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The NEBLINE, May 1998

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The NEBLINE
University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension
Lancaster County

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

May 1998
Vol XI, No 5

Tina Brown
Americorps VISTA

"Teens for Teens" is a service-learning program for youth, funded by a Learn & Serve grant from the Nebraska Volunteer Service Commission. Service-learning encourages knowledge application through community service with the educational component being equally important to the service component. Service-learning projects are mutually beneficial to service-recipients and service-givers.

The goal of extension’s "Teens for Teens" program is to provide service, motivate and enable youth to be active members of their community. In order to accomplish this, the funding received was allocated for mini-grants to support service-learning projects identified, planned and implemented by youth. From the beginning, the program has been overseen and guided by a youth advisory board, consisting of youth who have previously been involved in service-learning. To date, the youth advisory board has identified issues important to youth in Lancaster County, developed a "youth-friendly" application and reporting form, reviewed and established funding for mini-grant projects, acted as liaisons and resource-gatherers for the mini-grantee groups and created a "Teens for Teens" website (www.ianr.unl.edu/ianr/lanco/tft).

Sixteen applications were received from a variety of youth groups in Lancaster County. Based on identified needs, strength of project, degree of youth involvement in planning, implementation plans and the written proposal, nine projects were selected for funding. These include:

• "Arts for All" by the Lincoln Children’s Museum Youth Advisory Board: Youth hosted an art event at the Lincoln Children’s Museum on April 26, designed specifically to enable handicapped children to participate in the creation of art.

• "Clover Missions" by the Super Stars 4-H Club: Youth will bring various life-skill activities (such as cooking, sewing, etc.) to children at the People’s City Mission.

• "Hand in Hand: ACE & the F Street Recreation Center" by Lincoln High ACE students: Youth will work with elementary students to paint a mural representing cultural diversity at the F Street Recreation Center.

• "Improv" by Lincoln Action Program’s Improv Team: Youth provided improvisational skits on youth issues such as peer pressure, drinking, etc., to middle and high schools.

• "Race Response" by the Culler Middle School Race Response Team: Youth performed skits addressing racial conflicts and created a mural showing the diversity at their school for Culler’s Multicultural Fair, April 23.

• "Safe Night for Teens" by the YWCA Survival Skills Program: Youth will host a “Safe Night” dance for teens on May 30, 7:30-11:00 p.m., featuring positive activities for Lincoln youth.

• "Youth Awareness" by Teens Growing into the Future (TGIF) of Goodrich Middle School: Youth will host speakers on issues such as teen pregnancy, drug/alcohol abuse, etc. and a problem solving workshop at their school.

• "Youth Summit ’98" by the Youth Summit Planning Committee: Youth hosted a day-long youth discussion forum May 8, on youth issues in order to generate constructive suggestions and solutions which will be compiled and distributed to youth organizations in Lancaster County.

• "Zoo School Beautification & Restoration Project" by the Landscaping Class at the Science Focus Program: Youth will create educational landscapes at the Lincoln Children’s Zoo.

The public is welcome to attend any of these events. For more information, contact Tina Brown at 441-7180.

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Address Service Requested
Perennials with colorful foliage

Most perennials are grown for their attractive flowers. They bloom for a few days or weeks, but are green, unassuming plants during the rest of the growing season. There are, however, some perennials that have colorful foliage. These perennials add color to the garden from spring to fall. Following is a partial list of perennials that have attractive foliage.

Hostas are a favorite foliage perennial. There are hundreds of hosta varieties. The varieties differ in leaf color, leaf size, plant size, and flower color. The foliage may be green, blue, gold or variegated. The leaves may be long and narrow, nearly round or heart-shaped. Hosta varieties vary in height from 2-3 ft. to 3-4 ft. Flowers may be white, blue or purple. Some varieties have fragrant flowers.

Lungworts or pulmonarias are clump-forming perennials that possess distinctive white or silver spots on their foliage. Lungworts do best in partial to full shade. They are fleshy-leaved perennials that are grown mainly for their late summer bloom. However, several varieties have colorful foliage. Sedums are easy to grow, tolerate dry conditions, and have few pests. They perform best in full sun and well-drained soils.

A perennial with burgundy foliage is Penstemon digitalis ‘Husker Red’. ‘Husker Red’ grows 2’ x 3’ to 3’ tall. It blooms in early summer. The flowers are white with a pink tinge. The foliage is burgundy or maroon-red. It does best in well-drained soils and full sun. As you might guess, ‘Husker Red’ was introduced by the University of Nebraska. It was selected as the 1996 Perennial Plant of the Year by the Perennial Plant Association.

