5-1991

The NEBLINE, May 1991

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Come meet our staff!

Lorene Barton, extension agent-home economics, will be moving to a full-time extension nutrition, food safety and consumer economics position. Mrs. Barton has been serving the Expanded Food and Nutrition Program (on a 55 percent time) and will continue as program administrator for Lancaster County. This position change will strengthen extension's support of the important program areas of home economics. Hortenman replaces Twyla Lidolph who retired in 1990. The position has been vacant since Lidolph's retirement.

Lorene Barton, extension assistant in the 4-H program since 1972, will also change duties. Barton will move into rented consumer and family economics program support with only minor 4-H responsibilities. This is a new position created with the change of duties associated with the Hennen-Lidolph retirement.

The first new staff member to join us will be David Swarts. Swarts will fill the vacancy created in 4-H by the resignation of Mark McCullin, who became extension agent-chair in One-County. Swarts is a former Lancaster County 4-H and FFA member from the Way- erly area. He graduated from UNL with a bachelor of science degree in animal science in 1976.

The 4-H home economics vacancy created by the transfer of Barton was filled on a temporary basis, by Marilee Kabes, until September 1991. Join the county extension staff on May 9, between 4 and 7 p.m., at the Lancaster Extension Conference Center, 444 Cherry Creek Rd., to meet our new staff members.

Camp scholarships

Summertime will be here before you know it and with summer camps comes the Lincoln Action Program (LAP) will again provide financial help to summer camps for low-income youth age 7-16.

LAP scholarships cover the full cost of one-week camp stays, as well as day camp activities offered at the camps include arts and crafts, horseback riding and swimming. Six area camps will be used. Some provide transportation for the youth to and from camp, and for others car pooling may be arranged. A camp scholarship application from LAP provides a description of each camp. The opportunity is provided, on the application form, to make a first, second and third choice. LAP cannot guaran-

tee that each child will get her/his preferred choice, though every effort is made to do so.

LAP raises private funds each year to support the camp program. The number of dol-
ars raised determines the number of youth sent to camp.

Sign-up will begin in April and is due through Chapter 1 schools, farm service agencies, or LAP. The eligibility guidelines are:
youth, based on family income, preference given to single-headed households, child has not received a LAP scholarship in the past, and special consideration is given to foster children or those with special needs. Interested families can contact LAP for application form and information, contact Terese Bergman at 471-4515.

Making compost benefits garden

Your garden will benefit from compost. It improves the structure of loose clay and the finest grains grow even better. Compost is easy to make. It can be made from organic material and soil. The most common materials for compost are unfinished leaves, woody weeds, grass clippings, garden waste and manure. Build the compost pile in an out-of-the-way place if your yard. It's best to locate the pile in the shade, and not under a tree since roots may grow into the pile. Make an open-end bin or box to hold your compost. It can be 4 to 5 feet wide, 3 to 4 feet high and 3 to 4 feet long. You can build the size of wire fencing or snow fence, 2 feet high, or of rough boards. Bricks or cement blocks may also be used. The compost should be mixed into alternate layers of organic material and soil. Start with organic material, 6 inches deep, so the material is fairly solid, or 12 inches deep if it is loose. Add water if the material is dry.

Add a one-inch layer of soil and continue to alternate layers of organic matter and soil as described until the pile is 3 to 4 feet high. Be sure to make the pile slightly higher on the sides for easier water tracking. Complete the pile with a soil layer on the top and sides. Keep your compost moist, but not soggy. There will be no odor if the pile is moist and if soil is kept on the top and sides as well as between the layers of organic material. You don't have to turn the pile if properly made and allowed to decompose one full summer before use. For continuous compost supply, make more than one pile. Be sure the compost is thoroughly before it is applied to your garden. It should be ready for use in about one year. See page 3 for compost bin designs. (11)

Take precautions to limit herbicide drift

Herbicide injury problems from drift and volatility occur each year, but this spring situation is more severe than usual. Wet fields have delayed planting plans for many farmers. As a result, many farmers may rely more on preemergence weed control than on preplant incorporated treatments. In addition, because the season is short, many treatments may be applied under less than ideal conditions. Our office already has received several calls regarding drift complaints. It is important to minimize off-target pesticide movement of farm chemicals as well as turfgrass herbi-

The Cloverline

Office:............ 471-7180

Non-Profit Organization U.S. Postage Paid Permit No. 637

AgricNET Nebraska Cooperative Extension in Lancaster County

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How to exhibit - May 14

Leaders and parents are encouraged to attend the "How to Exhibit" Workshop, Tuesday, June 5, 5:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Participants will receive an update on county fair exhibits, tips for how to display items for the fair, and how to fill out entry tags and forms. If you have questions, call Lorene. (LB)
Garden tips to minimize disease

Good planning of the garden site is the first step in minimizing plant diseases. Select a garden site with well-drained soil. Avoid sites with abundant shade and those close to windbreaks. Such sites encourage disease, as they obstruct the sunlight, and this can cause an increase in disease. Check for soil nutrient levels by soil analysis.

