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The NEBLINE
University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension
Lancaster County
June 1997
Vol. X, No. 5
"Helping Nebraskans enhance their lives through research-based education."

Happy Birthday! Lincoln's Biosolids Land Application Program is five years old

Barb Ogg and Ward Shires
Extension Educators

In May, 1992, the first truckload of biosolids (processed and treated wastewater solids) from the Theresa Street Wastewater Treatment Facility was delivered to farmland in Lancaster County. This event culminated a decade of planning by Lincoln's sanitary engineers to dispose of this municipal organic waste in a more environmentally responsible, beneficial manner compared with burial in the landfill. This event was also the beginning of a successful program—in the last five years, over 150,000 tons of biosolids have been used as a source of fertilizer and organic matter to cropland in Lancaster County.

On weekdays throughout the year, de-watered biosolids are transported to approved crop fields in Lancaster County for land application. Land approved must have a battery of soil tests to determine application rates. There are restrictions that prevent application of this material close to wells, rivers or streams and public water supplies. In the case of wet soil conditions that prevent delivery in the field, biosolids are trucked to the North Bluff landfill for storage on a concrete storage slab. When conditions become favorable, this material is hauled a second time to approved fields and cooperators apply it to their land as a fertilizer that has 65% organic matter. This organic fertilizer contains considerable amounts of phosphorus and zinc, two elements that may be deficient on area soils, and micro-nutrients needed for plant growth.

The goals of the program remain unchanged—to enhance the productivity of area soils through the use of this material—but there have been some changes in the biosolids land application program in the last five years. Some changes that we have seen are:

- **Demand for biosolids.** The demand has grown to where we now have a waiting list for biosolids, unless land is strategically located in central or northern Lancaster County. When this program began five years ago, many farmers adopted a wait-and-see attitude toward the use of this material. Because of the demonstrated enhanced yields and long-term benefits that this material provides, especially on poor soil, there is more demand for biosolids than ever before. A crop producer willing to accept and store biosolids during the spring and summertime is more likely to receive the material than if he will only accept it in the fall and winter. Biosolids from the City of Lincoln can only be applied in Lancaster County.

Earlier this spring, Lyle Sittler applied biosolids to about 80 acres of cropland.

- **Payment for application.** When this program began five years ago, providing a partial reimbursement to cooperators for application was not part of the program. Payment has allowed some interested cooperators to purchase machinery or to hire a custom applicator. Payment is $0.65 per cubic yard, payable only when the material has been applied properly. The payment defrays the cost of application (machinery and labor); it also provides an incentive for cooperators to apply it in a timely manner.

- **Increased regulatory guidance by the EPA.** In 1993, the long-awaited federal regulations regarding the land application of sewage sludge were announced. These regulations have set standards for pathogens, heavy metal concentrations and rules that determine application rates and locations. These regulations were meant to prevent harm to people, wildlife and the environment. The standards for metal regulations, for example, have reduced the concentrations of some metals in the biosolids to very low levels,

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1997 Pesticide Container Recycling Begins June 20 in Bennet!

Lancaster County area crop producers/pesticide users can bring their rinsed, pesticide containers most Fridays to an area agricultural chemical dealer. Or, bring your containers to other multiple-day locations, but be sure to call ahead to make sure someone will be available to inspect your containers. At all collection sites, containers will be inspected to make sure they have been triple or pressure rinsed.

The following dealers and agencies have generously provided support for this effort:

Blue Valley Farm Cooperative, Tamora
Countryside Cooperative, Raymond, Milford
DeHass Ted & Sons, Denton
Cedar Ridge Spraying, Ashland
Greenwood Farmer's Cooperative
Gretna Farmers Union Co-op
Farmers Co-op Co. ; Waverly, Bennet
Firth Cooperative Company
Frontier Co-op; Mead
Hallam Grain Company
Otte Oil & Propane, Wahoo
Southeast Nebraska Co-op, Beatrice
Department of Environmental Quality
Water Center/Environmental Programs, University of Nebraska
University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension in Lancaster, Sarpy, Saunders and Seward counties

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Lancaster County 4-H Council
University of Nebraska
Cooperative Extension in Lancaster County
444 Cherrycreek Road
Lincoln, Nebraska 68528-1507

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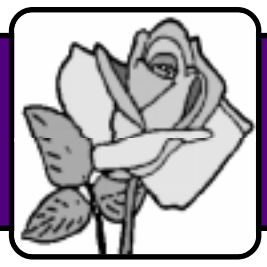
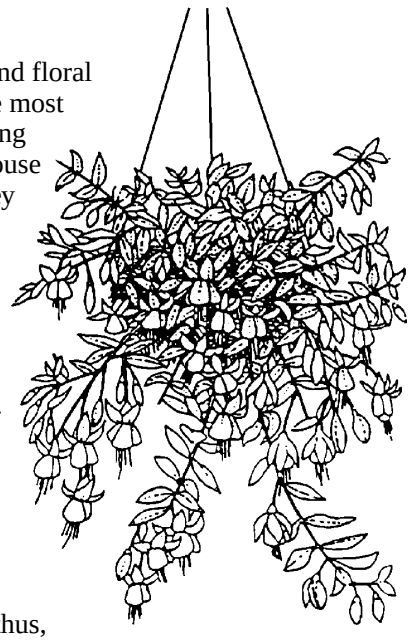


Horticulture

Brighten your outdoor area with hanging baskets



Hanging baskets can add color and floral fragrance to many locations. The most common location to find a hanging basket is under an eave on the house or on a porch or balcony. But they can and should be used in many other locations. Baskets can be hung from lamp posts, grape arbors, trees and glider swings.

Almost any bedding plant can be used in a hanging basket. Be sure that the sunlight requirements of the plant that is used is the same as the final location of the hanging basket. A basket of sun-loving plants put in a shady location will not do very well. Baskets made up with petunias, begonias, dwarf marigolds, dianthus, alyssum or geraniums are commonly seen.

Hanging baskets require frequent watering. Depending on the weather, the basket will need to be watered once or sometimes twice a day. (MJM)

Balcony gardens

Being an apartment dweller should not keep you from having a garden. Many types of gardens can be created on balconies. With the addition of floral color, a balcony becomes an entertainment center just right for relaxing. Flowers, small shrubs and dwarf trees can be used to create a suburban landscape in miniature above the ground. Balconies even offer the opportunity for food production, with fruit trees and container grown herbs and vegetables.

Whether transforming a highrise penthouse or a simple second floor terrace into a garden, a set of guidelines will aid in creating your balcony garden. First, consider how you will use the area. Are you looking for a colorful relaxation area or just privacy from an adjacent highrise?

Second, evaluate the microclimate. Toward which direction does the balcony face? Note how much sun the area receives and for how long. If the balcony is recessed, does direct sunlight reach it at all? If the situation is very open, will you and your plantings be subjected to winds and the scorching sun? Look at the area with a critical eye before putting a lot of money into the project. Some minor remodeling may need to be done to make the area inviting to both people and plants.

Safety considerations are another important factor to think about. Most balconies are required by building safety codes to support 60 pounds per square foot. Be sure to use a lightweight growing media which can reduce weight by up to 60 percent over standard garden soil. Avoid using heavy concrete or pottery containers. Plastic containers are much lighter and easier to move around if needed.

Being an apartment dweller should not keep you from having a garden.

Once you have evaluated the balcony for comfort and safety, you can start looking for plant materials. Read some gardening books which focus on container gardening. Choose plants suitable to your site.

The plants on an outdoor balcony will usually be enjoyed indoors as well, so be sure to plant eye-catching displays where they can be viewed through glass doors. Bright colored annuals in hanging baskets or a clematis trained up a permanent trellis does wonders to disguise an unsightly view.

One popular way to display a variety of plants in a small space is the three tier design. Upright plants are used against a wall or trellis, or as the centerpiece in a planting box to add height. Bushy medium-height plants fill in the bulk of the container. Training plants placed on the edges of the planter tumble over the sides softening the composition.

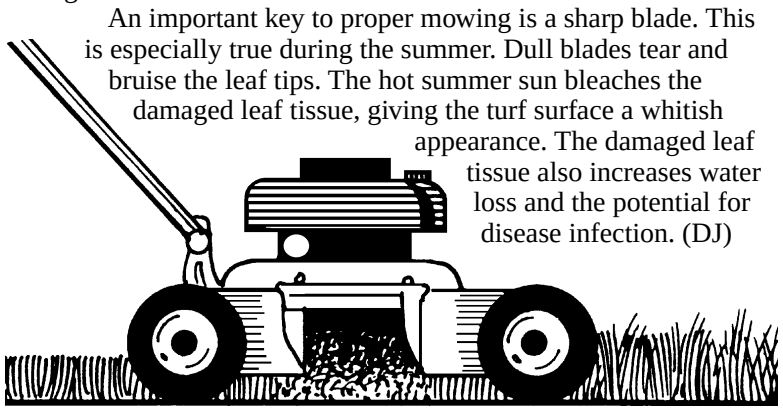
Balconies have been transformed into backyards for thousands of apartment, condominium and townhouse dwellers across the country. Be adventurous. Your balcony could be transformed into the garden you always wanted. (MJM)

Raise the mower height

Cool-season grasses, such as Kentucky bluegrass, perform best in the spring and fall months. Hot, dry weather is tough on cool-season grasses. Kentucky bluegrass, for example, responds to hot, dry conditions by going dormant. High temperature stress of cool-season grasses can be reduced by simply raising the mowing height. The additional leaf area shades and cools the crowns of the plants. The higher mowing height also promotes the development of a deeper root system. Deep-rooted plants are better able to withstand drought stress. Finally, the additional leaf area increases the rate of photosynthesis or food production.

Mow Kentucky bluegrass lawns at a height of 2 to 2-1/2 inches during the spring and fall months. The recommended mowing height during the summer months is 3 inches.

An important key to proper mowing is a sharp blade. This is especially true during the summer. Dull blades tear and bruise the leaf tips. The hot summer sun bleaches the damaged leaf tissue, giving the turf surface a whitish appearance. The damaged leaf tissue also increases water loss and the potential for disease infection. (DJ)



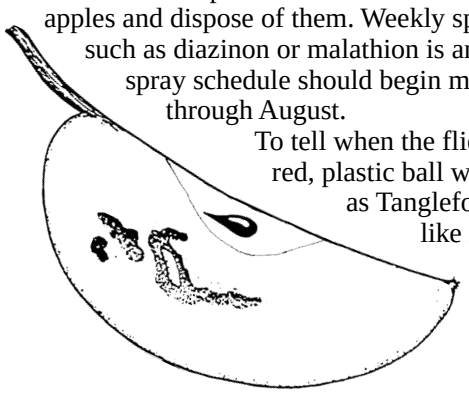
Think about apple maggot control now

The adult of the apple maggot is a fly similar to the housefly, but smaller. The larvae feed on the fruit and cause the fruit to rot. They then drop to the soil to pupate during the winter months.

The control of the apple maggot must be directed at the adult fly. This control should occur between the time the adults emerge and the time they lay their eggs.

Sanitation helps reduce the number of flies. Pick up the fallen apples and dispose of them. Weekly spraying with insecticides such as diazinon or malathion is an effective control. The spray schedule should begin mid to late June and continue through August.