Coral bells have been grown for many years for their showy flowers. In recent years, their popularity has soared due to the introduction of several new varieties with attractive foliage. One of the most popular varieties is Heuchera micrantha ‘Palace Purple’. In fact, it was selected as the 1991 Perennial Plant of the Year. ‘Palace Purple’ has maple-shaped leaves that are greenish-purple to dark purple. Plants are 15 to 18 inches tall with a similar spread. White flowers are produced in summer. Coral bells perform best in well-drained soils and partial shade to full sun.

Other perennials with colorful foliage include snow-on-the-mountain, ajuga, lamb’s ears, heuchera, and artemisia.

Consider planting perennials with colorful foliage in your garden this year. (MJM)

Repotting houseplants

Spring is an excellent time to repot houseplants. Repotting gives the plant more room in which to grow. Generally, transplant a pot one size larger than the one it is now in. Frequent repotting depends upon a plant’s growth rate. Slow-growing plants may not need repotting every two to three years, while fast growers must be repotted annually.

Several hours before a plant is to be repotted, water it thoroughly. Then turn the plant and pot upside down, gently tapping the sides and edges of the container to remove it. If the roots are heavily matted or wound around the base, then remove about half of the soil. This will encourage new roots to grow away from the tight circular pattern after repotting.

Place the plant in the new pot, holding it at the depth it was originally grown and add potting mixture. Gently pack the soil around the roots to eliminate air pockets. Leave at least ½ inch at the top of the pot free of soil to aid in watering. After repotting, water thoroughly and then not again until the surface dries. (MJM)
How harmful are high copper levels in water?

People living in some Nebraska towns are being reminded that their water system exceeded the EPA Action Level for copper in a water supply. In Lancaster County, these public water suppliers include Brownie Manufacturing, Davey, Kawasaki Motor Mfg. Co., Lincoln Regional Center, Roca and Waverly. This notice means that some water samples, mostly in homes, have copper levels at the tap greater than 1.3 milligrams per liter (mg/L) in water that has been in contact with plumbing for six hours or more. How does this affect you, and what can you do about it?

Copper is an essential nutrient, required by the body in very small amounts for good health. At high concentrations, copper is a gastro-intestinal irritant and may cause nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, and sometimes, a metallic taste. Individual differences in the copper content of the diet and the effectiveness of the body to excrete copper make blood copper levels highly variable. However, copper levels in water can affect you, and what can you do about it?

- Copper is an essential nutrient required by the body in very small amounts for good health.
- At high concentrations, copper can cause gastrointestinal irritants.

Tips for attracting birds

Atracting the widest variety of wild birds to your backyard can be rewarding, if you follow these guidelines. There are four elements to offer in your backyard to ensure frequent visits by wild birds.

Element #1: Food

To attract the widest variety of wild birds, you should consider placing a wide variety of bird feeders and food around your backyard. Consider different types of feeding stations such as a platform feeder for ground feeding birds, hanging feeders for perching birds and suet feeders for insect-eating birds.

Element #2: Shelter and Places to Raise Young

Wild birds feel more secure if they have shelter to protect themselves from the elements and predators. Trees and large shrubs are welcome places to raise and protect their young. Consider offering nesting boxes and nesting materials in spring for the specific species of birds you want to attract. Plant native trees and shrubs that provide cover to attract birds.

Element #3: Water

Probably one of the single most important elements to include in your backyard bird habitat is water. The noisier the better.

Element #4: Nesting and Hatching Sites

The two snakes that you are most likely to encounter around your property are the Garter snake and the Eastern Ribbon Snake. At first glance it is difficult to tell them apart. Here are a few clues. The Garter snake has two rows of dorsal striped along with three yellow stripes that run the length of his body. The Eastern Ribbon Snake also has three yellow stripes that run the length of his body. The Ribbon snake also exhibits a more slender body than the Garter snake.

Both snakes mate in April and May. Ribbon snakes give birth to 10-12 live young in the months of July or August. Garter snakes lay eggs.

Continued on page 11
Soybean seed treatment

Soybean seed treatment

good idea in cool, moist soils

As this is written, we have been experiencing a cool, wet spring. If weather trends in mid-May indicate the continuance of these conditions, soybean producers will want to consider using seed treatments on soybeans, at least for beans planted in areas of heavy rainfall or where growing conditions are such that soil temperatures will be cooler. Cool, wet soil increases germination time, which allows fungi more opportunity to colonize seeds or young seedlings.

Many products are available for either application to soybean seed on-farm or by commercial seed treaters. Choice of a seed treatment should be made with the “target” pathogen or pathogens in mind. Typically, these are either, the water molds (so-called because they cause a slimy growth on the side of a furrow), or other soil-seed-borne fungi, Water molds include Pythium and Phytophthora species. Other fungi are mainly Rhizoctonia, Fusarium, Pythium and Macrophomina species. Water molds produce a soft rotting of the seed before germination and/or before emergence. They also cause damping-off of young seedlings with dark brown or black soft rot girdles the stem at or near the soil surface, and the seedling dies. There is no recovery from these infections. Fungal seed damage symptoms are seen as reddish-brown lesions along one side of the stem, but these do not commonly girdle the stem completely. Below-ground lesions may also form on the upper portions of the main root. Plant growth is reduced in the early stage, and affected plants commonly recover. With Fusarium, a generalized dry rotting of the roots may be seen as well as some reddening of the interior portions of infected roots.