Proper fertilization should encourage vigorous growth, but growth that is overly lush may stimulate disease. Check garden sites for soil nutrient levels by soil analysis.

Compost bin designs:

- **Cinder block bin**
- **Dished**
- **Wooden pallet bin**
- **Leaves-Grass Clippings 2:5**

**Side-by-side wire bin**

**Cinder block bin**

- **Manure**
- **Cider slat or sawdressing bin**

Compost bin designs: (see related article on page 1)

**Dished**

- **Wooden pallet bin**

**Leaves-Grass Clippings 2:5**

**Side-by-side wire bin**

**Maintaining bulb vigor**

**Now is the time to evaluate the bloom of the bulbs you planted last fall**

- **When to plant**
- **Inorganic fertilizer** that contains 5 percent nitrogen
- **Poultry manure** (10 pounds per 100 square feet)
- **Cured compost** (10 pounds per 100 square feet)
- **A very small amount of nitrogen** fertilizer per 100 square feet

**Nitrogen dressing**

- **Use nitrogen fertilizer sparingly in the garden.**
No-till Drill Expo
May 2
(9 a.m. to 10 p.m.)
at the University of Nebraska
Rogers Memorial Farm
18500 Adams Street
Drills Scheduled to Appear:
Great Plains Land Tracker
The Tye Company GT
CrustBuster
John Deere
Krause
You will see these drills planting soybeans into wheat and sorghum stubble.
Lunch will follow the drill demonstrations.

Chinch bug control requires early planning

If the weather continues to be drier than normal, we expect the chinch bug will cause as many or more problems than it did in 1990.

Sorghum growers in southeast Nebraska need to start planning how they will deal with the chinch bug. If a chinch bug problem occurs in their area, early planning is critical. Chinch bugs can damage sorghum, it will be too late and part or all of the crop may be lost.

What we know right now will dictate whether the chinch bug problem will be as bad as many or more problems than it did in 1990.

What can be done now to prepare for this likely invasion? Consider planting broadleaf beans or alfalfa (or other broadleaf crop that is not a chinch bug host) instead of sorghum or corn. At least consider planting non-host crops in fields near wheat. While planting sorghum or corn is the best way to ask for trouble that you may not be able to deal with effectively.

What if sorghum or corn must be planted? Consider planting them some distance away from wheat fields, with trap crops like sudangrass or sudax in between. These can be treated repeatedly with insecticides to kill chinch bug nymphs before they emerge from the susceptible crop. Many growers have successfully used trap crops, but remember that the trap crop may need to be destroyed if insecticide applications exceed the label guidelines.

It is advisable to use a planting time application of Furadan 15G insecticide when planting sorghum or corn in the high or moderate risk regions. This method will only provide protection for two to three weeks for low infestations and one week for high chinch bug infestation levels during the seeding season. We suggest growers consider using this planting time treatment when seedling emergence and establishment are expected to coincide with the emergence of nearby winter wheat infused with chinch bug insects. This is particularly important when sorghum or corn are planted into wheat stubble or destroyed wheat and sorghum or corn are planted near infested wheat. Chinch bugs are expected to coincide with the yield of new crops. Chinch bug control is expected to coincide with the yield of new crops. Chinch bug control is expected to coincide with the yield of new crops.

How effective are foliar insecticides in controlling chinch bugs? When infestation levels are high, they have been used to control chinch bugs. Some of these products are EPA registered. Does the use of insecticides result in lower crop loss and a better insecticide residue? Does the use of insecticides result in lower crop loss and a better insecticide residue? Does the use of insecticides result in lower crop loss and a better insecticide residue? Does the use of insecticides result in lower crop loss and a better insecticide residue?