To tell when the flies begin to emerge, coat a red, plastic ball with a sticky substance, such as Tanglefoot. Hang the apple look-a-like in the tree and check it daily. (MJM)



Watering

Now is the time to start watering the lawn, vegetable garden and flower gardens. Important points for gardeners to remember when watering include:

1. Water deeply and infrequently. Deep watering promotes the development of a deep, extensive root system. Frequent, light watering promotes shallow rooting. Deep-rooted plants will be able to survive hot, dry weather much better than shallow-rooted plants because they will be able to reach the moisture deep in the soil.

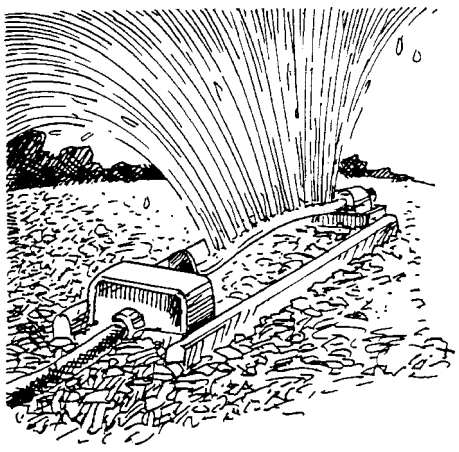
A deep watering once a week should be adequate for fruit, vegetable, and flower gardens. Apply approximately 1 inch of water per week. Once a week is also adequate for turfgrass. Newly planted trees and shrubs should be watered deeply every 7 to 10 days during dry weather. Small trees and shrubs may require watering for only one growing season. It may be necessary to water large trees for 2 to 3 years.

When watering gardens and landscape plantings, soil characteristics and weather conditions actually determine the amount and frequency of watering. For example, sandy soils require more frequent watering than loam soils.

2. Water uniformly. Uniform application of water prevents waste and produces even growth.

3. Water efficiently. When irrigating with a sprinkler, early morning is the best time to water. A morning application allows the water to soak deeply into the ground with little water lost to evaporation. When watering is completed, the plant foliage dries quickly. Watering at mid-day is less efficient because evaporation is rapid and strong winds may cause uneven water distribution. Strong mid-day winds may also carry water onto driveways, patios and streets, wasting considerable amounts of water. Watering lawns and gardens with a sprinkler in the evening or during the night may increase disease problems.

In the fruit and vegetable garden, drip irrigation systems and soaker hoses are generally more efficient and cause fewer disease problems than sprinklers. Mornings and evenings are excellent times to water gardens when using a drip irrigation system or soaker hose.



4. Mulch landscape plantings and garden areas to conserve soil moisture. Mulching reduces the rate of evaporation from the soil surface and also limits weed competition. Organic materials, such as grass clippings, straw and shredded leaves are excellent mulches for the vegetable garden. Wood chips and bark are good choices for perennial beds, trees and shrubs.

Proper watering practices can insure good fruit and vegetable yields, a lush green lawn and the survival of recently planted trees and shrubs. They can also save time and money. (DJ)

Scented geraniums

Among the most fragrant of all the plants in the herb garden are the scented geraniums. These tender, shrubby plants grow from two to four feet. Scents are released by hot sun on the leaves or by touching them. Foliages come in a variety of forms, from small delicate fernlike leaves to large rounded ones, in many shades of green, some with variegations. The flowers of most are small but colorful in shades of rose or lavender.

The numerous varieties include the following scents of almond, apple, apricot, cinnamon, coconut, grapefruit, lemon, lime, peppermint, rose and strawberry.

Give scented geraniums the advantage of full sun. They enjoy light well-drained soil that stays slightly dry. However, if too dry, they will shed their lower leaves. Plants in containers need half strength fertilizer every two weeks when flowering; monthly the rest of the year.

Although many scented geraniums have a tendency to get leggy, pinching the growing tips will help train the plants to grow bushier and fuller. (MJM)

I found some bugs in my walls, can I bring them in?

The answer is yes! Each year, the Extension office looks at hundreds of insects and spiders people find in and around their homes. We've seen everything from tiny springtails to giant water bugs, harmless garden spiders to brown recluse, and of course, ants of all sizes, smells and colors.

Most of the specimens we examine are still in pretty good shape by the time they get to the office. However, identifications have sometimes been difficult due to the condition of some specimens. A spider looks very different when it is smashed into a smeary blob between a tissue. It is important that an insect or spider is brought into the office as complete as possible so it can be identified correctly. With the proper identification, we can give you the information you need to make an informed decision about controlling the pest (if control measures are necessary).

Here are some helpful tips when collecting specimens:

• Resist the urge to stomp on or squish the insect or spider between a tissue. If a specimen is damaged, it may not be possible to accurately identify it.

• Your sample does not have to be alive, but it is better "fresh." (One clue to some ant identifications is its "smell" when crushed.) If you've sprayed an insect or spider with an insecticide, please let us know. Insecticides may trigger allergies for staff.

• Place the sample in a small, clean glass or plastic jar/container. Butter tubs may be used, but these containers are shallow. Quick insects like carpenter ants can make a break for freedom when the lid is opened. Try to warn us before we open the lid that something may try to get out.

• If it will be several days before you come into the office, it may be helpful to put a damp cotton ball on the bottom of the jar so the insects won't dry out or simply place the container in the freezer/refrigerator to keep the insect/spider fresh.

• It is better to bring in two or three samples (if possible) of the insect/spider in the event that one escapes en route or is damaged during the identification process.

• Very small insects like mites, springtails, some small ants and tiny spiders can be gently brushed into a jar or container with a small paintbrush. Larger insects like black carpenter ants, house centipedes, crickets and roaches take more effort since many can run or jump quickly.

• If you are using a cockroach motel or sticky trap, simply bring in the trap with the offending pests still attached.

• Spiders should not be handled with bare hands because they may bite—even if you are very careful. If you find a spider on your wall or floor, invert a glass or similar container over the animal to keep it from running. Keeping the container pressed against the flat surface, gently slip a piece of paper under the container and then under the spider. When the paper completely covers the bottom of the container, turn the container right-side up with the paper on the top. The spider should just fall to the bottom of the container and then you can remove the paper and replace it with the container lid. Always save and have identified a spider that is suspected of biting you or a family member—your doctor will need this information.

• If you are finding "ants" with wings, try to collect some ants without wings seen in the same area. Ants with wings can be difficult to identify because their bodies change to accommodate the wings—these are reproductives (young queens and males). The worker ants do not have wings and are easier to identify.

• Mailing insects. If you plan to mail in a specimen, make sure you put the specimen in a container that can't be crushed by the "postal experience." Each year, specimens are placed in envelopes without any protection and mailed to our office. When the envelope is opened, nothing is left but some miscellaneous insect parts and a stained piece of tissue paper.

• Please do not stick any insects on to or between scotch tape. It is difficult to see the insect and impossible to remove the insect from the tape.

• When you arrive at the office with your specimen, our receptionist will have you fill out a simple form that describes where you've found the insect/spider, your name, address and phone number. Please do not open the specimen container at the receptionist's desk—we will be happy to look at it in the lab. If we are not in the office or unavailable, leave the specimen with the receptionist. We will examine the specimen when we return and then give you a call with the information. If you are not able to bring the specimen in during office hours, there is a white Extension dropbox by the front door. Make sure that you call the office the next day to let us know that you've placed something in the dropbox for identification.

Annually, over 3,000 consumers request advice on insects/wildlife found in and around the home. Lancaster County residents have access to information and free diagnostic services based on an integrated pest management (IPM) approach using sensible, least-toxic controls. (SE)

Environmental Focus

Ophidiophobia? fear of snakes

Barb Ogg
Extension Educator

Most snakes that people will naturally encounter are not venomous, but over half the population has some fear of snakes. Fearful people can be mildly uncomfortable to highly anxious, and even hysterical. Fear of snakes has been named ophidiophobia or ophiophobia. Striking men and women alike, ophidiophobia is not a rational fear and can be disabling to the point where the phobic won't leave the house, if he/she has seen a snake in the yard. Trying to discuss control options with a hysterical person over the phone is difficult, because there is virtually nothing that the phobic can do to help his/her situation.

Most snakes are beneficial because they eat rodents, and we do not recommend killing them. Relocating them to a more suitable location is a better way to remove them from your yard. Fearful people will need help in relocating snakes. Contact local pest control companies to see if they catch and relocate snakes for a fee.

The best and most permanent way to eliminate snakes near your home is to change the environment to make it less attractive to snakes. There is a double benefit from these suggestions because they also make the area less attractive to rodents.

• Trim weeds and tall grass.
• Move firewood, lumber rock piles, brush, etc. far away from the house.
• Collapse and block off old animal burrows.
• Keep fence lines weed-free.
• Prune bushes to open up the base and keep branches off the ground.
• Eliminate ground cover from near the foundation.
• Rodent-proof the building by sealing cracks or openings to prevent snake entry.

Snakes typically enter a building because they are attracted by dark, damp, cool areas or by the presence of rats or mice. One way to catch a snake inside a building without killing it, is to leave a pile of damp burlap bags or towels in the area where the snake was last seen. Cover the pile of damp bags with a dry bag to prevent evaporation. After several days use a large shovel to remove the whole pile of bags and, hopefully, the snake will also be removed.

For those of you with web access, check out the following web site that lists all known phobias. Ophidiophobia seems almost normal compared to some of the strange phobias listed there. http:/www.dict.mq.edu.au/~james/phobia.html

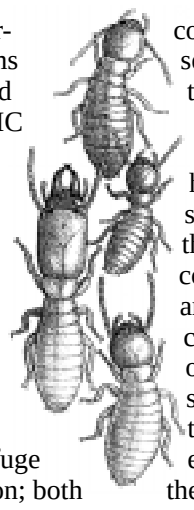
Understanding termite baits

Barb Ogg
Extension Educator

A couple of years ago, termite control using a bait system became available as a control option, although to a limited extent in some locations. This bait system is known as the Sentricon system, developed by DowElanco. Other companies have now developed their own bait systems registered by the EPA and given a label. Some pest control companies may offer these bait systems as a control option.

How do these baits work? Are they effective? What are the advantages and disadvantages of these bait systems? What about cost? The rest of this article will address these questions.

The Sentricon system was the first termiticide bait system offered by pest control operators (PCOs) across the country. The active ingredient of Sentricon is hexaflumuron, a slow acting growth regulator that disrupts the termite's exoskeleton (insect "skin") development and eventually kills the affected termites.



Firstline and Subterfuge are two bait systems that have been registered by their companies (FMC and American Cyanamid, respectively). These bait systems use different active ingredients, but both are slow-acting. As we will discuss, slow acting activity is important to the success of these baits. Firstline contains sulfuramid; and Subterfuge contains hydramethylnon; both of these have been used successfully in bait products developed for other insect pests, like cockroaches. Sulfuramid and hydramethylnon are slow acting respiratory inhibitors. All these baits are relatively specific to insects and relatively safe to people and pets.

Termites frequently exchange food and body secretions as part of their normal existence. This food/secretion exchange is called trophallaxis. Trophallaxis also transfers microbes in the gut that aid in breaking down cellulose to new members of the colony. The termite queen secretes specific chemicals that are used to communicate and "direct" the activities of all members of her colony. The chemical secretions eventually pass through all members of a colony. The reason why baits are even possible for termite control is because exchange of food/secretions allows slow-acting baits to be transferred throughout the entire colony. Eventually the whole colony will be killed or reduced to such a level that it can't survive. Research results have shown that this is, in fact, exactly what happens.

Unfortunately for those of us in the northern states, most of the research was done in the southern parts of the U.S. where termite activity continues year-round. Because termites are only active for about half the year in northern states, bait systems will probably not work as quickly as research from southern states has indicated.

