9-1990

The NEBLINE, September 1990

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Women in Ag Conference

The sixth annual farm and ranch management conference for women will be held September 20 and 21 at the Holiday Inn in Kearney, Nebraska. The conference is dedicated to women who make the difference on their farms and ranches.

Whether your role is marketer, manager, home-maker, tractor driver, "go-to" record keeper, vice-president, president, nurturer, or any combination of these, you make a critical difference on your farm or ranch. The conference provides practical information that will help you improve your skills and give you confidence in dealing with farm management decisions. These skills not only deal with the business side of your operation, but with personal and family management as well. Here are a few comments from previous participants:

"It's always a mind-stirring experience and also a time of affirmation in the future of agriculture."

"Women are called upon today to meet many needs and fill so many various jobs on the farm. This conference helps us to be better wives, business partners and community participants."

"I feel that I am taking home things we can use."

This year's conference will feature workshops discussing basic marketing tools, marketing options, tax planning, buying a computer, basic ASCS information, family communication, animal rights issues, genetics and ag chemicals, and global and government ag policies. To register call 1-800-575-3456 by September 14, 1990.

Transplant Or Plant Peonies Now

Peonies usually are planted or transplanted in the fall. The plants are hardy and adapted to all parts of the state. Some types, such as tree peonies, should be utilized more than they are in our landscapes.

In September or early October is the suggested time for planting. Peonies prefer a rich, well drained soil in a sunny location. Select plants with 3 to 5 healthy buds and a good root system. The plant should be set so the top of the buds are about 1 to 1 1/2 inches below the ground level. Water well and mulch the first year in mid to late November.

August Fire Safety Tips

Believe it or not, summer is almost over, and autumn is upon us (hard to believe it's state fair time already!). Like the same reasons, a few specific fire hazards change as well and in the interest of your safety and well being, the Southeast Fire Department would like to remind you of the following:

During this time of year, ground vegetation (i.e. weeds, grass, etc.) is extremely dry, especially during periods of low humidity and high temperature. Be extra careful when burning trash in a legal burn barrel (where legal) or when opening burning with a burning permit (again, where legal). Also exercise care when smoking out of doors, and use of the ash tray in a motor vehicle, rather than merely throwing the smoking material out of the window.

Now is a good time for those of you who have fireplaces or wood stoves to have the chimney cleaned and inspected by a reliable chimney sweep. Most chimney fires can be prevented by properly maintaining your chimney or flue pipe.

Fall Nutrition Programs

Please register a week in advance of the program(s) you desire.

-LEAN Meals With Meat - Pork, Veal, Lamb, October 30, 7 - 9 p.m., $5
-Healthy Heart Grocery Store Tour, November 1, 6:30 - 8 p.m., $5
-Recipe Makeovers - LEAN and Lite, November 27, 7 - 9 p.m., $5

University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension
Lancaster County
444 Cherry Creek Road
Lincoln, NE 68528

Jean Beyer and Susan Brown
To Speak at Women's Day

The Home Extension Club Council will sponsor a Women's Day Program on Tuesday, October 2 at the Lancaster Extension Conference Center. Jean Beyer, dean of the Methodist College of Nursing and Allied Health, Omaha, will be the keynote speaker with her program, "Being a Star Grasper" which will begin at 9:45 a.m.

After a catered lunch and a program by the Lancaster County Chorus directed by Norma Lentke, Susan Brown, Adams County extension agent from Hastings, will tackle funny jokes in the audience with her program, "Health and Humor."

The executive committee of the council, Malena Vogel, chair, is planning this special event for the women of Lancaster County. The registration deadline for Women's Day will be $12 per person and will include morning refreshments, lunch and printed handouts.

To register first, phone the extension office (471-7180) and leave your name and daytime phone number (registrations will be limited). Then, send your check, made payable to Home Extension Council, to Cathy McGuinn, Council Treasurer, 1100 North 37 Street, Lincoln, NE 68503. Registration deadline is Wednesday, September 26.

October 2 will offer EDUCATION, INSPIRATION, LAUGHTER. Plan to enjoy it and register today.

