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The NEBLINE, March 2009

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New this Year! 4-H EGG Cam features a live streaming view!

The 4-H Embryology Web site at http://lancaster.unl.edu/4h/embryology features resources on incubation, candling and caring for poultry. You’ll also find educational photos, amazing video clips and 4-H EGG Cam. What is 4-H EGG Cam? In 2002, UNL Extension in Lancaster County set up a Web cam and directed the view into an incubator. It was an instant hit! In five years, nearly 1 million hits were recorded on 4-H EGG Cam and the office could barely keep up with the traffic to the site especially when birds were hatching. People from all around the world have tuned in. Classroom, child care centers, home school families and poultry enthusiasts of all ages follow the progress of the eggs, watch the chicks hatch and then enjoy the birds on camera.

4-H EGG Cam now features a live streaming view. The UNL Communications & Technology department has been providing technical support for the project to help make this new view possible and help the office better manage traffic to the site. The community has also been supportive of the project. The atmosphere changed. "the difference between "no spot", the difference between when extension staff enter into the classroom for the first presentation, the atmosphere is electric. Students can not wait to start their embryology project. In this first visit, students learn about the study of embryos (embryology), where the eggs come from, the parts of an egg like the "germ spot", the difference between fertile eggs and eggs in the grocery store and how the students will need to care for their eggs. The eggs are then set in the incubators. Once the eggs are set, the children take full responsibility for the care of the eggs. They turn the eggs, rotate the eggs, keep them warm and keep humidity in the incubator.

One week later, extension staff return to the classroom where students review what they’ve been doing to take care of the eggs. Students learn more about how the embryos develop in an egg, how chicks hatch and tips on caring for the chicks after they hatch. The eggs are then candled in the classroom. see EMBRYOLOGY on page 12

Thank You

There are many people and organizations who help support the 4-H Embryology program. Thank you:

• Richard Earl of the Lincoln Northeast Kiwanis Club for donating $400 to support equipment for the live streaming video

• Willie Strickland and the folks of GGF Manufacturing Company in Savannah, Georgia for creating a special lid for the Hova Bator incubator on 4-H EGG Cam

• Nebraska Department of Agriculture, Poultry & Egg Division for supporting Lancaster County 4-H Embryology with incubators for local classrooms and 4-H Egg Cam

• Hy-Line/Hy-Vac for providing the Embryo Development posters for classrooms

• Faculty, staff and support folks at:
  University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension
  UNL Extension in Lancaster County
  UNL Communications & Information Technology for everything from setting up the camera, taking care of the incubators, caring for the chicks to helping us get live stream video this year for the viewers of 4-H EGG Cam

\[Image\]


**How to Account for Differences in Moisture Content in Commodities**

Tom Dorn  
UNL Extension Educator

One of the frequent questions I receive at the extension office involves converting the weight of a product at one moisture content to what it would weigh at a different moisture content.

**Example 1:** A corn producer has delivered a semi load of corn at 16.7% moisture content to the elevator. The net weight of corn is 33,420 pounds. The cattle feeder has agreed to take only a weight of corn is 33,420 pounds. The producer should be paid for 32,945 pounds dry matter. The elevator will convert the weight of a product at one moisture content to what it would weigh at a different moisture content. 33,420 x 0.833 = 27,839 pounds of dry matter.

**Step 1.** Converting the weight from one moisture content to another requires a two-step mathematical process.

**Step 1.** Calculate the pounds of dry matter (weight at 0% moisture) of the original product.

- From the moisture meter reading, we know 16.7% of the weight of the corn is water.
- Stated differently, we know 100% - 16.7% = 83.3% of the corn delivered is dry matter.
- To calculate the pounds of corn dry matter on the truck, multiply the net pounds of product by the percentage dry matter in the product, 33,420 x 0.833 = 27,839 pounds of dry matter.

**Step 2.** A standard bushel of 62 corn weighs 56 pounds at 15.5% moisture. Calculate the pounds of corn at standard moisture content (15.5% moisture).

- Converting the pounds of dry matter from Step 1 by the dry matter percentage dry matter = 32,945 pounds of corn at 15.5% moisture.
- The producer should be paid for 32,945 pounds ÷ 56 pounds per bushel = 588.3 bushels.

**Example 2:** The elevator will pay for soybeans up to 13% moisture based on 60 pounds per bushel but will impose a moisture dock over 13%.

- Let’s look at a case of a producer whose soybeans dried down so rapidly, one 125 acre field of soybeans tested 9% moisture when delivered to the elevator. The total weight of soybeans delivered from this field was 386,250 pounds ÷ 60 pounds per bushel = 6,437.5 bushels.

**Step 2.** To calculate the pounds of corn dry matter, (100% - 13% = 87% dry matter), the weight delivered would have been 351,488 pounds of dry matter = 0.87 = 404,009 pounds of soybeans.

- The monetary loss on this field resulting from delivering 9% moisture soybeans instead of 13% moisture soybeans was water. The dry matter in the product. 33,420 x 0.833 = 27,839 pounds of dry matter, (100% - 13% = 87% dry matter), the weight delivered would have been 351,488 pounds of dry matter = 0.87 = 404,009 pounds of soybeans.

- By dividing the pounds of dry matter by the percentage dry matter on the truck, multiply the net pounds of product by the percentage dry matter in the product, 33,420 x 0.833 = 27,839 pounds of dry matter.

**Step 2.** If the beans had been 13% moisture, (100% - 13% = 87% dry matter), the weight delivered would have been 351,488 pounds of dry matter = 0.87 = 404,009 pounds of soybeans.

- If the beans would have been 13% moisture, the producer would have been paid for 404,009 pounds ÷ 60 pounds per bushel = 6,733.5 bushels.

- The total weight of soybeans delivered was 6,733.5 x 6,437.5 bushels = 296 bushels x $89.66 per bushel = $2,859.

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**Example 3:** Tom and Bill both have hay for sale. Tom has freshly-baled hay at 21% moisture which he has priced at 590 per ton. Bill allowed his hay to dry more in the window before baling. This hay is 14% moisture. He is asking $95 per ton. Assuming both products have the same nutrient content analysis on a dry-matter basis, whose hay is the better buy?

- **Step 1.** Tom’s hay is 100% - 21% moisture = 79% dry matter. A ton of this hay has 2,200 pounds per ton ÷ 0.79 = 2,784 pounds of dry matter per ton.

- **Step 2.** Each ton Tom’s hay (converted to 14% moisture (86% dry matter) like Bill’s hay, would weigh 1,580 pounds ÷ 0.86 = 1,837 pounds (163 pounds less than Bill’s hay at the same moisture content).

- The price per ton of Tom’s hay, if corrected to 14% moisture, is actually (2,000 - 1,837) x $90 = $89 per ton.

**Controlling Winter Annual Brome with Herbicides**

Early weeds like downy brome, cheatgrass and wild oats can be a big problem in pastures. They reduce pasture quality and carrying capacity.

**Warm-Season Pastures** In pastures dominated by warm-season grasses, one control option is to spray one pint of glyphosate, like Roundup®, per acre as soon as weedy bromes begin to grow up in the spring but before warm-season grasses start growing. This will kill most of the downy brome and will knock out other early weeds like bluegrass

without harming warm-season grasses.

Another option is to use 4–6 ounces of Plateau herbicide, which will also provide some residual herbicide activity for later-emerging weeds as well.

**Cool-Season Pastures** Weed control in cool-season grass pastures is tougher. Both Glyphosate and Plateau harm cool-season grasses. Gramoxone is a better choice, but don’t spray until the weedy bromes are about to form seed heads. Gramoxone will kill all the green top growth it contacts, including weedy bromes. This will eliminate them producing seed before the hay crop is ready to regrow in two to three weeks.

Brome seed of these grasses can last several years in the soil, which means you should plan to repeat these treatments for several years. Once you’ve gotten rid of the weeds, be sure to graze the pasture to maintain the vigor and competitiveness of the desired grasses.

**Source:** Bruce Anderson, Extension Forage Specialist

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**Explore the Science of Life**

University of Nebraska–Lincoln  
College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources

- Preparing students for careers in everything from animals to plants, soil to climate, golf to business, mechanization to soil, which means you should plan to repeat these treatments for several years. Once you’ve gotten rid of the weeds, be sure to graze the pasture to maintain the vigor and competitiveness of the desired grasses.

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**Master Conservationist Entries Due April 1**

 Nebraska adults and youth in both rural and urban areas who have implemented soil and water conservation practices are eligible to enter the 2009 Master Conservationist Recognition program. The deadline for entries is April 1. There are categories for youth groups and individuals, residents, communities and private businesses as well as production agriculture (farming and ranching). Master Conservationist program brochures are available at the UNL Extension office and online at http://owh.com (click on the “In the Community” link).
Canada Geese Populations are Increasing

Barb Ogg
UNL Extension Educator

Canada geese have been found in alfalfa fields, pastures, and along the amazing landing in the Hudson River. It was a miracle everyone survived.

Most large commercial jet engines include design features so they can shut down after "ingesting" a bird weighing four pounds. Serious situations occur when there are multiple strikes on twin engine jet aircraft because multiple aircraft systems are disabled.

Why Are We Seeing so Many More Canada geese?

Canada geese are native to North America, but by 1900, over-hunting and loss of habitat resulted in a serious decline of their numbers. With improved game laws, habitat recreation and management programs, their populations have recovered and are continuing to increase. The North American non-migratory Canada goose population increased from one million in 1990 to over 3.5 million in 2007.