These bait systems rely on termites locating bait stations (at first the stations contain only

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Living green

Arlene L. Hanna
Extension Assistant

Litter is any item that has been improperly disposed of. A plastic bag flying by in the wind, a bunch of broken bottles and smashed cans along a roadside, and/or a pile of leftover food at a campsite are all examples of litter. The effects of litter can range from being simply unsightly to being fatal. A plastic wrapper in the gutter is ugly; when that wrapper washes down a storm drain and ends up in a stream where it entangles a turtle, it can be deadly.

Litter also can be a symbol of our environmental problems. A street or park strewn with litter tells us something about the lack of respect people have for those places. Trying to prevent litter is not only a practical way to clean up the environment, but also a symbolic way of saying that we care about the environment we live in.

How can we live green? Here are a few suggestions:

• Plan to put your litter in the proper place—put it in the garbage, in the recycling bin and/or reuse the item.

• Pick up litter and dispose of it properly. Remember to use gloves.

• Participate in a storm drain stenciling project in which you and your friends apply messages on or near storm drains.

• When making a purchase, look for items that will last a long time. Use cloth, glass, and wood whenever possible because they will decompose once they are thrown away. If you use plastic, use it over and over again.

• Reuse a product as many times as possible before recycling or disposing of it. A drinking glass or ceramic mug can be used thousands of times, but a polystyrene foam cup is used for one drink before becoming garbage or litter. A cloth towel cleans up countless spills, but paper towels are used just once before becoming garbage.

• Recycle aluminum cans, glass bottles, cardboard, plastic and paper.

• Buy products made from recycled materials.

Remember, one of the best and simplest ways to help solve the litter problem is to reduce, reuse and recycle. You can make a difference—LIVE GREEN.

Farm Views

EQIP sign-up underway

Sign-up for the new USDA Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) began May 15 and will run through June 15. EQIP replaces several USDA cost-share programs including the Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP). The program will be administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in cooperation with the Farm Service Agency (FSA).

The purpose of EQIP is to focus conservation assistance where it would provide the greatest environmental benefits. To accomplish this, each state was asked to submit a list of priority areas for possible funding under the new program. Nebraska submitted a total of 25 priority areas for consideration, one from each NRD plus one from the Bureau of Indian Affairs and a multi-county project in Northeast Nebraska. All 25 projects were approved and Nebraska received $5.3 million in funding for the projects. Of that, approximately $3.3 million was allocated to the priority areas with the remainder to be used to address resource concerns outside of the priority areas.

The Lower Platte South NRD submitted the watershed above Branched Oak Lake as its priority area. The Branched Oak watershed was ranked 5th in the state and was funded for $171,000 for fiscal year 1997. The money will provide producers with 75% cost-share assistance for installing or establishing a variety of conservation practices including terraces, filter strips, farm ponds and livestock waste storage facilities. To participate in the program, producers will be required to sign a long term contract (5-10 years) to implement a conservation plan on their farm.

Producers outside of the priority area may also sign up for the program. Those applications will be submitted to the State NRCS Office where they will be ranked according to priorities established by the State Technical Committee. Funds will be distributed to those projects based on their rank until all available funds are allocated. To obtain more information about the program or to sign up contact your local FSA or NRCS office, your local NRD or the Lancaster County Extension Office. (SCB)

Farmers at risk for permanent hearing loss

Heavy machinery roaring to life can mean death to the operator's hearing. The maximum noise level for eight hours is 90 decibels, about the same as a pneumatic drill at about ten feet, a motorcycle or even the noise of a chain saw over a period of time.

If the sound is too loud to hear normal speech three feet away, it is loud enough to cause damage. Prolonged noise damages the inner ear system and interrupts signals being sent to the brain.

Protection equals prevention when it comes to hearing loss. Soundproof cabs are designed to filter out harmful noise. Their curved surfaces, insulation pocketed with tiny holes and covered engine all help reduce noise levels. However, technology can only do so much and remain cost effective; the rest is in the operator's hands.

To prolong hearing quality when operating noisy equipment, wear ear plugs or protective ear muffs, limit exposure time and have regular hearing checkups.

Noise-reducing ear muffs and plugs should be comfortable, but snug and worn directly against the skin. These ear muffs are rated with a Noise Reduction Level. A higher number indicates more protection. Muffs reduce noise volume and eliminate some frequencies, but not all.

Hearing checkups can be included in a yearly physical. Young farmers and others employed in high-noise occupations should have their hearing checked before they even start their jobs. This initial check will allow the physician to detect the earliest signs of loss.

Between physician visits, heavy equipment operators may actually hear their own warning signs. A prolonged ringing, roaring or rumbling in the ears that lasts long after the machines are quiet, feeling more tired than normal, and having difficulty hearing over the phone may all indicate a hearing loss. These warning signs should be checked out immediately by a physician. (WS)

Providing water to pastured livestock

Livestock water distribution is one of the most critical parts of good grazing management. According to Bruce Anderson, Extension Forage Specialist, without good water, it doesn't matter how effective other grazing management practices might be. Plentiful, reliable, good quality water is essential for grazing livestock.

But how important is location of that water? Animals resist traveling far from water. They rarely graze more than a half mile away from water in rough country or a mile away on flat land. Under 1000 feet is ideal. If they do travel far for water, they spend less time grazing, they burn off pounds , and they graze distant areas incompletely.

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Diagnostic clinics set for July at ARDC

The two-day UNL Crop Management and Diagnostic Clinics have been set for July 17-18 and July 24-25, 1997 at the Agricultural Research and Development Center, near Mead, Nebraska.

These two-day clinics will feature demonstration plots and field presentations on crop injury diagnostics, transgenic crops, insect, weed and disease management, nitrogen management for corn and soybeans, pop-up fertilizers, irrigation scheduling, in-field determinations of soil moisture and soil quality parameters, manure management, and comparison and proper adjustment of no-till drills.

Some UNL presenters will include: Brian Benham, Bob Caldwell, Dale Flowerday, John Foster, DeLynn Hay, Gary Hergert, Keith Jarvi, Paul Jasa, Rick Koelsch, Don Lee, Mark Liebig, Alex Martin, Steve Mason, ZB Mayo, John McNamara, Lenis Nelson, Jim Peterson, Fred Roeth, Jim Stack, John Watkins, John Witkowski, Dave Wysong and Bob Wright.

Most of these presentations will take place in the field in small groups so that participants are able to interact with the presenters. The enrollment of each diagnostic clinic will be strictly limited to 60 persons.

Cost for the diagnostic clinic will be $225 per person ($250 at the door). Preregistration ends one week before the beginning of each clinic. Registration is not guaranteed unless payment has been received.

For more information about these diagnostic clinics or for a brochure/order form, contact Barb Ogg, 441-7180. (BPO)

Pasture rent

There are two peak time periods for calls to the Extension office concerning questions about pasture leasing arrangements, according to Ward Shires, Extension Educator. The times are spring and late in the fall, and questions most commonly are from landowners who have pasture for rent. Questions in the spring are usually easier to deal with because they ask about establishing the leasing agreement before it happens. Whereas, the landowner who waits until the end of the grazing season in the fall to determine what is a fair rental rate could find the settlement with the tenant a little more difficult. In either case, there is seldom any easy, ready-made answer. Each situation is different.

Renting or leasing pastureland is somewhat similar to renting houses. The price is going to depend on two primary factors: the real value of the property and what the renter is willing to pay. When setting a price tag on pastureland, a whole series of questions must be answered. The primary and usually the first question is the basis of the lease. Pastures are usually either rented by the acre or by the species of animal and number to be grazed. This information is included in the general terms of a lease. If it is a written lease, it must have the names of both parties and include the name of each spouse as the land, as well as the livestock, may be in joint tenancy. Also, the property description should include both the legal and the common description.

Pastures are usually rented by the acre or by the species of animal and number to be grazed.

There are three main issues contained in any pasture lease that must be negotiated between the livestock owner and the landlord. They include: (1) Stocking Rate - this issue may be the most important if disagreements are to be avoided between the parties and the grass stand and quality is to be maintained. (2) Operation and Maintenance - there are many sub-issues that need to be settled before grazing ever begins. They include the responsibility for fencing, water, fertilizing, weed and tree control, day to day checking of livestock and others. Additional agreements may include what happens in the event of water or grass failure. What adjustments in rent may be needed? Each situation is different and all possible situations need to be considered. (3) Payment Schedule - this issue determines how much, at what time, and by what method.

Some parties prefer to maintain a verbal agreement and are able to avoid any conflict, until the unexpected happens. Written leases are becoming more common in modern agriculture because of problems stemming from verbal leases. The advantage of the written lease is that it provides both the renter and the landlord guidelines for developing arrangements that are fair to both parties. Also, the written lease avoids misunderstandings as to what the provisions of the lease were at the time of the agreement. In any case, it is helpful to follow a checklist of items to be considered before the lease is made up and the price established. This office has guidelines to aid in this process. Ask for NCR Extension Publication 149, "Pasture Rental Arrangements For Your Farm." (WS)

Round bales can withstand elements if stored properly

Some hay bales better resist deterioration from rain, snow and ice, than do others. When water permeates the bales, mold growth contributes to deterioration and ultimately, a loss of nutrients.

Round hay bales are popular because they're well suited for outdoor storage. They easily shed water, thus reducing the effects of damage better than square bales. However, even round bales need proper storage.

Ideally, bales would be covered by storing in sheds or under tarps. However, shed space is usually limited. If bales must be left in the field, make sure they're positioned properly to reduce problems with the elements.

Don't arrange bales so that the twine sides touch each other because snow and moisture will channel into one spot.

Bales are best grouped side by side in cigar-like formation. The elements will blow off onto the ground, instead of an adjacent bale or into crevices where twine and hay meet.

The location of hay bales in the field also affects their condition. Don't leave bales near a shelter or tree-lined fence to keep them from the wind. This can sometimes do more harm than good, as snow or rain can get dumped on top of them.

The better location is to leave hay bales out in the open so they aren't victim to falling drifts or water. Arrange bales so both sides have access to sunlight. Lining the bales north to south allows them to dry off. This placement also keeps snow from accumulating only on one side.

The bottoms of bales tend to soak up lots of moisture from the ground and is the cause of most deterioration and nutrient loss. Avoid this by placing bales in areas that are well drained, or better yet, off the ground. Pallets or railroad ties work well for elevating bales as does crushed rock. The goal is to prevent the bottom of the bale from rotting away due to prolonged contact with moist soil. (WS)

Pond management

Ponds have been constructed for a variety of reasons over the years. Originally, most ponds were built to provide a reliable supply of water for livestock. Now ponds are often designed with multiple uses in mind, including recreational uses such as fishing and hunting, improving wildlife habitat or enhancing the aesthetic value of the property. For the acreage owner, a well managed pond is a valuable asset. It adds diversity to the landscape and can provide hours of enjoyment.

The key to successful pond management is to have a clear goal in mind as to what you want the pond to look like and how you plan to use it. However, you need to be realistic in your expectations. Ponds are more like gardens than swimming pools. Building a pond creates an aquatic ecosystem that provides habitat for a variety of organisms including plants, animals and insects. If you expect clear water with little or no vegetation you'll be disappointed.

The most common problems encountered by pond owners are poor water clarity and excess aquatic vegetation. Reduced water clarity typically results from uncontrolled growth of algae and/or large amounts of suspended sediments. Algae color the water green or brown and can form nuisance surface scums. Excessive levels or "blooms" of algae occur when nutrients, especially phosphorus, are in abundant supply.

