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The NEBLINE

University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension
Lancaster County

August 1999
Vol. XII, No. 8

"Helping Nebraskans enhance their lives through research-based education."

Late summer lawn care practices

Don Janssen
Extension Educator

Turfgrass management in late summer and early fall is extremely important. Proper practices can help maintain a vigorous lawn or revive a declining lawn. These practices include mowing, fertilization, dethatching, aeration, weed control and seeding.

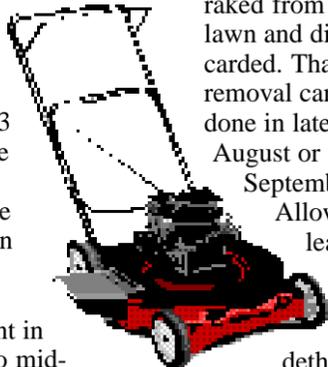
Mowing produces a neat, well-groomed appearance. However, improper mowing causes many lawn problems. The cool season grasses, such as Kentucky bluegrass, perform best in the cool weather of spring and fall. Bluegrass lawns are typically mowed at a height of 3 inches during the hot, stressful summer months. Lower the mower blade as temperatures cool in late summer. Mow bluegrass at 2 to 2 1/2 inches during fall. Mow often enough so that no more than 1/3 of the total blade surface is removed. Continue mowing the lawn until it stops growing and becomes dormant in late fall (early to mid-November).

Mow newly seeded bluegrass lawns at a height of 2 to 2 1/2 inches as soon as it reaches 3 to 3 1/2 inches in height.

Mowing doesn't hurt the grass, it encourages spreading and promotes a thicker lawn.

Late summer and fall is an excellent time to fertilize lawns. Apply 1 to 2 pounds of actual nitrogen per 1,000 square feet.

Thatch is the layer of dead and living plant material that forms between the soil surface and green foliage. When thatch is present in amounts greater than 1/2 inch, dethatching may be beneficial. Vertical mowers and power rakes, available from many rental companies and garden centers, thin the grass and lift the thatch to the soil surface. The debris is then raked from the lawn and discarded. Thatch removal can be done in late August or September. Allow at least four weeks of good growing weather following dethatching. This gives the turfgrass time to recover before it becomes dormant in the late fall. Apply fertilizer after dethatching to promote recovery of the turfgrass.



Lawn areas subject to heavy foot traffic may be thin due to compaction. Aerate compacted

herbicide products consist of a mixture of two or three of the following chemicals: 2,4-D, dicamba, MCP



tricypyr. Fall applications of broadleaf herbicides are safer and more effective than spring or summer applications. During the fall, perennial weeds translocate carbohydrates down to their roots. If a broadleaf herbicide is applied to the weeds, it will

also be translocated to the roots, resulting in the complete destruction of the weeds. With gardening activity winding down in the fall, the risk of injury from herbicide drift to vegetable and flower gardens, fruits and ornamentals is also reduced.

Late summer or early fall is an excellent time to establish new lawns or overseed severely damaged lawns. Seeding may begin in mid-August and should be completed by September. (DJ)

Perennial broadleaf weeds, such as dandelions and plantain, can be controlled with the application of broadleaf herbicides from mid-September to early November. Most broadleaf



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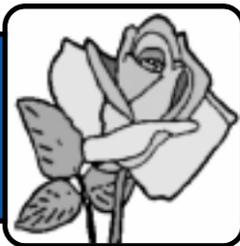
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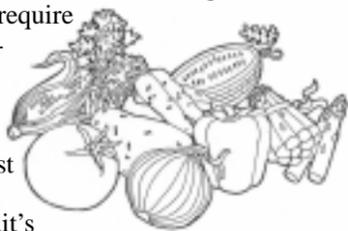




Horticulture

Harvesting guide for fruits and vegetables

While some fruit and vegetables show unmistakable signs, the proper time to harvest many crops require a little more knowledge and experience. Guidelines for harvesting various fruits and vegetables are listed below.



Peach—Ground color is the best guide for maturity. Harvest when ground color or the color of the fruit's skin changes from green to yellow. Disregard the areas that have turned red, because it is not a reliable index of maturity.

Pear—Harvest when the ground color changes from dark green to a yellowish green and before the fruit is tree ripe. An additional guide may be when the fruit separates from the twig with an upward twist of the fruit and when the lenticels (spots on fruit surface), which are green on immature fruit, becomes brown.

Raspberry—Harvest when the fruit is full color and separates easily from the center.

Tomato—For peak quality, harvest 4 to 6 days after fruits are fully colored. They will lose firmness if overripe.

Eggplant—Harvest when the fruit is firm and a glossy purple to black in color and 3 to 5 inches in diameter.

Muskmelon—The fruit of muskmelon or cantaloupe are mature when the stem slips easily from the melon with slight pressure. The melon is not ripe if the stem has to be forcibly separated from the fruit. Other indicators of maturity are based on touch, appearance and aroma. The flower end of the melon, the end opposite the stem, should be slightly soft. The skin between the netting will turn from green to yellow. A ripe melon will produce a strong musky aroma.

Watermelon—Harvest when the melon is full sized and the underside of the melon turns from a greenish white to a buttery yellow or cream. This color change is more noticeable on the dark green skinned varieties. In addition, the fruit tends to lose its slick appearance on the top and become dull when ripe. Thumping or tapping the melon is generally not a good indicator of ripeness. The browning of the curled tendril attached to the vine near the melon is also not reliable. In some varieties, the tendril may turn brown 7 to 10 days before the melon is ripe.

Summer Squash—Zucchini and scallop squash should be harvested when young and tender. Harvest zucchini, crookneck and straight neck squash when 2 inches in diameter and 4 to 8 inches long. Scallop types are best harvested when they are 3 inches in diameter.

Spaghetti Squash—Harvest spaghetti squash when the fruit changes color from ivory white to golden yellow.

Winter Squash—Squash are mature when the skin is firm and glossy. A thumbnail will not easily penetrate a mature fruit. The portion of the fruit resting on the ground will be cream to orange in color.

Pumpkin—Harvest pumpkins when they are fully colored and skins have hardened enough to resist puncture by thumbnail. Harvest before killing frost.

Sweet Potato—Harvest in late fall after first light frost. (MJM)

Chives and garlic chives

Two of the most attractive plants for a flower border are also two of the most useful herbs in the kitchen. Chives will provide the cook with a source of a mild onion flavor and garlic chives have a mild garlic flavor. Both plants are easy to grow and productive from spring until hard frosts.

Chives and garlic chives are members of the onion family. They prefer sunny sites with good drainage and will thrive with little attention.

Chives are hardy perennials which grow into clumps that are 12 inches high and six or more inches wide. In early summer, established plants will produce clusters of flowers, usually light purple, which are also edible if picked before seeds begin to form. Shear the plant at any time to harvest the foliage. It will quickly put out new growth.



Chives can be dried or potted up for winter growth indoors.

Garlic chives are also hardy perennials. The foliage is flat rather than hollow and grows to about 12 inches high. The flower stalk grows up to 30 inches high, topped with greenish white flower heads which are quite showy. The mild garlic flavor of the foliage is useful in many foods. As with chives, garlic chives are harvested by shearing the leaves back to the plants base. Chives and garlic chives can be propagated by dividing existing clumps or from seed. To divide a clump, cut it back, dig it up and divide it into three to six new plants. Replant the divisions, water and fertilize them and they soon will be producing new leaves. If using seed, sow them in their permanent growing location or start them indoors. (MJM)

Control of ground ivy in the lawn

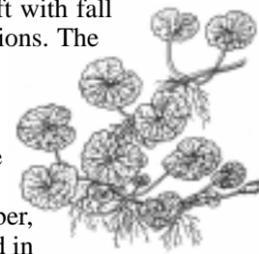
A common weed found in many lawns is ground ivy. Ground ivy is a low growing, creeping perennial. It spreads by seed and by the stems which root at the nodes. The leaves of ground ivy are round or kidney shaped with scalloped margins. The stems are four sided. Flowers are small, bluish purple and funnel shaped. Ground ivy thrives in damp, shady areas, but also grows well in sunny locations. A member of the mint family, ground ivy is also known as creeping Charlie.

Control of ground ivy in lawns is difficult. The control strategy depends upon the degree of infestation. Turfgrass areas that have become completely overrun with ground ivy may need a major renovation. The small amount of grass is simply not worth saving. The ground ivy needs to be destroyed and the areas seeded in late summer. Glyphosate (Roundup, Kleenup) is a non-selective herbicide that can be used as a spot treatment to control ground ivy. Non-

selective herbicides kill nearly all plant material that they come in contact with. Efforts to eliminate ground ivy should begin in early August. This allows adequate time to kill the ground ivy and prepare the area for seeding in late August or September. Apply glyphosate to the ground ivy infested areas, wait 10 to 14 days and then treat the areas a second time if the ground ivy has not been completely killed. Once the ground ivy is effectively controlled, the areas can be seeded.

Turfgrass areas that contain some ground ivy, but are mainly grass, can be treated with selective herbicides. These materials will selectively kill the ground ivy, but not harm the turfgrass. Products which contain 2,4-D are effective on ground ivy. To achieve control, make 2 or 3 applications in the fall. Fall applications are generally more effective than spring applications. Also, there is lower risk of injury to desir-

able garden plants from herbicide drift with fall applications. The first application can be made in mid September, a second in early October. As always, when using pesticides, read and follow label directions carefully. Homeowners that have Kentucky bluegrass, have another option. They can use a mixture of 3 teaspoons of Borax and 1 gallon of warm water. Two or three applications may be needed. This mixture should be sprayed on bluegrass lawns only. Once the ground ivy has been effectively controlled, the homeowner needs to use good mowing, fertilization, watering and cultivation practices to obtain a dense, healthy, competitive stand of turfgrass which should help prevent future weed infestations. (MJM)



Tips on watering lawns

We're deep in summer now, and whatever the weather has been up to now, the worst is likely yet to come for lawn grasses. Hot, dry weather calls for careful watering of lawns. How much they need depends on rainfall, of course, but also on the soil under your lawn.

Your lawn will use about a half-inch of water per day from the upper 12 inches of soil in your yard. In general, coarse and sandy soils may not hold much more than that - 1/2 to 1 1/2 inches of water in that upper foot. Heavy soils may hold up to 3 inches.

Translated into water needs, that means lawns on sandy soils may need to be watered every other day during hot, dry weather. Lawns on heavy soils, however, may need watering only once a week.