Something else has also happened. Canada geese are not staying in rural areas, but are colonizing urban areas. Geese prefer areas that are infrequently used and fertilized grassy areas near open water. The open space allows geese to see approaching predators. The water provides a quick escape from predators. Canada geese will readily establish nesting territories on ponds in residential yards, golf courses, condominium complexes, city parks or on farms. They feed easily on readily available plants like grasses, sedges, grain and berries.

Hunting has been the primary means of managing geese populations in rural areas, but in urban areas, geese cannot be hunted (even during the hunting season) because it is illegal to discharge firearms within city limits. Inside cities, there aren't many predators to keep geese populations in check.

Some migratory populations of geese are not going as far south in the winter as they used to. In Nebraska, some populations of Canada geese are staying round year, perhaps due to warmer winters.

What Problems do They Cause?

Other than the bird strike problem, there are other reasons why Canada geese are a problem.

Canada geese can quickly and aggressively attack or threaten those who are nesting or protecting their brood. They will charge people and even may bite them.

Canada geese produce large droppings. According to Stephen Vantassel, UNL wildlife project coordinator, one goose can produce up to three pounds of droppings each day. Because they like open spaces, geese may be less likely to feel secure when grasses are tall.

Vegetation barriers. Plant tall shrubs, hedges or prairie plants around the water. Plants at least 30–40 feet tall and 20–30 feet wide impede movement of geese to and from the water. These barrier plantings will need to be protected from geese during establishment.

Rock barriers. Large boulders placed along the shoreline may discourage geese and access to grazing sites by making it difficult for the geese to get out of the water. Their effectiveness is improved when used with vegetation barriers.

Fence barriers. Fences can prevent geese from walking into your yard. They should be at least 30 inches tall and have no openings larger than two inches. They can be made of wood, wire, chicken wire, fencing, plastic show fencing and other construction fencing are effective.

Hazing. Noizing devices or visual deterrents can be helpful. Disturb the birds as soon as they arrive to deter them from settling on the property. Predator silhouettes (effigies) may discourage geese from landing near ponds.

Allow legal hunting.

In rural areas, encourage hunters to hunt during the legal hunting season. A single hunt may discourage multiple geese from that area.

Use a feeding deterrent.

Rock barriers, fence barriers, or other deterrents may be needed in the future.

Managing Pocket Gophers

Sonni Cochran
UNL Extension Associate

Pocket gophers are stocky, burrowing rodents found in Nebraska. They get their name from the “pockets,” or fur-lined, channel-like tunnels below the ground. Pocket gophers have large incisors for gnawing on wood and metal, broad shoulders and long claws for digging. Pocket gophers can excavate an extensive burrow system nearly 50 miles or 50 feet of barrow per acre. You don’t usually see pocket gophers above ground unless they are excavating soil to the surface as they tunnel. Pocket gophers are most often found in alfalfa fields, pastures, rangelands, roadside areas and even backyards. They prefer to eat dandelions and legumes like alfalfa, but will also eat many kinds of plants including the roots of trees, grasses, perennial bulbs and garden vegetables.

Pocket gophers maintain their extensive tunneling system throughout the year. They hibernate underground in early spring and fall, or during periods of wetter weather. Pocket gophers can create dozens of mounds, sometimes within a span of just a few days. So even though you may see a large number of mounds in an area, are rarely there more than eight pocket gophers per acre.

The soil mounds made by pocket gophers are fan- or bean-shaped and 8–12 inches across. There is no visible opening to the underground burrows plug-up the mound. Pocket gopher mounds are sometimes confused with mole damage. Mole mounds are conical shaped and 4–6 inches in diameter. It is important to know which animal you have before attempting control. If not pocket gopher activity can damage turf, crops, trees and plants. Their digging can impact airport runways, roadbeds, dams, dikes and other water structures. If left uncontrolled, their mounds can clutter hay-planting equipment and leave fields rough. Rural homes can be severely damaged by utility cables, communication lines and other underground utility systems. Pocket gophers do have some redeeming traits. Pocket gopher burrowing does promote soil health by helping mix nutrients and organic matter into the soil. Research has shown Shield or Rejoin® IG-36. The active ingredient of these products is methomyl and it is not toxic to humans, dogs, cats or birds. To be effective, it must be care- fully applied so be sure you read and follow label and technical directions. It should be applied to dry and freshly tilled soil when the temper- ature is above 45 degrees F in full sunlight. Repeat applications may be required. In Nebraska, you don’t need a license to apply pest repel- lents, like methyl anthranilate, but manufacturers/distribu- tors may be unwilling to sell it to someone who isn’t a certified applicator. Find out more information about these products by using an internet search.

Wildlife experts believe Canada goose populations will continue to rise, increasing the interest in methods to control geese and humans. More intensive control efforts in urban areas may be needed in the future.

Canada Geese Biology Bits

• Male and female Canada geese are similar in appearance, but the body of a mate is usually lighter. When nesting, the hen will usually be sitting on the nest. The drake will guardly guard the nest.
• Most pairs of Canada geese mate for life, but a new one will be selected if one dies.
• Canada geese usually breed the first time in their third year, but these young pairs are more likely to be unsuccessful the first time around. Older birds are more successful.
• As early as the first week of March, Canada geese may start nesting. Females usually nest on the bank near open water. Their nest is a shallow depression lined with plant material and down.
• Soon after hatching, their parents take them to the safety of water. From their first day, goslings are excellent swimmers and can swim 30–40 feet underwater.
• The down-colored goslings eat almost continuously and grow quickly. They can weigh as much as 100 pounds after only eight weeks.
• When the young are half grown, their parents molt and lose their old white down feathers. For about a month, they will be vulnerable to predators. The parents grow new flight feathers by late summer, in time to teach the youngsters how to fly.
• In the wild, many Canada geese live longer than 10 years and some as long as 25 years.

Fence barriers are highly effective when a combination of methods is used. Proper timing and monitoring are essential to long-term success.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
Nebraska Extension Pocket Gophers in Nebraska is available online at http://lancaster.unl.edu/pest or at the extension office.
Old Fashioned Bread Pudding

A serving of “Old Fashioned Bread Pudding” is a delicious way to use leftover bread or make new grain breads to your meals! Buttering each slice of bread and sprinkling it with cinnamon before cutting it into cubes makes every bite especially tasty!

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Spread one side of bread with margarine or butter. Sprinkle with cinnamon. Cut bread into 1-inch cubes. In a medium-sized bowl, combine bread cubes, sugar and raisins. In another bowl, blend eggs, milk, salt and vanilla. Pour liquid over bread mixture; lightly mix. Transfer mixture to casserole dish coated with oil or sprayed with nonstick spray. An 8 x 8 inch square baking dish works well. Bake uncovered for 50 to 60 minutes or until the center of the mixture reaches 160 degrees F when measured with a food thermometer. At this temperature, a metal knife inserted near the center of the pudding comes out clean. Serve warm or cold. Do not let bread pudding setting at room temperature over two hours TOTAL time. Eat within three to four days.

Tips and Tricks

To help answer the question “What’s for dinner?” five main dishes using ground beef were featured last month. This article will highlight main dish recipes using ground beef (online at http://lancaster.unl.edu/nejp). The first four recipes uses cooked chicken which can be cooked, de-boned (if not boneless), crumbled and frozen ahead of time. The last recipe used uncooked chicken breasts. Though this article is about four servings and can be doubled for more servings or to use for a later meal.

5 More Main Dishes—Each Using Only 5 Ingredients

Chicken Enchiladas
1 cup cooked chicken, chopped
4 ounces cream cheese
1 can (4 ounces) chopped green chilies
4 flour tortillas
4 - 6 ounces Mexican or cheddar cheese, shredded

Heat oven to 350 degrees. Mix the chicken, cream cheese and green chilies. Spread this mixture over the flour tortillas and roll up. Place the tortillas in a greased baking dish. Sprinkle the cheese over the top, cover and bake for 20 minutes. For a more moist enchilada, pour 1/2 cup milk over the enchiladas before baking.

Chicken Salad Sandwiches
1 cup cooked chicken, chopped
2 tablespoons salad dressing
1 tablespoon pickle juice
1/3 cup celery, finely chopped
Mix all the ingredients together and serve over toasted buns.

Creamy Chicken Stew
4 medium red potatoes
1 cup cooked chicken
1 can cream of chicken soup
2 cups frozen peas and carrots
1/4 cup zesty Italian dressing

Poke several holes through each potato and cook in the microwave until tender, (about 7 minutes on High). Cut potatoes into bite-size pieces and put in a large saucepan. Add the rest of the ingredients and simmer on medium for 10 - 20 minutes. Refrigerate leftovers promptly.

Chicken and Stuffing Bake
1 can (14.5 ounces) diced tomatoes, undrained
1 package (6 ounces) stuffing mix for chicken
1/2 cup water
1 cup cooked chicken, chopped
1/2 mozzarella cheese

Heat oven to 375 degrees. Mix diced tomatoes, stuffing mix and water until just moistened. Layer chicken, cheese and stuffing mixture in this order, in a medium baking dish. Cover and bake 30 minutes or until chicken is cooked through. Refrigerate leftovers promptly. To reheat, cover each serving and microwave on HIGH about 1-1/2 minutes.

Chicken Fingers
2 chicken breasts, boneless not cooked
1 cup flour
2 eggs, beaten
1 cup butter-flavored cracker crumbs
1/4 cup Parmesan cheese
1/2 teaspoon onion powder (optional)
1/4 teaspoon garlic powder (optional)

Cut chicken in 1-inch strips. Place flour in a small bowl and beaten eggs into another bowl. Mix cracker crumbs, Parmesan cheese and pepper to taste in another small bowl. Dip and coat each strip in the flour, then egg, then cracker crumbs/cheese mixture. Place strips in a large frying pan coated with 2 table spoons vegetable oil. Cook on medium heat, turning once, until chicken is done (about 15 minutes).