Sara Shields
4-H Scholarship Awarded to Sara Shields

Sara Shields received the Grand Island Saddle Club Educational Scholarship during the 1990 Nebraska State 4-H Horse Exposition held in July at Grand Island. This award is given to a 4-H horse member each year based on outstanding accomplishments in the 4-H horse program, community work and high school academic standing. The scholarship has a value of $500 and is awarded to freshman entering the University of Nebraska, College of Agriculture during the fall of 1990. Sara is the daughter of Jay and Kathy Tschetter of Lincoln. She attended Lincoln High School and is a member of the Pacesetters 4-H Club. She serves as a junior leader with her club and was president in 1989. She is a member of the Lancaster County 4-H Horse VIPS Committee and the Nebraska State 4-H Horse Advisory Committee. Sara is the first junior leader representative on the state committee to be elected into an officer position. She is currently secretary for that organization. Sara plans to major in animal science in college.

Jean Beyer
Susan Brown
Women in Ag Conference

Weed Awareness Insert - Pages 3-6

University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension
Lancaster County
444 Cherry Creek Road
Lincoln, NE 68528

Non-Profit Organization U.S. Postage Paid Permit No. 137 Lincoln, Nebraska

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN COOPERATING WITH THE COUNTIES AND THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The Cooperative Extension Service provides information and educational programs to all people without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, or handicap.
Garlic (Allium sativum)

Garlic, a member of the onion family, produces a compound bulb consisting of groups of white or purplish scales. There are early (White of Gladiator) cultivars and late (Pink or Italian) cultivars. The early cultivar does not store well and has poorer quality, but outlasts the late type.

Garlic is started by planting cloves that are divided about one-half. Each bulb contains a dozen or more cloves and each clove is planted separately. Select cloves that are large, smooth surfaced, without blemishes or disease.

Garlic may be planted either in early fall in September or early spring in March or April. The growing period is 19 to 20 inches high and a clove 1 1/2 inches deep and 3 inches apart in rows 18 inches apart. To fertilize, apply 2 cups 5-10-10 or 10-10-10 per 25 feet of row. Apply the fertilizer in a cone foot wide band and work it in. Keep the plants weeded and watered.

Harvest garlic when the tops turn brown, about 90 days after planting. Allow healthy, hardened bulbs to dry in the sun. Store in a cool dry place.

Questions and Answers

Q. Can those weed trimmers that use nylon line to cut weeds damage bigger plants like garlic?

A. Most young trees, especially the thin-barked species like aspen, maple, honeylocust and birch, can be severely damaged by nylon filament weed trimmers. Repeated slashing of the bark on all sides of a tree can girdle it sufficiently to kill it. Garlic, however, seems to have a high tolerance to even holes bored by the trimmers. Garlic does not grow near hand and trimmer damage in particular, although it may not grow well in the area where damage occurred.

Q. When should I harvest carrots for storage?

A. Carrots mature in the fall for maximum growth and cool temperatures in the storeroom. carrots are tested by marking their location and mulch the soil heavily so you can dig them as needed through early winter. Be sure to remove any carrots that remain in the spring before they start to grow again.

Q. When do I harvest Jerusalem artichokes?

A. Harvest tubers after heavy frosts in late fall or early in the spring after new growth begins. Dormant soil over the winter and not harvested in the spring can grow new plants that may become weeds.

Q. Is flowering kale edible?

A. Yes, but only the young leaves. Leaves tend to be tough and strong flavored. Pest control is another consideration. Kale has numerous pests besides aphids and other pests that cause the members of the cole family of crops. If you’re going to eat the kale, use pesticides judiciously, take care of the aphids, and observe the withdraw times between last treatment and harvest.

Tips On Curing, Storing Popcorn

For best results with home-grown popcorn it is probably best to allow the popcorn to mature on the stalk. Pick the kernel just as the Curly is grown long enough to resist denting or breaking and allow to dry in a cool, dry, well-ventilated area. A high moisture content or severe attacks or stip or Taste can do nothing.

Test a few kernels occasionally to determine moisture. When you’re satisfied the ears cured, rub one

When to Plant Wheat

Wheat seedling will be 40 to 60 days of age when it can be transplanted from the nursery to the field. Correct conditions for transplanting are: reasonable soil moisture, topsoil temperature of 50 to 60 degrees F, and a cool, dry environment. Wheat seedlings are very sensitive to heat conditions during this time, and high temperatures can cause permanent damage to the plant.

Wheat is usually transplanted 2 to 3 weeks after the soil temperatures reach 50 degrees F. The best planting dates are when the soil temperature is 50 to 60 degrees F. Early planting can result in greater yields and less risk of disease and pest problems. Late planting can result in lower yields and more risk of disease and pest problems.