Watering should supply sufficient moisture to wet the soil to a depth of 6 to 8 inches. That's to encourage normal root development. Light sprinkling - even if it's done more often - means most of the water is lost to evaporation and little moisture gets down to the grass roots. As a result, the roots don't grow as deep, nor develop as well, and that leaves the grass even more subject to drought stress.

It is difficult to get water to soak into the 8-inch depth in one application on heavy soils. Water until runoff occurs, then switch to another area until water is soaked in; go back and water again until runoff.

Keep up the procedure until the required amount is put on, then back off until you observe the beginning of visual drought symptoms in the grass: gray-green color or foot-printing. Then repeat the cycle.

Use cans to determine how much water is being applied in terms of the number of inches per hour.

Avoid watering in the late evening because of increasing the possibility of disease problems. The best time is in the morning (3 a.m. for automatic lawn sprinklers), until noon. Advantages are less demand on the water system, reduction of disease probability, less evaporation and less wind, promoting more uniform coverage. (DJ)

1999 August/September Garden Calendar

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|--|------------------------------|--|---------------------------|--|----------------------------|
| 1 | 2 Keep garden watered | 3 | 4 | 5 Pull weeds | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 Cut herbs to dry | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 Stop fertilizing roses | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 Control yellow nutsedge | 24 | 25 Overseed tall fescue | 26 Divide peonies | 27 | 28 Festival of Color, Mead |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 Evaluate garden plants | 2 Update garden journal | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 Power rake or aerify bluegrass | 9 | 10 Overseed bluegrass | 11 |
| 12 | 13 Control perennial broadleaf weeds | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 Divide lily-of-the-valley | 22 Save annual flower seeds, like marigolds | 23 | 24 Check outdoor houseplants for insects | 25 |
| 26 | 27 Bring outdoor houseplants inside before frost | 28 | 29 Dig tender bulbs, tubers and corms before frost | 30 | | |

Many of us need reminders. That is the purpose of this calendar. Check the calendar each month and follow the recommendations if they are necessary in your landscape situation. (MJM)

Dealing with unwanted guests

This information is printed, in its entirety, with permission from Bat Conservation International, which is located on the internet at <http://www.batcon.org>.

Have a lost bat flying around your living quarters? Bats that fly into human living quarters are usually lost youngsters whose primary goal is a safe escape. They often will leave on their own if a window or door to the outside is opened while others are closed. Bats are not aggressive, even if chased, but may bite if grabbed. As with any wild animal, bats should not be handled with bare hands. An exit can be hastened by catching the bat in flight with a hand net (swung from behind), or when the bat lands, covering it with a coffee can and slipping a piece of cardboard over the opening, and then simply releasing it outside. Or you may also catch it by hand using leather work gloves to avoid being bitten.

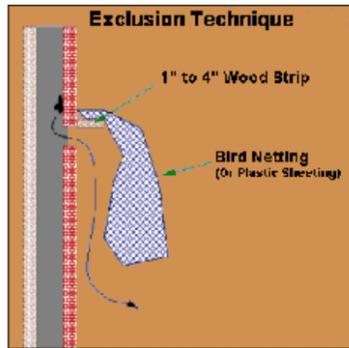
Excluding an entire colony from your house

Bats can be excluded from living quarters by covering chimneys and vents with half-inch hardware cloth screens, by installing draft guards beneath doors, and by sealing any other possible access routes, especially

around screen doors, windows and plumbing. Bats potentially can enter holes as small as 3/4" in diameter or 3/8" by 7/8". They do not chew insulation or otherwise make new holes. Their entries can be plugged with silicone caulking, steel wool, or temporarily even with tape. If a large bat colony must be evicted from a wall or attic, careful observations should be made at dusk to find entry holes (also sometimes recognizable by stains around used holes or crevices or by droppings beneath). The bats must emerge each summer evening to feed. Once roost entrances have been located, the bats can be excluded, though this should not be attempted when flightless young may be present (usually June or July in the U.S.).

Starved young could create a serious odor problem, not to mention needless cruelty. Most bat species leave in winter, permitting exclusion in their absence. When this is not the case, or when one does not wish to wait for winter, there is a relatively simple exclusion technique using polypropylene bird netting (or plastic sheeting). This inexpensive netting* often is used to protect fruit trees from birds and can be obtained in quantity to cover areas of nearly any size. It can be hung during daylight hours above areas

where bats emerge, using duct tape or staples. A strip of netting at least two feet wide, hung one to four inches in front of bat exit holes, and extending at least two feet below the lowest exit point (see illustration), will allow the bats to emerge, but later they will fail to find their way back. Thus the netting acts as a simple one-way excluder until repairs can make the exclusion perma-



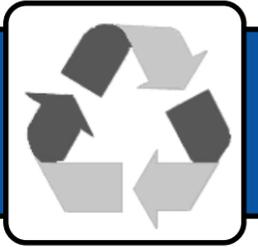
nent. During cool periods in the fall or spring, allow at least a week.

Other methods. . .

Harmless repellent devices would seem ideal, but none are known to be effective. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency once fined a Chicago manufacturer \$45,000 for misleading claims involving an ultrasonic device. All ultrasonic sound generators thus far tested by reliable bat experts have proven ineffective and some may endanger people or even attract bats. Naphthalene flakes

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Environmental Focus



Household hazardous waste collections: September 25 and October 23

Lancaster County residents can bring household hazardous wastes to the following collection site:

9 a.m. - 3 p.m.; Saturday, September 25, Pfizer Animal Health, 601 West Cornhusker Highway

9 a.m. - 3 p.m.; Saturday, October 23, Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department (LLCHD) 3140 "N" Street, south parking lot

Items that you can bring for disposal:

* Heavy metals: items containing mercury such as thermometers and thermostats. Fluorescent bulbs and many batteries contain heavy metals but can now be recycled locally.

* Solvents: mineral spirits, turpentine, paint strippers and thinners, oil-based paints, varnishes.

* Pesticides: weed killers, garden sprays, wood preservatives, roach powder, rat poisons. You may also bring banned products, like DDT, chlordane, 2,4,5-T, pentachlorophenol, silvex.

* PCBs: Ballasts from old fluorescent fixtures and capacitors from old appliances including radios, motors and televisions.

Leave products in their original container and keep the label intact. Open, leaking or rusted containers should be placed in a clear plastic bag during transport. Do not mix chemicals.

Do not bring latex paint, medicines, explosives, fertilizers, used oil, general household trash, antifreeze or batteries. For more specific information, call the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department at 441-8040. (BPO)

What's living in your mulch?

Barb Ogg
Extension Educator

There are many reasons to use mulch around landscape plantings in your yard. Not only is it an attractive ground cover, but it prevents moisture loss and prevents weed growth. But, many people do not realize that mulch is the preferred habitat for some pests that may move inside the house later. The more mulch or wood chips you have, the more likely there will be pillbugs, sowbugs, millipedes and crickets living in it. Predators that feed on these critters, like spiders and centipedes, will also be found in the mulch. This summer, we have heard from many people who have millipedes invading their home. Without exception, every caller

admitted to having large quantities of wood mulch close to their house. Undoubtedly, the cool, very wet spring and early summer weather has had something to do with this unusual millipede invasion. Most years, millipedes and these other pests are more of a problem in the fall of the year.

One way to use mulch and still reduce the likelihood of pests invading the house is to simply use it farther away from the house. Another strategy is to seal cracks and crevices in your house exterior to prevent entry. Another strategy might be to anticipate these pests and use an insecticide barrier around the house to help prevent entry. Sealing cracks and crevices, while time consuming, is the most permanent solution to this

problem.

Another reason to keep wood mulch away from the house is because termites will feed on it. Termites feed on wood and wood that touches the soil is most likely to be eaten (mulch). So, it is prudent to keep mulch several feet away from the foundation of the house. New mulch or wood chips made from cedar or redwood may be initially more resistant to termites. But, as it weathers, the oils that make it resistant will disappear and termites will begin to feed on it.

I don't want to give the impression that you shouldn't use mulch because it has many benefits to ornamental plants and it looks nice. But, you should be aware many small pesky critters also like it. (BPO)

Water treatment equipment considerations

Can water treatment equipment be purchased in anticipation of possible water quality problems? The answer depends on knowing the amount and type of contaminants to be removed. It is highly unlikely that a person would have this information prior to an actual contamination.

No single water treatment method treats all water problems and all methods have limitations. Common treatment equipment includes filters, reverse osmosis units and water softeners, all of which must be used with bacterially safe water. Chlorinators, ultraviolet units

and ozone units are specifically designed to provide disinfection. Although distillers aren't normally used specifically for disinfection, they can be used with bacterially contaminated water and remove more contaminants than any other treatment method. Identifying the type and amount of contaminants is important in selecting appropriate treatment equipment for the situation.

Purchasing and installing unneeded equipment is costly and virtually all water treatment equipment requires maintenance and service which incurs addi-

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Monarch butterflies and Bt corn

A study by a university researcher was recently published indicating that Bt corn pollen killed monarch butterfly larvae. The media latched onto this information and it was widely circulated in the press-implying

that these genetically altered crops are bad for this insect. But, as you might suspect, there is more to this story.

Cornell researcher John Losey and his colleagues conducted the experiment in their laboratory. They collected corn pollen from Bt corn and nonBt corn plants and dusted the leaves with the two types of pollen. After monarch larvae fed on these leaves for four days, the experiment was terminated. Larval

mortality, weight and milkweed leaf consumption was measured.

Results from this lab study showed 44% of the larvae that fed on the Bt pollen-coated leaves died vs 0% of those that ate nonBt pollen-coated leaves or untreated milkweed leaves. The larvae that survived were less than half the size of those larvae which fed on leaves with no pollen. One problem with this study is the actual pollen dosage which caused the mortality was not reported so we cannot know for sure how much pollen killed the larvae. This makes it difficult for other scientists to repeat the study.

Another problem with this lab study was, it was not a very realistic representation of what actually happens in the field. Monarch butterfly females locate milkweed plants by sight and lay their eggs on small milkweed plants 3-18 inches in height. They prefer plants in open areas, such as fence rows, ditches and pastures—not in cornfields. The most likely scenario is that Bt pollen drifts and lands on milkweed plants outside the cornfield. Corn pollen is relatively heavy—70% of the pollen will be within 20 feet of the field margin.

