not confuse this plant with the common winged euonymus, Euonymus alatus. The Wahoo is very shade tolerant, yet it grows well and becomes an attractive dense specimen in full sun. It is pH adaptable and drought-tolerant. Can be grown in clump form or pruned up to form an attractive 8 - 12 foot small tree.

Source: Nebraska Statewide Arboretum

Trees Reverting

Horticulture

September 2008
4-H Leader Update, Oct. 2

Leaders, parents and interested volunteers are encouraged to attend a 4-H Leader Update on Thursday, Oct. 2 at 9:30 a.m. or 7 p.m. Discover all the opportunities available for your 4-H members and prepare for the next 4-H year. Awards, project completion/selection, club reorganization, the Diamond Clover Program and Career Portfolio will be covered. Bring your questions and ideas! You must RSVP by calling 441-7180 by Sept. 30.

2010 4-H Washington Group Forming

Any Lancaster County youth age 14–18 can join 4-H Citizenship Washington Focus (CWF), a summer citizenship program which culminates in a nine-day, intensive trip to Washington, D.C., in June 2010. CWF delegates learn about the democratic process and their role as citizens. We will also take a few more days to discover the wonders of New York City. Youth who sign up now are able to start earning funds through organized fund-raising. A $100 deposit is needed to reserve your spot. For more information, contact Deanna Karmazin at 441-7180.

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

HORSE BITS

Horse Level Testing, Sept. 27

Attention all Lancaster County 4-H horse riders! All riding skills level tests must be done in group testing! All testing will be held at the Lancaster Extension Education Center, 444 Cherry Creek Rd, Lincoln. Awards presentation includes Incentive Awards, Horsemanship Levels, Horse Course Challenge, All-Around Awards, Herdsmanship, Top County Fair Judging buckles and ribbons, and a few surprise awards! The evening includes a potluck dinner. Please bring a meat dish and either a salad or dessert and your own table service. Drinks will be provided. Come help celebrate the outstanding accomplishments of the 2008 Lancaster County 4-H Horsemen!

Horse Awards Night, Oct 7

The annual Lancaster County 4-H Horse Awards Night will be Tuesday, Oct. 7, 7 p.m. at the Lancaster Extension Education Center, 444 Cherry Creek Rd, Lincoln. Awards presentation includes Incentive Awards, Horsemanship Levels, Horse Course Challenge, All-Around Awards, Herdsmanship, Top County Fair Judging buckles and ribbons, and a few surprise awards! The evening includes a potluck dinner. Please bring a meat dish and either a salad or dessert and your own table service. Drinks will be provided. Come help celebrate the outstanding accomplishments of the 2008 Lancaster County 4-H Horsemen!

September's heart of 4-H award: Harry Muhlbach

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

Harry joined 4-H 50 years ago and has volunteered with 4-H for more than 40 years. He started volunteering in Buffalo County and has been a Lancaster County 4-H volunteer for 27 years. He is currently swine project leader with the Rock Creek Ranchers 4-H club and 4-H Swiss Superintendent at the Lancaster County Fair.

Harry says, “I like being a 4-H volunteer because it’s a very good organization to help kids build a good background for their future in society. They learn what can be done if they want it. My favorite experience was at the county fair, watching the next generation of family members start to exhibit their animals.”

His eight children and some of his step-children are 4-H alumni. Two of Harry’s grandchildren are members of the Rock Creek Ranchers. In addition to volunteering for 4-H, Harry works with the Raymond Volunteer Department.

Congratulations to Harry. Volunteers like him are indeed outstanding. Recognition of those outstanding volunteers is the purpose of the Heart of 4-H Award.

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

State Horse Expo Results

Chelsea Beach earned Reserve Champion in Junior Western Horsemanship. Alex Scheideler earned Reserve Champion in Trail and Western Riding. The 2008 Fonner Park State 4-H Horse Exposition was held July 13–17 at Grand Island. Below are the top Lancaster County 4-H placings.

Complete results are online at http://4h.unl.edu/horseshow

RESERVE CHAMPION
Chelsea Beach, Western Horsemanship 12-14
Josh Krueger, Break-A-Way Roping
Alex Scheideler, Trail and Western Riding
Hannah Scow, 3 yr Old Geldings