Alice Henneman, MS, RD
UNL Extension Educator

By Alice Henneman, MS, RD, UNL Extension Educator

A serving of “Old Fashioned Bread Pudding” is a delicious way to use leftover bread or make new grain breads to your meals! Buttering each slice of bread and sprinkling it with cinnamon before cutting it into cubes makes every bite especially tasty!

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Spread one side of bread with margarine or butter. Sprinkle with cinnamon. Cut bread into 1-inch cubes. In a medium-sized bowl, combine bread cubes, sugar and raisins. In another bowl, blend eggs, milk, salt and vanilla. Pour liquid over bread mixture; lightly mix. Transfer mixture to casserole dish coated with oil or sprayed with nonstick spray. An 8 x 8 inch square baking dish works well. Bake uncovered for 50 to 60 minutes or until the center of the mixture reaches 160 degrees F when measured with a food thermometer. At this temperature, the very center of a custard-type dish may still be slightly liquid; however, the heat retained in the mixture will cause it to continue cooking promptlly. At this temperature, the center of the mixture reaches 160 degrees F when measured with a food thermometer. At this temperature, the very center of a custard-type dish may still be slightly liquid; however, the heat retained in the mixture will cause it to continue cooking promptlly. At this temperature, the very center of a custard-type dish may still be slightly liquid; however, the heat retained in the mixture will cause it to continue cooking promptlly. At this temperature, the very center of a custard-type dish may still be slightly liquid; however, the heat retained in the mixture will cause it to continue cooking

Alice's notes: Avoid overcooking eggs in custard-type dishes—such as this recipe—AND assure safety by using a food thermometer. Overcooking may cause eggs to lose their creamy texture. To check the temperature, insert a metal knife near the center of custard-type dishes. At this temperature, the center of the mixture reaches 160 degrees F when measured with a food thermometer. At this temperature, the very center of a custard-type dish may still be slightly liquid; however, the heat retained in the mixture will cause it to continue cooking

Don't try so hard to please your family with all the proper food groups and favorites when pushed for time—whole-grain cereal with milk, fresh fruit, yogurt, juice and peanut butter are favorites for all family members, take just minutes to put on the table and can fulfill all of the food groups. The five-course meal will have to wait. Don't keep searching for an hour calendar for an hour block of time to go to the gym or health club and away from your family—look for those opportunities to play and be active—it counts!!! Playing in the park, biking, walking at the zoo, raking and playing in the leaves are all fun for kids and provide a chance to be active. Physical activity . . . it’s everywhere you go!

"I stopped painting my fingernails to have time for a Master’s Swimming program. I used to spend one night a week on my nails and now I spend it swimming instead."

LizAnn Powers-Hammond

References

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UNL Extension Family Nutrition Program. (2009). "Great idea, " you may be thinking, "I'll start exercising."

"Just do it!"

Barbara Fraser

Mandel Meinke
UNL Extension Associate

To help answer the question "What’s for dinner?” five main dishes using ground beef were featured last month. This article will highlight main dish recipes using chicken (online at http://lancaster.unl.edu/nejp). The first four recipes uses cooked chicken which can be cooked, de-boned (if not boneless), chopped and frozen ahead of time. The last recipe used uncooked chicken breasts. Thawing chicken takes about four servings and can be doubled for more servings or to use for a later meal.

Plan each meal to include all five food groups and enjoy!
Tips to Help Parents Talk to Their Kids about Sex and Technology

Talk to your kids about when they are doing in cyberspace. Just as you need to talk openly and honestly with your kids about real life sex and relationships, you also want to discuss online and cell phone activity. Make sure your kids fully understand messages or pictures they send over the Internet or their cell phones are not truly private or anonymous. Also make sure they know others might forward or re-post these messages to people they do not know or want to see them, and school administrators and employers often look at online profiles to make judgments about students clients/employees. It’s essential your kids grasp the potential short- term and long-term consequences of their actions.

Know who your kids are communicating with. Of course it’s a given you want to know who your children are spending time with when they leave the house. Also do your best to learn who your kids are spending time with online and on the phone. Supervising and monitoring your kids’ whereabouts in real life and in cyberspace doesn’t make you a nag; it just part of your job as a parent. Many young people consider someone a “friend” even if they’ve only met online. What about your kids’ friends?

Consider limitations on electronic communication. The days of having to talk on the phone in the kitchen in front of the whole family are long gone, but you can still limit the time your kids spend online and on the phone. Consider, for example, telling your teen not to hang up the kitchen phone when you’re at home and to take the laptop out of their bedroom before they go to bed, so they won’t be tempted to log on or talk to friends at 2 a.m.

Be aware of what your teens are posting online. Check out your teen’s Myspace, Facebook and other public online profiles from time to time. This isn’t snooping — this is information your kids are making public. If everyone else can look at it, why can’t you? Talk with them specifically about their own notions of what is public and what is private. Your views may differ but you won’t know until you ask, listen and discuss.

Set expectations. Make sure you are clear with your teen about what you consider appropriate “electronic” behavior. Just as certain clothing is probably off-limits or certain language unacceptable in your house, make sure you let your kids know what is and what isn’t acceptable either. And give reminders of those expectations from time to time. It doesn’t mean you don’t love your kids, it just reinforces you care about them enough to be paying attention.

President’s View — Bonnie’s Bits

Bonnie Krueger
FCE Council Chair

Reading the horticulture page in the News is sort of tells us it is time to change the clock ahead and spring forward on March 8. Don’t forget to check your smoke detectors and the carbon monoxide detectors.

St. Patrick’s Day is March 17. A day the immigrants came to the United States and began observing the holiday in Boston. The first St. Patrick’s Day parade was held in New York in 1876. Today the tradition continues with people from all walks and heritages by wearing green, eating Irish food and attending parades. St. Patrick’s Day is bursting with folklore, from shamrocks to the leprechaun, to pinching those not wearing green. Have a magical St. Patrick’s Day.

Getting back to spring I hope you have all those seed catalogs read and your orders sent so you will be ready for the first day of spring. March 20 and ready to plant the garden.

Just like to say Thank you to all FCE clubs for participating in the Valentine project for our service people last month.

FCE News Events

Leadership on “Bullying” Feb. 24

The March FCE and community leader training is scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2. p.m. The program “Bullying” will be presented by Extension Educator Lorene Bartos. This program will help parents, teachers and other concerned adults learn how to equip children and adults with skills and knowledge necessary to recognize and deal with bullying. Non-FCE members should call Pam at 441-7180 to register for this presentation.

FCE Council Meeting, March 23

Mark your calendar for the Monday, March 23 FCE Council meeting. We will be meeting at a restaurant for lunch and meeting. Presidents watch for a letter in the near future for details. All FCE members are welcome to attend the Council meetings.

Southwest District FCE Meeting, March 27

Lancaster County is hosting the Southwest District FCE meeting on Friday, March 27th, at the Lancaster Extension Education Center, 444 Cherrycreek Road, Lincoln. Registrations will begin at 9:30 a.m. Janet Broer, Southeast District Administrator and Lancaster County FCE member is organizing the event.

Extension Educator Alice Hennemann will present the program “Freezing Foods for Future Meals.” Registration fee is $12 and includes a catered lunch. Make checks payable to FCE District Meeting and send to Janet Broer, SE District Director, 2201 West Cardwell Road, Lincoln, NE 68523. Registrations are due March 23.

Scholarship Applications Due May 1

A $400 scholarship provided by the Lancaster County FCE Council is available for a graduate of a high school in Lancaster County or a permanent resident of Lancaster County majoring in Family and Consumer Science or a health occupation. This is open to full-time students beginning their sophomore or junior year of college in the fall of 2009 or who have completed two quarters of study in a vocational school. Applications are due May 1 in the extension office.

Food Entrepreneur Seminar, March 9

The University of Nebraska–Lincoln Food Processing Center is offering the first National Small Food Manufacturer Conference on April 23-24 at the Holiday Inn Downtown in Lincoln. This conference has been designed specifically for small food manufacturers throughout the country; Learn how to Heat up your food business!

The conference includes current topics and industry recognized national speakers which will educate and motivate participants. Attendees will:

• Learn how to expand and grow their businesses
• Participate in interactive sessions
• Explore new opportunities
• Network with peers and industry experts

For more information or to register for this conference, go to www.nsfmc.unl.edu or contact Jill Gifford at 472-2819 or jgifford1@unl.edu for an information packet.

National Small Food Manufacturer Conference in Lincoln

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• Explore new opportunities
• Network with peers and industry experts

For more information or to register for this conference, go to www.nsfmc.unl.edu or contact Jill Gifford at 472-2819.
Local Bagworm Control Initiative

Last year Lancaster County Horticulture Extension Staff and Lancaster Master Gardeners received hundreds of calls on bagworms. To help educate the public on this serious problem and its control we have formed a plan. Over the next few months you will see monthly reminders on what you can do to deal with this issue.

Please take a walk through your landscape and check all your plant material, especially spruce and junipers. During the months of March, April and early May, the only means of control is hand picking the bags from your plants. Place them in a bag and put the sealed bag in the trash. If you have large trees or too many bagworms to effectively pick off your plants, chemical control will be needed after they hatch in June.

—Mary Jane Frogge, UNL Extension Associate

2009 Great Plants Selections

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

Tree of the Year

Cornelian cherry dogwood, “Cornus mas”

Durable small tree, with rounded clusters of tiny yellow flowers in early spring before leaves appear, dark green leaves and bright cherry red fruit in late summer. The olive-shaped fruits are relished by songbirds or can be used to make jam or jelly. Dark is an attractive mix of gray and brown that exulates on mature branches. The main trunk is typically very low, with low branches hovering just above the ground. It can be trimmed up at the base to make it more tree-like and better reveal the exfoli- ating bark.