A number of fungi have been developed to combat the diseases mentioned in this article. Apron provides control of both Phytophthora and Pythium. Anchor controls Pythium and gives early season suppression of Phytophthora.

For control of Rhizoctonia and other seedling diseases, the list includes: PCNB (many brand names), Vitanox, Captan (many brand names), Thiram, TBZ, Granate P.E.M. Captain-TZ (many brand names), Rival, Chloroneb, Nu-Flow AD, Thiram-Vitanox (many brand names), and Kodak (TD).

Proper ballast improves tractor efficiency, stability

Ballasting, or adding weight to a tractor, allows tires to develop the pull for an implement, gives it maximum pull power and stability, and reduces wheel slip. Properly applied loads require more ballast than lighter loads, to get tractor power through the axle and wheel system to the ground. Lighter loads require less ballast so, if convenient, the extra weight should be removed to reduce the necessity of carrying unneeded fuel economy. Lighter ballast also help prevent soil compaction.

Although excess wheel slippage will decrease productivity, some slip is a necessary. A bit of slip allows the tractor’s soil interface to transmit power efficiently. Tractor designers give 10 to 15 percent as a rule of thumb for most efficient wheel slip.

A simple way to figure slippage for tractors without slip monitors is to stick a strip of duct tape on the side of a tire, then the unloaded tractor 10 tire revolutions and measure the distance traveled. Then measure the distance traveled by 10 revolutions with the tractor pulling an engaged implement. The slip will be one-half the difference in the two distances. Use this rate to adjust ballast as needed.

Another factor in deciding on ballast is operating speed. The tractor will have to use smaller implement at slower speeds. Changing speed that does the reducing of the amount of horsepower needed to perform the field operation and also the amount of weight needed to get that power to the ground.

Source: Robert Grisso, Ph.D. agricultural machinery engineer, NUANR (TD)

Clean, triple rinsed, 1 and 2½ gallon, white or yellow, agricultural pesticide containers will be accepted for recycling, by appointment, at the extension office, May 10 - June 19.
Managing ponds for fish

There are a variety of reasons that ponds have been constructed over the years and many are designed with multiple uses in mind, such as livestock water, soil erosion control, wetland conservation, and recreation. One of the most common recreational uses of ponds is fishing. Factors that influence the ability of a pond to sustain a fishery include the size and depth of the pond, water quality, the existing fish habitat and fishing pressure.

Size and Depth

Good fishponds are usually between one and five acres in size. Ponds less than ½ acre in size generally don’t provide a decent fishery because they usually lack the necessary depth and surface area to support much fishing pressure.

On the other hand, while ponds greater than 10 acres in size can provide good angling for large fishermen, they are more expensive to build.

Ponds without continuous inflow also need to have some deep water. Deep water helps prevent winterkill, discourages excessive aquatic vegetation and helps withstand water losses due to evaporation and seepage. As a general rule, in eastern Nebraska a pond should be at least 10 feet deep over ⅓ of its surface area. Additional depth is nice but waters more than 15 feet deep are generally unproductive and are seldom used by fish in the summer. Shallower water is also important in maintaining a sustainable fishery because fish require shallower areas for spawning and nesting. A water depth of less than three feet over no more than 20% of the surface area should provide adequate habitat for spawning.

Water Quality

The shallow water quality parameters most likely to influence fish production are water temperature and dissolved oxygen. Ponds with poor water clarity due to suspended sediment or excessive growth of algae generally provide poor habitat for most desirable fish species. Poor water clarity inhibits the growth of desirable aquatic vegetation and affects the ability of sight feeders such as bass to find food.

The dissolved oxygen content of a pond is most influenced by the amount of organic materials present in the water, water temperature and depth. Excessive growth of algae or aquatic vegetation, eroded soil materials and floodwater waste can all contribute organic material to a pond. The decomposition of these materials results in reduced oxygen levels in the water. The lowest levels of dissolved oxygen generally occur in late summer when water temperatures are warmest. Lower levels of dissolved oxygen also generally occur in the deeper parts of the pond where there is little mixing of the water by wave action. Dissolved oxygen is a key factor in determining the carrying capacity of a pond and low levels may result in fish kills.