Fertilizer Plans for Wheat

Nitrogen application rates are determined by soil testing and yield goals. High yields require higher nitrogen levels. Realistic yield goals and soil nitrate testing of the root zone determine the rate of nitrogen for all wheat production systems.

UNL research indicates a 10 percent increase in grain yield with each 1 pound increase in nitrogen per acre. However, there are situations where high yielding potential may be reduced, such as with sandy soils or high moisture conditions.

There are a number of factors that can influence the nitrogen needs of wheat. Factors such as soil type, rainfall, temperature, and moisture conditions can all affect the nitrogen requirement for wheat.

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Inspections, Notices and Forced Control

In the 1990 spring/summer growing season, the County Noxious Weed Control Office was involved with almost 30,000 acres, or approximately 150,000 ha, of Nebraska football fields, of rural and urban lands within Lancaster County.

Beginning early in the growing season, and continuing until the noxious weeds have seeded or, approximately 23,000 acres, until a final disposition is reached, inspectors with the County Weed Control staff will be visiting the properties of property owners to make inspections and provide notices to those property owners.

The Nebraska Noxious Weed Control Act and its policy set forth by the County Weed Control Superintendent leads each inspection or reported infestation through a step by step process, until a final disposition of the infestation can be made.

Inspections

At the beginning of the season, inspectors are assigned over 12,000 acres of land, and continue to make weekly inspections of these properties and areas of public concern for weeds that can become invasive and harmful to the area.

For each of these properties, the inspector, with the County Noxious Weed Control Office, will visit the area and complete a step by step process of providing a legal notice and then holding a ten day period before proceeding with any enforcement action. During the ten day period, the enforcement officer, with the County Weed Control Office, will contact the property owner to determine if they will take action against the weeds on their property or, if they do not take action, will take enforcement action against the property owner.

The Nebraska Noxious Weed Control Act and its policy set forth by the County Weed Control Superintendent instructs the enforcement officer when he or she has seen a weed infestation to make the necessary inspections, to collect samples, control noxious weed infestations, and to issue prescribed duties.

Legal Notice

If noxious weeds are found on a property, documented in our records, for each of these properties, a first inspection is made. The Nebraska Noxious Weed Control Act authorizes the enforcement officer to enter upon all lands within Lancaster County, whether public or private, to make inspections, collect samples, control noxious weed infestations, and to issue the prescribed duties.

Forced Control

After the ten days have gone by, the property is inspected again to verify the presence of noxious weed infestations. If, at any time, the landowner has made a good faith effort to control the noxious weeds, the inspector will refer the enforcement team to the Lancaster County Weed Control Act, or the 10% required forced control.

Possible Lien

The enforcement division prioritizes uncontrolled infestations by size and stage of growth, and schedules bids and contracting out of the county control work, on each property, as time and resources allow. After completion of control work, the contractor bills the County Weed Control Office for the bid amount, and is paid by the County. The County Weed Control Office is then billed, in turn, the landowner for the work done, plus inspection fee. If the bill is not paid in full within 60 days, the law requires that the amount owed be certified to the Lancaster County Treasurer’s Office as a lien against the property.

Fall Noxious Weed Inspection Program

The Lancaster County Noxious Weed Control Authority will be inspecting land throughout the county in September and October. This inspection will be directed by the County Weed Control Office, in turn, Bills the landowner for the weed control, plus inspection fee. If the bill is not paid in full within sixty (60) days, a lien will be placed on the property.

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Fallowed Musk Thistle rosette stage-time to control. In the fall this is from October to freeze up.

Lancaster Noxious Weed Control

Spring-Summer 1990 Control Summary

Landowner Control

83.5%

Blown-out

13.2%

Forced Control

10.3%

661 Musk Thistle Infestations

Noxious Weed Control Act Amended

In 1989, the Nebraska legislature approved amendments to the Noxious Weed Control Act of 1977, to cover the control of weeds that do not currently occur in Nebraska. These amendments, which included the possibility of regional control districts, were approved, and the new regional control districts were approved, and the new regional control districts were established in the State of Nebraska, according to the Nebraska Department of Agriculture. For more information, visit the local government website.