Clover leaf weevil control

During 1990, producers in eastern Nebraska had to contend with a severe attack of the alfalfa weevil. Reports from last year indicated that as many as 30 to 40 larvae per square foot were found in approximately 10% of the fields surveyed. In most cases, however, the adult clover leaf weevil caused more damage than the larva. Several problems present today’s first cautionary note. Here are some of the key points of harvest that may result in the field):

- Do not harvest alfalfa before significant leaf drop occurs. In general, growers are encouraged to begin harvest before significant leaf drop occurs. In general, growers are encouraged to begin harvest before significant leaf drop occurs. In general, growers are encouraged to begin harvest before significant leaf drop occurs. In general, growers are encouraged to begin harvest before significant leaf drop occurs. In general, growers are encouraged to begin harvest before significant leaf drop occurs. In general, growers are encouraged to begin harvest before significant leaf drop occurs. In general, growers are encouraged to begin harvest before significant leaf drop occurs. In general, growers are encouraged to begin harvest before significant leaf drop occurs. In general, growers are encouraged to begin harvest before significant leaf drop occurs. In general, growers are encouraged to begin harvest before significant leaf drop occurs. In general, growers are encouraged to begin harvest before significant leaf drop occurs. In general, growers are encouraged to begin harvest before significant leaf drop occurs. In general, growers are encouraged to begin harvest before significant leaf drop occurs. In general, growers are encouraged to begin harvest before significant leaf drop occurs. In general, growers are encouraged to begin harvest before significant leaf drop occurs. In general, growers are encouraged to begin harvest before significant leaf drop occurs. In general, growers are encouraged to begin harvest before significant leaf drop occurs. In general, growers are encouraged to begin harvest before significant leaf drop occurs. In general, growers are encouraged to begin harvest before significant leaf drop occurs. In general, growers are encouraged to begin harvest before significant leaf drop occurs. In general, growers are encouraged to begin harvest before significant leaf drop occurs. In general, growers are encouraged to begin harvest before significant leaf drop occurs. In general, growers are encouraged to begin harvest before significant leaf drop occurs. In general, growers are encouraged to begin harvest before significant leaf drop occurs. In general, growers are encouraged to begin harvest before significant leaf drop occurs. In general, growers are encouraged to begin harvest before significant leaf drop occurs. In general, growers are encouraged to begin harvest before significant leaf drop occurs. In general, growers are encouraged to begin harvest before significant leaf drop occurs. In general, growers are encouraged to begin harvest before significant leaf drop occurs. In general, growers are encouraged to begin harvest before significant leaf drop occurs. In general, growers are encouraged to begin harvest before significant leaf drop occurs. In general, growers are encouraged to begin harvest before significant leaf drop occurs. In general, growers are encouraged to begin harvest before significant leaf drop occurs. In general, growers are encouraged to begin harvest before significant leaf drop occurs. In general, growers are encouraged to begin harvest before significant leaf drop occurs. In general, growers are encouraged to begin harvest before significant leaf drop occurs. In general, growers are encouraged to begin harvest before significant leaf drop occurs. In general, growers are encouraged to begin harvest before significant leaf drop occurs. In general, growers are encouraged to begin harvest before significant leaf drop occurs. In general, growers are encouraged to begin harvest before significant leaf drop occurs. In general, growers are encouraged to begin harvest before significant leaf drop occurs. In general, growers are encouraged to begin harvest before significant leaf drop occurs.
Market turkey contest weight revisions

Turkey entries are limited to one entry per exhibitor. Each of two birds must weigh between 28 and 40 pounds at the time they are entered. Pounds not falling within this weight range will not be allowed to compete for grand or reserve awards in the turkey contest, but will be able to compete for a ribbon placing and premium in the turkey class at the 1991 Lancaster County Fair. Individual bird must weigh between 14 and 20 pounds. (ALH)

4-H livestock I.D.'s due June 14

Beef, sheep, swine, dairy cattle, dairy goat, bucket calf, and rabbit identification are due in the extension office by June 6. Forms are available at the extension office. (MB)

Market broiler contest revision for county fair

Entries for the county market broiler contest are due May 15. Forms are available at the extension office. The participation fee will be $20 per chick and show a pen of three to six birds for the county fair. Change in pick up date: Birds need to be picked up on June 14 at the University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension in Lancaster County. (ALH)

Horticulture news continued...

Gardening for children

This is the time of year when many families are actively working at planting, preparing and planting a garden. It is a great activity for involving young children. Gardening can provide children with a wide variety of experiences available nowhere else. Gardening is learning. Regardless of the location, the planting and care of seeds and plants teaches all of us. When gardening, children are provided with opportunities to observe nature. This promotes children's interest and curiosity in nature and knowledge. The whole gardening and growing process allows children to learn new words and expand vocabularies, provides opportunities for comparing objects (i.e. size, shape and color of seeds), and instills patience and perseverance. Children are frequently more willing to taste foods which they have helped grow. Gardening may provide new tastes and textures in addition to the obvious hands-on experiences, such as working with seeds, plants, soil and water. Because children learn better when they have their own discoveries, let them actually learn where and how foods grow. Planning what to grow is great fun and the children will think the plants they grow are the best ever. (MMJ)
Delegates to attend state extension convention

Five voting delegates will represent Lancaster County in the Nebraska County Extension Clubs, Inc. annual convention in July. The delegates were elected at the last meeting of the Lancaster County Council of Home Extension Clubs. They are Malena Vogel, council chairman, and 4-H leaders of the Apple Corp Extension Club, Lucile Heinkevink from the Tri-County Extension Club, Verni Dierman, Emer­ald and Dorothea Doesch, Southern Belles Extension Club and Darlene (Dietrich) Myers of the Extension Club. Anne Meier, a member of the 49ers Extension Club, was chosen as alternate.