The key to protecting or improving water quality in your pond is to control the amount of sediment and nutrients entering the pond. Some of the things you can do to reduce the amount of sediment and nutrients getting into your pond would be to control soil erosion, both in the watershed and along the shore line, minimize fertilizer applications on areas adjacent to the pond and restrict livestock access. Establishing a buffer strip of vegetation adjacent to the pond will also help reduce the amount of sediment and nutrients entering the pond by removing some of them from the runoff before it reaches the pond.

Existing Fish Habitat

Fish habitat is the environ-ment where fish live. The key components of a desirable fish habitat are an adequate food supply, shelter or protection from predator species and a suitable area for spawning and nesting. Different fish species have different habitat needs, and even fish of the same species vary in habitat needs during their lifetime. Small, young fish may live in shallow water in dense vegetation or in open water without cover. Fish that lived along the shore as juveniles may seek food in open water but return to the shore. Generally, a combination of open, clear water and shallow water with an abundance of aquatic vegetation provides the best fish habitat.

Maintaining a good stand of rooted aquatic vegetation is essential to maintain a quality fishery in your pond. While many anglers view aquatic vegetation as a nuisance to fishing, it is vital to the health and survival of fish. Aquatic vegetation is important habitat for many fish food organisms, provides cover for small fish and protects the shoreline from erosion. Although aquatic vegetation is important to the health and survival of fish, it can become a problem when there is too much. Ideally, rooted aquatic vegetation should cover 20 to 50% of the pond’s surface area. When a pond’s surface is more than 50% covered, dissolved oxygen may drop to critical levels at night or during periods of low sunlight. Vegetation coverage in excess of 50% can also impair the ability of bass to prey on bluegill resulting in bass with poor body condition and an overabundance of small bluegill.

Another method of improving fish habitat, especially if water clarity is limiting the growth of aquatic vegetation, is to add artificial cover such as bricks, fish and small fish and areas for spawning and continued on page 13

Weed control in new tree plantings

Trees and shrubs add beauty, protection, diversity and value to almost any property and the care they receive during the first few years after planting is critical. Seedling trees require a grass- and weed-free zone to become established. The zone needs to be maintained for the first three-four years or longer and should be at least four or five feet in depth.

There are three basic methods for controlling weeds in tree plantings: mulches, mechanical methods and chemical methods. Of the three methods, mulching is perhaps the simplest and most environmentally safe way to accomplish weed control. Mulching also prevents soil erosion, conserves moisture, insulates roots from temperature extremes and can prevent damage from mowers and weed trimmers.

Desirable mulching materials include wood chips, wood shavings, bark, or equivalent materials. Coarse-textured organic mulches are preferred since they tend to aerate the soil and replenish soil nutrients as they decompose. Mulch with a two- to four-inch layer of organic material and replenish as needed.

Caution must be used when applying mulch since a layer greater than four inches thick may provide an excellent habitat for small rodents who can cause considerable tree damage, primarily during the winter months. Heavy mulching can also be a problem in poorly-drained or wet sites where moisture can remain at high levels for extended periods and cause root die back. In addition, heavy mulch layers encourage tree roots to grow up into the mulch material which may dry out during long dry periods, causing the roots to die.

Mechanical weed control, whether with hand tools or machines, can also be very effective. However, it is generally labor intensive and, if machines are used, may injure or destroy some of the trees. In addition, since it often leaves the soil surface unprotected, soil erosion can also become a problem with mechanical weed control.

Chemical methods, while very effective, require the greatest management skills. Not all herbicides are labeled for all species of trees and application of the wrong herbicide in the wrong amounts may injure the trees or result in poor weed control. Remember, always read the label before applying herbicides and follow label directions.

Each method of weed control has both positive and negative aspects and no one method is necessarily better than another. You must decide which method or methods are most feasible for your situation. However, regardless of which method is chosen, each form of weed control is necessary to insure successful establishment of the trees. (SCB)
Focus on Food

Alice Hennenman, R.D., L.W.N.T., Extension Educator

Q: Why are some hard-cooked eggs so hard to peel?
A: The fresher the egg, the HARDER it is to peel. A hard-cooked egg will peel more easily if it is one or two weeks old before it is hard-cooked, according to Mary Reiners, promotion specialist, Nebraska Department of Agriculture.

Q: What can I do to prevent the surface of the yolk from turning dark when I hard-cook eggs?
A: Either immediately run cold water over the eggs or place them in ice water until they’re completely cooled.

Q: Is the egg shelf in a refrigerator door the best place to keep eggs?
A: Refrigerate raw eggs in their original carton on an inside shelf to help maintain quality and safety. Storage on the refrigerator door increases the chance of cracks with repeated opening and closing. Also, temperature fluctuations may decrease storage time. (AH)

How clean are “pre-washed” greens?

Though a food is washed, it can never be made “glow germ” to teach handwashing as part of the “Clean Hands Campaign.”