Program Administration

Noxious Weeds

The State of Nebraska currently has four noxious weeds: Crotalaria nodosa, leafy spurge, musk thistle, and plumeweed thistle. The designation of a plant as noxious is made by the director, based on a number of factors. Primarily, the designation is the result of a potential threat and adverse economic impact on the welfare of Nebraska residents. This threat involves the cost of control of noxious weeds on such land.

Program Administration

Administering and enforcing the Noxious Weed Control Act is the responsibility of the individual county. This is accomplished primarily through a weed control authority which is either an independent weed board, or the county board of commissioners or supervisors. The county board serves this role in Lancaster County.

The control authority employs a county weed superintendent who is responsible for the actual daily implementation of the county noxious weed control program. The superintendent’s major responsibility is to create an awareness of noxious weeds on such land.

Inspection

The control authority and/or weed superintendent will inspect land throughout the county and has the authority to issue control notices. Failure to comply with the control notice may subject the landowner to a possible $100 per day fine to a maximum of $1,500. The control authority also may issue notices requiring control within ten days, then to force control measures and bill the landowner for the work. This bill can become a lien on the property, if it remains unpaid, for a specified time period.

Dissemination

In addition to the control of noxious weeds, the county control authority has the responsibility of responding for prevention of noxious weed dissemination and has the authority to prevent movement of infested or contaminated areas, such as hay, grain, machinery, or other materials.
**Leafy Spurge Threat**

Leafy Spurge is a persistent, deep-rooted perennial which reproduces by seeds and roots. Unlike musk thistle which can be easily killed, leafy spurge can only be controlled, according to those who have experienced it, if it is controlled before the seed stage. There are not a large number of acres in Lancaster County at this time, but there is a fast increasing number of infestations. This spread is being caused by the movement of the seeds and/or the roots of the plant; while birds contribute to this spread, man’s actions accelerate the spread with movement of infested hay, crops, soil, manure, livestock, etc.

Control of this plant must include spraying the plant in the bloom stage to prevent seed development and to limit spread of the root system, as well as, eliminating activities that will disseminate seeds and/or plant parts.

All known county roadside infestations are being marked by signs and being sprayed at flowering time. Information will continue to be provided to all landowners with known infestations, to assist them with control efforts. As a minimum, they will be expected to keep the plants from going to seed and not to disseminate by movement of infested articles.

**Expert Cities Fall Program Advantages**

**Thistle Control - Part of Pasture Management**

Control musk thistle as part of a total effort in pasture management. Russel Martin, University of Nebraska Extension weeds specialist, explains, “A severe musk thistle infestation may be a sign that something is amiss in management,” he explains. “A good, vigorous grass stand will discourage an invasion of musk thistle.”

Overspraying, poor fertility or the wrong grass species can leave pasture or range land vulnerable, he notes. If infestations are severe, it’s time to take care of them, he says. Infestations will not only decrease grass production, but also discourage grazing of grass. Thistle control on grass at Bayard, Nebraska, increased grass production 110%, 31% and 21% per year during a three year period of treatment. Hand-weeding or spot mowing can take care of small patches, but larger areas can be handled more efficiently with herbicides, he says. Fall treatments from October until soil freeze-up will control musk thistle rosettes that would otherwise flower and seed spread next spring. While spring seedings can be controlled with herbicides, Martin says that a fall musk thistle control program offers several advantages:

- Effective fall control normally eliminates the need for spring musk thistle treatments.
- Producers and professional applicators have a wider window of application in fall than in spring.
- Non-target vegetation is dormant, so there’s less chance of damage from spray drift.

Farmers have more time to spray in fall than in spring, when they’re in a rush to plant row crops.

Windy conditions in the spring often limit effectiveness of herbicide applications during fall, for both pasture and row crops.

For these reasons, Martin says, fall programs can work to the producer’s advantage. However, select the appropriate treatment, he notes. “Basically, we have three options for herbicides,” Martin says. “2,4-D plus dicamba, 2,4-D or Tordon 22K. Under ideal conditions, all work well. Under less than ideal conditions, and by that I mean cool and dry, control begins to slip, first from 2,4-D, then from 2,4-D plus dicamba. Tordon is the superior treatment, even under cool, dry conditions,” Martin says.

KSU research studies indicate Tordon 22K (.5 pint/ac.) and 2,4-D LVE (2 qts/ac.) are the only treatments that provide greater than 80% control under these conditions. Fall applied Tordon 22K controls emerging plants in the fall and the residual remaining in the soil controls spring seedlings.