Any member of an Extension club is permitted to vote for more than one person unless all those to be voted for come from one county. According to the Nebraska Council's Constitution, any county with 600 or more paid members is allowed 5 voting delegates.

Any extension club member may attend the convention. For registration details, contact JaniceStyles at 471-7180. Registration deadline is May 17. No applications will be accepted after May 31. (EW)

Volunteers needed for apparel sizing project

Every state is invited to participate in the study. Ne­braska is seeking 5 volun­teers to be subjects for this study and 8 to 10 persons will­ingly serve in taking and recording the measurements. If you are willing to de­vote time to this important study which will benefit older women's clothing needs raw years to come, please call the extension office (471-7180) and we will place your name on the list. Let us know if you wish to volunteer to be a measurements taker, too, for your age group. "Meas­urements takers" will be trained this summer and then data collection will be sched­uled.

If you have questions about this project, please call 471-7180 and ask for Esther. (EW)

Women's spring and summer fashion trends

If you like to keep up on fashion trends, here is what you will be seeing in women's fashion this season:

Bright colors are hot items, but neon colors are out. White is definitely in and black is definitely out.

You will see patterns from floral, geometric, and ethnic to abstracts in large blocks and lines of color. Tone on tone will be popular. You'll see buttons, lace, raffia embroideries, emblems, tassels and fringe, studs, nail heads, sequins and appliques.

The silhouette of the 50s and 60s will return with simple and clean lines. Care should be taken with this style to avoid looking dowdy.

Jewelry is a hot item. Materials include silver, brass, glass, wood, beads and rings. Styles include sixties, pop art, kitsch, charms, art deco, bold bracelets, multiple strands of beads and pearls, and button earrings.

Toni Fon, Ph.D., extension clothing specialist (EW)

Don't make food poisoning on your picnic

Choosing child care

Choosing child care is an important issue for par­ents. Here are some ques­tions parents may want to ask when looking for child care:

1. What are the licens­ing laws for day care prov­iders in the county or state? Your local consumer protection office can provide this information.

2. Do caregivers have references? What about spe­cial education or child development and education? How many children does each caregiver have on minimum and maximum? (EW)

3. Is the home or center secure? Is there enough space inside and outside for the children to play? Is it safe and clean?

4. If the center is large, do visitors and children sign in and out? What are the precautions in case of fire or other emergency?

5. What about sick chil­dren? Do they stay home? What if a child needs medical help?

6. How does the staff discipline children? How do caregivers deal with planned activities? Are activ­i­ties appropriate for the ages and development?

7. What are the fees for half- and full-day care?

8. Are kids' pictures or projects hung up and changed often?

9. Do caregivers tell you what your child did that day or how she is doing today?

10. After your child is in care, will you be able to ask:

(a) Does your child talk happily about the program?

(b) Does your child talk to other children?

(c) Do they talk to your child?

(d) How many employees? Do they talk to your child?

(e) Do all employees may wish to contact the Department of Labor and Employment's Child Care and Work and Family Clear­inghouse. The clearinghouse provides helpful tips for child care or elder care. For more information, call: (205) 532-4486. (AH)

Have fun reminiscing with Mom

Mother's Day is on May 12 and many moms will be getting gifts of flowers, cards, or candy. Many mothers will spend part of the day with the family as well as for yourself by pampering themselves.

Use the questions which fol­low to get you started on this activity so you won't be know­ing more about your mother, step-mom or adopted mother. You'll have fun and you will have strengthened your relationship with a most important person in your life.

Here are some questions to help you answer your own questions to the list.

1. What was the hap­piest birthday you can remem­ber?

2. What is your favorite flower?

3. Tell us about a favor­ite dress or outfit that you remember?

4. Who was your favor­ite grade school teacher and how did she influence your life?

5. What games did you like to play when you were a child?

6. What is your favor­ite movie star?

7. Tell us about the first house you remember.

8. What was your favor­ite food as a child?

9. What is your favorite color and has it always been your favorite color?

10. Tell us about the happiest time of your life? (EW)

Health Awareness Day

The Lancaster County Home Extension Clubs will celebrate Health Awareness Day in the Fremland Building at the Lancaster County Fair on Thursday, August 8, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Agricultural Committee of the Home Ex­tension Club Council with the UKCC and Delta Schmude, in charge of plans for the event.