Beware of a sealed bag that mentions nothing about whether the greens were washed and if “fresh,” “premium,” etc., but merely contains words like “freshly packed,” “ready-to-eat.”

The article advises for additional guidelines: Beware of a sealed bag that merely contains words like “fresh,” “premium,” etc., but mentions nothing about whether the greens were washed and if they are ready-to-eat. Follow the “Use By” date on the package even if the greens are “washed” and “ready-to-eat.” Wash bulk greens that you must package yourself even if the container in which they’re displayed says “washed.”

The Tufts article cited that, to date, no problems from eating pre-packaged, sealed, washed and ready-to-eat salad greens have been reported to either the U.S. Department of Agriculture or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. It’s important, however, to wash other types of open or packaged, unwashed salad greens thoroughly under running water. (AH)

Nutrition and Food Safety Web Site
Visit our internet web site at: http://ianrwww.unl.edu/ianr/lanco/family/safety.htm

FREE monthly FoodTalk e-mail newsletter
To be added to the mailing list, e-mail Alice Hennenman at cny5028@unlvm.unl.edu.

Diabetes Study Course
Call Alice Hennenman (441-7180) for more information.
Jean’s Journal

Jean Wheelock
FCE Council Chair

Thanks to the many ladies who attended the March council meeting. The food and conversations were great. A very special “thank you” to Mary Carlson from the American Cancer Society. She presented a very important message to us about a monthly self-examination of our bodies for any changes that might occur. These examinations are equally important for the men in our families, as well. So let’s promise ourselves to take better care of our health.

A reminder to clubs that our June 22 FCE Council meeting will be a “white elephant” auction. Hope to see you all there. Bring a friend or two and have fun. I will be gone during May. Our youngest daughter is getting married and I am spending time with her before the BIG day.

To all the moms, hope you had a Happy Mother’s Day. (JW)

Create “I” Messages—share feelings without blaming:
• An “I” message usually takes the form: “When (describe what happens that is a problem), I feel (describe the feeling).”
• Examples: “When I see mud on the floor, I feel frustrated.”
  “When you hit a classmate, I feel sad and angry.”
• Practice “I” messages. (LJ)

Dollar watch: develop a family spending plan

LaDeane Jha
Extension Educator

Where does all the money go? House payment or rent? Utility bills? Clothes? Some money spent for snacks or videos may just seem to disappear from your wallet. Knowing how much you spend and what you spend money for is the first step towards developing a family spending plan. A spending plan can give you more control of family living expenses, can help you start saving to achieve these future goals.

Needs vs Wants
We all have to pay for certain things like food, rent or house payments, utilities and clothing. These are needs and are essential to your family’s well-being. What do you wish you could spend your money on? These are wants and can become goals, however, most people rarely get all the things they want.

The following guidelines may help you to develop a spending plan.

Continued on page 11

Cleaning electric blankets
Electric blankets should never be dry-cleaned, warns The Soap and Detergent Association. The dry-cleaning solvents can damage the blanket’s wiring. When the blanket needs to be cleaned, read and follow the care label instructions.

To avoid damaging the blanket wiring, there are some general tips to keep in mind. Wash the blanket in lukewarm water for two minutes using a delicate or gentle cycle. Do not use bleach. Rinse in lukewarm water and spin dry. Do not twist or wring vigorously. Gently hand stretch the blanket to its original size.

Do not dry in a commercial or laundromat dryer. Preheat the home dryer on a low temperature setting for two minutes. Tumble-dry the blanket for 10 minutes. Remove while still damp, gently stretch to original size and air-dry over parallel lines or a shower rail. Never iron the blanket, and be sure it is completely dry before using it or turning it on. (LB)
Pets, People and Professions Camp

- Explore the world of possible careers and services that utilize and support pets and wildlife.
- Talk one-on-one with a variety of veterinarians.
- Venture behind the scenes at the zoo.
- Check out the uses of dogs in a Search and Rescue Squad.
- Tour a pet business and learn what it takes to own and run a business.
- Examine pets roles in pet therapy and service to the visually and physically challenged.
- Visit University of Nebraska’s Animal Science—Veterinary Science.
- Meet and get to know other youth interested in animals.
- Have fun.

For more information, contact Tracy or stop by and pick up a pamphlet. Registration deadline is May 29. (TK)

District and state horse ID deadlines

Now that the horse show season has arrived, there are some important dates to remember. These are just a few:

- May 22—All Nebraska district and state 4-H horse show entry forms, money, ID’s and horsemanship Level II verification (if needed) are due in the extension office. (Absolutely no exceptions.)
- June 2—State Horse Exposition announcement applications due to Kathy Anderson.
- June 30—R.B. Warren Scholarship applications due at UNL.

All of these materials are included in the state/district horse show packets available at the extension office. The deadline for turning in these materials is May 22! Always remember to check the Nebraska calendar for important upcoming show information and deadlines.