PURPLE RIBBON WINNERS
Junior Hippology Team (Elizabeth Baorder, Cory Peters and Elizabeth Frobish)
Chelsea Beach, Pole Bending 12-14
Lisa Bradbury, 4 & 5 yr old geldings and Western Horsemanship 15 & Up
Sami Cuka, Kissing 15 & Up
Dustin Ehrlich, Pole Bending 15 & Up
olarc Easkin, Pole Bending 15 & Up
Courtney Gaarig, Showmanship 12-14
Danielle Harden, Showmanship 15 & Up
Abbie Heusinger, English Pleasure 12-14 and Western Horsemanship 12-14
Alyssa Heusinger, Showmanship 15 & Up
Josh Krueger, Barrel Racing 12-14
Lyndsay Larson, Pole Bending 15 & Up
Ben Leach, Western Horsemanship 15 & Up
Madison Lee, Pole Bending 15 & Up and Barrel Racing 15 & Up
Blake Preston, Western Pleasure 15 & Up and Western Horsemanship 15 & Up
Brooke Preston, Showmanship 15 & Up and Western Horsemanship 15 & Up
Alex Schiedeler, Advanced Western Horsemanship
Hannah Scow, Showmanship 15 & Up and Western Horsemanship 15 & Up

District Horse Show Addition

The August 2009 list of Lancaster County 4-H purple ribbon winners and top awards in the District Horse Shows. The following 4-Fe projects should be included:

- Brooke Preston
  Western Horsemanship 15 & Up Champion Trophy
  Western Pleasure 15 & Up Medal Winner

4-H Teen Council Invites New Members!

The Lancaster 4-Teen Council is a leadership organization for youth in grades 7-12. Meetings are held the second Sunday of each month at 3 p.m. at the Lancaster Extension Education Center, 444 Cherry Creek Road, Lincoln.

4-H Teen Council members:
- participate in several community service activities
- organize the Ice Cream Social and Cookie Eating Contest at the Lancaster County Fair
- plan, set up and facilitate the annual 4th & 5th grade Lock-In
- are involved in other leadership activities

Call Tracy Kulm at 441-7180 for more information or to join!
Presentation Contest Top Winners

The 2008 4-H Presentation Contest was held on July 19 at the Lancaster County Fair and Expo Center. Part of the Lancaster County Fair, the contest provides 4-H'ers the opportunity to learn to express themselves clearly and convincingly, organize their ideas and present them in logical order, research subjects, have confidence in themselves & arguments, and emphasize the major points through the use of visuals or examples. Top winners were: Premier Presenter – Erika Warner; Junior Top Presenter – Jaime Stephenson; Senior Top Presenter – Jessica Stephenson. Congratulations to all who participated!

Schedule of Events

TUESDAY, SEPT. 23
Breedling Gift Show: 6 p.m.
Ak-Sar-Ben Rodeo: 7 p.m.

FRIDAY SEPT. 26
Dairy Show: 7:30 a.m.
1st Round Fitting Contest: 11 a.m.
Feeder Calf: 1:30 p.m.
Meat Goat: 3 p.m.
Ak-Sar-Ben Rodeo: 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 27
Market Lamb: 7:30 a.m.
Market Beef: 7:30 a.m.
Final Round Fitting Contest: 11 a.m.
Market Broilers: 2 p.m.
Market Swine Showmanship: 7 p.m.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 27
Market Swine: 7:30 a.m.
Beekeeping Contest: 7:30 a.m.
Purple Ribbon Auction: 6 p.m.

Thank You to Volunteers

University of Nebraska–Lincoln Extension in Lancaster County would thank all of the people who donate their time and talents to help enrich the lives of the youth in the Lancaster County 4-H youth development program.
are YOU ready?

www.Ready.gov

Directions:
1. Give yourself one point for each completed activity.
2. Total your points at the end of each week. (4 point maximum per week.)
3. On September 28, 2008 add up the total points for the 3 weeks (12 point maximum).
4. If you have accumulated at least 8 points, return your scorecard to be eligible for the 2008 Disaster Preparedness Challenge drawing.

Activity (1 point per activity):
1. Start your Disaster Plan by purchasing a plastic tub and getting 2 items from the list above.
2. Make a sign for your refrigerator that identifies the difference between a thermometer and a warning and what you should do for each.
3. Dress and treat with your family what you will do in case of fire, tornado, flood, or other types of disaster.
4. Organize important documents and place in a safe location (i.e. birth certificates, social security card, marriage license, passport, etc.).
5. Practice a mock tornado drill.
6. Put something fun to do in your Disaster Kit to do while taking shelter. (i.e. board game, coloring book and crayons, card game, etc.)

Scorecard:
Name: ____________________________  Signature: ____________________________
Scorecard: ____________________________  Total Points Scored: __________

Eligibility Information:
1. You must live, work or attend school in Lancaster County, Nebraska to participate and be eligible for prizes.
2. Individuals, families, classrooms, or work groups are eligible to participate.
3. Only one scorecard per individual, family, classroom or work group.