When a fine summer af­ternoon makes everyone hungry, you can find yourself organizing one.

Never fear. Find the pictures of your favorite food. Then thumb through these warm weather food hits before you head to the store.

Picnic shopping

• Buy perishable prod­ucts last at the store and get them right home to the refrig­erator, or into the portable ice­chest or cooler and be on your way to the park and the picnic.

• Never leave perishables in a hot car while you are gone or you will end up with damaged food. Cold storage of picnic food should be used to prevent un­acceptable products can be kept in the refrigerator for a few days, but cooked meat and poultry is clean and ready to serve as it is.

• Tips about freezing for later will usually thaw in the refrig­erator overnight.

• To allow plenty of time for larger cuts to thaw, take a meat that is frozen and put it on a refrig­erator shelf a night or two before you need it.

• If the meat is still par­tially frozen when you're ready to use it, ask your friend how best to cut it just a little bit at the time.

Cook everything thor­ough. Ham, cheeses, sandwiches, steak, fish, sandwiches, salads, pasta, cakes, pork chops, and ribs should be cooked until the pan is gone; poultry until there is no red in the joints. Fresh fish should be cooked quickly, less than 5 minutes in a "flakes" with a fork. Steaks. If you like your steak rare or medium, remember that there is a chance that some food poisoning organ­isms can survive such short cooking times.

Take what you know about kitchen cleanliness out to the picnic.

• If there's no water available, use disposables. You'll need towels, napkins, or paper plates, or bowls you used with cooking liquids. Don't re-use utensils, cutlery or plates, or bowls you used with cooking liquids.

Keep bacteria from raw meat and poultry from spreading to your hands again after washing with raw meat or other food.

• Take up cooked meat or other food.

COOL-IT with a cooler. Keep your perish­able food - ham, potato or potato salad, hamburger, hot dogs, lunch meat, cooked chicken, deviled eggs, custard or cream pi­es - in a cooler.

While all mayonnaise-based salads should be kept in the icy, may­

Home Extension Cultural Arts Contest Winners Announced

Photos taken by Eldicine Dove, a member of the Happy Days Extension Club, and Elaine Bertrand, Busy Bee Extension Club, were se­lected as the winners in the county Cultural Arts Contest.

The Quilting Division

The contest was won by Mildred Faust, of the M.O. & L. Extension Club. The winning entries will be com­pete in the state con­test on Monday, July 24, at the Home Extension Clubs, Inc. May you purchase Aurora, June 12-14. (EW)

Home Extension

Alice Hemmert, Esther Wyant Extension Advisor; Lucile Heinkevink, Extension Educator; Lorene Bartoe Extension Assistant

Like blue? Try blue corn bread

Next time you want to surprise your family with something different for dinner, try serving blue corn bread. Yes, that's right, blue corn meal! It's just the amount needed to try one or two recipes. Food scientists have used blue corn in apparel extension office and ask for Esther. (EW)
Home Extension News continued...

Food substitutions

If you don’t have:

Use:

Biscuit mix (1 cup)
1 cup flour, 1/2 teaspoon baking powder, 1/4 teaspoon salt, 1 tablespoon shortening.

Blend crumbs, dry (1/4 cup)
1/4 cup cracker crumbs or cornmeal; or 1 cup soft bread crumbs.

Buttermilk (1 cup)
1 tablespoon lemon juice or vinegar + milk to make 1 cup. Stir and let stand 5 minutes. Or use 1 cup yogurt.

Cake flour (1 cup)
7/8 cup (for 1 cup minus 2 tablespoons) all-purpose flour.

Chocolate, unsweetened (1 ounce)
3 tablespoons unsweetened cocoa powder + 1 tablespoon shortening.

Cornstarch (1 tablespoon)
2 tablespoons flour.

Corn syrup (1 cup)
1 cup honey.

Cream (1 cup)
1/3 cup butter or margarine + 3/4 cup milk.

Milk, skim (1 cup)
1/3 cup nonfat dry milk + enough water to make one cup. Stir well.

Tomato juice (1 cup)
1/2 cup tomato sauce + 1/2 cup water.

Tomato sauce (2 cups)
3/4 cup tomato paste + 1 cup water. (AHF)

COFFEE SHOP TALK

Question: Can corn and alfalfa be ensiled together?

Alfalfa and corn silages together make up a nearly complete ration for most classes of beef cattle, the exception being finishing cattle in feedlots. The crops can be mixed at either end of the ensiling process — going into the silo coming out.