Pre-district horse show and clinic

The Lancaster County Pre-District Horse Show and Clinic is June 6 and 7 at the Capitol City Horse and Pony Club Arena. The clinic begins Saturday with registration at 8:30 a.m. The cost is $5 for the entire day. The clinic is broken into three sessions which include topics such as pattern will the showmanship, trail, dressage and working pleasure/reining.

The horse show is Sunday, registration at 11:30 a.m. The cost is $2 per class. Awards and ribbons are given for every class. For additional information, call Connie Schoneweis at 781-9226 or Ellen at 441-7180. (EK)
4-H Council positions

Starting date September 1, 1998
Seeking qualified applicants for 4-H Council youth and adult positions in the following geographic areas:

Northwest—adult
Northeast—adult & youth
Southwest—youth
Lincoln city limits—2 youth
Lancaster County at large—1 adult

Requirements: Must be concerned with the future of the 4-H program in Lancaster County. Must possess an interest and an understanding of youth and be willing to promote the 4-H program. Applicants must be willing to attend monthly meetings and participate in various committee activities. These are rewarding positions.

SALARY: Base $80 with 5% increments annually.

BENEFITS: The gratitude of volunteers, parents and 4-H youth throughout the county. In addition, a name tag and 4-H Council T-shirt are provided.

Interested applicants need to contact Lorene for further information and an application form. (LB)

CWF car wash

The 4-H CWF group will conduct many car washes throughout the summer to help raise money for their trip to Washington D.C. in 1999. Car washes will be held:

• May 30 at Sam’s Club
• June 13 at NBC Bank, 660° and O
• August 8 at NBC Bank, 660° and O
• September 19 at Sam’s Club
• October 3 at NBC Bank, 660° and O

Dirty up your cars and we will see you there! (DL)

County fair dates

Lancaster County Fair is July 29-August 2

• Friday, July 17—Demonstrations
• Monday, July 27—4-H horse show activities begin

Wednesday, July 29—Static exhibits due 4:00-8:00 p.m.

Thursday, July 30—Table Setting Contest, 8:30 a.m.

Watch future issues of the NELINE for a complete calendar and details. Each 4-H family should receive a Lancaster County Fair registration packet from University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension in Lincoln, Nebraska. If you have any questions, call Deanna at 441-7180. (DL)

Notice:
No late animal entries will be accepted for the ’98 Lancaster County Fair.
Register by July 10! (LB)

4-H & Youth

NCTA Cattle Fitting Camp

Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture will be holding a cattle fitting camp May 31-June 3 in Curtis, Nebraska. They plan on covering topics such as selection, hair care, clipping, feeding, hoof trimming, ethics and showmanship. If you would like to attend this camp, request a registration form from Deanna. Registrations are due May 20. (DL)

Performance lamb weigh-in

The performance lamb weigh-in and tagging will be Saturday, May 30, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., in the sheep barn at State Fair Park. Any 4-H'er planning on being in the market lamb performance contest must have their lambs weighed this day. All market lambs or commercial breeding ewes that haven’t been tagged must also be brought in. If you have questions, call Deanna at 441-7180. (DL)

Independent sheep exhibitors

All independent sheep exhibitors are required to bring their market lambs and commercial breeding ewes in to be tagged Saturday, May 30, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., in the sheep barn at State Fair Park. If you have any questions or concerns, call Deanna at 441-7180. (DL)

All animal ID’s are due to the extension office by June 15. (DL)

Clothing Level I video

A new video, “Elastic Waist Skirt”, has been added to our resource library. Basic skills such as measuring knits and wovens, fabric width, pre-washing, layout, cutting, marking, fitting as you sew, pressing and finishing seams, making a casing, inserting elastic and hemming skirts are covered. It is for beginning sewers in Clothing Level I. Contact Tracy if you are interested in checking it out. (TK)

Upcoming beef and lamb progress shows

• The 3rd Annual Dodge County Market Lamb and Market Beef Progress Show is June 6 at the Dodge County Fairgrounds in Scribner, Nebraska. If you would like more information on this event, call Deanna at 441-7180 or Lowell Peters at (402) 664-3114.
• Saturday, June 13 is the 24th Annual Johnson and Nemaha County Beef Progress Show. For more information on this show, call Jim Kite at (402) 274-5823.
• The 12th Annual Southeast Community College Lamb Classic is Saturday, June 27 at the Gage County Fairgrounds in Beatrice. For more information, call Mark Goes at (402) 223-2433 or Lynn Schlake at (402) 223-3553. (DL)
The Lancaster Event Center will be to:

- Promote Lancaster County's economic development through broadening the range of recreational and cultural programming
- Facilitate increased understanding of rural and urban economic interdependence.
- Broaden the range of recreational and cultural programming available in Lancaster County.
- Promote Lancaster County’s economic development through regional events that attract visitors to the area from outside Lancaster County.