A study conducted at Iowa State University showed more pollen landed on milkweed



plants located closer to the field edge and the highest concentration of pollen was found on plants within the cornfield. In their study, more monarch larvae died after feeding on Bt pollen-

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Farm Views

Predicting the last irrigation for corn, milo and soybeans

One of the important decisions irrigators must make this time of year is when to shut down the irrigation system for the season. Ideally, you will want to stop irrigating far enough ahead of maturity so the crop will extract as much moisture from the soil as possible, without hurting yield. This makes maximum use of the moisture present in the root zone, minimizes the amount of water pumped and gives you the driest possible soil at harvest time, which minimizes soil compaction and harvest problems.

Research has shown that a **medium season corn** at the beginning dent stage of growth, will take approximately four weeks time and will require an additional 5.3 inches of water to reach physiological maturity (black layer). At the full dent stage, it will take about two weeks to reach maturity and will require 2.5 inches of water.

Grain Sorghum requires about 5 inches of water to reach maturity from the soft dough stage, and 2 inches of water from the hard dough stage of growth.

Soybeans require about 6.5 inches from the beginning seed fill stage (the presence, when squeezed with the fingers, of bean seeds in pods at one of the four uppermost nodes on the main stem with a fully developed leaf.) At the full seed fill stage (a pod with full-size green beans at one of the four uppermost nodes on the main stem with a fully developed leaf), it takes 3.5 inches to reach maturity.

The actual time required for any of these crops to reach maturity, will vary with the variety in question and the weather. For a given variety, the total moisture required will remain about the same as predicted regardless of the weather. It is, after all, the accumulation of growing degree days that determines the stage of maturity and crop water use is largely dependent on temperature, as well.

An alternative way to look at this would be to figure out on what day a full profile would carry the crop through to maturity. The silty clay to silty



clay loam soils in southeast Nebraska hold about 1.6 to 1.8 inches of available water per foot of soil, respectively. If we assume we have a 4 foot root zone, we have about 7 inches total available water holding capacity in the root zone.

Research has shown that 60 percent of the available moisture in the root zone can be depleted at crop maturity without reducing grain yield. We, therefore, can utilize about 4.2 inches of the available moisture without hurting yield.

Having discussed the above, we can now predict the day when a full profile on a silty clay soil would carry the various crops through to maturity. For a medium season corn, the target date would be when about half of the corn kernels have dented. For grain sorghum, it would occur about one week after the soft dough stage. For soybeans, it would be at or just before the full seed fill stage.

If you use these guidelines, be certain your soil is at field capacity in the top four feet on the target date. If not, you will need to continue to irrigate until you have applied enough water to have filled the profile. For example, if the soil would have held another 1.5 inches on the target date, it will take a total of 1.5 inches of rainfall plus irrigation, in addition to the available soil moisture to finish out the crop.

Predicting the date of the last irrigation is an important water management decision. You can minimize expense and leave your soil in good shape for harvest without harming yields by following these simple guidelines. To learn more about predicting the last irrigation, ask for NebGuide G82-602. This can be accessed by going to the Lancaster County Extension Nebraska Production Ag Crops web site at <http://www.ianr.unl.edu/ianr/lanco/ag/crops/> and then choosing "irrigation" or you can call us at (402) 441-7180. (TD)

Wheat growing information on the web

Wheat growers have access to a wealth of research-based information about growing wheat and other crops via the Nebraska production ag web site provided by Lancaster County Extension. Internet users may start with the ag/acreage front page at: <http://www.lanco.unl.edu/ag/>.

From the ag/acreage page, one can then enter the **Nebraska production ag** web site. At the welcome screen, a button bar appears with several choices.

Clicking on the **crops** icon brings up the crop production page. At this point, one may select from several topic areas of interest. Clicking on **small grains** accesses extension publications on the culture of wheat and other small grains and variety test information that has been conducted by university researchers. Clicking on the **soils** page accesses extension information on fertility and soil conservation. Clicking on the **weeds** page accesses information on

cultural practices to minimize weed problems, proper timing of weed control measures and herbicide recommendations. One may also select **insects** or **diseases** to access information on these important topics as well. This site not only contains publications and information from Nebraska, but also information from the neighboring states of Iowa, Kansas and Colorado. (TD)

Calibrating a handheld sprayer

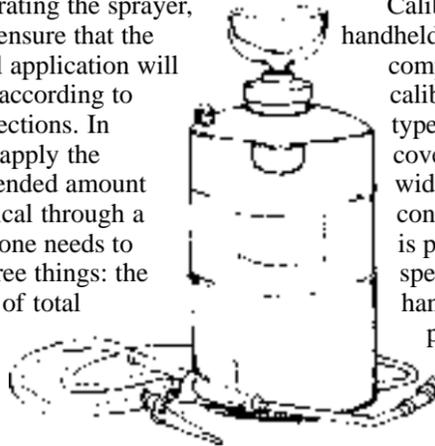
Pesticides must be applied according to label directions. The pesticide label always states a recommended dosage of chemical to apply to a given site for the control of a specific pest. By calibrating the sprayer, one can ensure that the chemical application will be done according to label directions. In order to apply the recommended amount of chemical through a sprayer, one needs to know three things: the quantity of total spray output that is

being applied per unit of area, the formulation of the product and the recommended amount of product or active ingredient (a.i.) to apply per unit area (acres, 1000 square feet).

Calibration of a handheld sprayer is more complicated than calibrating a boom-type sprayer that covers a given swath width, operates at a constant pressure and is pulled at a constant speed. With a handheld sprayer, the product sprayed per acre depends on the spray pattern

created by the operator, the pressure in the spray tank, the spray nozzle used (or nozzle setting on adjustable nozzles) and the area covered per minute as the operator moves along.

A new Lancaster County Extension Fact Sheet has been written to explain how to calibrate a handheld sprayer. Ask at the Lancaster County Extension Office for Fact Sheet # 026-99. This may also be accessed from the Lancaster County Extension Nebraska Production Ag web site at <http://www.ianr.unl.edu/ianr/lanco/ag/crops/hand-hld.htm>. (TD)



Seed alfalfa in August

The best time for fall seeding alfalfa in eastern Nebraska is during the month of August, provided adequate soil moisture is available. At this time, soil moisture does look very favorable and many producers prefer to seed in the fall rather than spring because weed problems are usually not as great in the fall.

A fall seeding avoids the spring weed problems of foxtail, pigweed and other summer annuals that can destroy a new crop. In Lancaster County we do have to consider the weeds that will cause a problem for a fall seeding if they have a history in that field. The cardinal rule has always been that you should not seed alfalfa into a wheat problem! Pennycress and downy brome have become very competitive over the years to fall seeded crop such as alfalfa and wheat. Therefore, if either of these two weeds are a problem in that field, don't seed there.

Farmers sometimes wait until middle or late September to plant alfalfa. This is most often too late because the plants do not have a chance to become established before the first killing frost. The latest alfalfa should be seeded in the fall is September 10 in Lancaster County. If it cannot be completed by that time, it is best to wait for another season.

Each year, many failures to establish alfalfa have been reported to this office. Our investigations have revealed that the most probable cause is the seed bed is too loose. It doesn't matter if it's a spring or a fall seeding, those who try to plant into loose soil are doomed for failure. Complete tillage is okay if the soil is firmed up by either moisture or packer-seeders; but, no-till planters have also been very successful. In fact, no-till seeding of alfalfa has become the trend among successful alfalfa producers.

Before seeding alfalfa, regardless of spring or fall, do a complete soil test, apply lime if needed and be sure to inoculate the seed. Call the Lancaster County Extension for NebGuide 652, Seeding and Renovating Alfalfa, for complete information. (WLS)

Fall preparation to sodseed pastures

Hay meadows and pastures provide higher quality feed and are more productive if they have high yielding, high quality legumes growing in them. Legumes, like alfalfa, birdsfoot trefoil and red clover can be added to many hay meadows and pastures to make them more valuable.

But, adding legumes to these grass sods can be tricky. Tricky, that is, unless you begin to prepare your sod for this addition now, during the fall, before the spring sodseeding.

Fall is the time to collect soil samples to determine and apply any needed fertilizer. It also is the time to control many problem weeds like musk thistle, field bindweed and curly dock. Fall also is a good time to weaken the existing grass sod. Weakening this grass sod is kind of fun because this is one of the few times it is actually recommended to overgraze pastures.

One of the biggest challenges to establishing new legume seedlings into a grass on these new, slow growing seedlings is anything you can do to reduce that competition and to slow down grass growth, will help the legume seedlings. Overgrazing during the fall prior to spring sodseeding, will weaken the grasses and their spring growth, thus giving new legume seedlings a better chance to get started.

So, if you plan to add some legumes to your pasture or hay meadow, graze your grass this fall until virtually nothing is left. Then, keep grazing a couple weeks more just to make sure the grass is really hurt. The legumes you add next spring will establish better because of it. (WS)

A REMINDER FOR INTERNET USERS:

Lancaster County Extension Office has a new, shorter home page address: www.lanco.unl.edu

Some shortcuts:

www.lanco.unl.edu/food

www.lanco.unl.edu/ag

www.lanco.unl.edu/enviro

www.lanco.unl.edu/nebline

www.lanco.unl.edu/hort

www.lanco.unl.edu/family

www.lanco.unl.edu/4h

www.lanco.unl.edu/contact

Don't spill when you fill

Gas-powered mowers and chore-performing outdoor power products like chipper/shredders, tillers and edgers are perfect time savers for keeping our surroundings neat and green. But when it comes to the simple act of refilling equipment, gas spillage is often overlooked. Careless refilling leads to spilled gasoline and evaporation, which releases hydrocarbon emissions into the atmosphere.

In fact, fuel spillage and evaporation are responsible for up to one-third of all fuel emissions, most of it preventable.

Don't leave your fueling habits up in the air. Remember these helpful fuel handling tips:

—Don't spill when you fill. Use a funnel or non-spill nozzle. Take a little more time and be careful.

—Leave room for expansion. Fill gasoline containers and power equipment fuel tanks to only three-fourths full so that tanks don't overflow from expansion as the result of temperature changes.

—Tighten gas caps. When fuel cans or power equipment aren't being used, tightened caps will prevent evaporation. Make sure both gas and oil caps are tight when equipment is tipped over for routine maintenance.

—Transport and store properly. Find a cool place, out of direct sunlight, to store fuel

cans. And, make sure the vent is tightly closed.