Mixing at the time of ensiling offers a number of advantages. The first is flexibility in reaching the ideal 70 percent moisture level for silage and so extending the harvest date for corn beyond the normal window. Direct-cut alfalfa is too wet to ensile properly, but can be used if the corn is excessively dry. Or, if the corn is too wet, the alfalfa can be wilted more than usual to bring the total moisture content down.

Adding corn to alfalfa also aids fermentation because it contributes carbohydrates to the silage mass. During fermentation, microbes convert these carbohydrates into the lactic acid that gives silage its characteristic odor and acts as a preservative.

The third advantage is having a nearly complete feed ready to use from the pit or silo with no additional mixing.

However, this can be a drawback in some cases. If the blend is created for one class of cattle, the proportions may not be optimal for others. In cases where more than one class of cattle are to be fed, it may be better to ensile corn and alfalfa separately and blend to meet the needs of each.

Another important consideration is harvest timing. The previous alfalfa cutting should be managed so that the cutting to be ensiled is at the ideal 1/10th dry basis stage at the time the corn reaches full dent and is ready to chop. That way both crops will be at peak quality when they go into the silo.

Question: What seasonal ration changes are needed for ewes and beef cows?

With calving and lambing season getting underway, cow and ewe feed requirements change. The main changes are increased energy and protein requirements as the mothers begin lactate.

While high quality hay or commercial protein does a good job of providing protein, it may be short of energy, as expressed by total digestible nutrients (TDN). Rations should contain about 56 percent TDN for 1,100-pound mature cows and 65 percent TDN for first-calf heifers with average milk production. This is the time to feed the best quality hay available and supplement with grain or silage to provide extra energy. For example, when feeding average quality alfalfa and native hay to 900-950-pound heifers, supplement three to four pounds of grain per head a day.

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Successful soybeans

Soybeans have a unique ability to yield well when planted over an extended time period. This permits them to complement other crops in the Lancaster County area cropping system. Soybeans planted in May are generally the most productive. Sixty degrees Fahrenheit is a good target at which to start planting.

There are two types of soybean flowering varieties. Indeterminate varieties are those in which flowering begins at the lower nodes and progresses upward on the plant; determinate varieties are those in which flowering begins at all nodes simultaneously.

Determinate (semi-dwarf) varieties respond to planting dates like indeterminate varieties. Late planted soybeans, however, are often subjected to extreme environmental stresses. Because of their short stature and flowering habit, determinate varieties are not recommended for planting after mid-June in Nebraska.

Both determinate and indeterminate adapted varieties will perform well when planted between the second week in May and mid-June if soil temperatures are 60 degrees Fahrenheit or higher. Earlier planting may reduce stands because of the inability of emerged beans to tolerate freezing temperatures if you intend to plant soybeans after mid-June, your best variety choice is early to mid-season, adapted, semi-determinate variety. Indeterminate varieties are much more suited to the stressful conditions associated with late plantings and have greater yield potentials than determinate varieties for these environments.

Late-April to early-May planting dates are more profitable for soybeans than to soybeans. Likewise, late-May to early-June planting dates are more beneficial to corn than soybeans. Planting soybeans mid-May to mid-June after corn and before sorghum, as well as you results for all three crops. (DV)

May pensive roosters and hens

Roosters use energy in fighting, crowing, displaying, and courting hens. The male’s crowing peaks this month as he gathers a harem. A rooster increases to 2.3 pounds, and his protein intake (in eggs, starts incubation, and avoids swallow­ ers and predators. Her one ovary reaches maximum weight as egg laying begins. The hen consumes 14 times more calories than the rooster. Male pheasants have a unique ability to yield well when planted over an extended time period. This permits them to complement other crops in the Lancaster County area cropping system. This permits them to complement other crops in the Lancaster County area cropping system. Soybeans planted in May are generally the most productive. Sixty degrees Fahrenheit is a good target at which to start planting.

There are two types of soybean flowering varieties. Indeterminate varieties are those in which flowering begins at the lower nodes and progresses upward on the plant; determinate varieties are those in which flowering begins at all nodes simultaneously.

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Questions and Answers

Q. I’d like to expand my mum planting by dividing the plants that have been in place for several years. When’s the best time to do that?

A. After the danger of frost is past—early May. Remove the plants from the soil when new growth is 4 inches high. Take well rooted shoots from the outside of each clump and plant them in a sunny, well drained spot with the growing tip just above ground level.

Q. What is it about poison ivy that makes it so hard to identify and avoid?

A. Poison ivy (Toxicodendron radicans) may grow as an upright shrub, a slender vine running along the ground or a climbing weed, which grows in clumps. Alternately along the stem, have a variety of finishes from dull to glossy and margin that may be smooth, toothed or lobed. It is so variable that “leaves three, let it be” is the only advice on identification that always holds true. Avoiding contact with the plant itself may not be enough, however. The plant oil that causes the unpleasant skin reaction in sensitive skin can remain on the fingers after handling poison ivy.