Prizes will include:
• Weather Radio with batteries
• Carbon Monoxide Detector with batteries
• Smoke Detector with batteries
• Drop Ladder (for fire escape from 2nd floor)
• Assembled Disaster Preparedness Kit
• Fire Extinguisher
• Car Disaster Preparedness Kit

Prize winners will be notified by mail or phone. Grand prize winners will be announced in October 2008 and will be awarded to grand prize winners. Individuals need not be present to win.

Please keep this portion of the scorecard for information on prize drawing.

September is National Preparedness Month

The summer storms highlight the importance of being prepared for an emergency. The Department of Homeland Security asks individuals to do three key things during National Preparedness Month.
1) Get an emergency supply kit;
2) Make a family emergency plan; and
3) Be informed about the different types of emergencies that could occur and their appropriate responses.

National Preparedness Month is a nationwide effort to encourage Americans to take simple steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses and schools.

A national survey conducted by The Ad Council in August 2007 found that 54% of households have an emergency kit and 37% have created a family emergency plan. Keep your family safe by implementing these suggestions.

Get a Kit
When preparing for a possible emergency situation, it’s best to think first about survival: fresh water, food, clean air and warmth.

Recommended items to include in a basic emergency supply kit:
• Water, one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation
• Food, at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food
• Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert and extra batteries for both
• Flashlights and extra batteries
• First aid kit
• Whistle to signal for help
• Moist towels, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
• Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
• Poison kits, paper cups, plates and plastic utensils
• Matches in a waterproof container
• Feminine supplies and personal hygiene
• Mess kits, paper cups, plates and plastic utensils, paper towels
• Prescriptions, medications and glasses
• Infant formula and diapers
• Pet food and extra water for your pet
• Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification and bank account records in a waterproof, portable container
• Cash or traveler’s checks and change
• Fire extinguisher
• Emergency reference material such as a first aid book or information from www.ready.gov
• Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person.
• Consider additional bedding if you live in a cold-weather climate
• Household chlorine bleach and medi- cine dropper — when diluted nine parts water to one part bleach, bleach can be used as a disinfectant. In an emer- gency, you can use it to treat water by using 6 drops of regular household liquid bleach per gallon of water. Do not use scented, color safe or bleach free liquid bleach per gallon of water. Do not use scented, color safe or bleach free liquid bleach per gallon of water. Do not use scented, color safe or bleach free

Emergency information: Find out what kinds of disasters, both natural and man-made, are most likely to occur in your area and how you will be notified. Methods of getting your attention vary from community to community. One common method is to broadcast on emergency radio and TV broadcasts. You might hear a special siren, or get a telephone call or emergency workers may go door-to-door.

Emergency plans: You may also want to inquire about emergency plans at places where your family spends time: work, daycare and school. If no plans exist, consider volunteering to help create one. Talk to your neighbors about how you can work together in the event of an emergency. You will be better prepared to safely reunite your family and loved ones during an emergency if you think ahead and communicate with others in advance.

Be Informed
Some of the things you can do to prepare for the unexpected, such as making an emergency supply kit and developing a family communications plan, are the same for both a natural or man-made emergency.

However, there are important differences among potential emergencies that will impact the decisions you make and the actions you take. Learn more about the potential emergencies that could happen where you live and the appropriate way to respond to them.

In addition, learn about the emer- gency plans that have been developed in your area by your state and local government.

Emergency preparedness is no longer the sole concern of earthquake prone Californians and those who live in the part of the country known as “Tornado Alley.” For Americans, preparedness must now account for man-made disasters as well as various natural knowing what to do during an emergency is an important part of being prepared and may make all the difference when seconds count.

Individuals can visit www.ready.gov or call 1-800–BE–READY for information about emergency preparedness.

Get Involved
Get involved in preparing your community. Citizen Corps, Homeland Security’s grassroots effort, provides opportunities for citizens to get emergency response training; participate in community exercises; and volunteer to support local first responders. To learn more and to get involved contact www.citizencorps.gov or contact Volunteer Partners at 435-2100 or director@volunteerpartners.org

FOR MORE INFORMATION
Go to the national Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN) on the Web at www.extension.umn.edu/npgm—topic-specific resources include:
• Children and Youth
• Multi-cultural
• Resources and Collaborators
• Business Preparedness

Enter Disaster Preparedness Challenge to Win Prizes! Get Points for Activities Done in September

Scorecard:
Name: ____________________________  Signature: Must be 19 year of age
Home Address: ____________________________  School/Busines Name: ____________________________
City: ____________________________  State: ____________________________  Zip Code: ____________________________
Phone Number: ____________________________
How did you participate: Individual Family Classroom Workgroup Other: ____________________________
Number in your group: ____________________________
Total Points Scored: ____________________________

Activity (1 point per activity):
Week 1 (September 8—September 14)
1. Start your Disaster Plan by purchasing a plastic tub and getting 2 items from the list above.
2. Make a sign for your refrigerator that identifies the difference between a thermometer and a warning and what you should do for each.
3. Dress and treat with your family what you will do in case of fire, tornado, flood, or other types of disaster.
4. Organize important documents and place in a safe location (i.e. birth certificates, social security card, marriage license, passport, etc.).
5. Practice a mock tornado drill.
6. Put something fun to do in your Disaster Kit to do while taking shelter. (i.e. board game, coloring book and crayons, card game, etc.)