A slow-growing, European native remains free of insect, disease and cold injuries. It prefers rich, well-drained soils, but tolerates high pH and heavy clay better than any dogwood. Ideal for a small yard as an accent plant or planted in groups as a hedge or screen. It grows best in full sun, but tolerates some shade.

Shrub of the Year

Creeping mahonia, “Mahonia repens”

This slow-growing ground-cover grows along the rocky ridges and under the thick evergreen canopy of western Nebraska’s Pine Ridge. Stiff, spine-tipped leaves, reminiscent of holly, turn a rich bronzy-purple in late fall through the winter. This plant has fragrant, yellow flowers in early spring, followed by small clusters of grape-like, dark blush-purple berries in late summer. Planted in masses, it spreads slowly to make an attractive evergreen groundcover, but grows best in part shade or dry shade, especially under conifers.

Perennial of the Year

Arkansas bluestar, “Amsonia hubrichtii”

Excellent, dependable plant with upright stems that emerge in early spring and rapidly extend to mature size. Plants are topped with starry, pale blue flowers in May and June. Fine, thread-like dark green leaves unbold along the thin stems to form a very fine-textured mound of foliage. In autumn, the foliage turns a lovely golden-yellow and is at its brightest when planted in full sun. Takes several years to grow into an attractive mound, but dependable and long-lived in rich, well-drained soils.

Grass of the Year

Shenandoah switchgrass, “Panicum Shenandoah”

Bright green leaves of this switchgrass are tipped with dark red by mid-summer, turning entirely red and orange in fall. Only 4 to 5 feet tall in flower, this slower-gowing selection is very adaptable, tolerating drought and soggy soils, high pH and full, hot sun. One of the best grasses for maintaining upright habit and tight clump form in the garden. Plants are as a single specimen, in masses or as a companion to perennials with bold foliage.

Source: Nebraska Statewide Arboretum

On a Spruce

On a Juniper

On a Crabapple

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Additional photos and video are online at http://lancaster.unl.edu/hort and color brochures are available at the extension office.

Garden Guide

T H I N G S  T O  D O  T H I S  M O N T H

By Mary Jane Frogge, UNL Extension Associate

Complete the pruning of shrubs, ornamental trees before growth starts, except for spring flowering shrubs. Prune those which bloom in spring as soon as they finish flowering.

If you have not done it already, check stored tools and outdoor furniture for signs of rust. Remove any surface rust with steel wool and paint with rust preventing paint.

Turn the compost piles.

Start transplantsindoors of tomatoes, peppers and eggplant.

Turn the compost piles.

Place birdhouses built this winter outdoors this month. Birds will begin looking for nesting sites soon.

Pick a permanent spot for herbs in the garden.

Buy some new perennials for your flower border. Spring is a good time to plant perennials.

Finish repairing and painting of window boxes, lawn furniture, tools and other items in preparation for outdoor gardening and recreational use.

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**2008 Annual Report**

The major goal of the Lancaster County Weed Control Authority is to get voluntary compliance of landowners with the Nebraska Noxious Weed Control Act and the City of Lincoln’s Weed Abatement Program. The first step is to make landowners aware of these responsibilities and obtain their willingness to abide by them. The second step is to provide any needed assistance to the landowners. The third step is to carry out a seasonal inspection program, as needed, to identify infestations and violations for the purpose of getting landowners to prevent and control the noxious weed infestations or to avoid and correct weed abatement violations when they occur.

**Norixous Weed Program**

The Lancaster Noxious Weed Program promotes awareness and knowledgeable landowners who can carry out effective control programs. The program provides general awareness through the annual Weed Awareness insert in the UNL Extension in Lancaster County. The Lancaster County Weed Control Authority Web page, various exhibits and newsletters.

The most direct awareness effort is carried with an extensive survey and inspection program. This program utilizes a computer database of all inspections since 1984 and the Lincoln/Lancaster Geographic Information System used to record the locations of noxious weed infestations found.

Sites are selected for inspection from the previous year’s inspection information which indicates the severity and extent of the infestation and the control efforts made by the landowner. Sites are selected where it is felt the landowner needs a reminder or assistance in control efforts and, in a few cases, the need for possible forced control.

These landowners are provided with an aerial photograph showing the location(s) of the noxious weeds found by the inspector and recommended options for control. Additional landowner sites are inspected when observed, a complaint is received and infestations found. Follow-up inspections are made to assure control is accomplished.

**Musk Thistle**

In 2008, 491 sites were selected for inspection. An additional nine sites were inspected because of complaints received and 28 sites observed by the inspectors during other inspections and while making a survey of the roads and adjacent lands when driving the 1,400 miles of county roads the last part of June. Over 8,300 acres were inspected resulting in finding 436 infestations on 975 acres. Cards were sent to 41 landowners with only trace infestations; reminder letters were sent to 241; and legal notices were sent. The Authority contracted for forced control on three sites and nine acres. Landowners controlled 292 sites on 588 acres. Landowners did not completely control 117 sites. These landowners received letters about doing fall control and informed they would be inspected in the spring of 2009.

**Leafy Spurge**

A total of 342 leafy spurge sites were selected for inspection, of which 191 were located in county road sides. The 170 county roadside sites found to be infested were contracted for spraying. The county has been spraying these roadside sites since 1989. Even with this annual spraying effort, all the sites have not been completely controlled. The number and acre of sites have probably been reduced by 50%. This is a reflection of how difficult leafy spurge is to control. There was a total of 353 acres found infested on 276 sites. Reminder letters were sent to 70 landowners and a legal notice was sent to one landowner.

**Purple Loosestrife**

—All 41 known wild purple loosestrife infestations were selected for inspection. One ornamental site continued on next page

**Phragmites Added to Noxious Weed List**

Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA) Director, Greg Ibach announced the statewide designation of non-native phragmites as a noxious weed April 15, 2008. The statewide designation, which took effect immediately, is an expansion of a temporary designation issued in 2007 for phragmites within the Republican River basin.

Ibach said the statewide designation is necessary to help county weed control officials work with landowners to address areas of high infestation and to prevent further spread of this invasive species. Phragmites is primarily found along Nebraska’s rivers, streams, floodplains and lakeshores.

“In order to be good stewards of the land, we need to protect our river systems from invasive riparian, non-native plants,” Ibach said. “The designation is an important tool for weed control officials who are working on projects to control phragmites.”

Ibach has the authority to issue temporary designations under the Noxious Weed Control Act. The temporary designation will expire in February 2009, and Ibach said he anticipates moving ahead with the formal process to add phragmites to the permanent noxious weed list before that time.

According to Mitch Collin, NDA noxious weed program manager, phragmites can quickly form a monoculture and displace native riparian plants, grasses and forbs. Once phragmites matures, it sends out rhizomes for water; these rhizomes can stretch as much as 30 feet in search of water. Phragmites can grow to 20 feet tall.
The riparian vegetation management plan is addressing the need for the development of vegetation management goals and objectives; it also requires weed-free forage on highway corridors. As a buyer, you should be aware that some weed infested forage products can cost you hundreds or even thousands of dollars down the road. Ask your forage supplier to have their hay certified prior to harvest. Forage growers must call the Lancaster County Weed Control Authority one to two weeks prior to harvesting. There is no charge for the field inspections. There is a small charge for the cost of bale tags. Nebraska carries out its Weed Abatement Ordinance requires owners of land within the city limits to maintain the height of weeds and worthless vegetation below six inches. Three seasonal inspectors are used in administering this program. Most inspections are carried out as a result of complaints. There were 171 properties inspected of which 1,921 inspections were made back on 1,837 properties. Over 280 additional properties were inspected with a percentage of 71% in which it appeared there was no regular maintenance performed.

The riparian plant invaders present a unique challenge and threat across North America—very invasive weeds which can gobble up the narrow, but extremely important, riparian areas quite rapidly. These threats in Nebraska were addressed at the 2006 “Threats to Nebraska Rivers—Invasive Plants Conference.” The governor established a riparian vegetation management task force and the legislature provided $4 million of grants for use in 2007 and 2008. With the help of these funds, weed management areas are spending about $7 million to fight the invading riparian vegetation over this two year period. Conference attendees can hear and see the results of this effort and learn about future planned-actions including what we should be doing to get ready for the next riparian plant invaders.

Speaker Topics
The Governor is scheduled to give the welcome with Senator Tom Carlson giving the keynote on Nebraska’s Riparian Vegetation Management Plan. Other speakers will address Nebraska’s response. Their topics will be Nebraska Weed Management Areas and Natural Resources Districts Leading the Way, Nebraska Weed Management Grant Project Programs, NRCS Assistance, Nebraska Noxious Weed Control Act Amendments Responding to Needs, Nebraska On-Line Weed Management Program, Multi-State Cooperative Riparian Efforts, Status of the North American Phragmites Explosion, Getting Ready for the Next Riparian Plant Invaders, and an example awareness program.