**Control of Musk Thistle Rosettes**

Treated in the Fall 1978 - 1988

Kansas State University

**Average Grass Production**

with and without Thistle Control
Bayard, NE

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<th>LBS/AC</th>
<th>1978</th>
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<td>0</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>850</td>
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**Herbicides**

- 2,4-D Amine
- 2,4-D Ester
- Banvel
- Banvel 2,4-D
- Tordon

**Control as Pasture: See your SCS Office for Recommendations.**

**Check out video on musk thistle control in pastures with Tordon 22K. “Management can tame musk thistle.”**

**Be a Weed Warrior**

The only way that there can be effective control of noxious weeds is for each of us to be a noxious weed warrior. A weed warrior:

- is aware of noxious weeds,
- makes others aware of noxious weeds,
- abhors seeing noxious weeds going to seed on his or her or others properties, and does something about it,
- knows and/or has a map of noxious weed infestations on his or her land as well as adjacent land,
- knows the acceptable control methods,
- has a plan to control noxious weeds on their own property that includes:
  - fall control, and,
  - spring control with follow-up as necessary to prevent seed development,
- works on efforts to aid in control on adjacent and other properties i.e.,
- controls noxious weeds on adjacent road right-of-ways (this will not only help prevent the spread of noxious weeds but will reduce the potential for increased taxes for public control)
- talk to neighbors about a plan to work on joint control efforts i.e., a neighborhood association in Lincoln, a homeowners association in a subdivision, groups of neighbors farm crops etc.,
- talk about it in your organizations-garden clubs, extension clubs, farm organizations, home builders associations, village board, real estate organizations, chambers of commerce etc.,
- knows the individual landowners responsibility as set forth in state law and/or local ordinances i.e.,
- all landowners are responsible for controlling the spread of noxious weeds,
- all landowners are responsible for mowing adjoining county roadsides once a year,
- all City of Lincoln landowners are responsible to keep all weeds cut below 6 inches in height
- and does not say “I am not going to control my noxious weeds because someone else does not control theirs”.

**Weed Awareness**

**NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL AUTHORITY NEWS**

Russel Shultz, Superintendent
Jennifer Lynne, Assistant

FALL IS ALSO RATES FOR ESTABLISHMENT AND CANADA THISTLE CONTROL AREAS.
Control Alfalfa Weeds in October or November

Pennycress, mustards, downy brome — recent rains have caused these weeds to spring up in abundance in new and established alfalfa stands. They can reduce alfalfa yields next spring, depress hay quality, and lower palatability. But, they can be controlled and fall is the time to do it.

Two "newer" herbicides, Buctril and Poast, substantially improve the herbicide arsenal against these alfalfa weeds. One pint of Buctril per acre can give near complete control of pennycress and mustards in the fall. For downy brome and other winter annual grasses, one pint of Poast plus one quart of Dash per acre gives excellent suppression. Both Buctril and Poast can be used on new seedings. Don’t wait until spring to spray. Neither Buctril nor Poast are as effective on winter annual weeds after those weeds have survived the winter.

Other herbicide options are available. On established stands Sinbin, Lex­one, Sencor, Karmex, and Velpar can be applied in late fall or very early spring while alfalfa is dormant to control winter annual weeds. Alfalfa injury can occur on low organic matter soils if alfalfa has broken dormancy. On new seedings, as well as established stands, Butrynac or Butoxone (2,4-D) gives fair control of pennycress and mustards in the fall, but poor control in spring. Kerb is labeled to control downy brome, but results have been inconsistent in Nebraska.

Musk Thistle

Scout your alfalfa fields for musk thistle rosettes. They begin showing up by the last week in September. These plants can be controlled by severing their roots by hand digging. The use of Lexone or Sencor will provide some control. A light tillage operation with a spring tooth (or similar implement) that would sever roots of some of the rosettes, would also provide some control. You would have to weigh the advantage of partial musk thistle control with tillage against possible damage to the alfalfa crowns.

Note: We will be placing a quarantine on alfalfa fields next spring that have flowing musk thistle.

Crop Inspection Program

Lancaster County Noxious Weed Control office will provide noxious weed inspection of a crop upon request, a complaint, or when an infestation of noxious weeds in a crop comes to the attention of a county weed inspector. The purpose of such inspections is to prevent the dissemination of noxious weeds by the movement of an infested crop from said premises.