With a shortage of existing large facilities and a substantial population growth for the area, the Event Center building committee foresees this project bringing tremendous value to the community.

According to a study published by the University of Nebraska—Bureau of Business Research in the February 1997 edition of Business in Nebraska, our area's population growth for the area, the Event Center building committee foresees this project bringing tremendous value to the community.

A study by the Bureau of Business Research in the University of Nebraska—Lincoln, found that the Lancaster Event Center would bring significant economic benefits to the area. The study estimated that the center would create over 1,000 jobs and generate over $100 million in economic activity annually.

The center would also provide a venue for a wide range of activities, including sports events, concerts, conventions, and trade shows. With its modern design and state-of-the-art facilities, the Lancaster Event Center would be a significant asset to Lancaster County and the surrounding region.

The Lancaster Event Center update

Civic and community groups, 4-H clubs and FFA chapters interested in knowing more about the Lancaster Event Center project are encouraged to invite a presentation team to upcoming group gatherings. The team will prepare an informational presentation according to individual needs. Content for presentations may include a videotape of the Lancaster County Fair, overview of the Lancaster Event Center, a slide presentation and adequate time for a question and answer session.

The Lancaster Event Center will be a public, year-round, multipurpose facility designed to promote the interest of agriculture, youth and community. Design Associates of Lincoln, Inc. has been selected for architectural/engineering and consulting services. The design will feature a country style to fit into a surrounding rural landscape. The building project is under the board leadership of the Lancaster County Agricultural Society, Inc. The mission of the Lancaster Event Center will be to:

- Promote positive youth development through educational programs.
- Enhance opportunities for multi-generational family interaction.
- Facilitate increased understanding of rural and urban economic interdependence.
- Broaden the range of recreational and cultural programming available in Lancaster County.
- Promote Lancaster County’s economic development through regional events that attract visitors to the area from outside Lancaster County.

With a shortage of existing large facilities and a substantial population growth for the area, the Event Center building committee foresees this project bringing tremendous value to the community.

According to a study published by the University of Nebraska—Bureau of Business Research in the February 1997 edition of Business in Nebraska, our area's population growth for the area, the Event Center building committee foresees this project bringing tremendous value to the community.
Tips for attracting birds
continued from page 3

sound of moving water is magnetic to most wild birds and will draw them from great distances for a cool drink. A mister, dripper, or circulating pump added to a bird bath or pool of fresh water can add the right sound to attract wild birds.

Element #4: Foliage and Habitats

Wild birds live in a great variety of habitats. The greater variety or diversity you create in your backyard, the more species of wild birds will offer food, water, and nest sites for your area. In your yard:

1. Grass or ground cover (2” to 1’)

Snakes in the yard
continued from page 3

give birth to 12-40 live young between July and October. These snakes are venomous and seem slender to handlers because they secrete a foul musk when threatened. Unless you are a worm or a frog or other small creature, these snakes are not a threat. Gener-

ally speaking, you are more of a threat to them than vice versa. This fact includes pets, which are more likely to kill the snakes than you can by them.

If you still can’t handle the sight of snakes, there are a few things you can do to reduce their presence around your property. First, keep the lawn cut short and clean. Snakes need cover to hunt and protect themselves. If they don’t have places to hide they are less likely to be around. Don’t leave wood or brush piles sit in one spot for years on end.

cut grass short and keep leaves

Dollar watch: develop a family spending plan
continued from page 7

1. List all your family income by month. Include take

time home pay from a job, commissions, child support payments, interest, bonus, etc.

2. Estimate the amount needed to be saved monthly for emergencies and goals you want to achieve.

3. Identify money committed to family expenses. Some expenses are specific amounts paid on specific dates, such as rent or mortgage payments, installment loans, insurance payments, etc.

4. List due dates next to expenses like these.

5. Estimate monthly amounts for expenses that can vary from month to month, such

Teen spending

American teenagers had a combined income of $105 billion last year—up $4 billion from the year before. In a survey of 2,025 teens:

* 53% of those polled said they got money from parents as needed.

* 47% said their cash came from gifts or jobs.

* 32% had part-time employment.

* 30% got a regular allowance.

* 11% had full-time jobs.

* 68% said they had savings accounts.

as gasoline, recreation, and electricity. Past expenditure records can help make these estimates.

6. Account for all expected expenses in steps 2, 3, and 4. Revise and adjust the figures each month as your family’s needs and wishes change.

7. Each month record actual expenses, check to see if spent figures are close to what you planned to spend. If some categories need more money, look for ways to adjust in other categories. Determine if there are ways to reduce spending. Sometimes changes in the family lifestyle will be necessary to gain control of living expenses.
**The Nebraska**

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

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**May 19**
- Spring Rabbit Clinic .......................................................... 6:00-9:00 p.m.
- 4-H Council Meeting .......................................................... 7:00 p.m.