Tour
A tour will show the problems and responses on the Platte River. Attendees can see the invasion of non-native plants in the streambed and adjacent riparian areas. See the results of the weed management areas’ projects, River Sanctions and Actions, and herbicide, grazing and burning trials. More information and registration information will be available online at http://nawma.org or http://neweed.org or contact the Lancaster County Weed Control office at 441-7817.
Musk Thistle Management Strategy

Musk thistle remains the most plentiful noxious weed in Lancaster County. It takes continued efforts to keep under control. To successfully fight this weed, you need to know as much as possible about each weed and develop a strategy to manage each weed. Musk thistle (Carduus nutans) is usually thought of as a biennial, germinating one year, usually in the fall, overwintering and flowering the next year. When there is a long enough cool period in the spring, some musk thistle plants will act as annuals by germinating in the spring and flowering in early summer. Musk thistle spreads only by seed. One head can produce over 1,000 seeds. The seeds can remain viable in the soil for 10 years. The key to managing musk thistle is to prevent all plants from going to seed, prevent the spread of seeds and maintaining vigorous growth of desirable vegetation.

Control Steps

1) Scout the areas with potential infestations in late-September and early-October for seedheads and rosettes. A seed bank has built up in the soil at these sites. These seeds will remain viable for eight or more years waiting for the right conditions to germinate.

2) It is most effective to treat the entire area with herbicides in control all the small seedlings, rosettes and seedlings not emerged. Spot control of these sites usually results in a lot of escapes since not all the plants are observed and some plants germinate late.

3) Use 2,4-D as a contact herbicide along with another herbicide adding to the effectiveness of killing the plants present but also have a residual that will kill later-germinating plants. Some of the herbicides providing residual control are Escort (http://www.dupont.com/ag/vm/products/escort.html), Tordon 22K, Vanquish, Banvel and lacar (http://www.dupont.com/ag/vm/literature/h87276.pdf).

4) Scout these fall-treated areas in March and April for escapes and new plants.

5) Provide control prior to bolting of the flower stem in May. Use 2,4-D along with a residual herbicide.

6) Spraying these areas weekly or bi-weekly needed follow-up control until July. Be alert to the musk thistle plants acting as annuals due to a cool spring. Remember, the best approach to control musk thistle is to scout and treat areas with past infestations (these areas have built up a seed bank in the soil) in the fall and spring. Provide treatment in the spring prior to bolting and always scout treated areas for escaped plants. One plant going to seed can contribute thousands of seeds to the seed bank.

Mechanical Control

Severing the root of musk thistle a couple of inches below the soil surface will kill the plant. The entire root does not have to be removed. Hand cutting or mowing has to be done at weekly intervals to be effective. Fire has not proven to provide effective control. The plants survive prescribed burning, but can be easily found and controlled by other means after the burn.

Biological Control

Musk thistle head weevil (Rhinocyllus conicus) is an introduced biocontrol species widespread in Lancaster County. They are reducing viable seeds being produced, but do not provide complete control by themselves. You can learn more about biological control by visiting Cornell University Web site at http://www.cropsci.cornell.edu/ent/biocontrol/weedfeeders/wdiftrco.html

Prevention

Infestations occur where there is a seed bank in the soil and the conditions are right for germination and survival. Healthy vegetation provides competition for the survival of musk thistle seedlings. Care should be taken not to spread seeds from infested sites or to use forage or seeds contaminated with noxious weed seeds. Equipment should be cleaned before leaving an infested site, if possibly contaminated. Only weed-free certified forage and seed should be used.

Reference: You can find much more information on musk thistle by looking at The Nature Conservancy Element of Concern Abstracts at http://tnccinvasives.ucdavis.edu/esadocs/cardnuta.html

WeedAwareness

Invasive Plant Web Sites

The Internet is an excellent place to find information. It is sometimes hard to key in on the best and most reliable information. Below are some excellent sources of information on invasive plants. You should be able to find anything you need about invasive plants.

Lower Platte Weed Management Area—http://www.lowerplattewma.org—The LPWMA is a group of public and private agencies and individuals committed with stopping the spread of noxious and invasive plants located in the Lower Platte River drainage area. This Web site provides awareness information and other information on the activities of the WMA.

• LPWMA Mapping Program—http://www.ndrormapmaker.org/maps/thistle—The LPWMA uses GIS technology to track infestations and control efforts along the river corridor. This data is used in a NRD Mapping system, resulting in an interactive map with infestation site details and photos.

• Lancaster County Weed Control Authority—http://www.lancaster.ne.gov/cnty/weeds—Mailing Address: PO Box 10 Ferry Island, Nebraska. Contact: Lawns and Regulations; Management; Special Note: Weed Complaint Form.

Nebraska

Nebraska Weed Control Association—http://www.neweed.org—The Nebraska Weed Control Association (NWCA) is a non-profit organization comprised of representative weed control authorities in county government, The Web site provides information about NWCA and News, Invasives, Events, Gallery and Grants.

• NWCA Invasive Mapping System—http://www.neweedmapper.org/Weed—a state-wide mapping solution for all 93 counties in Nebraska. This mapping system creates a state-wide database of invasive species information and maps them using ArcGIS.

Nebraska Department of Agriculture

• Noxious Weed Program—http://www.agr.state.ne.us/Division/bpi/wp/wp1.htm—Biological Control Information, Information for County Weed Control Supervenors, Noxious Weed Act Control and Noxious Weed Responsible Person Regulations.

• Pesticide Program—http://www.agr.state.ne.us/division/bpi/pestesl.htm—Pesticide Program is responsible for regulating the distribution, storage and use of all pesticides in the state of Nebraska. Information is provided on Applicator Certification and Training, Health, Safety, and Environment, Pesticide Labels, Questions and Issues, Product Registration, Dealer Licensing and Regulations and Enforcement.

• Riparian Vegetation Management Task Force—http://www.agr.state.ne.us/riparian/riparian.htm—The Riparian Vegetation Management Task Force was created in 2007 by the Nebraska Unicamer as part of LB 701. The legislation outlined these duties and responsibilities for the Task Force to develop and prioritize vegetation management goals and objectives; analyze the cost effectiveness of available vegetation treatments; develop plans and policies to achieve goals and objectives; make recommendations to the Governor and legislature regarding legislation needed to achieve its goals and objectives. All the minutes of meetings, reports and other information are available on this Web site.

• Weeds of the Great Plains—http://www.agrstate.ne.us/forms/nw1l.pdf—hardbound book which features, detailed narratives of over 400 plants; Line drawings of 266 weeds; large colored photographs; close up photographs of weed flowers, seedlings, and key identification characteristics; identification methods to distinguish similar species; historical attributes and uses of each plant; and habitats and descriptions of growth forms.

Nebraska Invasive Species Project—http://nsr.unl.edu/invasives—resource for invasive species information. This Web site is dedicated to providing information about research and management efforts going on throughout the State of Nebraska.

2009 Guide for Weed Management in Nebraska—http://www.iianpubs.unl.edu/sendit/ec130.pdf—EC130 published by University of Nebraska–Lincoln Extension, Provides research results and recommendations on weed management in Nebraska Crop Production (PDF format). A print edition is available at extension offices for $5.

National

North American Weed Management Association—http://www.nawma.org—NAWMA is a network of public and private professional weed managers who are involved in implementing any phase of a county, municipal, district, state, provincial or federal noxious weed law. The mission of NAWMA is to provide education, research, policy direction, professional improvement and environmental awareness to preserve and protect our natural resources from the degrading impacts of exotic, invasive noxious weeds.

National Invasive Species Information Center—http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov—Gateway to invasive species information covering federal, state, local and international sources.

• The PLANTS Database—http://plants.usda.gov—provides standardized information about the vascular plants, mosses, liverworts, hornworts and lichens of the U.S. and its territories and includes a section on invasive and noxious weeds.

Weeds Gone Wild: Alien Plant Invaders of Natural Areas—http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien—a Web-based project of the Plant Conservation Alliance’s Alien Plant Working Group, providing information to the general public, land managers, researchers and others on the serious threat and impacts of invasive alien (exotic, non-native) plants to the native flora, fauna and natural ecosystems of the United States.
We have been increasing the surveys in found in Lancaster County upland areas. This has been demonstrated by the in areas with a saturated soil condition. lived, will germinate when deposited seed production, although not long dispersion of the seeds by wind as well the plant parts being carried by water carried by the river, the piping plovers. of the river and the riparian vegetation for the benefit of the owners, users and general public by controlling riparian plant invaders and improving stream-flow vegetation in the streamed and on the banks. Continued commitment of funds is expected from the NRDs and the landowners in controlling this recently invading vegetation of the Lower Platte River and tributaries.

The Lower Platte Weed Management Area (LPWMA) has been working with landowners in the Lower Platte River Basin since 2003 fighting the non-native plants invading the Platte River and its tributaries. The LPWMA includes the ten counties in the Lower Platte River Basin, including Lancaster County. The initial efforts were directed at controlling purple loosestrife, saltcedar and phragmites. This is seriously impacting the flow of the river and the nesting habitat of the least terns and piping plovers. Because of this dramatic change to the river, the LPWMA has expanded its goal from, just dealing with the non-native plants in the riparian area, to the management of all of the vegetation for the benefit of the landowners and the public.

The Natural Resources Districts (NRDs) in the LPWMA have contributed greatly in addressing this expanded goal in 2008. These NRDs include the Papio Missouri River NRD, Lower Platte North NRD, Lower Platte South NRD and Central Platte NRD. Accomplishments would not have been possible without the support of the Many private landowners cooperated and contributed in this effort.

survey and Mapping Program

The Lower Platte WMA Mapping Program was developed and is being maintained by the GIS specialist of the Lower Platte North NRD. The LPWMA has been mapping locations of purple loosestrife, saltcedar and phragmites since 2003. This mapping program is being used to map newly- found infestations and monitoring the sites found. The LPWMA, Lower Platte North NRD and the Papio-Missouri River NRD each purchased a camera with GPS capability. These cameras were used to survey phragmites along 170 miles of the Platte River and in Lancaster County. Over 300 sites were found along the lower Platte River and over 70 sites were found in upland areas in Lancaster County. These sites and photos can be viewed on the LPWMA website at http://www.nrdbmaker.org/loosestrife.