Results
Crap inspections will result

<table>
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<th>in a crop being:</th>
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<tr>
<td>1) certified as noxious weed free, or</td>
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<tr>
<td>2) infested with noxious weeds and quarantined, or</td>
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<tr>
<td>3) release of quarantined crop</td>
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<tr>
<td>once it has been effectively treated to prevent the dissemination of noxious weeds.</td>
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Prevention

The best approach to prevention of dissemination of noxious weeds is to control them before any of the weeds reach full bloom when viable seeds begin to develop. Especially see the article on controlling weeds in alfalfa in October and November. Alaf Ha has been certified as noxious weed free should receive a premium price.

Treatments

Any infested article, including harvested crops, capable of disseminating noxious weeds, needs to be treated before it is moved from the premises and, preferably, before it is moved from the location at which it initially became infested.

- All harvesting equipment and other infested equipment should have all loose material removed by sweeping, use of forced air or forced water, or other methods, as recommended by the manufacturer.

Control Alfalfa Weeds in October or November

Musk Thistle

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Note: We will be placing a quarantine on alfalfa fields next spring that have flowing musk thistle.
Residents of 3 to 5 acre lots in the county have taken on increased responsibilities. There is not just a lawn that can be mowed in an hour or two. There is a commitment of increased time and effort to maintain these acreages. One of those responsibilities is the timely control of noxious weeds.

The easiest and best time to control any weeds are when they are small. In the case of musk thistle this is in October and April. Concentrated control efforts should be planned these two months with follow-up in May and June as needed to prevent plants from flowering. Just one plant going to seed can be the beginning of thousands of new plants. These seeds can contribute to a long term problem since they can remain viable in the soil for 8 years.

There are concentrations of musk thistle in several of the rural subdivisions. The only way that these infestations can be controlled is the combined long term effort of all the lot owners and those that have responsibility for the road sides. An example of one approach is in the Winsor Ridge Subdivision.

Three years ago this subdivision had a major musk thistle problem. At that time the owners took it upon themselves to work together on a control effort. They have a goal of preventing the blooming of any plants.

Like many subdivisions there is alfalfa, grass and newly planted trees where mass spraying is not feasible. Mr. Dan Bergmeyer said "We have been spot spraying with back-packs, digging, cutting and anything else to prevent the blooming of these plants until it was time for harvesting of the grass. It has taken 2-3 years to get the control we now have. We would not say we have them controlled so much as having them controllable. There will still be a problem that will require constant attention. With the help of the owners, family and friends, we feel it will be kept up."

There has been excellent cooperation with the County Noxious Weed Control office. Any time musk thistle was observed in the subdivision it was reported to Mr. Bergmeyer and was immediately taken care of, eliminating the need for an individual legal notice being sent to the landowner.

If any other subdivision associations or individuals within a subdivision wish to pursue a coordinated control effort please contact the Lancaster County Noxious Weed Control office at 471-7817.

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Acreages and Rural Subdivisions

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Evolve Working Together

Tackling a weed problem on one side of a property boundary without working on the opposite side leads to frustration and ultimately, failure. We must work together to succeed.

1. Control programs can involve various methods. Controlled grazing, mowing, hand-pulling, burning, herbicides, and biological controls (insects) can play vital roles in controlling noxious weeds. Success requires coordination and planning to maximize effectiveness and insure that each method is used only where environmentally safe. Economic efficiency and successful control results when diverse control methods are coordinated under the guidance of a good plan.

2. Noxious weeds are everyone's problem, thus everyone must contribute to their control. If only one landowner or one county or one federal agency shoulders the entire burden for stopping noxious weeds, the cost would prove prohibitive. If we all participate in funding solutions, our individual contribution is certainly reasonable.

Urban residents must help people who live in rural areas. Rural residents must assist town and city residents. Hunters, fishermen, backpackers, and other outdoor recreationists can assist farmers and ranchers. Farmers and ranchers can assist federal land managers, timber companies, and utility right-of-way companies. We can all support county and state weed control efforts and cost-share programs where they exist. These programs are some of the fairest ways of insuring that all who benefit from the land have a role in protecting it.

Noxious weeds threaten our natural resources and our enjoyment and utilization of the land. Join the fight to protect our resources. Become more knowledgeable about noxious weeds. Work together to stop these weeds and protect our environment. Our natural resource heritage depends on your involvement.