Although there are several methods for controlling algae in lakes and ponds, the first thing you should do is try to reduce the amount of nutrients coming into the pond. Potential sources of nutrients include dissolved or suspended fertilizers in runoff from lawns, gardens and agricultural fields; runoff from feedlots, inadequate septic systems and organic materials such as leaves and grass clippings. Things you can do to reduce the amount of nutrients getting into the pond would be to avoid using fertilizer on areas adjacent to the pond or use low phosphate fertilizers. Keep leaves and grass clippings out of the pond. Establish a buffer strip of vegetation along the water's edge to filter out pollutants from runoff or establish a vegetative border within the pond which would function like a wetland and remove some of the excess nutrients from the water.

Other methods of controlling algae in lakes and ponds include chemical treatments such as herbicides, copper-containing compounds or aluminum sulfate (alum); or mechanical treatments such as aeration or dredging. Herbicides and copper-containing compounds kill the algae but could also be toxic to other organisms in the pond. Alum is a non-toxic alternative which works by removing phosphorus from the water. The mechanical methods are more expensive and, in the case of dredging, only provide a temporary benefit.

Suspended sediments cause the water to appear cloudy or murky. Sources of sediment include soil erosion within the watershed, shoreline erosion and resuspension of sediment from the bottom of the pond by wave action or bottom-feeding fish. The primary method of reducing the amount of suspended sediment in a pond is to control soil erosion, both in the watershed and along the shoreline. Establishing a buffer strip adjacent to the pond will also help reduce the amount of sediment by filtering sediment from runoff before it reaches the pond. To prevent sediment from becoming resuspended, protect shallow areas from wind and wave action by encouraging the growth of aquatic vegetation.

The growth of aquatic vegetation in ponds is not all bad. In fact, a certain amount of vegetation is necessary to maintain a healthy pond. Plants provide food and habitat for many insects which in turn are eaten by fish and other aquatic organisms. Plants also produce oxygen, protect the shoreline from erosion and serve as feeding and nesting habitat for fish and wildlife. Good vegetation coverage should be between 10% and 30% of the water's surface area.

If excessive growth of aquatic vegetation interferes with the beneficial uses of the pond, control may be necessary. As with algae, one method for controlling aquatic vegetation is to reduce the amount of nutrients getting into the pond. Other treatment methods include mechanical removal with rakes, drags, cutters or uprooters; chemical control using herbicides; using dyes or covers which provide artificial shade; or stocking the pond with grass carp. (SCB)

HELP! Your input is needed.

In order to make the Acreage Section of the NEBLINE more responsive to your needs, we would like to know what articles or topics you would like to see in this section. We are also considering including a question and answer feature where we will try to find answers to your questions and print them in a future issue of the NEBLINE. Please send your comments, suggestions or questions to the NEBLINE Acreage Editor, Lancaster County Extension Office, 444 Cherrycreek Rd., Lincoln, NE 68528-1507, or call 441-7180. Thanks for your help. (SCB)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone Number _____

Comments, suggestions, or questions _____

_____

Acreage Insights

Assessing rural life

Before making the decision to change residence from an urban setting to a rural area, several realistic matters should be thoroughly investigated. Unless the entire family or at least one family member has experienced living in a rural area, the chances for an easy transition are not good. In many cases, urbanites discover (sometimes too late) that there are several attributes of rural life that fall short of their expectations, especially when compared to the conveniences available in the city. It will take a very thorough evaluation on the part of the entire family to determine if their lifestyle is going to fit into this new environment. Those that find that rural living doesn't measure up to their comfort zone should think twice about moving to the country. It is far better to discover all of the facts so that this new adventure does not result in a very costly mistake.

Here are just a few important issues every member of a family considering a move from an urban to a rural setting should discuss:

- **Schools**—This is probably the single greatest concern of parents with elementary and high school aged children. They need to know about the schools credibility, its curriculum, disciplinary policies and opportunities in education. This investigation involves more than just checking the distance from home and the outside appearance of the school. If it does not meet the expectations of that family, they may want to remain where they are or choose another community. On the other hand, people have discovered some of the best school systems in this country are in less populated areas.
- **Transportation**—In just about every situation, living in the country will require a greater need for transportation than living in an urban area. It will result in more time and expenses in getting to work, school, church, shopping, entertainment, etc. In many rural school districts, buses are available to pick up kids at their driveway. If there are no buses, kids will need either another vehicle (if old enough to drive) or someone to drive them to school. Road surfaces and general maintenance are apt to be substandard also. Snow removal is often a problem in neighborhoods where the county is able to provide only minimal service. Those that expect all county roads to have the same priority as major highways will be greatly disappointed.
- **Safety**—Law enforcement outside of city limits belongs basically to the county sheriff. Even some small towns contract the services of the sheriff's patrol. Although some people will argue that the rural areas are generally safer from crime, reduced coverage and longer response to calls creates a grave concern for many acreage owners. Some acreage owners are able to overcome this deficiency with modern security and communications systems.
- **Fire and Rescue**—Most rural communities rely on their organized volunteer fire and rescue units for these services. Again, response times to an emergency may be a great factor to some people moving to a rural area for the first time. The volunteers for these units are generally made up of local residents. Therefore people in the area have to be willing to give of their time and accept responsibility to

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Acreage & Small Farm Insights Web Site

Visit our Internet web site at: **http//ianrwww.unl.edu/ianr/lanco/ag/acreage** to learn about Extension programs, publications and links to other acreage and small farm information.

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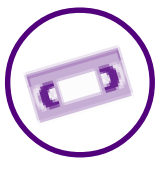

"Part-time Farming" video

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

Food & Fitness

Focus on Food

Alice Henneman, RD, LMNT
Extension Educator

Q: Is it safe to use a rusty pan for making foods such as bread and meat loaf?

A: According to Dr. Julie Albrecht, Extension Food Specialist, using a rusty pan is NOT recommended. Though a person may have an increase in iron intake from iron transferred to food, this is not a way to add iron to the diet. Rusty pans are rough and are harder to get clean. The temperature of the pan may get hot enough during baking to kill pathogens, but many times these pans are used for keeping leftovers, etc. and rusted areas are wonderful breeding places to harbor bacteria. The cost of a loaf pan is inexpensive compared to the "cost" of a foodborne illness.

Q: Is there a way to color granulated sugar?

A: To color granulated sugar, Dr. Carolyn Lackey, North Carolina Cooperative Extension, recommends putting one to three drops of food coloring in a small jar. Swirl the coloring around to coat the sides of the jar. Pour in 1/4 to 1/3 cup of sugar and shake vigorously until evenly colored.

Healthy Eating

Alice Henneman, RD, LMNT
Extension Educator

The month of June nationally is celebrated as "June is Turkey Lovers' Month." Governor Nelson will be proclaiming "June is Turkey Lovers' Month" in Nebraska. Join in the celebration by trying this Turkey Burger recipe presented by the National Turkey Federation. For nutritional information on turkey or turkey recipes, contact Mary Reiners, Nebraska Department of Agriculture, Poultry & Egg division, 402-472-2051.

Greek Turkey Burgers

(Makes 4 burgers)

1 pound GROUND TURKEY or GROUND TURKEY BREAST
4 pimento stuffed olives, chopped
1 tablespoon dried parsley
1 teaspoon minced garlic
1/4 teaspoon cinnamon
1/8 teaspoon nutmeg
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon pepper
1/4 cup fat free sour cream
4 pita bread rounds
1 small cucumber, diced
1/4 cup Feta cheese

1. Prepare charcoal grill for direct heat cooking. Remove cooking rack from grill and spray with non-stick cooking spray.
2. In medium bowl, combine turkey, olives, parsley, garlic, cinnamon, nutmeg, salt and pepper. Evenly distribute mixture into four burgers (approximately 4-1/2 inches in diameter).
3. Grill burgers 2 to 3 minutes per side until meat thermometer registers 160 to 165 degrees F and meat is no longer pink in center.
4. To serve, spread 1 tablespoon sour cream on pita. Place cooked burger on bottom half of pita and top evenly with cucumber and 1 tablespoon Feta cheese. Fold over top half of pita and serve.

Turkey Burger Cooking Tips:

- When making burgers, lightly mix the ground turkey with spices and other seasonings to enhance the flavor and moisture. Form the meat into patties, taking care not to make them too dense and compact.
- Remove the grill rack and coat with cooking spray to prevent sticking.
- Do not press down on the meat while the burger is cooking. The moisture that is forced out is the small amount of fat, which gives the burger its unique flavor.
- Cook until no longer pink, or until 165 degrees F is reached on a meat thermometer. (AH)

WIC and NEP team up

The WIC (Women, Infants, Children) program provides healthy foods and nutrition education for income eligible women, infants and children. This prevention program which served 9,721 clients in our community last year, recently established a waiting list as a result of federal funding cuts. Most women who have had a baby and are not breastfeeding and many children ages 1-5 will be placed on a waiting list.

Pregnant/breastfeeding women and infants will continue to be served. Some high risk non-pregnant women with children under 6 months and children with documented medical conditions, frequent illness or abnormal growth will continue to be served.

Marcia Wallen, Family Service WIC Director, and Alisanne Ells, Health Department WIC Director encourage families to apply. High risk applicants will not be placed on the waiting list. This program is not only for those with very low incomes. For example, families who don't qualify for food stamps, Aid to Dependent Children (AFDC) or Medicaid may be able to receive WIC foods.

Linda Detsauer, nutrition advisor, provides nutrition education to a family service WIC family.

WIC clients receive milk, natural cheeses, fruit juices high in vitamin C, eggs, dried beans and peas, peanut butter, cereals with iron and infant formula with iron.

"WIC professionals do an excellent job of providing nutrition education for the families they serve" says Sandy Phillips, NEP nutrition advisor. "They work hard to provide nutritious food and teach families how to keep young children healthy. For example, one mother who has a lactose intolerant child said that WIC professionals provided her educational and moral support. She said that she didn't know how she would have survived without the help of WIC."

The Nutrition Education Program (NEP) staff work closely with WIC staff in coordination of nutrition education for WIC customers. Nutrition advisors currently provide ongoing education at the Mill Town, Hispanic Community Center, Northeast Family Resource Center, Carol Yoakum Family Resource Center, City/County Health Department, and the Good Neighbor Center WIC sites as well as other sites in Lincoln.

The WIC program is accessible at several locations in Lincoln and Lancaster County. For more information, contact Marcia Wallen, Family Service WIC at 441-8655 or Alisanne Ells, Lincoln/ Lancaster County Health Department WIC at 441-6200. It is funded through the US Dept. of Agriculture. The Nebraska Department of Health contracts with local agencies to operate the program. (MB)

Nutrition Education Program

for Limited Resource Families

Maureen Burson,
Extension Educator

Selling foods made from your favorite recipe

Have you been told over and over again that you should market your family's secret recipe? Are you a restaurant or store owner who wants to develop a "house recipe" or "private label" product?

Food**Strategy** at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln offers a nationally recognized Entrepreneur Assistance Program specifically designed for entrepreneurs wanting to manufacture a food product.

The first phase is the "From Product to Profit" seminar. This one-day seminar in conjunction with the Food Processing Center, is offered July 14, September 4 and October 17. "From Product to Profit" addresses many marketing, business and technical issues including: product development, market selection, regulatory issues and agencies, product pricing, legal concerns, packaging and promotional strategies.

The second phase of the Entrepreneur Assistance Program is "Start-Up Services and Consultation." During this phase, participants receive confidential one-on-one individualized assistance in actually developing their business and bringing their product to the marketplace.