2008 Control Efforts

A total of 1,054 acres of vegetated sandbars in the Lower Platte River were treated by helicopter, airboat and ground applications. Very precise applications of an EPA-approved aquatic herbicide was made in October by a Sky Copter helicopter utilizing GPS technology controlling the application and providing a record of spatial data, extent and rates. A total of 751 acres of purple loosestrife were treated along 56 miles of the Lower Platte River from north Douglas County line to the mouth of the Missouri River. Ground applications were made by County Weed Control Authorities and contracted applications by RUE L Inc. Nebraska Airboat Association members donated their time and the use of their airboats to assist the counties with the applications. A total 303 acres were sprayed from airboats. About 152 acres of areas were contractor controlled. Over 84 acres were controlled by landowners with EQUIP contracts. County Weed Control Authorities sprayed 67 acres.

Helicopter application

Update on Lancaster County Phragmites

Last year’s Weed Awareness insert raised concern about phragmites, a very tall non-native grass that invades wetlands. At that time, we had found 70 sites in Lancaster County. The non-native phragmites received an emergency designation in the Republican River counties in August 2007. This emergency designation was expanded to the entire state in April 2008.

There is a native variety of phragmites that is not as invasive and has not been designated as a noxious weed. Dr. Bernd Blossey a leading researcher of phragmites from Cornell University, visited several of the phragmites sites in Lancaster County and determined they were all non-native. As a result of this visit, we feel all the sites we have found are non-native.

Dr. Blossey pointed out in the past, the leaves growing from the soil are green. For expansion of phragmites was from the plant parts being carried by water downstream. In some cases, the dispersion of the seeds by wind as well as water is contributing too much of the new area being found. The plentiful seed production, although not long water, will germinate when deposited in areas with a saturated soil condition. This has been demonstrated by the increasing number of infestations being found in Lancaster County upland areas. We have been increasing the surveys in upland areas, but we need the help of other agencies and groups and the general public in reporting sites they observe.

Survey and Mapping

The Lower Platte Weed Management Area Mapping Program was developed and is being maintained by the GIS specialist of the Lower Platte North NRD. A camera with GPS capability is being used to survey phragmites along the Platte River and in Lancaster County (see above). Over 300 sites were found along the lower Platte River and over 70 sites were found in upland areas in Lancaster County. These sites and photos can be viewed on the LPWMA website at http://www.nrdbmaker.org/loosestrife.

Identification

Phragmites is characterized by its towering height of over 15 feet and a stiff, leathery appearance. Its feathery and drooping inflorescences (clusters of tiny flowers) are purplish when flowering and turn white or grayish or brownish in fruit. They wave like plumes in the breeze. Flowering occurs from July-October. Phragmites is a colonial plant, spreading by rhizomes (underground stems) and capable of forming large stands or colonies arising from one or a few seeds or plant pieces. These colonies form along the margins of streams and lakes and marshes. They can form in wetlands and in disturbed areas and their aggressive growth and tendency to out compete other plants and form monospecific (one species) stands creates concerns.

Control

To date, field experience and research have shown using herbicides is the most effective method and is recommended as the first step toward effective control of phragmites. Glyophosphate and imazapyr are two herbicides known to be effective in controlling phragmites. These herbicides are non-selective and will affect any plant species through contact with the leaves and stems. However, when applied using the correct method and used according to chemical manufacturer’s instructions, impacts native plants, as well as mammals, birds and fish can be minimized. The aquatic formulations of these herbicides are contractor controlled. Just as imazapyr (Ranger®) is required for use in wetlands. An additional chemical called a surfactant should be added to the spray mix to increase the effectiveness of the treatment. While the cost per gallon of imazapyr can be significantly higher than glyphosate, results from recent studies suggest imazapyr used alone or in combination with glyphosate can control phragmites for a longer period of time. When using herbicides, phragmites should be treated in early- to late-summer (June-September) using imazapyr, or late-summer (August-September) using either glyphosate or a glyphosate/ imazapyr mixture, to ensure effective control. Some of the infestations in Lancaster County are very small and may not have been present at the time of application. These sites could be treated with non-aquatic labeled glyphosate (Roundup® or generic formulations of glyphosate). All landowners with identified phragmites sites will be notified of the status of the control effort on initial and long-term control options.
Early Detection is Key to Minimizing Insecticide Use in Home Gardens

Jim Kalisch
UNL Extension Entomologist

Nobody likes pests, especially when they are crawling over fresh fruits and vegetables. This spring after planning what to plant, research pest problems. There are general feeding types and specific pests for common garden vegetables, such as lettuce, cabbage, tomatoes and peppers. The Web, garden books, local extension officers, garden journals or magazines provide excellent information. The most common pests are grasshoppers, spider mites and leaf beetles. Cutworms are also general pests that result from moths coming into the garden and laying eggs. Cabbage and broccoli often are attacked by imported cabbages worms in late spring and carrots often are attacked by carrot weevils in late July.

It usually is not necessary to treat soil before or at planting, but it’s a good idea to till ground thoroughly before garden beds because any underground life will be exposed. Some insects left underground will attack roots or bulbs.

Adults may abandon nests and the young are close to fledgling. At these conditions, frightening the adult birds away could result in chilled eggs or nestlings. Also, avoid disturbing nesting birds. Avoid disturbing nest boxes at night and during rainy or windy weather because under these conditions, fledglings often are exposed to predators. Keep your dog leashed, as they are quite vocal and can scare off the young birds.

Several 1/4-5/16 inch holes along the sides of boxes should be provided in order to keep parasites from being able to access boxes. Monitor bird houses once a week to prevent non-native nuisance species, such as house sparrows or European starlings, from taking over. If cleaning boxes after each brood has fledged, the box may be used again throughout the nesting season. Some nesting birds, like sparrows or European starlings, may be used again throughout the nesting season. Some nesting birds, like sparrows or European starlings, may be used again throughout the nesting season. Some nesting birds, like sparrows or European starlings, may be used again throughout the nesting season. Some nesting birds, like sparrows or European starlings, may be used again throughout the nesting season.

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Insecticides include physically removing the pest, destroying the pest on sight, removing the infected plant part or using insecticidal soap, especially for soft-bodied pests. Unfortunately, there may come a time to use insecticide as treatment. Appropriate insecticides do not last long, usually only one to three days. Choose insecticides with carbaryl or permethrin because they can be used on a variety of crops.

Fertilizing House Plants

Plants brought into the home from a greenhouse are moving to an environment where light is less intense, and hence, where growth rates slow noticeably. Most plants already have sufficient fertilizer in their soil to sustain growth for up to three months under interior conditions. This is particularly true during fall and winter.

Even if plants continue to grow vigorously, it is wise to wait a month while it adjusts to its new environment, before adding fertilizer. Likewise, a newly potted plant needs time in which to grow new roots to absorb the fertilizer you will be applying. It is often easier to feed a number of plants at the same time, and the schedule can be combined in this way: for a general practice, apply fertilizer to most indoor plants every 1-2 weeks. Learning to grow is rapid, and once or twice only during the winter months. Alternatively, apply the plant food more frequently in a diluted form; this accommodates plants which would be injured by full-strength fertilizer. Approximately half the recommended strength is usually half as much fertilizer per plant or in solution. Annual plants grow very quickly and need fertilizing every two or three weeks during their short season. Some flowering plants, like Azalea, should not be fed at all while they are in flower.

Any prepared fertilizer mixture for the type of plants you have is fine: for most foliage and flowering plants, an N-P-K formula of 20-20-20 is fine. For acid loving plants like Azalea and Gardenia. For annuals and other garden plants growing in hanging baskets, an outdoor fertilizer is fine. Any fertilizer you add will be diluted by rainfall. Even if plants continue to grow vigorously, it is wise to wait a month while it adjusts to its new environment, before adding fertilizer. Likewise, a newly potted plant needs time in which to grow new roots to absorb the fertilizer you will be applying.

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Some soluble compounds are easy to apply and provide quicker results than solids or slow release pellets. Simply apply the fertilizer solution in place of water when you would normally be watering the plants. However, be sure the soil is slightly damp when you fertilize; never feed plants with dry soil, because roots will be damaged by the chemi-cal you add unless they are diluted further by soil moisture.

Use all fertilizers at or weaker than the recommended strength of dilution, never stronger. Newly rooted cuttings, seedlings and young plants will benefit from weaker solutions to avoid damage to the soft young roots.

Fertilizing House Plants

Plants brought into the home from a greenhouse are moving to an environment where light is less intense, and hence, where growth rates slow noticeably. Most plants already have sufficient fertilizer in their soil to sustain growth for up to three months under interior conditions. This is particularly true during fall and winter.

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Do You Like Bugs?

**4-H Entomology Workshop, Feb. 23**

A 4-H Entomology workshop will be presented on Monday, Feb. 23, 7:30–8:30 p.m. at the Lancaster Extension Education Center, 444 Cherry creek Road, Lincoln. This free workshop will introduce the new 4-H entomology curriculum and include a hands-on project which 4-Hers could exhibit at the county fair. Youth ages 10 and up and adult volunteers are encouraged to attend. Pre-register by Feb. 18 by calling 441-7180.

4-H Camp Scholarships

The following scholarships are given to attend Nebraska 4-H summer camp(s). Application deadline is May 4. Preference will be given to applications submitted by March 1. Applications are available at the extension office and at http://lancaster.unl.edu/4h/programs/award.shtml

Windstream 4-H Camp Scholarship—Thanks to the generosity of Windstream Communications, two Lancaster County 4-H members will receive full scholarships to attend a 4-H summer camp at the Eastern Nebraska 4-H Camp near North Platte. Applicants must be 9 or older and currently enrolled in 4-H. Scholarship is based on need.