**May 20**
- District & State 4-H Horse Entries Due to Extension Office

**May 21**
- Fair Board Meeting .......................................................... 7:30 p.m.
- 4-H Rabbit VIPS Meeting ..................................................... 7:00 p.m.

**May 24**
- Nebraska Tower on the Plains Open, Youth & Specials Rabbit Show ................................................................. State Fair Park .......................................................... Registration 6:00-8:00 a.m.
- 3 G’S Saddle Club 4-H & Open Horse Show—Beatrice ....... 9:00 a.m.

**May 25**
- Character Counts! Workshop ............................................. 8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

**May 30**
- 4-H Performance Lamb Tagging Day ................................. 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
- Low Riders 4-H Horse Show—Capital City Horse & Pony Club .......................................................... 9:00 a.m.

**June 1**
- 4-H Horse ID Deadline for County Fair

**June 2**
- 4-H Council Meeting .......................................................... 7:00 p.m.
- 4-H Pre-Districts Horse Clinic & Show—Capital City Horse & Pony Club .......................................................... Clinic 8:30 a.m. ......................................................... Show 11:30 a.m.

**June 6**
- 4-H Horse Show—Wahoo .................................................. 9:00 a.m.
- Niobrara Horse Show—Valentine ........................................ 10:00 a.m.

**June 8**
- 4-H Horse VIPS Committee Meeting .................................. 7:00 p.m.

**June 10**
- 4-H Beef, Swine, Dairy Cattle, Goat, Llama, Rabbit & Sheep ID’s Due Nebraska LEAP Program Applications Due

**June 11-19**
- Camp Counselor Training—Eastern NE 4-H Center, Gretna

**June 12**
- Nebraska Tower on the Plains Open, Youth & Specials Rabbit Show ................................................................. State Fair Park .......................................................... Registration 6:00-8:00 a.m.

**June 13**
- Character Counts! Workshop ............................................. 8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

**June 17**
- 4-H Horse VIPS Committee Meeting .................................. 7:00 p.m.

**June 18**
- 4-H Beef, Swine, Dairy Cattle, Goat, Llama, Rabbit & Sheep ID’s Due Nebraska LEAP Program Applications Due

**June 19**
- 4-H Horse ID Deadline for County Fair

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**Timing window approaching for control of leafy spurge**

continued from page 4

reproduces vegetatively, via buds on horizontal roots. This
vegetative reproduction can increase the size of the patch by
up to four feet per year.

The root system continues
to develop for many years after initial establishment, eventually
reaching depths of 15 feet or more. 

Controlling new infesta-
tions while the patches are small
don not only reduces the area to be
controlled, but the number of times
one needs to re-treat the area to
catch new seedlings and stems from
underground buds is
reduced as well.

Apply Tordon 22K at 4 g/lt
to existing plants, plus an extra
10 to 15 feet around the
established stand. A follow-up
program is necessary for several
years to control missed stems
and new seedlings.

For more information on
Leafy Spurge, ask for NebGuide
G87-834-A. This publication
may also be found on the
internet at www.ianr.unl.edu/
pubs/webeds/(TD).

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**Some 1998 Lancaster County Fair highlights**

continued from page 10

- 4-H and Open Class Craft, Garden and Food Exhibits
- Open for viewing, 10 a.m.
- FREE watermelon feed,
- Youth Complex, 4:30 p.m.
- 4-H Llama Show, Valentine ........................................ 10:00 a.m.
- Town Hall Meeting with
- Legislators, Farmland 
- Building, 7 p.m.
- Carnival, Balloon Buffoon, Clowns, Racing Pigs

**Friday, July 31**
- 4-H, Open Class Livestock Shows, 8 a.m.
- Health Awareness Day, Ag Hall, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Family Barbecue and Ice Cream Social, Youth Complex, 5:30-7 p.m.
- Farm Family Awards, East Arena, 6 p.m.
- Hay Hauling Contest, East Arena, 6:30 p.m.
- Carnival, Balloon Buffoon, Clowns, Racing Pigs, throughout afternoon
- FREE concert, “Karen Breiner & Midnight Express”, East Arena, 8:30 p.m.

**Saturday, August 1**
- Families First Day, Ag Hall, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
- 4-H Dog Agility Show, Coliseum, 8 a.m.
- Petting Zoo, Begins at 9 a.m.
- Miniature Horse Show, East Arena, 9 a.m.
- Pedal Tractor Pull, Ag Hall, 9 a.m.
- Micro/Mini Tractor Pull, 4-H Building, 4 p.m.
- Carnival, Balloon Buffoon, Clowns, Racing Pigs, throughout afternoon

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