—Tune up for fuel efficiency. A properly tuned engine helps burn fuel more efficiently, thereby reducing emissions. For mowers, sharp cutting blades and decks cleared of all grass clippings also enhances engine performance.

For more information and a free guide on environmentally helpful outdoor power equipment, write the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute, 341 South Patrick Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314 or e-mail to OPEIMOW@aol.com. (DJ)



Acreage Insights



Tractor safety tips (part 8)

Tractors are one of the most important pieces of equipment on a farm, yet they are also among the most dangerous. More deaths are caused by tractors than by any other type of farm accident. It is, therefore, imperative that tractor owners routinely check their tractors and keep in mind the following safety guidelines:

On a conventional style tractor with proper ballast, 35 percent of the weight is in the front and 65 percent in the rear. If the front end is too heavy, the tractor will be difficult to turn as the tires dig into the soil. If the front end is too light, the tractor will not turn as quickly as expected and there is an increased chance of a rear rollover.

When crossing hills, if the operator is leaning significantly toward the uphill rear tire, the tractor is on too steep a slope. All that is required to overturn a tractor is a hole on the downhill side, a bump on the uphill side or both. More deaths occur from side rollovers than rear rollovers. If on too steep a hill, the operator should stop the tractor and look around to determine the safest means of getting off the hill. The operator can either turn and back up or turn and drive down the hill. There may be a fence or ditch at the bottom so the operator must back up the hill. Or there may be an obstruction of some type at the top of the hill, thus turning and driving down the hill is safer. If backing up or driving down is not possible due to obstructions, back up slowly in the same wheel tracks from the direction the operator came until it becomes possible to either back up or drive down the hill. The operator knows the surface he/she drove over, but the operator may not know if the terrain is passable if he/she continues forward. Even slopes that have been traversed often may not be safe; a rock or hole struck at the wrong angle or speed could result in a side rollover. (DJ)

Hay storage

Even the best (shed or covered) storage conditions allow about 5 percent of the hay's dry matter to be lost after one year. Most nutrients maintain nearly constant concentrations when hay is properly stored, although carotene concentration declines rapidly.

Hay stored outdoors is subject to losses from weathering. Weathering reduces the dry weight of hay and changes its composition. Weathering lowers the feeding value of hay 15 to 25 percent, in addition to any dry matter losses.

Weathering occurs not only on the tops and sides of packages stored outside, but also where hay contacts moist ground. Research has shown that storing bales on crushed rock versus the

ground, reduces the weathered portion from 11 to 23 percent of the original bale weight. Thus, outdoor storage losses can be low if good packages are made and they are stored on a well-drained site.

To reduce storage losses, be sure the package is dense and evenly formed, especially with compressed stacks. This allows rainfall to run off rather than settle in depressions and soak into the stack. Store packages on a well-drained site with air spaces between packages to allow drying after rain. Round bales can be butted end-to-end with little increase in loss from storage. Do not stack round bales unless they are covered with plastic. (DJ)

Festival of color

Gardeners who like to see what plants look like before they plant them, want some new ideas for their landscape or have questions about their lawn and garden, may want to attend the 1999 Festival of Color near Mead, Nebraska. This outdoor lawn and garden open house will be held on Saturday, August 28 (rain or shine) at the University of Nebraska's John Seaton Anderson Turfgrass and Ornamental Research Area. This area is part of the University's Research and Development Center. Demonstrations, displays, guided tours and "how to" sessions will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Whether you're an experienced gardener or just getting started, there will be a wealth of information at Festival of Color. Demonstrations will be presented throughout the day, each lasting about 30 minutes with three different choices at any given time. Some of the demonstration topics include, tree and

shrub planting and pruning, home irrigation systems, lawn care, perennial flowers, flowering bulbs, small engine care, composting, ornamental grasses, water gardening and propagating houseplants. In addition, there will be guided tours lead by university staff on selecting trees and shrubs, perennials, attracting wildlife and selecting the right turfgrass. For those who prefer to sit in the shade to gather their information, there will be a tent set up where programs on landscape water management and making wreaths and centerpieces will be given. The Backyard Farmer panel will also be present to answer questions. There will be three all-day demonstrations on beekeeping, landscape renovation and biodegradable plastic in the landscape.

Festival of Color is not just for the gardener. This event has been organized to be a family event. Young and old alike will enjoy the outdoor model train

which has been landscaped and will be running as well as a walk through the children's garden. Also of interest to children, will be the Festival of Fun Family Center where young people will learn about soil and water conservation and earn prizes. Participants will also have the opportunity to walk through the organization tent with representatives of many organizations and a diagnostic clinic for those who bring weed, insect and disease samples. A number of product vendors will also be exhibiting, as well as food vendors. This will be the seventh year for Festival of Color and it has grown to attract thousands of people for a day of fun and information. This event is open to the public and is presented free of charge. A donation of \$2.00 per person or \$5.00 per family would be very much appreciated to help defray the rising cost of presenting this program. (DJ)

Develop regular lawn equipment maintenance schedule

Air pollution comes from many sources. One of the smallest is exhaust and fuel emissions from gasoline powered engines such as those in lawnmowers, riding tractors, string trimmers, tillers and other types of outdoor power equipment. Fuel spillage and evaporation also contribute to pollution.

The industry is doing its part to reduce air pollution by manufacturing new generations of outdoor power equipment that operate with low-emission engines and cordless electric power.

You, too, can do your part to reduce air polluting emissions by handling fuel properly and keeping your equipment in good working order. Here are some easy do-it-yourself steps to keep power equipment more air-friendly. (Always check your operator's manual for specific recommendations on maintenance.) If you're less adept at such tasks, seek help from your local outdoor power equipment service shop.

—Change equipment oil seasonally and recycle old oil.

—Replace spark plug, air filter and check for proper carburetor adjustment. A properly tuned engine helps burn fuel more efficiently, thereby reducing emissions.

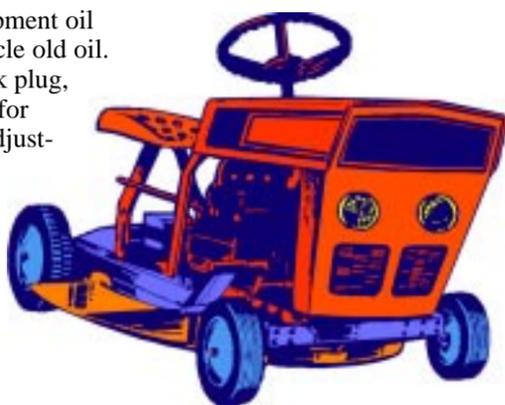
—Be sure to use replacement parts recommended by the manufacturer.

—Avoid spilling gasoline when you're refilling the tank. Also, keep fuel tanks and containers sealed tight, leaving approximately one-fourth of the tank for expansion.

—Tighten loose nuts, bolts and belts for a quieter mower.

—Sharpen mower cutting blades and keep decks clear of all grass clippings.

—Replace worn-out equipment with the latest models offering low-emission engines that run 70 percent cleaner than 1990 models. Electric or



rechargeable battery power also are available.

Developing a regular maintenance schedule is a responsible first step in helping to keep air a little cleaner while using outdoor power equipment to beautify your yard.

For more information and a free guide on environmentally helpful outdoor power equipment, write the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute, 341 South Patrick Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314 or e-mail to OPEIMOW@aol.com. (DJ)

Learn at your convenience

—24 hours a day, 7 days a week—

NUFACTS (audio) Information Center

NUFACTS audio message center offers fast, convenient information. In the Lincoln area call 441-7188; for the rest of Nebraska call 1-800-832-5441. When directed, enter the 3-digit number of the message you wish to hear.

Acreage & Small Farm Insights Web Site

Visit our Internet web site at: <http://www.ianr.unl.edu/ianr/dodge/acreage/index.htm> to learn about Extension programs, publications and links to other acreage and small farm information.

"Part-time Farming" video

"Part-time Farming" will help develop your country environment and improve your quality of life. Just one hour of "Part-time Farming" provides tips that will save you costly mistakes and precious time. Call 402-441-7180 to order your copy.





Food & Fitness



Alice Henneman, RD, LMNT, Extension Educator

Dry beans are one of nature's most concentrated sources of folate, a nutrient that may help protect against cancer and heart disease. Studies also have shown that folate may help reduce the risk of certain birth defects of the spine, such as spina bifida. As these birth defects may occur before many women know they're pregnant, it's important to consume adequate amounts of folate during the childbearing years.

Grown in western Nebraska, dry beans generate over \$80 million for the state's economy. About 86% of all great northern beans are grown in Nebraska, ranking the state first in the nation.

Italian Bean and Tuna Salad

(Makes 6 main dish servings)

1 can (17 ounces) cooked Baby Lima beans, rinsed, drained
 1 can (16 ounces) Dark Red Kidney beans, rinsed, drained
 1 can (15 ounces) Great Northern or Navy beans, rinsed, drained
 8 cherry tomatoes, cut into fourths
 1/2 small cucumber, cut lengthwise into halves, seeded, sliced
 1/3 cup chopped green or red pepper
 1/4 cup thinly sliced red onion
 Basil Vinaigrette (recipe follows)
 2 tuna steaks (about 16 ounces), broiled or grilled or 1 can (12-1/4 ounces) white tuna in water, drained, flaked into 1-inch pieces
 Lettuce leaves
 Basil or parsley sprigs

Combine beans, tomatoes, cucumber, pepper and onion in large bowl; add Basil Vinaigrette and toss. Refrigerate mixture at least 4 hours for flavors to blend, stirring mixture occasionally. Add tuna to mixture 1 to 2 hours before serving time. Spoon salad onto lettuce-lined plate; garnish with basil.

Basil Vinaigrette

(Makes about 2/3 cup)

3 tablespoons olive oil
 1/4 cup tarragon wine vinegar
 3 to 4 tablespoons finely chopped fresh, or 1 to 1 1/2 teaspoons dried, basil leaves
 3 tablespoons fat-free plain yogurt
 1 to 1 1/2 tablespoons lemon juice
 1 to 2 cloves garlic
 Mix all ingredients; refrigerate until serving time. Mix before serving.

NOTE: Bean salad can be made and refrigerated one day in advance; add tuna as directed above.

Nutritional information per serving: 460 calories; 48 g carbohydrate; 34 g protein; 12 g fat; 24% of calories from fat; 457 mg sodium; 28 mg cholesterol.