As companies grow, they often want additional assistance to help them continue to expand to new markets and develop new products. During this "Growth Phase," project proposals are prepared by Food**Strategy's** professional food consultants. Each proposal is customized to the specific needs and goals of the company.

Eighty-five percent of the companies participating in the program are still in business after five years, in contrast to a national failure rate of eighty percent. To receive an Entrepreneur Assistance Program packet, contact: Arlis Burney; Food**Strategy;** University of Nebraska-Lincoln; 60 Filley Hall; Lincoln, NE 68583-0928; 402-472-5791. (AH)

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Alice's Analysis

Alice Doane
FCE Council Chair

Sunday evening April 29...what a nice spring day we had. This afternoon Ted said "Let's get ready for the school kids." Hamlow Elementary in Waverly will be out with the first graders on Tuesday. We will talk about the sheep and lambs, they may get to bottle feed "Buddy Blue and Buddy Yellow" the names that our two granddaughters gave the bottle babies. They will get to go up into the hay loft of which grandpa and the two granddaughters swept the floor on Sunday afternoon, and go down to the other barn where the 4-H calves are kept that friends of ours who live in town keep out here. Then Ted will shear a sheep and the boys and girls will get a piece of wool to take home. Oh, some of the children will want to play with the dogs and cats and boy do we have cats, if they can catch them. Our new tractor is not in yet so they cannot climb up and sit on it but, Mark has his swather and rake over here ready for the first cutting of alfalfa so they can look at those machines. In May, the fourth grade class from Everett School in Lincoln will be out. The next afternoon we will have a school from the Omaha area. One friend of ours said that this is what you do when you retire. Hamlow, however, has been coming out for about 10 years.

Mark brought all the lambs' blankets and halters home since the three Lemke kids say they are not going to have 4-H lambs this year. So, we got the show box out to put the blankets and halters away along with the calves' halters, brushes and combs. Let's see, Amy last showed calves and lambs about 11 years ago and everything is still in the show box and in its original place no less.

With school coming to an end I find we are going to many concerts and school plays. But it's fun and I guess that's all grandparents have to do.

I hope that you have marked your calendar and have a group of friends together to enjoy an evening with us at our "Sizzling Summer Sampler" on July 10.

A group of FCE members will be going to Sidney, Nebraska for the state meeting. I hope that we will come back with information on the future of FCE. I am looking forward to the Council meeting on June 23 at 7:00 p.m. with Lynne Camp telling us about "Habitat for Humanity." I hope we will hear about the home that will be built by ladies.

Helen McMahon is in charge of Health Awareness Day, August 1 at the Lancaster County Fair. If you would like to help that day call Helen at 466-2557.

Jean Wheelock reported that we did not have any entries in the Literacy Essay or Environment Poster Contest this year.

As I look ahead to June I think of Father's Day. So, my quote for the month is about fathers:

It matters not that time has shed, His thawless snow upon your head, For he maintains, with wonderous art, Perpetual summer in your heart.
— Wilham Hamilton Hayne.

Character Counts! Fairness

THAT'S NOT FAIR!!

How many times do you hear your teenagers yell "that's not fair," when they haven't been selected for a part in the school play, didn't get the grade they thought they deserved on an assignment, or when something else hasn't gone in their favor? Often, we see any decisions that put us at a disadvantage as unfair. However, if we begin to think about what fairness really means, we may be better able to understand such decisions and be on the road to better character.

Fairness means playing by the rules, treating everyone the same, and using the same rules for everyone. We can help our kids build good character by encouraging them to:

• treat all people fairly,

• listen to others and try to understand what they are saying,

• consider all of the facts—even opposing views, when making a decision,

• make impartial decisions, using the same criteria or standards for everyone, and

• correct their mistakes.

Sometimes it's hard to distinguish between *fair* and *equal*. Here's an example that may help: In a family, it is *fair* that everyone has one pair of shoes to wear. These may not all be the same color, style, price, etc. This is where teenagers often say "that's not fair," especially when another sibling gets a new pair. But what they are really saying is that it is not *equal*. To be *equal*, every person in the family should have shoes that are the same size, color, and style. No one, not even your teenager, would think that's *fair*! In this example, fairness is when everyone has his or her needs met, and most often this cannot be done by equal treatment.

One of the best ways to make sure everyone is treated fairly is to have clear expectations. These expectations need to be understood and followed by everyone.

Here's one way to help teach kids about fairness. Pick a board game your family likes to play. Before the game begins, have one family member leave the room. While they are gone, the rest of the family members decides how they might "change the rules." For example, in Monopoly the goal of the game could be to end up with no property and little money. Whatever change you've made, keep it a secret from the person out of the room. Have that person come back and begin playing. After playing awhile, have the person who was out of the room tell how he or she feel. What was it like when he or she didn't know the rules? Was that fair? How did the rest of the family who know the rules feel? What are some other times when the rules aren't really fair?

By helping your teens realize what they feel like when they haven't been treated fairly, they are more likely to treat others fairly. Understanding what it means to be fair and treating others fairly is another step in the process of developing a strong character!! (LJ)

Male role models

Teenage boys may not have a clear image of how a husband/father should behave. Their image of how a man treats a woman may be colored by TV, movies and less-than-ideal relationships they have seen. Young men need to see the caring, nurturing relationship that can exist between a man and woman. In the absence of such experiences, they may try the macho image. This may lead to domination or even abuse of female partners. Parents can help their sons avoid such problems in several ways: Set good examples. Make sure your child sees you in caring relationships with other people. Spend time as a family with people who have a caring relationship between man and wife, such as relatives, or friends. Point out situations in movies and TV that show caring relationships, and discuss the problems of other kinds of relationships. (LJ)

Third Sizzling Summer Sampler

Mark Thursday, July 10 on your calendar for the third Sizzling Summer Sampler. A light supper will be served first for $7.50 per person. This event is open to the public and it will be necessary to make reservations. Please feel free to invite a friend or two. Send checks (payable to Lancaster County FCE) to Joy Kruse, 850 Adams Street, Lincoln, NE 65821 by July 3. Programs and presenters will be: "Marchine Embroidery" by Lori Pavey and Jean Holman of Sew Creative; "Fun Kitchen Toy" by Lori Buchmann of Friedman Microwaves; "Kitchen Cosmetics" by Jean Wheelock"; and "Drying Flowers" by Edna Shields. You will be able to attend all four programs. Plan on attending this fun evening! (LB)

Family Living

HOUSEHOLD HINTS

by Lorene Bartos, Extension Educator

Preventing insect damage

Before placing winter garments in storage, be sure they are clean and free of starch or sizing, which can provide insect nourishment.

To prevent this damage, store clean garments using mothballs and cedar chests. In a closed area, where there is a high concentration of odor, mothballs will kill larvae and insects. In an open area, the odor generally repels insects. While cedar has a strong scent that also repels insects, keeping the chest tightly closed is what prevents infestation. (LB)

Keeping Families First

A statewide campaign, Keeping Families First, will help build communities where families are valued. In support of this campaign, families, schools, businesses, religious organizations, youth and community groups along with Cooperative Extension will form partnerships to increase awareness about the critical role families play in shaping lives and our community. A fun-filled event to celebrate Keeping Families First is planned as part of the Lancaster County Fair on August 2.

There are several ways to become a Keeping Families First participant. Your family, agency, or organization can make a pledge to help strengthen families. For example, families can pledge to spend more time together. Businesses can pledge to develop, or improve, family-friendly policies. Schools can pledge to recognize the whole family when a student wins an award. Churches can pledge to stress the importance of families through sermons and other teachings. Youth and community groups can pledge to do more family centered activities. Groups can sponsor a booth at the fair highlighting family activities and individuals or organizations can become a member of the Lincoln/Lancaster County Keeping Families First Coalition.

Watch the NEBLINE for more information or visit the website http://ianr.www.unl.edu/ianr/saunders/famfirst/ffpage.htm. If you would like to learn more about the event, Keeping Families First at the fair, call Karen Whitson or LaDeane Jha, 441-7180. (KW)

Celebrate fathers

Being a dad just isn't what it used to be. Much discussion in recent years has centered on the changing role of women and mothers, but little has been mentioned about the impact of those changes on the role of fathers. Fathers are routinely in the delivery room when children are born and from that moment on, messages are received saying, "You ought to be a more nurturing and involved father."

"Men are torn between two sets of expectations—yesterday's view that a husband should bring home the bacon while his wife raises the children, and today's wisdom that he should share the child rearing while being a major breadwinner, too," says Dr. James Levine, director of the Fatherhood Project at the Families and Work Institute.

Why is Dad's role different today? First, mom needs help since 60% of fathers in the workplace have wives who also work full time. When dads are involved with parenting, mom's stress is reduced and both parents feel more fulfilled. Research indicates that fathers play a vital role in their children's development. Dads often have a different style of parenting that is wonderful for kids. For example, when fathers hold a baby, they tend to do something like tickle them or put them on their shoulders. When kids are older, dads are more likely to encourage independence; they don't step in and help with problems as fast as moms might. As a result, children who have had a lot of positive fathering tend to be more outgoing, flexible and able to cope with new situations. Researchers found that involved fathers improve children's motivation and ability to achieve in school.

Dads also benefit from nurturing kids. Dr. Joseph Pleck, a researcher in this field, has found that when fathers spend more time with their kids they have a happier and more integrated life. And, this benefit lasts a lifetime. When men have supported and nourished their children emotionally and socially, they tend to be more giving and caring when they reach middle age. They are also more likely to mentor younger workers and to become involved in their communities.

Fatherhood is creative, complicated, fulfilling, frustrating, engrossing and enriching. Celebrate fathers and take time to appreciate the positive role they play in rearing competent, caring children.

Adapted from "The Changing, Challenging Role of Fathers in the 90's", Work and Family Life, Balancing Job and Personal Responsibilities, Vol. 10, No. 11. (LJ)

4-H & Youth

4-H BULLETIN BOARD

- There is still time to register for 4-H camp at the Eastern Nebraska 4-H Center. Call the Extension office (441-7180) for more information. (LB)
- Teen Council is Sunday, June 8, 3:00-5:00 p.m. We will plan the Ice Cream Social. See you there. (DL)
- Fair books have been mailed. Please make sure you have yours and that you refer to it for information about the fair. (LB)
- A handout on "How to Exhibit at Fair" is available at the Extension office. (LB)
- Registration forms for county fair are available June 1 at the Extension office. (LB)
- PAK 10 4-H Horse Judging Contest and Clinic will be Tuesday, June 10 with registration at 6:30 p.m. The contest/clinic will be at the Skyline Ranch Arena in Elkhorn. Please call the Extension office in case of inclement weather for new location. (CB)
- The 4-H Horse VIPS Committee will hold their June meeting Wednesday, June 11, 7:00 p.m. All club leaders, members, parents and volunteers are encouraged to attend. (CB)
- All animal ID's (except horses) are due into the office by **4:30 p.m., Friday, June 13**. This includes ID's for Beef, Swine, Dairy Cattle, Goats, Llamas, Rabbits and Sheep. Please don't wait for the last minute, get it done! (DL)
- 4-H Rabbit VIPS Clinic "It's Show Time" will be Tuesday, June 17, 6:00-9:00 p.m. See the ad in this section. (CB)
- PAK 10 4-H Poultry Judging Clinic and Contest will be Thursday, June 19, 9:30 a.m. at the UNL Agricultural Research and Development Center in Ithaca. Registration begins at 9:00 a.m.
- The 4-H Rabbit VIPS Committee will hold their June meeting Thursday, June 19, 7:00 p.m. All club leaders, members parents and volunteers are encouraged to attend. (CB)
- Friday, June 20, 1:00-4:30 p.m. is the scheduled day for delivery of the market broiler chicks. Orders were due to the office by Friday, May 23. Call the Extension office for further "chick" updates. (CB)
- Monday, June 23-Thursday, June 26 are the scheduled dates for the 4-H District Horse Shows. All shows are scheduled to begin at 9:00 a.m. with registration starting at 8:00 a.m. All exhibitors will be sent a confirmation letter off their entry and map of the show location. All questions should be directed to Cindy. (CB)
- Monday, July 7 is the deadline for ALL animal entries to the Lancaster County Fair. Entry forms are available at the Extension office. (CB)
- 4-H leaders—keep up to date on the latest food tips and trends by subscribing to the free FoodTalk e-mail newsletter offered by our Extension office. For information on how to subscribe through your computer e-mail, see the "Your Information Center..." section of the Food and Fitness page. (AH)
- Hey kids! It's summertime and that means fun, family, friends and NO SCHOOL! Maybe you'll be hiking, rollerblading, swimming or attending day camp. Day camp? Yes, that's right, a Character Counts! Day Camp tentatively scheduled for August 7 for 4-8 year olds at State Fair Park. It's going to be tons of fun, so mark your calendars and check the July NEBLINE for details and how to register. (JG)