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Speaking Naturally

Noxious Weeds: What We Can Achieve By Working Together

From recent Speaking Naturally columns we have learned this about noxious weeds:

1. Noxious weeds ruin things for all of us. They render sports and recreation areas useless and destroy the businesses that serve them. Weeds cheat us of the very surroundings we enjoy.

2. Most noxious weeds do NOT fit in our world. By definition, a weed is simply a plant out of place. Noxious weeds exceed this definition because most species are not a part of the historical, natural ecosystem.

3. Weed awareness needs defining. When asked, most people respond, "Yes, I am aware there are weeds." Effective weed awareness means we understand the impact of weeds on our environment.

What do we do about noxious weeds? Just as there are different weed species, there are different solutions. The problem is complex, although not unconquerable. The common thread of every successful weed control program is working together and working according to a well thought-out plan.

Planning and cooperation are the keys.

Here's why:

1. Weeds do not respect borders or man-made boundaries. Thus, if one landowner cleans up their property, but a neighbor doesn't, noxious weeds quickly re-infest the clean property. Weeds move back and forth between neighbors, from subdivisions and towns, from roadsides and private land. They are spread by vehicles, birds, wildlife, and waterways. Noxious weeds spread across state lines, federal and state lands to private lands and back again.

A Natural Resources Report
Leader Training on Indoor Air Quality

It Looks Like Juice, But Is It?

September Council Meeting To Be “Family Night”

Caring for the Elderly Parent Who Eats Alone

4-H Council Nominations Due September 15

Leader Training on Indoor Air Quality

It Looks Like Juice, But Is It?

The October lesson for home extension clubs will focus on Indoor Air Quality. This lesson is designed to help you identify possible sources of air pollution in your home, assess the potential risks, and determine ways to manage the pollution. Discussions will include radon, formaldehyde and asbestos as well as the more common pollutants, tobacco smoke, dust and fireplace ashes.

The lesson was written by Ann DeFeenberger, housing specialist for University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension. A video tape featuring Ann and Doug Clark, State Department of Health, will be shown as part of the presentation.

Home extension lesson leaders and representatives from other groups interested in learning about indoor air quality are urged to attend the training which will be given on Thursday, September 27, at 1 p.m. and repeated at 7 p.m. Persons planning to attend who are not members of an extension club are asked to phone 471-7180 to preregister before September 25 so that an adequate supply of materials will be prepared.

Call Alice (471-7180) for more information about scheduling a presentation for your group on "Indulging Without Bulging: Food Choices in Social Settings."

Active Parenting to Start September 13

A reminder to parents of children under 10 to enroll in the Active Parenting Workshop offered Thursdays, 7:30 to 9 p.m., from September 13 through October 18. Active Parenting is a workshop for those who would like to improve their skill as parents and build a better opportunity to network with others who are parenting young children.

Registration fee for the six session workshop is $20 per family. Doris Gutierrez, a trained facilitator for Active Parenting, will be in charge of the class. Please phone 471-7180 for registration details. Last day for registration is September 10.

Cutting Back on Sugar and Fat When Cooking

We keep hearing that we should eat less sugar and fat, but what do we give up their favorite recipes? The following guidelines for adapting recipes has been developed by the Department of Agriculture Human Nutrition Information Service (USDA-HNIS):

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Sugar</th>
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<tr>
<td>Uses 1/2 cup sugar per cup of flour in cakes (cakes with less sugar may be more like a quick bread than a cake).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uses 1/2 cup sugar per cup of flour in muffins and quick breads.</td>
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(continued on page 8)
Popcorn (continued from page 2)

tends to pop partially or not at all. Wet com pops slowly and with a loud noise, the kernels are small and tough, and steam will pour from the popper.
If com is too dry, add one tablespoon of water per quart, seal and shake well twice a day for a couple of days. If a test popping shows the corn is still too dry, repeat the treatment.

If com is too moist, spread it out on a pan and let dry. Avoid oven or rapid drying since this could reduce popping ability.

Properly cured and stored popcorn should retain its popping quality and flavor for about 10 years. After that, it may develop a slightly stale or rancid taste, and popping quality may fall off.

Community Service Opportunity

Approximately 100 Christmas gifts are needed for the Elliot Headstart Program. Purchased or homemade gifts ($2 - $3) are welcome. Make the gift checks payable to the Extension Service. One gift per child is needed.