Joyce Vahle Memorial Scholarship — $100 scholarship is awarded to a 4-H'er between the ages of 8-14 to be used towards attending a 4-H camp. Applicants should be currently, or have had at some point, been members in at least one sewing project.

4-H PSA Scholarship Guidelines

Once again, the 4-H Public Service Announcement (PSA) Contest will be by audio only. Any 4-H member ages 8–18 can submit a pre-recorded PSA via cassette tape or CD playable on any standard home stereo system. Deadline is by April 13. If you do not have the capabilities to record a PSA, contact Deanna to set up a recording time. Awards will be announced and handed out at the 4-H Speech Contest on Sunday, April 19. Additional contest information, PSA guidelines and examples can be found online at http://lancaster.unl.edu/4h/Speech/speech.shtml

**4-H Air Rifle Club Meeting, March 2**

The 4-H Air Rifle (BB) 4-H Club will have its first meeting on Monday, March 2, 7 p.m. at the Lancaster Extension Education Center, 444 Cherry creek Rd, Lincoln. Interested youth must be at least 8 years old by January 1. Both current 4-H members and those interested in joining 4-H are invited to attend. Please call 441-7180 by Feb. 27.

4-H Scholarship Applications due March 2

Nebraska 4-H offers several scholarships for 4-H'ers who are graduating seniors. Deadline for applications is March 2. Information and applications are available online at http://ne4hfoundation.org or at the extension office.

**Jammie Jamboree, March 28**

Join us at the Jammie Jamboree and make jammie bottoms on Saturday, March 28, 9 a.m. at the Lancaster Extension Education Center, 444 Cherry Creek Rd. Bring your own pull-on pajama bottom pattern, prefashioned flannel or 100% cotton fabric (no one-way design fabrics or fabric with matching thread). Also bring your sewing machine, basic sewing equipment, pins, measuring tape, etc. and a sack lunch. Open to all youth (need not be in 4-H). Adults are welcome. Sign up by March 27 by calling 441-7180. Jammiebottoms may be entered at the county fair and styled in the 4-H Style Revue under Clothing Level 1.

4-H Clubs Needed to Help Provide Booths at Kiwanis Karnival, April 18

The annual Kiwanis Karnival, a FREE family event is sponsored by the Lincoln Center Kiwanis. This year, it will be held Saturday, April 18, 7–9 p.m. at Elliott Elementary School, 225 S. 26 Street, Lincoln. The Karnival features carnival type games for the kids, bingo for adults, prizes, snacks, fun and fellowship. Lincoln Center Kiwanis has sponsored this event for over 30 years providing prizes and Monday, April snacks.

4-H clubs are needed to provide carnival-type booths. This is a great community service and leadership activity for clubs. If your 4-H club or family would like to have a booth or for more information, call Lorenne at 441-7180. Come join the fun!

4-H Speech and PSA Workshop, March 5

A workshop designed for 4-H'ers in their first years of competing in the 4-H Speech and PSA contests will be held, Thursday, March 5 at 6:30 p.m. at the Lancaster Extension Education Center. Participants will learn basic skills to write speeches and PSAs. They will also learn basic delivery techniques. Please call Deanna at 441-7180 by Feb. 26 to preregister.

4-H Speech Contest

The 2009 4-H Speech Contest will be held Sunday, April 19 at 1:30 p.m. at the Lancaster Extension Education Center, 444 Cherry creek Road, Lincoln. The Speech contest provides 4-H'ers the opportunity to learn to express themselves clearly, organize their ideas and have confidence. Register by April 13.

Contest on Sunday, April 19. Additional contest information, PSA guidelines and examples can be found online at http://lancaster.unl.edu/4h/Speech/speech.shtml

Roping/Goat Tying Clinic Scheduled for March 8

An 3-4-H Roping/Goat Tying clinic is scheduled for Sunday, March 8, at 2 p.m. in the Amy Countryman Arena at the Lancaster Event Center. If you have not yet signed up, please call Marty at 441-7180.

4-H Horse Stampede, March 14

The 2009 4-H Horse Stampede will be held on Saturday, March 14 at the Animal Science Building on UNL East Campus. The stampede is the State 4-H art, public speaking, demonstration and horse bowl competition. If you didn’t sign up to participate this year, please come and watch. Support the competing Lancaster County 4-H’ers and be on hand to attend. RSVP preferred. Please call 441-7180 by Feb. 27.

4-H Horse Incentive Program Begins

The 2009 Incentive Program began Feb. 14 and runs through June 30. 4-H’ers can log hours spent doing horse related activities and win awesome prizes. Forms are available online at http://lancaster.unl.edu/4h or at the extension office. Again this year, 4-H’ers are able to log four hours spent at Teen Council meetings and activities. One can earn bonus hours available online at http://ne4hfoundation.org or at the extension office. Again this year, 4-H’ers are able to log four hours spent at Teen Council meetings and activities. One can earn bonus hours available online at http://ne4hfoundation.org or at the extension office. Again this year, 4-H’ers are able to log four hours spent at Teen Council meetings and activities. One can earn bonus hours available online at http://ne4hfoundation.org or at the extension office. Again this year, 4-H’ers are able to log four hours spent at Teen Council meetings and activities. One can earn bonus hours available online at http://ne4hfoundation.org or at the extension office.
Lancaster County 4-H Achievement Night was held Feb. 10 at the International Quilt Study Center & Museum. The evening included an opportunity to explore the museum and current exhibitions. Achievement Night was presented by 4-H Council with generous support from UNL. 4-H’ers, 4-H clubs and 4-H leaders were recognized for their 2008 achievements. Lancaster County 4-H congratulates these youth who work throughout the year on their 4-H projects and commit themselves to excellence! We also thank the 4-H leaders who volunteer their time and talents to you! For a complete list of award, scholarship and pin recipients (as well as additional photos) visit online at http://lancaster.unl.edu/4h

Grace Farley was awarded OUTSTANDING 4-H MEMBER. She has been a 4-H member for 13 years, involved in numerous 4-H projects and contests. She is a member of Cool Clovers 4-H club and junior leader for Star City Explorers. She has been in many leadership activities such as 4-H Teen Council (currently as President) and Citizenship Washington Focus. She has participated in many community service projects.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS
Presented to 4-H’ers who have completed the most hours of community service. Award recipients receive a $30 Activity Certificate from Lancaster County 4-H Council redeemable towards 4-H activities and supplies.

Age 14 and over: Grace Farley, Spencer Farley, Terra Garay, Kyle Pedersen, Hannah Spencer, Jessica Stephenson, Britni Waller
Age 13 and under: Maddie Gabel, Sadie Hammond, Soige Hammond, Abby Spencer, Jaime Stephenson, Lexi Trumbley

CAREER PORTFOLIOS
County winners:
Animal Science: Elizabeth Boender
Leadership & Citizenship: Sadie Hammond
Consumer & Family Sciences: Soige Hammond
Animal Science: Levi Meyer*
Healthy lifestyles: Britni Waller*
*Nominate to represent Lancaster County at district competition

NEBRASKA DIAMOND CLOVER
A new statewide program which encourages 4-H members to engage in a variety of projects and activities.
Level 1 Amethyst: Alyssa Bennett, Valerie Gabel, Adrianna Miller, Lucy Polk, Jacob Rushman
Level 2 Aquamarine: Madeline Gabel

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS
Lancaster County 4-H Council — $500: Carly Belz, Grace Farley, Eliza Hammond, Christina Mayer, Hannah Spencer, Katie Zabel
Lancaster County Teen Council — $250: Grace Farley and Christina Mayer
Lane Community — $200: Trevor Woodward
Lincoln Center Kiwanis — $1,000: Grace Farley

COOL CLOVERS 4-H Club of Lincoln is winner of Category I (7 members or less) — and winner of the Wayne C. Farmer trophy as overall Outstanding 4-H Club for the year. The club’s 7 members were enrolled in approximately 37 projects and entered 81 total exhibits at the County Fair. This is the 4th year as an Outstanding Club and the 1st year winning the Wayne C. Farmer trophy. Jean Pedersen is club leader.

ROUGH RIDERS 4-H Club located south of Lincoln is winner of Category II (8-12 members). This club’s main project is horse, but the 11 members were also enrolled in approximately 9 other projects and entered 77 total exhibits at the County Fair. The club is winning this award for the 1st time. Kathy Anderson is club leader and Tammy Goering and Chris Peters are assistant leaders.

SOUTH PRAIRIE WRANGLERS of the Hickman area is winner of Category III (13 or more members). The club’s 34 members were enrolled in approximately 26 projects and entered 226 total exhibits at the Lancaster County Fair. The club is winning this award for the 1st time. Kendra Ronnau is club leader and there are 7 assistant or project leaders.
Lincoln’s Free Tax Preparation and Filing

The Human Services Federation and the Lincoln Tax Assistance Coalition will provide free tax preparation services for residents who qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). In 2008, over 5,000 free tax returns were filed which resulted in $4.3 million in refunds to our local economy.

The EITC is a special tax benefit for working people who earn low to moderate incomes. To be eligible for the EITC for tax year 2008, your earnings are as follows:

- The maximum amount of income you can earn and still get the credit has increased. You may be able to take the credit if:
  - You have more than one qualifying child and your earned income was less than $38,646 ($41,646 if married filing jointly).
  - You have one qualifying child and your earned income was less than $33,995 ($36,995 if married filing jointly), or
  - You do not have a qualifying child and your earned income was less than $12,880 ($15,880 if married filing jointly).