Scholarship applications due

Lancaster County high school seniors, you have a second opportunity to apply for several scholarships provided for 4-H members planning to attend institutions of higher learning after high school. The following scholarship applications are available at the Extension office: Kiwanis (one for $250), Jonathan Backes (one for $500), Birdie Hutchinson (one for $200), Havelock Business Association (one for $250) and 4-H Council (five for $300 each). Applications for these scholarships are due by June 9, 1997.

Each scholarship has different requirements, so request only those applications that fit your needs.

Kiwanis

$250. Must be a high school senior and currently enrolled in 4-H. Selection based on 4-H projects, scholastic standing, activity involvement and financial need.

Birdie E. Hutchinson

$200. Must enroll in the College of Human Resources and Family Services and major in home economics. Selection based on 4-H projects, scholastic standing, activity involvement and financial need.

Jonathan Milligan Backes Memorial 4-H Scholarship

$500. Must enroll full-time at the University of Nebraska, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Must be a high school senior currently enrolled in 4-H, with a minimum of three years 4-H experience. Selection based on 4-H projects, scholastic standing, activity involvement and recommendations.

Havelock Business Association

$250. Must be a high school senior and a 4-H, FFA or FHA member in good standing from Waverly High School or Lincoln Northeast High School. Selection based on 4-H, FFA and FHA projects or programs, scholastic standing, activity involvement and financial need.

4-H Council

$300. Must be a high school senior, currently enrolled in 4-H, a minimum of three years 4-H experience. Can be used for any post secondary education.

Marjorie M. Humann Memorial 4-H Scholarship

$350. Designed for Lancaster County 4-H members enrolled in a goat or horse project and planning to attend any institution of higher learning. Must be a high school junior or senior.

R.B. Warren and Grand Island Saddle Club 4-H Educational Scholarships

The number and dollar amounts may vary each year based on the number and quality of applicants, however, each scholarship awarded will be at least $200. Offered to encourage 4-H members, active in the 4-H Horse Program, to continue their education in agriculture and related subjects.

The R.B. Warren Scholarship may be used only at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

The Grand Island Saddle Club Scholarship recipient must attend the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and major in Agriculture or a related area.

The applicant must be a graduating senior in 1997 and not have passed their 19th birthday on January 1 of the current year. Applications due June 20. (LB)

Make new friends, develop leadership skills and get hands-on experience at

ExpoVisions '97

July 9-11, 1997
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Youths age 13-19 can experience:

• 50 different hands-on learnshops drawn from UNL programs • 16 career tours

ExpoVisions combines fun and learning in 50 different learnshops; 16 career tours; a visit to Omaha businesses, the Old Market, and The Belle; and special programs by nationally renowned speakers Patrick T. Grady and T. Marni Vos.

Learnshops encourage hands-on experience in a variety of topic areas, and are combined with career tours of Lincoln businesses to help you discover career opportunities and meet new friends from across Nebraska!

Registration deadline:" June 13, 1997 Cost: $130 per person.
You need not be a 4-H member to attend.
For more information, contact University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension in Lancaster County, 444 Cherrycreek Road, Lincoln, NE 68528-1507, (402) 441-7180. (LB)

A sampling of 1997 learnshops:

Auto CAD
Barnga
Business Etiquette
Explore Publishing
ExpoVisions News Team
Financing Your Education
Guess Who's Up In Your Family Tree
Introduction to Screenwriting
Order in the Court!
Personalize Your Energy
Ridiculous Relays and Wacky Olympics
The Nebraska Wide World Web and More
Under the Rainbow

ExpoVisions '97
Focusing on Your Future

We need you...

at the 1997 Lancaster County Fair!

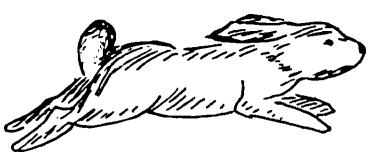
Volunteer helpers (ages 12 and over) are needed to: help in information booth, assist judges by writing comments, putting up project displays, check in exhibits on entry day, make the fair the best it can be!

Call the Extension office to sign up at 441-7180.

Thanks in advance for all your help! (LB)

The 4-H Rabbit VIPS Committee presents

It's Show Time



Tuesday, June 17
6:00-9:00 p.m.
Lancaster Extension Education Center

6:15 p.m. **Session One**
Grooming your rabbit (Ken Majors/ Lindsey Brinson)
Stationary exhibits (Dave Kaminski)

7:00 p.m. **Session Two**
Showmanship skills (Star City Rabbit Raisers junior members)
Breed types and selecting the right rabbit (Sharon Stewart/Dawn Eggert)

7:45 p.m. **Quiz Bowl**—"What is it and how does it work?" (Pam Trawinski/Terri Bramhall)

Participants will be asked to select one of the clinics to attend in each session. The mock quiz bowl will be conducted for all participants.

A short question/answer session with refreshments will follow the quiz bowl session.

4-H & Youth

Community service opportunity

Share your talents by making items to be donated for door prizes at the 1997 North central Regional Volunteer Forum in Omaha, November 13-16, 1997. Items will be exhibited at county fair and sent to state fair to be exhibited before going to the forum. Items requested are listed below. If you or your club is interested in making any of these items, contact Lorene at 441-7180 for more details.

Exhibits:

Criteria for judging at state fair (25 points each)

Fits the theme or shows pride in Nebraska

Creativity and use of artistic guidelines of design

Appropriate for either a banquet table or door prize

Workmanship

Banners: Banners will be displayed at the forum and returned to the club. Class 1 (limit 1)—illustrate a phase of 4-H work or promote 4-H generally. (Banner selected for state fair will be sent.)

Class 2—portray the North Central Regional Volunteer Forum theme of Harvesting Potential in the Heartland or show state pride and be related to 4-H.

Woodworking II and III—Article using designated pattern.

Photography II and III—Entry will consist of black and white or color 4" x 6" photographs related to the theme, Harvesting Potential in the Heartland or showing pride in the state and mounted on matting board.

Decorate Your Duds—Create a T-shirt design using the theme Harvesting Potential in the Heartland. Be creative in interrupting the theme. Develop your design using these techniques as possibilities: applique, embroidery, fabric paint, silk-screen, etc.

Celebrate Arts—Home Environment—The exhibit will be a functional art piece for the home portraying the conference theme, or showing pride in our state. Possibilities include framed design, wall hanging or free-standing room accessory. (LB)

Fair is just about here

Do you need help with your demonstration? Are you concerned about what the Life Skills Judging Contest is? If so, we have just the activity for you. Mark Tuesday, June 24 on the calendar (note date change from yearly 4-H calendar), from 1:00-2:30 p.m. to practice judging techniques and decision making skills. At 2:30 p.m. you can receive help with your demonstration. Learn what a demonstration is and how to present it at the fair. If your demonstration is ready, present it at the practice day. Preregistration is not necessary. If you have questions call Lorene. (LB)

Clover College workshop descriptions

The number preceding the description is the class number you will sign up for on the registration sheet.

Four-day workshops

All four-day workshops will be held June 16-19 in Room A at the times following the title.

1. Rockets...Countdown to Family Fun!

8:00-10:00 a.m.

Instructors: Ron Suing and Gene Gillam

How to's on rocket building. How this can be fun for the 4-H member and everyone in the family.

Requirements: Participants are required to purchase their own rockets. The first day will concentrate on the different kinds of rockets, how to's of buying the right rocket and rockets that can be made.

Class Size: 20 maximum

Cost: None

2. Outdoor Education—"The Wild Side"

10:00 a.m.-noon

Instructor: Shirley Condon

Outdoor education exhibit possibilities will be selected from the Tree Identification, Wildlife Conservation, Homes for Wildlife, Bird Behavior and Fishing projects. We will be making bird feeders. Other exhibit ideas will be presented based on the interests expressed by the participants.

Requirements: All participants must be 8-14 years old.

Class Size: 12 maximum

Cost: $2.00

3. Americana Door Sampler

12:30-2:30 p.m.

Instructor: Natalie Miles

Participants will have a great time creating a Fourth of July door sampler. They will learn and practice hand and machine sewing techniques.

Class size: 8 maximum

Cost: $8.00

Items to bring: a sewing machine, scissors and sewing needle.

Requirements: Participants need to be familiar with their sewing machine and know how to thread it.

4. Strip Quilt

2:30-4:30 p.m.

Instructor: Jan Madsen

Quilting can be easy and fun. Put your imagination into action and design your very own tied quilt. Participants in this session will make their own TV quilt (approximately 50" x 69").

Requirements: 4-H members should be enrolled in Clothing Level I or higher.

Class size: 6 maximum

Cost: $10.00

Items to bring: 3 fabrics for blocks (2/3 yard of a light color, 1-7/8 yard of medium color, and 2/3 yard of a dark color), 2 fabrics for border (2/3 yard for first border and 1 yard for the second). All should coordinate and be 100% cotton. You will also need 3 yards of backing fabric (an old sheet will work), 3 yards of batting (bonded-roll batting for quilts), a sewing machine and sewing supplies (pins, scissors, etc.), thread that coordinates with your material, 6 strands of embroidery floss in a color that coordinates with your quilt, a curved needle for tying, a 6" x 12" clear plastic ruler would be good.

Please come to class with all material pre-washed.

One-day workshops

All of the one day workshops will be held from 2:30-4:30 p.m. in Room B

5. Getting Set for the Table Setting Contest

Monday, June 16

Instructor: Deb Gokie

Have a great time learning everything that you need to know to participate in the table setting contest. You will come away with a planned table for the fair.

Class size: 15 maximum

Cost: $5.00

6. Recycled Picture Frame

Tuesday, June 17

Instructor: Deb Arends

Picture yourself as an Earth friendly person. You will create decorative picture frames out of garbage, that you will be able to enter in the fair in the Celebrate Arts or Recycled projects.

Class size: 6 minimum, 18 maximum

Cost: $2.00

7. Style Revue Workshop

Wednesday, June 18

Learn how to strut your stuff for the 1997 Style Revue.