Preserve Gourds By Proper Curing

The key to preserving the bright colors and hard shells of ornamental gourds is proper curing.

The first step is to gather gourds when the masts are hard and stems have begun to shrivel but before they've been exposed to frost or freezing temperatures. Failing to do so will cause damage to the gourds, especially the flesh around the stem. Thaw gourds in a solution of nonbleaching household disinfectant and dry them thoroughly. Discard gourds with bruises or other injuries — they will deteriorate rapidly.

Care gourds by hanging them in mesh onion bags in a cool, well ventilated place where they won't be exposed to direct sun or heated air. A cool, dry basement, a garage or a farm outbuilding is ideal.

When gourds have dried and hardened, coat them with transparent furniture wax.

Even with this treatment, gourds will fade after a few months. In the meantime, they make colorful additions to fruit bowls, fall flower arrangements and centerpieces, especially in company with Indian corn, dried weeds and grasses, and sprays or grain.

Share 4-H With Your Non-4-H Friends!!!

How: 4-H Open House Where: Lancaster Extension Conference Center. When: Monday, September 10, 1990 6:30 - 8 p.m. Expect to meet new friends & view displays 7 - 7:30 p.m. Program by 4-H. What: Have your non-4-H friends attend the 4-H Open House and you will earn prizes. Simply pick up special invitations at the extension office, sign them and give them to your non-4-H friends. When they bring the invitation to the 4-H Open House, you will win the following prizes based on the number of returned invitations with your name on them:

One - 4-H Ruler
Two - 4-H Fat Pen
Three - 4-H Record Book Cover
Five - 4-H Memo Cube
Ten - 4-H Rainbow Stripe T-Shirt

The club with the most returned invitations will earn a small flag set. Give your friends and their parent(s) the opportunity to experience 4-H. Invite them to the 4-H Open House. If you would like to assist with the Open House or need more information, contact Lorene at 471-7180.

Proper Harvesting, Curing, Important For Onion Storage

To keep onions in good condition or store them for future use, place them at the right time and properly cure them. They will grow until most of the tops have fallen over naturally. Break off the tops over night and place in a cool, dark place. The tops will interrupt growth; thus, they will be small and will not keep well.

Pull the plants in the morning. Allow the plants to air dry in the garden until late afternoon. Then, place them in a dry shelter with good air circulation for about three weeks to completely dry the curing and curing process. When cured, cut the tops to about two inches in preparation for storage.

Free Feel To Ham It Up!

Supermarkets are loaded with hams of all types, from standard cured to a variety of exotic and exciting regional specialty hams. Another good thing about hams is that it is naturally a lean cut of meat that is rich in many vitamins and nutrients.

But, buying ham and understanding the information on labels can be confusing. USDA has set standards for the protein/cure solution ratio in hams to assure consistency. USDA will not set no matter what the name of the ham. They use the protein level of the meat to determine the label categories of hams.

Consumers can shop for and select ham products from the following categories:

- HAM: The product contains no added water and is at least 20.5 percent protein.

- HAM WITH NATURAL JUICES: The product contains at least 18.5 percent protein.

- HAM-WATER ADDED: The product is at least 17 percent protein.

- HAM AND WATER PRODUCT: The product may contain any amount of water but the label must state the percent of added ingredients.

Depending on the processing method, some hams are leaner than others and are labeled as such. A ham product contains no more than 10 percent fat, and a ham labeled extra lean contains no more than 5 percent fat. A fully-cooked, brined, cured ham should be refrigerated until ready to open and use. Unopened, sealed, sliced ham products, check the freshness date on the label before opening.

- Canned hams should be refrigerated until ready to open and use. Unopened, sealed, sliced ham products, check the freshness date on the label.

Extension Calendar

All programs and events will be held at the University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension in Lancaster County unless otherwise noted.

September

4-4-H Council, 7:30 p.m.
10 4-H Promotion Open House
13 Active Parenting Workshop, part I, 7:30 - 9 p.m.
20 Active Parenting Workshop, part II, 7:30 - 9 p.m.
20 Facing Our Future, part I, 7 to 9 p.m.
19-25 AK-SAR-BEN
27 Active Parenting Workshop, part III, 7:30 - 9 p.m.
27 Facing Our Future, part II, 7 to 9 p.m.

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Number of registrations: ____________ at $ ______ each.
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