"The majority of families in this community that live in poverty are working families, and nobody who works full time and has children in their home should be in poverty," said Rick Carter, Executive Director of the Human Services Federation and Chair of the Lincoln Tax Assistance Coalition. "Special emphasis will be placed on increasing the claiming of the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and other federal tax credits created to increase the incomes of low income workers; and engaging low income families and individuals in a gradual process of building financial assets for the future."

The Lincoln Coalition is a public, private, and nonprofit collaboration between the Internal Revenue Service and the Human Services Federation, United Way of Lancaster County, Lincoln County, Lincoln County, Building Strong Families Foundation, and the Woods Charitable Fund. The work is made possible by the commitment and dedication of volunteers.

For Free Tax Assistance Sites outside of Lincoln, call 1-877-659-7870.

What to Bring to have Your Taxes Prepared

- W-2s and 1099s from your employer
- Social Security Cards (for yourself, spouse, children and other dependents)
- Copy of last year’s tax return (very helpful)
- Copy of other income/expenses (community outreach)
- Childcare information (provides ID number & receipt for amount paid)
- Blank check or savings account information for direct deposit
- 1099s for interest, dividends, unemployment, government and miscellaneous income
- 1098 for student loan interest, mortgage interest or property tax

Lincoln VITA Tax Sites and Hours

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) tax preparation sites are located throughout the city. All sites use E-filing which files taxes quicker. Direct deposit into a bank account gets the refund to citizens faster. No appointments necessary unless noted.

- ANDERSON LIBRARY 3625 Teaspoon Avenue
  - Mondays, 4:30 - 7 p.m. (through March 16)
  - Wednesdays, 4:30 - 7 p.m.
  - Sundays, 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. (through March 16)

- ASIAN COMMUNITY & CULTURAL CENTER 2615 O Street
  - Monday - Friday by appointment, call 477-3446

- BENNETT MARTIN LIBRARY 14 & N Streets
  - Tuesdays, 4 – 7 p.m.
  - Wednesdays, 1 – 3:30 p.m. (through Feb. 25)
  - Sundays, 1:30 - 4:00 p.m. (through March 16)

- EISELEY LIBRARY 1530 Superior Street
  - Monday, 1:30 - 4:30 p.m. (through March 16)

- GOOD NEIGHBOR CENTER 2625 P Street
  - Sunday, 1:00 – 4:30 p.m. (through March 16)

- INDIAN CENTER 1100 Military Road
  - Monday - Friday by appointment, call 438-5231 ext. 105

- LINCOLN ACTION PROGRAM 210 O Street
  - Mondays, 10 – 3:30 p.m. & 4:30 – 7:30 p.m.

- SALVATION ARMY 2625 Potter Street
  - Monday, 5:30 – 8 p.m.
  - Thursdays, 5:30 – 8 p.m. (through Feb. 26)
  - Fridays, 9 – 11:30 a.m.

- SOUTHEAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE ENT BUILDING 303 S. 68 Street Place
  - Mondays, 2 – 4:30 p.m.

- UNL MAIN CAMPUS Student Union Building - 14th Floor (Feb. 28 - March 11)
  - Monday thru Wednesday, 1 – 8 p.m.
  - Saturday and Sunday, 1 – 5 p.m.

UNL Students Get Involved at Campus Tax Preparation Site

University of Nebraska-Lincoln students have provided free tax preparation service for the past three years. Dr. Linda Moody, assistant director of Student Involvement, says, “Our students gain real world experience through this volunteer opportunity. It helps accounting majors get internships.”

In 2008, UNL student volunteers prepared 385 tax returns which generated $623,000, including $225,000 of Earned Income Tax Credit. The 26 student volunteers donated 500 hours to help low and moderate income families electronically file their returns. Those receiving refunds have said they plan to pay off bills, repair a car or pay their mortgage.

Benjamin Schuerman, a senior accounting major from Hallam has served in the military. In addition to preparing general tax returns, he helps military families prepare tax returns. This is his second year as an EITC volunteer. “I like to see the smiles on their faces when I tell them how much money they will be receiving,” says Ben. He adds, “It’s also good work experience.”

Free packing and childcare is also provided at the UNL sites. UNL students are also providing expertise six times at Everett and McPhee Elementary Schools and Carol Voakum Community Center, where UNL interpretation services are provided.

To learn more, go to http://involved.unl.edu/eitc or call 472-2454.

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New and Outgoing Lancaster County Extension Board Members

University of Nebraska–Lincoln Extension in Lancaster County welcomes its newest extension board appointment—recently appointed to three year terms Pablo Cervantes, Wesley Daberkow and Annie Stokes.

Current officers are:
- Carna Pfeil, President
- John Chess, Secretary/Treasurer
- Carna Pfeil, Executive Director

Pablo Cervantes (above left), Wesley Daberkow (above), and Annie Stokes (left)

L–R Kendra Penrod and Extension Board President Carna Pfeil


Extension Board Association Scholarship Forms Due March 15

The Nebraska Association of County Extension Boards is accepting applications for their scholarship program for the 2009/10 academic year.

- One $1,000 scholarship to any incoming freshman or transfer student enrolling into the University of Nebraska-Lincoln College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (CASNR) or into the College of Education and Human Science (CEHS).
- One $500 scholarship awarded to a current student of CASNR or CEHS, who is a sophomore or upper.

Applications are due by March 15. To obtain a scholarship application and for more information, go to http://lancaster.unl.edu/4h/Programs/scholarship.shtml or call Deanna Karmazin at 441-7180.
The University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension will host the American Youth Horse Council’s 2009 National Horse Leaders Symposium in Lincoln on March 27-29. The symposium will bring youth representing more than two-dozen international and nationally respected teachers assembled to share their keys to successful youth horse programming. Presentations will be aimed at Adult Leaders of Youth Horse Programs, Industry Professionals and Teen Leaders. Separate Teen Leader activities will bring youth representing all disciplines and horse breed activities together to learn team building, ethics and network. A preconference tour of the area will include horse farms of many disciplines.

Applications and additional brochures can be found at http://www.animalscience.unl.edu/extension/equine.html. More information on the symposium can be found at http://www.aryhc.com/symposium.htm.

National Youth Horse Symposium in Lincoln, March 27–29

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Applications and additional brochures can be found at http://www.animalscience.unl.edu/extension/equine.html. More information on the symposium can be found at http://www.aryhc.com/symposium.htm.

Fair Books Due to be Mailed by Mid-March

The 2009 Lancaster County Fair will be Aug. 5–9 at the Lancaster Event Center. Fair Books will be mailed to all 4-H families and previous Open Class exhibitors by mid-March. The 4-H portions of the Fair Book will be online at http://www.lancaster.unl.edu/4h and Open Class portions will be at www.superfair.org. The Fair is new in the 4-H area this year:

• Horse Hunter Show
• Hunter/English Pleasure Hunter Show
• Llama/Alpaca Show
• Meat Goat Show
• Swine Breeding Gift class and a Babe Contest

More information about 4-H changes will be published in upcoming Nebrines.

Nebraska's largest equine trade show and educational extravaganza will be held March 13–15 at the Lancaster Event Center. Featured clinicians include Richard Freke, Rob McNabb and Quianna Olds. Rossi who is a connoisseur of educated dancing horses, or Haute d’Ecole (high school) horses. For more information and schedule, go to www.nebraskahorseconcl.org.

Horse Expo, March 13–15

This year’s “Winter Warm-Up” 4-H volunteer training will be available via DVD. Topics include: “Communicating with Families”, “Livestock Larestock Meetings”, “Importance of 4-H Volunteers”, “It’s Just Rocket Science”, “State Fair Update” or “Investing in Youth: View one or all topics. Contact Tracy at 441-7180 to check out a DVD.

4-H Volunteer Training Available to Check Out on DVD

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension is a Division of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the United States Department of Agriculture. We assure reasonable accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act for assistance contact UNL Extension in Lancaster County at 441-7180.

Lancaster County 4-H is proud to announce Jim Bauman as winner of March’s “Heart of 4-H Award” in recognition of outstanding volunteer service. Jim has volunteered for 4-H since his oldest daughter started 4-H nearly 20 years ago. He has helped members of the Flying Hoofs and Riding Wranglers 4-H clubs with horse, beef, swine, sheep and goat projects. He has also helped with fitting, selection and nutrition clinics. “I liked watching the kids go through stages as they gained more knowledge, experience and confidence in their 4-H endeavors through the years,” Jim says. “My favorite experience is with a 4-H volunteer who was watching the many successes—along with some failures—my children had in 4-H.”

Jim, his Cindy and their three children are all 4-H alumni. He is manager of the Farmers Cooperative Company Mitchell branch. He, his wife and his company sponsor numerous trophies for the animal shows at the Lancaster County Fair. He has served on the Lancaster County Ag Society board of directors. He is a life member of the American Quarter Horse Association and member of the Nebraska Cattlemen Association.

Congratulations to Jim. Volunteers like him are indeed the “Heart of 4-H.”

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.

Jim Bauman

Lancaster County 4-H

Return to the top of the page
The students anxiously check the incubator throughout the day. Fortunately, most of the chicks will hatch just fine if they have pipped. The newly-hatched chicks stay in the classroom where the students learn how to care for them. Children enjoy the chicks so much, they sometimes choose to stay in recess or come to school early just to be with the new babies. After a couple of days, the chicks are picked up by extension staff and given to local farmers.

For more information on 4-H Embryology in Lancaster County, Nebraska, visit http://lancaster.unl.edu/4h/embryology

The answer was Broccoli.