Source: American Dry Bean Board

For more information and recipes, contact the Nebraska Dry Bean Commission at: Nebraska Dry Bean Commission; 4502 Ave I; Scottsbluff, NE 69361 (E-mail: office@nebraskadrybean.com). You also can visit the web site of the American Dry Bean Board: www.americanbean.org (AH)

Focus on Food



Alice Henneman, RD, LMNT, Extension Educator

Q: What's an easy way to remove the skins from tomatoes?

A: Here's a quick way to remove the skin from tomatoes with hot water.

- 1) First, wash tomatoes thoroughly under running water.
- 2) Then, cut a small "x" in the bottom of tomatoes without cutting into the flesh.
- 3) Dip tomatoes one by one in boiling water for 15 to 30 seconds or until skins start to crack.
- 4) Plunge immediately in ice water.
- 5) Remove tomatoes when cool and slip off skins with a sharp knife. (AH)

Food safety education impact—Lancaster County NEP

President Clinton issued a National Food Safety Initiative in July 1997. NEP has always placed a high priority on teaching limited resource consumers how to stay healthy by handling food safely. Incidents of foodborne illness nationally and locally have intensified educational efforts.

In Lancaster County, NEP graduates have made positive food safety behavior changes as indicated by the National EFNEP Evaluation Reporting System. In 1998, 80% of program graduates demonstrated improved food safety practices, compared with 67% nationally (National Data, reported by USDA EFNEP, July 98). Past data from Lancaster County indicates the following increases over the past five years: 61%-1994, 68%-1995, 70%-1996, 78%-1997 and 80%-1998.

Impact:

NEP families and agencies have benefitted as follows:

"We used to leave raw meat and leftovers on the counter before we learned about food safety." Residential treatment program participants

"Just wanted to say thanks for your prompt attention to our food safety question. You were a big help." Lincoln Agency

"Refugee families learned how to prepare food properly so they don't run the risk of

becoming sick because it wasn't handled safely." Catholic Social Services.

Senior citizens at the Asian Center learned how to package and freeze smaller portions of a whole turkey for later use.

A WIC client changed her procedure for using dirty dish cloths both at home and at her place of employment. She took an extra copy of the food safety information to her employer.

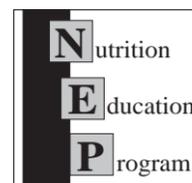
Food safety has been taught to 1,598 youth October 1998-May 1999 in Lancaster County. The Clean Hands Detective glitter germ activity was presented to 888 Lincoln Public School students living in limited resource neighborhoods.

"I'm going to wash my hands better so I don't get sick." Third grade student.

"I'm very impressed with the hand washing lesson. It will prevent spreading illness. We don't wash our hands enough around here." Teacher.

"I didn't know that you had to refrigerate leftover pizza. I thought that you could leave it out until the next morning." Student while playing "Don't Get Bugged."

Food Safety is integrated into almost every educational program presented to adult and youth audiences by NEP staff. Educational resources and teaching techniques include:



Nutrition Education Program

for Limited Resource Families

Maureen Burson
 Extension Educator

"Don't Get Bugged" interactive activity, Glitter Bug hand washing interactive activity; Fight Bac, USDA educational resources, Hall County Nebraska Fight Bac educational display, KSU Turkey Safety educational display, Eating Right is a Basic Food Safety Lesson, University of Massachusetts Learn at Home Lessons, Nebraska NebGuides and Fact Sheets, food preparation demonstrations, Nebraska Poultry and Egg Division resources, USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline, Nebraska Beef Board resources and Safe Food for the Hungry video conferences. Group and individual lessons are tailored to meet the needs of the specific audiences. Efforts are targeted to respond quickly during times of increased community food safety risk such as the power outage during October 1997. (MB)

Home canning concerns

It's canning time again! If you're new to canning or would like a refresher course, here are some "Major Canning Sins" that are potentially deadly from Charlotte P. Brennand, PhD, Utah State University Extension Food Safety specialist:

WHAT: Making up your own canning recipe. **WHY UNSAFE:** Without scientific testing, you will not know how long the product needs to be processed to be safe.

WHAT: Adding extra starch, flour or other thickener to recipe. **WHY UNSAFE:** This will change the rate of heat penetration into the product and can result in undercooking.

WHAT: Adding extra onions, chili, bell peppers or other vegetables to salsas. **WHY UNSAFE:** the extra vegetables dilute the acidity and can result in botulism poisoning.

WHAT: Using oven instead of water bath for processing.

WHY UNSAFE: The product will be under processed since air is not as good a conductor of heat as water or steam. The jars also may blow up.

WHAT: Not making altitude adjustments. **WHY UNSAFE:** Since boiling temperatures are lower at higher altitudes, the products will be undercooked. (NOTE: The altitude in Lancaster County ranges from 1,200 to 1,700 feet and you'll need to follow the recommended altitude adjustments given in your canning book for this level.)

WHAT: Not venting pressure cooker first. **WHY UNSAFE:** Lack of venting can result in air pockets which will not reach as high a temperature.

WHAT: Failure to acidify canned tomatoes. **WHY UN-**



SAFE: Not all tomatoes have an adequate acid level. This can result in botulism poisoning.

WHAT: Cooling pressure canner under running water. **WHY UNSAFE:** calculations as to cooking time includes the residual heat during the normal cool-down period as part of the heat process. Hurrying this process will result in under processed food.

WHAT: Letting food cool before processing in the recipes that call for "hot pack." **WHY UNSAFE:** The heat curves are based on the food being hot at the beginning of the processing. Product could be under processed. (AH)



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- 300 Newer Canning Recommendations
- 301 Canning Vegetables Safely
- 305 Safe Vinegars for Pickling

and many more...

Nutrition and Food Safety Web Site

Visit our Internet web site at: www.lanco.unl.edu/food

FREE monthly Food Relections e-mail newsletter.

To be added to the mailing list, e-mail Alice Henneman at AHENNEMAN1@UNL.EDU

Diabetes Study Course

Call Alice Henneman (441-7180) for more information.

Jean's Journal

Jean Wheelock
FCE Council Chair



Here it is August already—where has the summer gone? With all our rains, mowing the yard and pulling weeds has consumed a lot of time especially when the yard is so big. Time to be thinking about election of officers, so club members when you are asked, please consider. None of the positions are difficult and without your help, we can't manage the organization.

A good time was had at our annual Sizzling Summer Sampler. The individual members were responsible for

organizing and they did a super job. The food was wonderful and the variety of workshops was just great.

A very big thank you to Clarice Orr on her presentation about the disbursement of our cherished keepsakes, heirlooms and personal belongings to family members. It's so important to talk about these things with our families.

Gaga Greenery presented a lovely workshop on flower arranging and then presented each one attending a lovely bouquet.

The third workshop was the arts of stamping presented by The Loft Stamp Art and Accessories. I'm ready to sign up for a class. They gave some demonstrations and had lots of samples

of cards. It would be another fun hobby.

Corrine Jarecke was the recipient of our scholarship award. We presented her with a check at our June council meeting. A very lovely young woman who is working hard to get her degree in nursing.

Joy Kruse, Clarice Steffans, Jan Ruliffson and myself were elected as delegates to State Convention. We'll have the reports at our September council meeting.

And, remember our September council meeting will be at the Governor's Mansion so hope all the clubs will use that as a time to begin our new year of FCE. Call in your reservations to Pam, 441-7180.

Family Living



HOUSEHOLD HINTS



by Lorene Bartos, Extension Educator

To prevent mold from growing on your air-conditioner, unplug the unit, remove the outer covering, and either spray coils with a hose or follow the manufacturer's cleaning instructions. Afterwards, make sure the water used to clean the unit drains away from the house. When coils are dry, replace protective covering, plug in and operate. (LB)

America Goes Back to School

America Goes Back to School suggests the following practices for families of children going back to school this fall:

1. Make time for your children—those moments talking during evening meals and visiting the library, museum or zoo together make a difference.
2. Read together. It's the starting point of all learning. Read with your youngsters 30 minutes a day. Share a good book with your teen.
3. Use TV wisely. Limit viewing to no more than two hours a day.
4. Stay in regular contact with your child's teachers and principal.
5. Encourage your children to take challenging courses at school. Check homework every day.
6. Know where your children are, especially your teens. Support after-school and summer programs. Help connect kids to service opportunities through the schools, youth leadership, community and religious groups.
7. Talk directly to your children about the values you want them to have and about the dangers of drugs, alcohol and tobacco. And listen to them too!

BETTER EDUCATION IS EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS! (LJ)



Establish a daily family routine

Studies show that successful students have parents who create and maintain family routines. Routines generally include time for doing homework, doing chores, eating meals together and going to bed at an established time. Routines are important to make life predictable and satisfying for all family members. Discussion of daily events at mealtimes, for example, is an important routine. (LJ)



A new school year! Stores are advertising "back to school" bargains. Children and some parents are beginning to feel anxious, nervous and maybe even a bit afraid of what lies ahead. It is a time of teachable moments, both in parenting and in managing family resources. Start talking about clothing and supplies for the coming school year. Help children—at every age—to distinguish between needs and wants.

Visit

Two or three weeks before school starts, take a walk or bike ride in the school community so the child can become familiar with that environment. Introduce the child to principal and teachers if possible. If you know

Prepare for school

other parents whose children will be going to the same school, try planning a "get together" so children can make new friends or become better acquainted. Insecure feelings on the first day of school may be lessened if the child recognizes familiar faces.

Shop ahead

Shop wisely during these end-of-summer days. Be a careful and informed consumer. One temptation at back-to-school time is impulse buying. Often, school supplies are stocked at the back of a store, so shoppers pass by hundreds of other items, temptingly displayed, on their way to buy pencils and paper. You can avoid impulse buying by planning ahead. Make a list of the supplies you need, or the particular items of clothing you want, and stick to your list.

Students returning to school in grades K-8 can learn about

reusing and recycling during back-to-school time. Many families have supplies and clothing which can be handed down within their own family or to friends and neighbors. Ask around to find what wasn't used up last year and see if you can avoid buying everything new. Remember, wise consumers take good care of what they have purchased. Most families don't have unlimited resources and having to replace lost or carelessly broken items means doing without other things.

Self help skills

Assist the child in building self-help skills. It makes children feel good if they can zip, button, and tie with little or no help from others. Kindergartners who can perform such tasks often volunteer to help classmates and make friends while being helpful.

continued on page 11

FCE News

FCE leader training

The FCE leader training lesson, "Taking Responsibility for Your Health Care Records" is scheduled for Tuesday, September 28, 1 or 7 p.m. and will be presented by Lorene Bartos, extension educator.