Q. I didn’t prune my roses much last fall. Should I prune this spring?

A. Yes. Prune in spring to remove winter-damaged canes, all weak growth (canes smaller than the diameter of a pencil), and canes that are rubbing or crossing each other. Then shape the plant by cutting back remaining canes to uniform height—18 to 24 inches. The exception to spring pruning is climbing roses—prune them after they bloom.

New lease on life

Spring is an excellent time to repot house plants. Repotting gives the roots new soil and more room in which to grow. Generally, transplant to a pot one size larger than the one it is in now. Frequency of repotting depends upon the plant’s normal growth rate. Slow-growing plants may require repotting only every two years, while the fast growers must be repotted annually.

Several hours before a plant is to be repotted, water it thoroughly. Then turn the plant and pot upside down, gently tapping the sides and edges of the container to remove it. If the roots are heavily matted or woven together, loosen the ball to remove about half of the old soil. This will encourage some new roots to grow away from the tight circular pattern after repotting. Place the plant in the new pot, holding it at the depth at which it originally grew and add potting mixture. Gently pack the soil around the roots to eliminate air pockets. Leave at least 1/2-inch at the top of the pot free of soil to aid in watering. After repotting, water thoroughly and then let new soil settle to the surface before repotting further. Soil for house plants must be well drained. Also, a soil’s physical makeup is very important. If only soil is used, it will pack after several waterings.

Best mixture is one that contains adequate organic matter and coarse soil particles. That ensures drainage and air needed for good root formation and growth. Most house plants will thrive in a soil mixture containing five parts (by volume) of good garden loam soil, four parts peat moss or leaf mold and one part sharp builder’s sand.

GARDEN Gossip Hotline
471-7179
Accessible from any phone

Can you identify leafy spurge?

A key to controlling noxious weeds is being able to identify the plants. Leafy Spurge has only been found on about 1000 acres in Lancaster County. Most of these infestations are quite small and it is suspected that there are many infestations that have not yet been identified. The plants can be killed before they become fully established, therefore it is important that new infestations be identified and treated within the first three years.

There will be a Leafy Spurge Seminar May 6, 1991 at 7:30 PM at the Lancaster Extension Conference Center. Anyone who has Leafy Spurge and anyone that wants to determine if they have Leafy Spurge should attend.

Lilacs as cut flowers

Besides being enjoyed in the yard, lilac flowers can also be beautifully arranged and displayed. They combine well with peonies, chrysanthemums, roses and other blooms. However, lilacs do not have a long vase life unless special measures are taken.

Lilacs open from the bottom of the wiry branch toward the top. The flowers will have begun to open by the time the ends of the lower florets are open and some of the upper leaves have begun to open. Unopened lilac buds tend to wilt, rather than open.

Use sharp pruners to remove selected branches. Once cut, lilac branches (and other woody stems) should never be pounded with hammers or other objects to promote the uptake of water. Pouding branches only im­pairs the water carrying vessels that are essential to providing nutrients to the blooms. Place cut branches in warm water immediately. (Warm water contains less air than cool water).

Penn State University research shows that a citric acid solution will make blooms last longer. Add one ounce of citric acid to 2 1/2 quarts of water to make the solution. Leave the branches in this solution the first day. On following days, use a cut flower preservative solution available at florists or garden centers. This solution should be changed every other day because woody stems can foul water rapidly. When you change the solution, recut the stem, removing about an inch from the bottom.

Display lilacs in a cool location in the house, away from heat—emitting objects like TVs or radiators, and never in direct sun.

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Address continued...

Post your address numerals at the front of your house where they are clearly visible from the street or road. We recommend your numerals be at least three inches tall. If you have a single, outside or inside mailbox, place reflective address numerals (available at most hardware stores) on both sides of the mailbox, in addition to the address numerals on your house.

Highlighting your house numbers at night helps your emergency during the hours of darkness. Be sure you use large, plain numerals for your address. Stay away from script or other "hard-to-read" characters. Also, stick to colors that contrast (for example, black numerals on a white house).

Remember, your local fire department cannot help you if they are delayed in finding you. Please do your part to help us help you. Place your address numerals so that we can see them readily in case of an emergency. (Bill Monta, Jr., Fire Prevention Officer, Southeast Fire Department)

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Crop and article inspection program

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

Results
Crop and article inspections will result in the crop or article being:
1. certified as noxious weed free, or
2. found to be infested with noxious weeds and quarantined, or
3. quarantine released if crop or article has been treated to prevent the dissemination of noxious weeds.