Class size: no limit

No Cost

8. Fun in the Kitchen

Thursday, June 19

You will enhance baking techniques, take home some goodies, and get ideas for gifts from the kitchen.

Class size: 15 maximum

Cost: $2.00

Youth attending workshops that overlap the lunch period may bring a sack lunch. No other food will be available. Transportation for participants is the parent's responsibility.

Refunds are not available.

Make checks payable to: Lancaster County Extension and send with registration form. (MF)

Clover College Registration

Name _____ Age _____

Parent Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP Code _____

Daytime Phone Number _____ Home Number _____

4-H Club Name _____

Special Needs _____

Workshops you wish to attend _____

_____

Parent's Signature _____

4-H Council positions

Starting date September 1, 1997

Seeking qualified applicants for 4-H Council youth and adult positions in the following geographic areas:

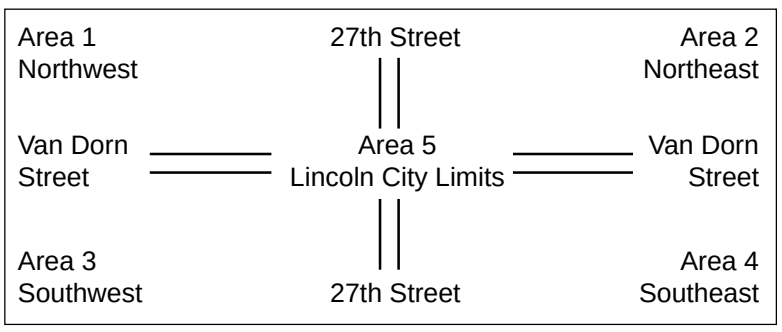
Northwest—youth
Northeast—youth
Southwest—youth & adult
Southeast—adult
Lincoln city limits—2 adults, 2 youth
Lancaster County at large—2 adults

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. Applicant must be willing to attend monthly meetings and participate in various committee activities. This is a rewarding position.

SALARY: Base $0 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)



Upcoming 4-H & FFA livestock shows

The Twin Valley Livestock Exposition will be **Saturday, June 14** at the Adams County Fairgrounds in Hastings, Nebraska. It is open to all 4-H and FFA members. There will be shows for beef and sheep only. If you have any questions, call Deanna at the Extension office or Duane Lienemann at 402-756-3531 or 402-756-2451.

The 23rd Annual Johnson and Nemaha County Beef Progress Show will be **Sunday, June 15** at the Johnson County Fairgrounds in Tecumseh, Nebraska. For information call Deanna at the Extension office or Jim Kite at 402-274-5823.

The Republican Valley Beef Progress Show will be **Saturday, June 21** at the Franklin County Fairgrounds in Franklin, Nebraska. For information call Deanna at the Extension office or Dave Rocker at 308-425-6283 or 308-425-6546. (DL)

Upcoming dog events

The 1997 Krazy K-9 4-H Dog Invitational will be **Saturday, June 14** at the Nemaha County Fairgrounds in Auburn, Nebraska. Check-in will be at 9:00 a.m. and the show will start at 10:00 a.m. The show will follow the guidelines set for Nebraska 4-H Dog Shows. For information call Deanna at the Extension office or call Holly Morgan at 402-873-7519. There is a pre-entry deadline set for June 2.

K-9 Keepers 4-H Dog Invitational will take place **Saturday, July 12** at the Beatrice Fair Grounds, 1113 Scott Street in Agricultural Hall. Registration will start at 8:00 a.m. and the show will start at 9:00 a.m. Preregistration is due by June 30. If you would like more information on this event, contact the Extension office. (DL)

Community Focus

'97 Benefit & Resource Guide for Older Nebraskans available

Published by the Nebraska Health and Human Services System, the booklet contains information on a variety of programs and resources which can benefit older adults. The "guide" covers programs administered by all levels of government and tells people how the programs and services can be accessed.

For a free copy of the "1997 Benefit and Resource Guide for Older Nebraskans," contact the Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services—Division of Aging, P.O. Box 95044, Lincoln, NE 68509-5044, or phone (402) 471-2307. (GB)

Population Projections Report available!

Nebraska Population Projections to 2010 are now available. This report contains county level projections by age category. The cost is $15 per copy, including postage and handling. To order, contact the Bureau of Business Research, 114 CBA, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, NE 68588-0406. (GB)

Don't be a consumer identity fraud victim

The crime of consumer identity fraud is rising. Thieves use various methods to steal credit card numbers, driver's license numbers, ATM cards, social security numbers, telephone calling cards and other key items of individuals' identities. This information is then used to impersonate the victims and spend as much money as possible before moving on to someone else's name and account information. Consumer identify fraud victims usually are left with damaged reputations, bad credit reports and much difficulty in regaining financial well being.

Follow these suggested tips to minimize your risks:

• Don't carry extra credit cards, your social security card, birth certificate or passport in your wallet or purse except when necessary.

• When using an ATM or public telephone, be aware of others who may also see your personal identification number or other data.

• Take ATM, credit card and other receipts with you and save them in a safe place or destroy them.

• Properly destroy all pre-approved credit card offers.

• Cancel all unused credit card accounts. Even though you don't use them, the account numbers are recorded in your credit report and is full of data that can be used by identity thieves.

• Maintain a list of all credit cards, the account numbers, and telephone numbers of the customer service department in a safe place.

• Protect your Social Security Number (SSN). The SSN is one key to your credit and banking accounts and a prime target of criminals. Do not give out your SSN or any credit card number over the phone to anyone you do not know or to a business you are not familiar with. Do not fall victim to a criminal ploy of calling and posing as a bank or company representative to confirm your SSN or other data.

Should you become a victim of identity fraud, act immediately to stop the thief's future use of your identity. Report the crime to the police. Immediately call all your credit card issuers. This can save you from liability of fraudulent charges. Call the fraud unit of the three credit reporting companies-Equifax, Experian (formerly TRW), and Trans Union. Notify your bank, cancel bank accounts and obtain new account numbers. (GB)

Composting food could generate landfill savings

Food waste is wet and heavy. It costs more to landfill than dry garbage. Composting food waste makes sense, although it's currently not done a lot and does have some problems. For example, meat and liquid wastes, such as whey or soda, aren't composted because of odors.

Discarded food comprises seven percent of the total U.S. waste stream, or about 390 pounds per household per year. In 1995, an estimated 500,000 tons of food scraps had been composted out of an estimated 14.1 million tons generated, according to the Federal Environmental Protection Agency. That means only 3.5 percent was composted.

There is good reason to reduce the volume of food being landfilled. Tossed food can create odors, attract animals, create migrating gases and make salvage of other recyclables more problematic.

Odor management is one of the greatest challenges for all compost operations. Many state and local governments regulate odor generation from compost under vaguely described nuisance standards. Because these guidelines are open to interpretation, the National Composting Council is developing practices to minimize odor and its effects.

View is another issue gaining attention, especially as compost piles grow. Some states are considering the visual effects in the site permitting process. Wider buffer zones and visual plantings can help keep the site out of sight.

Vermicomposting, composting with earthworms, is becoming increasingly popular, although it requires attention and supervision. Worms can help eliminate odors. Some families keep the worms under the kitchen sink—there's no smell—only good compost material and worms to give as gifts.

As the volume of composted material increases, enterprising units are marketing the materials derived. Some composting sites accept food waste at no charge because they make money through selling the end product, compost. The National Composting Council also is working to develop a quality standard so, eventually, materials will carry a seal of approval.

The biggest savings for institutions or food processors would be to compost on site. Eliminating all hauling costs can mean sizable savings.

Source: Wanda Leonard, Community Development Specialist, IANR (WS)

Be a good witness

Our American system of justice requires court trials to decide the rights and obligations of people. Most trials are decided on facts stated by witnesses who have been sworn on their oath to tell about things they have seen and heard. The role of a witness is extremely important in our system of justice.

Someday you may be called upon to be a witness, to tell in court certain facts which you know. If you are summoned, you cannot refuse. If you are not summoned but are asked by one of the parties, do not refuse. It is our duty as citizens to give our testimony if it is needed. It may not be convenient to leave your job or home to spend a day in court, but remember some day you may be in court and find the fate of your case based on the willingness of someone to come forward as a witness.

Many people feel that if they testify one of the lawyers might try to make them look foolish. This would only happen when a witness does not understand what he is expected to do and how he is expected to do it. You can avoid this by reading and following these simple rules:

15 Rules for a Good Witness

1. *Tell the truth.*

2. Discuss your testimony in advance. If you are called as a witness in a case, the lawyer calling you will undoubtedly discuss the case with you before the trial. There is nothing improper in this. It is the lawyer's job to find out in advance what you know about the case. He or she can explain courtroom procedure to you. If asked while testifying, do not hesitate to state that you have discussed the case with the attorney who called you as a witness.

3. Take your time. When you testify you may be nervous, as most witnesses are. Do not answer questions hurriedly without giving proper consideration or without understanding them fully.

4. Be attentive. You must be alert at all times while you are in the witness chair, so that you can hear, understand and give a proper answer to each question. If the judge or jury gets the impression you are indifferent they may not give much weight to your story.

5. Think before you speak. Hasty and thoughtless answers may cause trouble. This is particularly true when being cross-examined. The opposing lawyer may ask you leading questions—questions which suggest only one answer. Make sure you understand the question, then give an accurate answer.

6. Speak clearly. It is very annoying to a court, jury and lawyers to have a witness who does not speak loudly enough to be heard. A low tone of voice not only detracts from the value of your testimony, but also tends to make the court and jury think that you are not certain of what you are saying. Everyone in the courtroom is entitled to know what you have to say. There are no secrets in court; the court reporter must be able to hear all of your testimony to make an accurate record of the case.

7. If you do not understand a question, ask that it be explained. Many times a witness will not understand a question that has been asked, but will go ahead and try to answer it anyway. This is confusing to the court, the jury and the lawyers. It also extends the time a witness will be on the witness stand because the lawyers must go back and correct any misinformation given by a witness who did not understand a question. If you do not understand feel free to say so and ask that the question be explained to you.

8. Answer all questions directly. Often a witness will be so anxious to tell his story that he will try to tell it in answer to the first question. Listen to the question. If you can answer it with a "yes" or "no," do so. Information you volunteer may have no bearing on the case and may only to delay the proceedings.

9. Stick to the facts. The only thing that you will be permitted to testify to is what you personally know. Information given to you by someone else is almost never admissible in the case. What you **know** is important; what you **think** is not. If you do not know or cannot remember the answer, don't be afraid to say so.

10. Never lose your temper. If a witness becomes so prejudiced in favor of one side that he loses his temper when facts are not favorable to his friend, he places himself at the mercy of the cross-examiner and makes himself worthless to the side he tries to favor. Judges and juries are not interested in prejudiced testimony; they are interested only in facts.

11. Be fair. Though you may be testifying for a friend and would like to see him win, do not color your testimony or try to overdo it. You will do him the best service by making your testimony as objective as possible. If you are involved in a lawsuit some day, you will want to be treated fairly by the witnesses.

12. Don't argue with the attorneys or the judge.

13. Be helpful, not funny. A trial is an important and serious matter to the parties involved. Their money and property may be saved or lost by your testimony. Do not try to be a wit or exchange sallies with the lawyers.

14. Do not worry about the rules of evidence. Rules of evidence control courtroom proceedings. They are designed to eliminate testimony and other evidence which lack basic elements of trustworthiness. The judge's ruling on an objection to testimony should not be considered as indicating the judge's feelings about the witness who is testifying or the merits of the case.