The health care system in the United States is changing. The changes take us to a system that requires consumers to take more responsibility for their health status. A very important part of that care is maintaining accurate medical records for yourself and members of your family. In this lesson you will learn how to: 1) obtain information about your family's health history; 2) understand your rights to information as a health consumer; 3) correct misinformation contained in your personal medical records; 4) preserve your family's medical information for use in the future; and 5) keep track of your health expenses and reimbursements. (LB)

FCE reorganizational packets

Family and Community Education (FCE) club reorganizational packets will be ready for club presidents to pick up after state convention, about August 25, at the extension office. It will include the dues information for club treasurers. Information in the packet has October due dates. It is time to look forward and plan an exciting and educational year for FCE. If you have questions, call Lorene or Pam at 441-7180. (LB)

September FCE council meeting

The September council meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 27, at the Governor's Mansion. The meeting will begin with a luncheon (cost \$7.00) at 1 p.m. The business meeting and tour will follow. Please call Pam at 441-7180 to register. (LB)

Character Counts! Corner Teasing Do's and Don'ts



DO:

1. Be careful of others' feelings.
2. Use humor gently and carefully.
3. Ask whether teasing about a certain topic hurts someone's feelings.
4. Accept teasing from others if you tease.
5. Tell others if teasing about a certain topic hurts your feelings.
6. Know the difference between friendly, gentle teasing and hurtful ridicule or harassment.
7. Try to read others "body language" to see if their feelings are hurt—even when they don't tell you.
8. Help others when they are being ridiculed.

DON'T:

1. Tease someone you don't know well.
2. (If you are a boy) tease girls about sex. (If you are a girl) tease boys about sex.
3. Tease about a person's body.
4. Tease about a person's family members.
5. Tease about a topic when a student has asked you not to.
6. Tease someone who seems agitated or who you know is having a bad day.
7. Be thin-skinned about teasing that is meant in a friendly way.
8. Swallow your feelings about teasing—tell someone in a direct and clear way what is bothering you. (LJ)



4-H & Youth

4-H Bulletin Board

- Teen Council will meet Sunday, September 12, from 3-5 p.m. All teens are welcome to join the fun. (TK)
- National 4-H Week—October 3-9. Plan a special activity to promote 4-H. (LB)
- Make It With Wool Contest information is available at the extension office. (LB)

Award nominations

Nominations are needed for the following awards by October 15. Application forms are available at the extension office.

4-H Meritorious Service—presented to individuals or organizations which have exhibited consistent and strong support of the 4-H program. 4-H members are not eligible.

Outstanding 4-H Member—presented to an individual who has excelled in their involvement with the 4-H program and are 14 years of age or older. The basis for selection appraises the variety and depth of 4-H activities.

I Dare You Youth Leadership Award—presented to junior or senior 4-H members who have demonstrated personal integrity, lead well-rounded lives and possess a willingness to assume responsibility. They do not need to hold leadership positions currently, but should be recognized by their peers and adults who work with them as emerging leaders. Two 4-H members will be selected from Lancaster County. (LB)

Awards

4-H awards books are due in the extension office October 15. The awards competition will remain as it has in the past for county and district competition. All 4-H members 12 years old and older are eligible to submit books for county awards. If you have questions, call 441-7180. (TK & DK)

Ak-Sar-Ben

Ak-Sar-Ben horse show will be held September 21 and 22 in Omaha. The schedule is as follows:

| | | |
|-------------------------|-------------|---|
| Monday, September 20 | 5-6 p.m. | Check in horses for Tuesday morning and afternoon classes |
| Tuesday, September 21 | 8 a.m. | Western Horsemanship Junior and Senior Pony Pleasure Western Pleasure Advanced Western Horsemanship Advanced Western Pleasure |
| | 3-4 p.m. | Check-in for all English and Reining Classes Check-in for 2-Year Old Snaffle Bit Western Pleasure |
| | 4:30 p.m. | 2-Year Old Snaffle Bit Western Pleasure |
| | 6 p.m. | English Equitation English Pleasure Advanced English Equitation Advanced English Pleasure Hunter Hack |
| Wednesday, September 22 | 8-8:30 a.m. | Check in for Poles and Barrels |
| | 8 a.m. | Reining Pole Bending Barrel Racing (EK) |

County fair was a success!

Thanks to all the fair volunteers, parents, 4-H leaders, 4-H members, 4-H Ambassadors and Teen Council members for a job well done. We couldn't have a fair without you. A special thanks goes to the Fair Board and 4-H Council members for their support of the 4-H program. Also thanks to Gerri Ault and crew for keeping the Rock Café and Snack Shack running. Thanks again! (LB)

Fair's over, now what? Parent and leader meeting

Leaders, parents and interested volunteers are invited to attend this 4-H training. Discover how to finish the current 4-H year and how to prepare for the next 4-H year. Awards, project completion/selection and club reorganization will be covered. See you there September 21 at 9:30 a.m. or 7 p.m. (TK/LB)

2002 CWF registration begins

Reservations are now being accepted for the 2002 Citizen Washington Focus program. To be eligible you must be 14 years of age by the time of the trip. To reserve a seat, send a \$100 deposit to the Lancaster County 4-H Council, attention: Deanna, 444 Cherrycreek Road, Lincoln, NE 68528-1507. Applications will be accepted on a first come, first served basis. We are limited to 42 youth. What better way to learn about government, meet new friends and travel the east coast? Join today! (DK)

4-H Open House

Monday,
September 13
6:30-8:00 p.m.

Lancaster
Extension
Education Center
444 Cherrycreek Road



Learn more
about the 4-H
program!

For Adults &
Children
(5 years
and older)

I'm interested in 4-H!

Return to University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension in Lancaster County, 444 Cherrycreek Road, Suite A, Lincoln, NE 68528-1507.
A 4-H representative will contact you. Please call 441-7180 for more information.

Name _____ Female Male Birthdate _____
 Address _____ Zip _____
 Telephone _____ Grade in school _____ School _____
 Daytime Telephone _____

Check project area of interest:

- | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|---|--|--|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dogs | <input type="checkbox"/> Rabbits | <input type="checkbox"/> Home Environment | <input type="checkbox"/> Child Care | <input type="checkbox"/> Foods | <input type="checkbox"/> Clothing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cats | <input type="checkbox"/> Other Household Pets | <input type="checkbox"/> Woodworking | <input type="checkbox"/> Model Rockets | <input type="checkbox"/> Flowers/Gardening | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Livestock | <input type="checkbox"/> Horses | <input type="checkbox"/> Safety | <input type="checkbox"/> Shooting Sports | <input type="checkbox"/> Photography | |

Are you interested in becoming a 4-H volunteer? Check your interest:

- Club Leader Project Assistant

HORSE BITS

The State 4-H Horse Exposition was held July 11-15 at Fonner Park in Grand Island. Lancaster County had 36 exhibitors at the show. They came home with 34 purple ribbons, 49 blue, 27 red and 3 white. They also brought back 3 trophies.

Congratulations to all exhibitors! They not only rode and placed well, but put on a great show of sportsmanship and good will. (EK)



1999 Fonner Park State 4-H Horse Exposition

Hunter hack—reserve champion
Emily Plake, 17, and her 5-year-old Paint gelding won the hunter hack reserve championship July 14 at the 1999 Fonner Park State 4-H Horse Exposition in Grand Island. Emily, daughter of Barbara Plake of Lincoln, showed Lucky Light for the win. Emily's award was donated by Overland National Bank of Grand Island.

(Photo courtesy of NU Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources)



1999 Fonner Park State 4-H Horse Exposition

Elementary Dressage—reserve champion
Rachel Braunsroth, 13, and her 7-year-old Quarter Horse mare won the Elementary Dressage reserve championship July 14 at the 1999 Fonner Park State 4-H Horse Exposition in Grand Island. Rachel, daughter of Brad and Cindy Braunsroth of Lincoln, showed Swift Jockey Jo for the win. Dressage is an English riding class judged on how well horse and rider work together. Rachel's award was donated by Budget Host Island Inn of Grand Island. Rachel also won this event last year.

(Photo courtesy of NU Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources)



Yearling gelding halter - reserve champion

Alison Umberger, 18, and her Paint won the yearling gelding halter reserve championship July 13 at the 1999 Fonner Park State 4-H Horse Exposition in Grand Island. Alison, daughter of Mark and Leah Umberger of Lincoln, showed Zippos Tophat for the win. Alison's award was donated by Shonsey, Almquist, Kucera, Maltzahn and Galloway P.C. of Grand Island

Photo courtesy of NU Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources.



Junior barrel racing - champion

Ashley Schoneweis, 13, and her 6-year old Quarter Horse mare won the Junior Barrel Racing championship July 15 at the 1999 Fonner Park State 4-H Horse Exposition in Grand Island. Ashley, daughter of Rod and Connie Schoneweis of Eagle, showed Chargetoonight for the win. Their combined preliminary and final time was 37.442 seconds. Ashley's award was donated by Laser Works of Grand Island. Photo courtesy of NU Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources.



Senior Team Demonstration - champions

Laurissa Sabalka (left) and Emily Plake topped the Senior Team Demonstrations July 12 at the 1999 Fonner Park State 4-H Horse Exposition in Grand Island. They demonstrated calling a veterinarian in "Your Friendly Veterinarian." The 17-year-old girls are daughters of Anita and Tom Sabalka, and Barbara Plake, all of Lincoln. The State Bank of Cairo and Grand Island Farm Supply provided the awards. Photo courtesy of NU Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

4-H & Youth



State fair livestock schedule

Saturday, August 28

- 7:30 a.m. Dog Judging Contest—Bob Devaney Sports Center
- 8 a.m. Dog Show—Bob Devaney Center
- 1 p.m. Dairy goat check-in until 2 p.m.