Prevention
The best approach to prevention of dissemination of noxious weeds by the movements of harvested crops or articles is to control them before they reach full bloom. Alfalfa has certified as noxious weed free should command a premium price.

Treatments
Any article infested with noxious weed seed or viable plant parts, including harvested crops needs to be treated before it is moved from the location at which they initially infested.

- All harvesting equipment and other infested equipment should be cleared of all weed material, using water, air or other methods recommended by the manufacturer.
- Grain and seed should be cleaned and the screenings properly disposed.
- There are no acceptable known treatments for soil, sod, nursery stock, hay straw, and other material of a similar nature.

Alfalfa
There are many alien alfalfa fields throughout the county with Musk Thistle infestations. Mowing was not an effective method of control in these fields. There were many Thistle that went to bloom before the first and second cuttings. As a result, any movement of this hay diseased Musk Thistle seed. If the Thistle were not controlled in April in the rosette stage, roots could be severed two inches below the surface or the first cutting made before any Musk Thistle Blooms appear and spot treating the individual plants with Roundup or by digging.

Small Grain
It is possible for small grain to become infested if ground preparation did not sever the Musk Thistle roots. Any Musk Thistle plants should rooted out and properly disposed through this program. Two pints of Curtil on acre before boot stage would provide control in wheat wheat-fallow rotations.

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Household hazardous waste collections are scheduled
The Health Department, in conjunction with the Lincoln Public Works Department, is conducting the 1991 Household Hazardous Waste Collections. According to Connie Kube, hazardous pollutants coordinator, four collections are planned for this spring. The goal of these collections is an excellent opportunity to dispose of unwanted toxic chemicals. Kube stresses, "It is important to remove unwanted chemicals from the home for health and safety reasons, and to properly dispose of them. When you purchase toxic products you should buy only what you need to do the job."

Citizens can bring unwanted chemicals to the following collection sites:
- Friday, May 17
  - Airpark Swimming Pool Parking Lot N.W. 46th & W. W. Keye
- Saturday, May 18
  - Belmont Swimming Pool Parking Lot 12th & Manor
- Saturday, June 22
  - Robin Mickle Jr. High
  - 67th & Walker

All collections are free, and will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Staff at the sites will collect pesticides (including 2, 4, 5T, Silvex); wood preservatives; appliance capacitors and light ballasts containing PCBs; lithium and rechargeable nickel-cadmium batteries; wallpaper; polishes; paints and solvents. Non RCRA-regulated businesses can drop off non-recyclable hazardous waste batteries. Items not accepted include paints, medicines, household cleaners, explosives, antifreeze, automotive wastes, fire, pesticides that have been misted with water, containers with over five gallons of waste, general household trash and vehicle batteries. Participants are limited to 25 gallons (220 pounds) per collection. Brochures describing safe disposal methods for other types of hazardous waste will be distributed to participants. Citizens are encouraged to check their March or April water bills for an insert with Household Hazardous Waste Collection information.

Each year the typical household generates from three to ten pounds of hazardous waste. Although large industries are usually blamed for hazardous waste problems, many households in America store large quantities of hazardous waste in garages and kitchen cupboards. In Lincoln and Lancaster County, citizens can learn proper hazardous waste handling and disposal methods through the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department's Hazardous Pollutants Program. Since many harmful products may have been treated with Roundup or by digging.

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Extension Calendar

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 2</td>
<td>No-till Drill Expo, UNL Rogers Memorial Farm</td>
<td>(18500 Adams Street)</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 4</td>
<td>Metro 4-H Horse Clinic in Wahoo</td>
<td>8 a.m. to 4 p.m.</td>
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<td>May 5</td>
<td>Low Cal/Cholesterol Microwave Program</td>
<td>7-9 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 14</td>
<td>How to Exhibit Workshop</td>
<td>9:30 a.m. or 7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 15</td>
<td>Registrations due for State Home Extension Council Convention</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 18</td>
<td>Mobile Sheep Clinic, Saunders County FarmFairgrounds, Wahoo</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 21</td>
<td>Freezing Fruits and Vegetables</td>
<td>7-9 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 28</td>
<td>Canning Fruits and Vegetables</td>
<td>7-9 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 29</td>
<td>Home Extension Club Night</td>
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<td>May 6</td>
<td>Critter Sitters 4-H Club Meeting</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 9</td>
<td>Rabbits VIPS meeting</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 10</td>
<td>Leopage Seminar</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 17</td>
<td>Open House</td>
<td>4 - 7 p.m.</td>
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<td>June 6</td>
<td>Home Economics Practicejudging</td>
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Register for Workshop/Program:
Date of Workshop/Program:
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Number of registrations: at $ each.
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