15. Dress sensibly. Your attire should be comfortable and appropriate for a courtroom. If you are in doubt about what to wear, ask your attorney.

Depositions

You may be notified that an attorney wishes to take your "deposition" in connection with a legal matter. A deposition is testimony that is given outside of the courtroom. Attorneys for both sides will meet with you; a court reporter will also be present. You will be sworn in, just as you are in a courtroom, and everything you say will be under oath. Attorneys use depositions to determine what potential witnesses know about a particular matter.

In many instances, your deposition will be taken and you will later be called as a witness in that case. Both sides will have a copy of the testimony you give in your deposition. If you change your story when later called as a witness, you will lose your

continued on page 11

Lincoln's Biosolids Land Application Program

continued from front page

thanks to voluntary compliance by local industries. In fact, concentration levels for all regulated metals is now below the clean sludge limit indicating that the material is of "exceptional quality" according to EPA guidelines.

• **Technological advances in long-term monitoring of application and storage sites**. With support from the City of Lincoln, Cooperative Extension has purchased a portable, Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver that is being used to map application areas and storage sites. This receiver picks up signals from four or more satellites in orbit above the earth, and a computer calculates where the receiver is on the face of the earth. It is accurate to within a few feet. By using this receiver, even terraced and irregular fields can be accurately mapped and their acreage determined. This mapping system has only become operational within the past month. Ward Shires, our mapping specialist, has received four days of intensive training on this system (and a lot of hands-on practice). This GPS monitoring system will become very important when tracking multiple applications on fields.

Overall, the Biosolids Land Application Program has been very successful, but there have been some glitches in the program from time to time—usually related to odor complaints during wet, humid weather. For example, during the first year of the program, one large application site was near Raymond Central School. We will not allow application near a school ever again, even if it is in a rural area. More recently, we have discovered that application sites next to heavily traveled roads make more people aware of this program than ever before. For cooperators, concerns focus on compaction due to heavy equipment in the field, time and proper equipment needed to apply the material.

It is understandable that people who do not understand the program will continue to have concerns about the use of this material. However, when biosolids meets EPA regulations regarding pathogen and metal standards and when responsible application practices are followed, the benefits of this material far outweigh the likelihood of health problems or environmental contamination. We are proud to be a part of this program; there are few Extension programs that do a better job of demonstrating the interdependence of urban and rural sectors of our society.

❖ ❖ ❖

Understanding termite baits

continued from page 3

wood) that the PCO places around the home. After installing the bait stations, PCO technicians will generally check the bait stations each month for feeding. In research conducted in the southern states, it sometimes took 3-5 months for termites to find the bait stations. In northern states, the bait stations may not be found for a year or more. Bait stations may be more likely to be found in the spring when foraging may be most active.

Once termites are "recruited" to the stations, the PCO will replace the wood with the bait. The PCOs will continue to inspect the bait stations monthly. After no more evidence of feeding is seen, it is assumed that the colony has been eliminated and the hexaflumuron is once again replaced with wood. Monthly inspections will continue to be sure that termites don't return. This system then serves as a long-term monitoring program and the bait can easily be added to the bait stations at the first signs of termite feeding.

The main problem with the bait technology is the time that it takes for termites to "find" the bait stations. (Remember, it can take a year or more in northern states). While you are waiting for the termites to find the bait stations, termites can continue to damage your home. Pest control companies using the bait systems may do a chemical "spot" treatment in the area where termites have been found in your home and continue to inspect to make sure the spot treatment is providing a chemical barrier. However, the pest control company will probably not give a guarantee that no further damage will occur.

The bait system has been shown to be a little more expensive than barrier treatments when the chemical is used at the recommended volume and the maximum concentration allowed by the label. (These are Extension recommendations; not all companies treat in accordance with the label.) The advantages and disadvantages of both systems are listed.

Advantages of baits:

• Destroys entire colony (but there is no way to verify this).

• Fewer environmental/ health risks (baits are far less toxic than liquid termiticides).

• An alternative to chemical barrier treatments for some structures where barrier treatments are difficult or impossible.

Disadvantages of baits:

• More complicated; PCOs need special training.

• Unavailable to homeowners; marketed to trained PCOs only.

• Takes longer to take effect; may not be practical for real estate transactions.

• Passive, depends on termites "finding" the bait.

Advantages of barrier treatments:

• Cost: will probably be slightly less, (when barrier treatment is done with adequate amounts of diluted liquid and the highest concentration allowed by the label (Extension recommendations).

• Faster control, especially in real estate transactions.

Disadvantages of barrier treatments:

• Termiticides need careful application to ensure a proper barrier.

• Some construction problems can make barrier treatments difficult or impossible.

• You can expect no more than 5 -10 years of protection from these termiticides.

• Good barrier treatments not easily done by homeowners.

Getting the real facts about termites and termite control can be difficult and contradictory. For more information about termite control, contact the Lancaster County Extension Office, 441-7180. We have a packet of information that can be purchased for $2.00.

Providing water to pastured livestock

continued from page 4

Poor water distribution also transfers nutrients as manure and urine are deposited near watering sites or along the path to water. The nitrogen, phosphorus, and other nutrients in these deposits are concentrated and wasted in areas with little grass. A more even distribution of this manure and urine would grow more grass.

How can you improve your water distribution? More ponds, windmills, wells, and dugouts will help, but they can get expensive. Plus, they can only be placed in certain locations and can't be moved. One solution is to use a pipeline. They can be put almost anywhere. And water lines are less expensive than you might think. Most producers can get pipe and frost-proof trenching for less than 1 dollar/ft. You also can leave your pipe on top of the ground, saving trenching costs, if you only need water during the growing season.

Over time, these water improvements pay for themselves with better grass and improved animal performance. (WS)

❖ ❖ ❖

Be a Good Witness

continued from page 10

credibility as a witness. That is why it is important to remember that when your deposition is taken, it is just like being before a judge in court. It is permissible to review your testimony with the lawyer prior to taking the stand.

If you lie while giving a deposition, you are subject to prosecution for perjury just as you are if you lie while under oath on the witness stand.

There may also be a situation when an attorney takes your deposition, but you are not called as a witness. This may happen for a variety of reasons and should not be of concern to you.

Source: Nebraska State Bar Association, 1019 American Charter Center, 206 South 13 Street, Lincoln, NE 68508, (402) 475-7091. (GB)

Miscellaneous

Assessing rural life

continued from page 5

provide these essential services. There is no better way to become accepted as a member of a community than to work as a volunteer.

• **Cost of Living**—Acreage owners may actually find it more expensive to live in the country than in the city. Some of the items listed above may have an impact on ones' budget. However, if it provides the quality of life and personal comforts desired, then it is certainly worth the investment. Financial planning and management thus become a primary factor in being able to meet short term and long term needs of an acreage owner. Those who do not have sound financial plans generally fail to meet their goals.

• **Time Management**—Those who have never lived in the country usually fail to believe the time commitment required to manage an acreage. Generally the family will attempt to maintain the entire acreage themselves. This may include many activities or enterprises not previously available on their property such as gardening, raising animals, horseback riding, etc. Some people who have recreational interests elsewhere probably will not want to accept the increased responsibilities in maintaining an acreage setting. On the other hand, those who enjoy doing all the tasks required to maintain an acreage, will consider it a good investment. (WS)

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		282	Cucumber Bacterial Wilt
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195	Turf Watering	284	Sweet Potatoes
196	Moss Problems	286	Beans
197	Growing Grass in Shade	290	Weed Control in Garden
198	Mushrooms in Lawn	292	Rabbit Control in Garden
200	Broadleaf Weed Control	293	Chives and Garlic Chives
203	Nutsedge in Lawns	294	Worm Composting

...and more than 4oo additional topics.

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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 Brenda Corder, (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.

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FAX 441-7148
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OFFICE HOURS: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday

Extension Calendar

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

June 1
4-H Horse ID Deadline

June 3
4-H Council Meeting ..... 7:00 p.m.

June 7-9
Camp Counselor Training—*Eastern NE 4-H Center, Gretna*

June 8
4-H Teen Council Meeting ..... 3:00-5:00 p.m.

June 9
Be A Better Gardener Composting Workshop ..... 2:00 p.m.
Extension Board Meeting ..... 7:00 p.m.
4-H Scholarship Applications Due

June 10
PAK 10 Horse Judging Contest—*Skyline Ranch Arena, Elkhorn*

June 11
4-H Horse VIPS Committee Meeting ..... 7:00 p.m.

June 13
4-H Beef, Swine, Dairy Cattle, Goat, Llama, Rabbit and Sheep ID's Due
ExpoVisions Registration Due

June 14
Twin Valley Livestock Exposition—*Adams County Fairgrounds, Hastings*
1997 Krazy K-9 Dog Invitational—*Nemaha County Fairgrounds, Auburn*

June 15
23rd Annual Johnson and Nemaha County Beef Progress Show
—*Johnson County Fairgrounds, Tecumseh*

June 16
4-H Ambassador meeting ..... 7:00 p.m.

June 16-19
Clover College

June 17
"It's Show Time" Rabbit Clinic ..... 6:00 p.m.

June 19
PAK 10 Poultry Judging Contest—*ARDC, Ithaca*
Fair Board Meeting ..... 7:00 p.m.

June 20
Pesticide Container Recycling Program—*Farmer's Co-op, Bennet* ..... 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

June 21
Republican Valley Beef Progress Show—*Franklin County Fairgrounds, Franklin*

June 23
FCE Council Meeting ..... 7:00 p.m.

June 23-27
Natural Resource and Leadership Camp (NRL)—*Halsey*

June 24
Production Livestock Booster Club Meeting ..... 8:00 p.m.
Cat Workshop ..... 7:00 p.m.
Practice Family & Consumer Science Judging and Demonstration ..... 1:00 p.m.

June 27
Pesticide Container Recycling Program —*Farmer's Co-op, Waverly* ..... 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

July 7
Deadline for ALL Animal Entries to the Lancaster County Fair

July 10
Sizzling Summer Sampler ..... 6:00 p.m.

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:

1. Change your address or order a subscription *(please print)*
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Return to:
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Cooperative Extension in Lancaster County
444 Cherrycreek Road, Lincoln, Nebraska 68528-1507

1997 Pesticide Container Recycling Program

Fridays from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Collection Site	Date	Location
Farmer's Cooperative Co.	June 20	Bennet
Farmer's Cooperative Co.	June 27	Waverly
Greenwood Farmer's Cooperative	July 11	Greenwood
Farmers Co-op Association of Elmwood	July 18	Elmwood; chipping demonstration; Tri-Rinse, Inc., St. Louis, MO
Firth Cooperative Company	July 25	Firth
Lancaster County Fair	August 1	Ag Hall, Nebraska State Fairgrounds
Countryside Cooperative	August 15	Milford
Countryside Cooperative	August 22	Raymond
Otte Oil & Propane	August 29	Wahoo

Multiple Day Sites*

Agribusiness	1997 Dates	Location	Agribusiness Contact
Blue Valley Co-op	May - August	Tamora	Jon Kruse (402 523-4225
Cedar Ridge Spraying	May - August	RR2; Ashland	Jerry Newsham (402) 944-2436
Farmer's Union Co-op	May - August	Gretna	Loren Katt (402) 332-3315
Frontier Co-op	April - June 15	Mead	Brian Reid (402) 624-2075
Lancaster County Extension Office	All year	444 Cherrycreek Road - Lincoln	Barb Ogg (402) 441-7180

Please contact these persons ahead of time to make sure someone at the business will be available to accept your containers.