Sunday, August 29

- 8 a.m. Dairy Goat Show—Showmanship first, open class swine, sheep, goat barn

Friday, September 3

- noon Beef, sheep, swine, dairy stalls available
- 5 p.m. Weigh market lambs until 7 p.m.
- 6:30 p.m. Check breeding beef/weigh & tag market beef

Saturday, September 4

- 7:30 a.m. Check breeding beef/weigh & tag market beef
- 8 a.m. Weigh market lambs by counties, order to be announced by superintendent
- 8 a.m. Deadline for arrival of market lambs and breeding sheep
- 10 a.m. No sheep will be weighed or checked in after this time
- 10 a.m. Beef and swine exhibits must be in place
- 10 a.m. Livestock judging contest, Animal Science Complex, East Campus
- 10:30 a.m. No beef cattle will be checked, weighed or tagged after this time
- 11 a.m. Dairy cattle must be in place
- 1 p.m. Check-in of dairy cattle
- 7 p.m. Breeding sheep show, Youth Complex Area

Sunday, September 5

- 8 a.m. Judging all 4-H market steers and market heifers
- 8 a.m. Judging market lambs and sheep showmanship, Youth Complex Area
- 8 a.m. Weigh and tattoo market hogs
- Monday, September 6**
- 8 a.m. 4-H Dairy Show judging in Open Class Beef Arena
- 8 a.m. Judging breeding heifers as time permits before the selection of grand champion market animal, new arena

- 8 a.m. Judging market gilts—followed by market burrows and showmanship, swine arena
- 2 p.m. All dairy cattle will be released
- 5 p.m. All beef and sheep from Southeast District not consigned for slaughter will be released

Tuesday, September 7

- 6 a.m. Ship market beef for slaughter
- 7 a.m. Deadline for removal of sheep and beef not sent to slaughter
- 11 a.m. Exhibits released until 3 p.m. (DK)

Ak-Sar-Ben

The 1999 Ak-Sar-Ben 4-H Youth Livestock Exposition will be September 21-27. For more information, call Deanna at 441-7180. (DK)

Scholarships available

Several scholarships are available to 4-H members graduating in 2000. Application forms can be obtained at the extension office. Application deadline is October 15, 1999. For more information, call Lorene at 441-7180. (LB)

Upbeat science!

As school begins, students will participate in the 4-H School Enrichment program, where science is upbeat and at its best! Through hands-on activities, youth develop skills in problem solving and decision making. They apply scientific and technical principles to their daily lives...AND they have fun! Each year, 4-H School Enrichment educates over 12,000 students in Lancaster County.

Second grade youngsters will encounter smelly stuff—trash—things we don't need anymore! These are ideas that come to mind when they hear the word "garbage." Garbology introduces youth to solid waste management and the three R's: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. Students develop an increased awareness of garbage—where it comes from and where it goes, the problems it presents and possible solutions.

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Community Focus

Horse show planned to benefit new event center

August 22 is the date for a benefit horse show that will boost support for the Lancaster Event Center building project. It is sponsored by the Eastern Nebraska Driving Society and the Capital City Horse and Pony Club.

The show will be held at the Capital City Horse and Pony Club grounds located at 12900 North 14 Street. Individuals interested should contact Suzanne Border for more information at 402-782-2008.

Construction for the new facility is scheduled to begin soon with site preparation (weather permitting) to begin in the middle of August. (GB)



Recycling is important to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

With two campuses covering 607 acres and a student and staff population of 25,000, waste management is an enormous challenge. Emphasis is placed on an overall goal to reduce the amount of waste taken to the landfill. Much of this is accomplished by reducing the amount of waste generated, reusing materials through inventory redistribution and recycling.

Here are UNL's recycling numbers for 1998—187 tons of cardboard, 106 tons of newspaper, 450 tons of office paper, 12 tons of steel cans, 3 tons of aluminum cans and over 35 tons of plastic bottles, wood pallets, fluorescent light bulbs and other materials. In the last 5 years, the university has increased the amount recycled from 370 tons to 790 tons and has noted an 11.5% decline in waste taken to the landfill. (GB)

Pioneers Park Nature Center Herbal Festival Saturday, August 21 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.



Join us for a new look at an old favorite. Attend workshops, take a tour of our herb garden, taste wild teas and browse through our herb-related gift shop items.

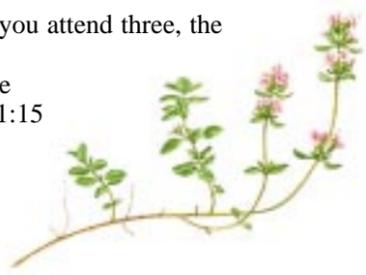
Workshop schedule:

- 9:15-10:15 a.m.
 - Herby Hors D'oeuvres - Becky Seth
 - Nature's Beauty Secrets - Jean Wheelock
- 10:30-11:30 a.m.
 - Not Enough Thyme: General Uses of Herbs - Jody Hoover
 - Landscaping with Herbs - Kim Todd
- 11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m.
 - Herby Hors D'oeuvres - Becky Seth
 - Nature's Beauty Secrets - Jean Wheelock

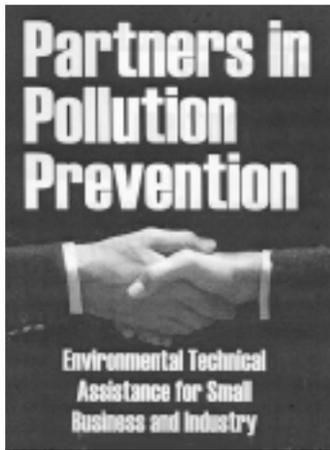
Each workshop is \$2.50. If you attend three, the total is \$6.00.

Herb garden tours with Irene Alexander at 9:30, 10:15, 11:15 a.m. and noon.

Reservations are appreciated, but not necessary. Call 441-7895 for more information. (GB)



Pollution prevention: it's everyone's issue



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
AND
U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION VII

by Josh Barber and Sarah Buechler, interns, "Partners in Pollution Prevention" National Pollution Prevention (P2) Week, a week dedicated to celebrating the efforts of waste source reduction in businesses, industries, communities and households, is September 20-26. Since 1992, the third week of September has been an opportu-

nity for organizations to publicize their year-long P2 efforts and emphasize the importance of pollution prevention.

Pollution prevention is defined by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as "source reduction and other practices that reduce or eliminate the creation of pollutants through increased efficiency in the use of raw materials, energy, water or other sources; or protection of natural resources by conservation." The movement of pollution prevention is continuing to improve the quality of our lives in the United States and around the globe. During Pollution Prevention Week, we should be reminded that this issue concerns everyone.

The concepts of P2 have applications in many areas of society including our individual homes, businesses and industries. For example, in our homes we could equip showers with low-flow showerheads, purchase fluorescent bulbs and reuse grocery bags. These practices reduce pollution at its source instead of dealing with the waste after generation. The collection of

opportunities for pollution prevention in our homes, businesses and industries are extensive.

There are many benefits associated with pollution prevention; from economic incentives to the increased stability of our environment:

- * Reduced raw material, disposal, production, energy and clean-up expenses.
- * Improved human and environmental health and safety.
- * Increased employee morale and improved image for businesses and industry.

As you can see, we all share the responsibility of protecting the world we live in. By reducing waste we protect our health, resources and our pocketbooks. The list below gives tips on how to reduce waste:

- * Hold a pollution prevention education seminar at your workplace.
- * Evaluate current waste practices at work and at home.
- * Educate the community on pollution prevention through business publications and on



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Partners in pollution prevention interns



Josh Barber and Sarah Buechler have been completing pollution prevention internships in the Lancaster County Extension Office. Josh is a UNL senior working on his bachelors degree in Biosystems Engineering with emphasis in environmental engineering. Sarah is pursuing her bachelors degree in Civil Engineering with an emphasis on environmental engineering. She plans to graduate in May of 2000.

During their internship, Josh and Sarah have been working with local businesses and industries. In partnership they are conducting waste generation assessments, communicating results and working to find innovative solutions to reduce waste and pollution amounts.

The internships provide practical and relevant experience for students like Josh and Sarah while local businesses and industries benefit from practical solutions to identified pollution problems. (GB)

Results from 1997 & 1998 Pollution Prevention Internship Program

| | Summer of 1997 | Summer of 1998 |
|------------------------------------|---|---|
| Students | 17 undergraduate 3 graduate | 15 undergraduate 2 graduate |
| Potential Savings for Business | \$108,000 for 67 small businesses \$150,000 for 7 industries | \$175,000 for 70 small businesses \$100,000 for 3 industries |
| Solid Waste Diverted from Landfill | 700,000 pound | 2,300,000 pounds |
| Reduced Hazardous Waste | 3,500 gallons | 3,500 gallons |

Dealing with unwanted guests

continued from page 3

(moth balls) are hardly any better. Their primary usefulness is in generating repeat business for pest control industry. To be at all effective, they must evaporate rapidly, requiring frequent replacement. Aerosol dog and cat repellents may discourage bat use of a particular roosting spot for periods of up to several months. They have been used effectively to prevent bats from night roosting above porches. The spray is applied by day when bats are not present. Aerosol repellents are not an adequate substitute for exclusion in the case of day roosts and never should be applied when bats are in a roost. In many cases, suspending 2" wide by 7-10" long strips of aluminum foil or helium-filled mylar balloons at a roost will deter bats. Poisons used against bats pose serious health hazards to humans and are not effective in eliminating bat colonies. For this reason, there are currently no poisons or

chemicals licenced for use against bats. Furthermore, it is a direct violation of federal law to use a chemical in any way other than that which it is strictly intended. In most cases, the only safe, permanent solution is exclusion.

Do bats present a rabies danger?

According to the Center for Communicable Disease guidelines, a rabies exposure requires contact with an open wound or mucous membranes (eyes, nose, or mouth) with a rabid animal's saliva or nervous tissue. Transmission from an animal to a human through the air has never been recorded outdoors or in buildings, though there are two cases which occurred under extremely unique conditions inside caves. There is no evidence of transmission through contact with urine or feces.

* Netting available from: Internet, Tel:1-800-328-8456 (request 1/6" mesh size, order

#OV-7100)

For illustrated methods of excluding bats from your home and a detailed discussion of public health concerns, Merlin Tuttle's book *America's Neighborhood Bats* is an excellent resource and delightful reading. With generous use of color photographs, the book covers all of the most common bats of North America. This book can be found in our online catalog.

NOTE: For those residing in the United Kingdom, please note that bat exclusion without prior notification to the proper authorities is a punishable offense. The proper authorities to seek guidance from include: English Nature, Scottish Natural Heritage, The Countryside Council for Wales, or the Countryside and Wildlife Branch of the Department of the Environment in Northern Ireland. (SC)



Pollution prevention: it's everyone's issue

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public television.

* Request technical assistance from local experts.