Week 2 (September 15—September 21)
1. Add at least 1 more item from the list above to your Disaster Kit.
2. Call a local organization to volunteer to help create an emergency response training; participate in community exercises; and volunteer to support local first responders. To learn more and to get involved contact www.citizencorps.gov or contact Volunteer Partners at 435-2100 or director@volunteerpartners.org

Week 3 (September 22—September 28)
1. Add at least 3 more items from the list above to your Disaster Kit.
2. Practice a mock fire drill, making sure you have a designated escape plan.
3. Check batteries in your smoke detectors or install a smoke detector or carbon monoxide detector
4. Complete the disaster preparedness survey online at www.ready.gov/call-kids (click on “Are You Ready” button)
Make It With Wool Contest, Deadline Sept. 27

This contest offers both youth and adults the opportunity to promote the beauty and versatility of wool fabric and yarn. Personal creations in sewing, knitting, crocheting, spinning and weaving of wool fabric, yarn is encouraged. Categories and ages for this contest are: Preteen, 12 & under; Junior, 13–16; Senior, 17–24; Adult, 25 & over; Made for Others (any age). The District III contest will be held at the UNL East Campus Home Economics Building in Lincoln (note: location listed in August was incorrect) on Saturday, Oct. 11, with registration beginning at 8:30 a.m. Entry deadline is Sept. 27. You may enter any district contest. For more information, call Tracy at 441-7180.

4-H Foundation Trail Ride, Oct. 10–12

The 10th annual 4-H Foundation Charity Trail Ride will be held Oct. 10–12. Savor the outdoors riding trails in the Nebraska National Forest near Halsey. Enjoy meals, activities and entertainment at the Nebraska State 4-H Camp. Details are online at http://4h.unl.edu/foundation/trailride.htm

STRENGTHENING FAMILY TREASURES

Daughter/Mother Camp

A retreat designed for 6th grade girls and their mothers (or grandmothers or other adult females)

Friday, Oct. 10, 5 p.m. to Saturday, Oct. 11, 5 p.m.

This camp is 2 days and 1 night of fun, educational and confidence-building activities. As the teen years approach, 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 and how do you Pay for It?”

Cost includes meals, snacks and lodging at Eastern 4-H Center near G retna. Fee is $125 per pair. Presented by UNL Extension. For more information or a registration form, go to http://lancaster.unl.edu/family/gulf.shtml or call Extension Educator Maureen Burson at 441-7180.
The 2008 Lancaster County Fair was held Aug. 6–10 at the Lancaster Event Center. Total attendance was estimated at approximately 73,700—a seven percent increase from last year. A total of 4,467 4-H/FFA exhibits were showcased (includes static exhibits, Clover Kids exhibits, animals and contest entries), Extension Associate Deanna Karmazin said, "It was inspiring to see that our largest classes of livestock were shown by junior members (8 to 10 years old). This indicates our 4-H livestock program is in a growing trend."

This past year, the Lancaster Event Center’s Phase II Expansion plan has been underway. A new Pavilion 3 with large arena was completed in time for the county fair Open Class and 4-H Dressage horse shows to be held there, as well as the 4-H Roping/Working Ranch horse show. Construction continues on a building enclosing the Amy Countryman Arena. "Pavilion 3 is wonderful," said Extension Associate Marty Cruickshank, "It is large with high ceilings and great ventilation which makes it light and airy. The Event Center brought in Bob Keiser of Keiser Arena Specialists who designs arenas all over the country. He spent days working with staff and finding the right dirt. The Event Center also purchased a Kaiser laser level arena tool, so the footing in the arena is incredible, making it a pleasure to show in."

Complete 4-H ribbon results, many more photographs and some videos are online at http://lancaster.unl.edu

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Can You Guess It?

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

Did you guess it from the July NeblIne?

The answer was Eastern Cottontail Rabbit

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U.S. Drought Monitor Map

As of August 12, Lancaster County was not in drought conditions.

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Lancaster 4-H partnered with many after-school summer sites to provide a county fair-related curriculum with hands-on activities which could be done before the fair. The groups were then invited to tour the county fair.