In Lancaster County, several valuable resources are available to help you. The Nebraska Energy Office is currently offering low interest loans to businesses seeking to employ pollution prevention ideas which have high capital investment costs. The University of Nebraska offers technical assistance through their staff experts and also through Partners in Pollution Prevention (P3), a summer internship program for engineering students.

As students at the University of Nebraska, we took part in the 1999 P3 program and helped many Lincoln businesses reduce waste and work toward pollution prevention. One business is considering the use of a solvent still for process chemicals to replace their current disposal method. This could save them over \$5,000 annually on operating costs and reduce the amount of waste produced by the company. An area hotel is looking into an ozone laundry system. If the hotel implements this system, they'll reduce laundry water use by 50% and

chemical use by 60%. One supplier claims that switching to ozone laundry produces a gas savings of up to 90%. This new system results in large savings on chemical, energy and water expenses and conserves Lincoln's water supply.

P2 is everyone's issue. It's imperative that we all do what we can to create a safer, more stable and efficient society. Pollution prevention is one way. For everyone's sake, take advantage of National Pollution Prevention Week to discuss new efforts and praise the old ones.



Monarch butterflies and Bt corn

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dusted milkweed leaves, but the mortality was less than found in the Cornell study. They found 19% mortality vs. 0% mortality in the nonBt corn pollen treatment.

So the question is, what are the real effects of Bt corn on the monarch butterfly population? When Bt corn is used, fewer insecticides are used. When broad spectrum insecticides are used to control a pest, non-target species, like monarch butterflies and their larvae, are also killed.

So, using fewer pesticides should be a good thing for those non-target insects.

What can farmers do? If farmers are concerned about killing monarch butterfly larvae, they can choose to plant a nonBt corn hybrid on their border and end rows and effectively move the Bt pollen away from milkweed plants. More studies need to be done to look at the effect of Bt corn and non-target insects, including monarch butterflies.



Prepare for school

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Encourage

Elementary and middle school children experience a different anxiety as they move from one grade to another. There are new schedules, class changes, teachers, friends and school facilities. Each school year is accompanied by a period of adjustment. Students need and want adult patience and encour-

agement.

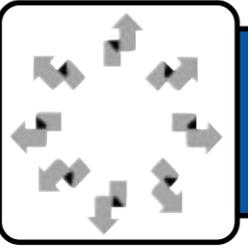
Plan

Conflicts surrounding back-to-school demands will be avoided if planning is done ahead of time. When school begins, spend a few hours on weekends cleaning and organizing wardrobes. During the week, make time the night before to lay out clothes, set the breakfast

table, prepare lunch, if necessary, and put books and lunch money in a designated place.

A good night's rest and a nutritious breakfast every day are essential if children are to be healthy and productive. It's important to go back to school prepared to learn. (LJ)

Miscellaneous



Upbeat science

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Embryology, where baby chicks are hatched right in the classroom, teaches responsibility, patience and expectation. Youth develop a healthy sense of awe, respect and tenderness toward living things. The miracle of life unfolds as third graders study life cycles and take responsibility for the care of fertile eggs throughout the 21-day incubation period, then the chicks after they've hatched.

Blue Sky Below My Feet relates science and space technology to everyday living for fourth graders. By using features from the space shuttle program as working models, students learn how forces, fibers and food affect their daily lives on earth and astronauts while in space. Youth learn about gravity and free fall, taste space food and communicate with NASA via the internet.

With an emphasis on water quality and conservation, 4-H Water Riches provides new and exciting experiences for fifth graders and solicits each student's commitment to preserve and conserve this important natural resource. Through demonstrations with the groundwater flow model, youngsters learn about the water cycle and how pollutants affect the water they use.

So—watch for your student's participation in 4-H School Enrichment. It's an educational experience for the whole family! (ALH)



Nobuko Nyman is awarded a "Certificate of Appreciation" from the YWCA's Parent Center Coordinator, Donna Delahoussaye. Nobuko, Nutrition Advisor with NEP has provided educational programs for teen parents at the Y for three years.



Calling All Artists!

2000 White House Easter Egg Artistry Contest

The 2000 White House Easter Egg Artistry Contest is underway! The American Egg board (AEB), in conjunction with the Poultry & Egg Division of the Nebraska Department of Agriculture, is again sponsoring this statewide contest. Nebraska artists are asked to decorate an egg to represent some special feature(s) of the state of Nebraska.

The winning egg chosen from the state of Nebraska, will be sent to the American Egg Board for inclusion in the 2000 Easter Egg Display at the White House in Washington, D.C. Entries for this year's contest are due September 9, 1999. For contest criteria or further information, contact Mary Torell by E-mail at mtorell2@unl.edu or call 402-472-0752.

Make It Yourself with Wool Contest

Entries for the Make It Yourself with Wool Competition are due October 3. The district contest for Lancaster County participants will be held at Nebraska City, Calvary Community Church on Sunday, October 17. Call the extension office for a registration form. (LB)

The NEBLINE

Nebraska Cooperative Extension
Newsletter
Lancaster County

THE NEBLINE is published monthly by the University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension in Lancaster County, 444 Cherrycreek Rd., Lincoln, Nebraska, 68528-1507. Contact the extension office, (402) 441-7180 for more information.



Gary C. Bergman, Extension Educator—Unit Leader

NOTICE: All programs and events listed in this newsletter will be held at the Lancaster Extension Education Center unless noted otherwise. Use of commercial and trade names does not imply approval or constitute endorsement by the University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension in Lancaster County.

- Mary Abbott, Extension Assistant
- Lorene Bartos, Extension Educator
- Tina Brown, AmeriCorps VISTA Volunteer
- Corey Brubaker, Extension Educator
- Maureen Burson, Extension Educator
- Linda Detsauer, Nutrition Advisor
- Tom Dorn, Extension Educator
- Soni Cochran, Extension Assistant
- Arlene Hanna, Extension Associate
- Alice Henneman, Extension Educator
- Don Janssen, Extension Educator
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- Ellen Kraft, Extension Assistant
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- Warder Shires, Extension Educator
- David Smith, Extension Technologist
- Marilyn Waldron, Nutrition Advisor
- Karen Whitson, AmeriCorps VISTA
- Jim Wies, Extension Assistant
- Barb Yllescas, Extension Assistant



Extension Calendar

All programs and events will be held at the Lancaster Extension Education Center unless otherwise noted.

- August 17**
4-H Livestock VIPS Meeting 7 p.m.
- August 19**
Teachers Character Counts! Training
Fair Board Meeting 7:30 p.m.
- August 25**
State Fair Entry Day—*State Fair Park, Lincoln*
- August 24**
Pesticide Container Recycling—*Southeast Nebraska Coop, Junction of Hwy 4 & 136, east of Beatrice* 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
- August 27**
Pesticide Container Recycling—*Otte Oil and Propane, Wahoo* 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
- August 27-September 6**
Nebraska State Fair—*State Fair Park, Lincoln*
- September 8**
4-H Horse VIPS Meeting 7 p.m.
- September 9**
4-H Rabbit VIPS Meeting 7 p.m.
- September 12**
4-H Ambassador Meeting 1:45 p.m.
4-H Teen Council Meeting 3-5 p.m.
- September 13**
Extension Board Meeting 6 p.m.
4-H Open House 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- September 16**
Fair's Over-Now What? 4-H Leader Training 9:30 a.m. or 7 p.m.
- September 21-22**
Ak-Sar-Ben 4-H Horse Show—*Omaha*
- September 22-27**
Ak-Sar-Ben Livestock Exposition—*Omaha*

Phone numbers & addresses:

- Office (leave message after hours) 441-7180
- After hours 441-7170
- FAX 441-7148
- COMPOSTING HOTLINE 441-7139
- NUFACTS INFORMATION CENTER 441-7188
- EXTENSION OFFICE E-MAIL.....LanCo@unl.edu
- WORLD WIDE WEB ADDRESS.....www.lanco.unl.edu
- OFFICE HOURS: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday**

Water treatment equipment considerations

continued from page 3

tional costs. Filters must be changed, materials added as needed and the water checked to ensure equipment works properly. Unserviced equipment may contribute to increased levels of some contaminants.

Many types of water treatment equipment are available to address water quality problems. Key steps to use in selecting water treatment equipment are:

1. Use appropriate tests to correctly identify the problem or problems which need to be

addressed.

2. Identify options for correcting the problem.
3. Select reputable dealers; ask for references.
4. Check to see if the proposed equipment has been tested or validated by an independent organization such as NSF (formerly known as the National Sanitation Foundation) or Water Quality Association.
5. Identify all costs including purchase price, installation, operating and required routine maintenance costs.

6. Determine if the system has adequate capacity for your needs.

7. Understand what maintenance will be required.
8. Understand how to determine if the equipment is operating satisfactorily.
9. Understand any warranty provided with the equipment.

SOURCES: Sharon Skipton, UNL extension educator and DeLynn Hay, UNL water resource specialist. (BPO)



Bug zappers spew germs

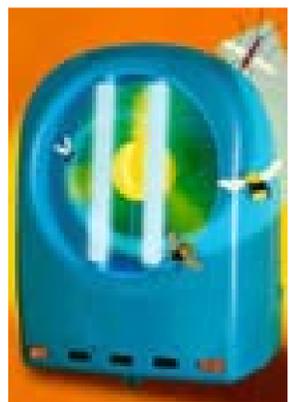
Bug zappers are installed by many homeowners to reduce the number of insects in and around the yard. These devices use light to attract bugs to an electrified metal grid and electrocute them. When insects hit the grid, their bodies explode. Many people don't realize that bug zappers rarely kill mosquitoes that are attracted to carbon dioxide, but they do kill many moths and other insects that are attracted to light.

Researchers at Kansas State University have shown that electrocuted insect parts are

showered as far as 6 feet away from the bug zapper. And, unfortunately the bacteria and viruses are not destroyed in the electrocution process. If you have one of these bug zappers, you don't need to abandon the device altogether, but make sure that it is located more than 8 feet away from food preparation, the barbeque and picnic areas.

According to John Urban, KSU associate professor of microbiology, "Most people probably think that using electrocuting traps to control insect in one's backyard or

around food-handling areas would improve sanitation, but the results of this study suggests their use actually spreads microorganisms." (BPO)



Nebline Feedback

In order to best serve our subscribers, this form will appear in every issue of THE NEBLINE. You can use this form to:

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Comments _____

Story Idea(s) _____

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