10-1991

The NEBLINE, October 1991
**Mark Your Calendar for These Classes**

All classes will be held at the Lancaster Extension Conference Center, 444 Cherry Creek Road, Lincoln. Call 471-7180 to preregister.

- **October 24** - 1:30 to 3 or 7 to 8:30 p.m. Building Gingerbread Houses
  - See the step-by-step process of building gingerbread houses as presented by Doris Andersen, Aurora. Cookie dough and icing recipes will be shared along with lots of decorating ideas. Several completed houses will be on display. Fee $3.
- **Thursday, October 24** - 1 to 3 or 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Cotillion

**Meet the Extension Team**

- **Tuesday, December 3** - 1 to 2:20 or 7 to 8:30 p.m., Holiday Faa
  - Have fun making decorations, sharing patterns and getting ideas for holiday food fare. Fee $2. (EW)

**Congratulations!**

Special congratulations for outstanding performances at the 1991 Nebraska State Fair Contests!

- **Lancaster County Dairy Judging Team** topped their team competition with Dana Steinhausen taking third individual honors and Jeff Meyer placing eighth overall. Linn won the team competition with the Nebraska Dairy Judging Team at Steinhausen taking third individual honors. Becky Goracke, Becky Damion Schepers finished sixth in the contest and the Lancaster County team placed third overall.
- **Kim Vance** took third place in individual judging on the Nebraska Dairy Judging Team at Steinhausen taking third individual honors. Becky Goracke, Becky Damion Schepers finished sixth in the contest and the Lancaster County team placed third overall.

**Weed Awareness**

NOSIXIOUS WEED CONTROL AUTHORITY NEWS

**Are You a VIPS?**

VIPS (Volunteers in Program Service) are adult and youth volunteers who serve the 4-H program by planning, organizing and coordinating 4-H activities. VIPS committee members are needed for all project and activities areas, including small animal, fashion revue, clothing, beef, cat, horse, music, foods, speech, dairy and many more. Time and commitment varies depending on the committee. If you have special projects and activities you’d like to become more involved in, contact Dave Swarts, Marlene or Arlene to find out more about the VIPS committees and how you can be a part of it. (MK)

**55 Alive on November 4 and 5**

Here is an opportunity for mature drivers to brush up on driving skills and techniques. This classroom course reviews the rules of the road and emphasizes how to compensate for slowed reaction or other limitations which older people often experience. Participants in the class are not given the opportunity to drive with supervision. It is strictly a classroom course.

Cy Miller, director of the AARP 55 Alive Program for the State of Nebraska, will be the instructor. The 8-hour class will be offered on Monday and Tuesday, November 4 and 5, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each day. Fee is $8. Please bring a sack lunch. Beverages will be available. Please call 471-7180 to preregister. (EW)

**Extension Phone Numbers:**

Office: 471-7180
After hours: 471-7170
Fax: 471-7148
NEBLINE RBBS: 471-7149

**University of Nebraska-Lincoln Cooperative Extension Services**

**Lancaster County**

444 Cherry Creek Road
Lincoln, Nebraska 68528

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**Chinch Bug Management in Wheat**

Optimal wheat management techniques to reduce the likelihood of chinch bugs in your fields include: 1) Cultivating wheat immediately after harvest to expose a pest to nearby susceptible crops such as sorghum and corn. These techniques include: 1) Plant wheat as close as possible to recommended planting dates (September 20 to October 10 in Lancaster County). If planting before the Hessian fly free date, Sept 28, 1991, take steps to resist to this pest. 2) Plant a moderate to heavy seed population. In Eastern Nebraska, optimum seeding rates are 50 to 60 pounds per acre, although heavier rates up to 50 pounds may be planted if moisture is adequate. Even though a thin wheat stand will tuller in the spring and fill in, a heavier plant density is less attractive to chinch bugs when they move into wheat in early April. 3) Use the most fertile fields for wheat production and don’t cut fertilizer use.

In areas where chinch bugs have been a problem, wheat should not be grown as a winter cover crop, turn up in the spring and planted to a susceptible crop like corn. There is a good chance that the turn-up wheat, thinned and stressed, will be very attractive to migrating chinch bugs. A legume would make a safer cover crop. The most successful way to manage chinch bugs is to carefully plan the location of wheat and sorghum fields to avoid side-by-side planting. Minimize damage to wheat by producing a lush, healthy stand that will not be attractive to chinch bugs during the year after the year, and the year after! (W3)

**Fire Won’t Wait...Plan Your Escape!**

October 6-12, 1991

Would you and your loved ones know how to escape if a fire started at home, where 50 per cent of all fire fatalities (from all fires) occur? How about at work, at school, or while on vacation? "No matter where you are, take a few moments to look around and plan how you would get out of the event of fire could very well save your life or that of a loved one," says Bill Montz, Jr., fire prevention officer for the Southeast Fire Department.

Here are a few examples: If you are in a public building, locate the exit doors nearest you, and another as an alternate, and make sure that you and your family can get to them in case of fire. When staying overnight at someone else’s home, be sure you and your family know two ways out of the rooms you’ll be sleeping in. Most importantly, develop and frequently practice a home fire escape plan with your family, for use in your own home.

"Being prepared BEFORE a fire starts by having and frequently practicing a home fire escape plan, coupled with properly installing and maintaining a UL Listed smoke detector, are two of the smartest investments a family can make," Montz states.

Kicking off the campaign for Fire Prevention Week 1991 officially, Montz urges the public to participate in community wide efforts to reduce fire fatalities and promote fire prevention and fire safety. The Southeast Fire Department is sponsoring Fire Prevention Week 1991 with the support of the National Fire Protection Association and the Nebraska State Fire Marshal’s Office.

**Root Prune Plants in Fall for Transplanting in Spring**

After the leaves fall in autumn is a good time to prepare deciduous and evergreen plants for spring transplanting.

**Preparation**

Take the form of root pruning, which concentrates plant roots in the soil directly below the plant. The roots within the pruned space grow many branches and form a strong root system within a confined space. Without root pruning, plants dug for transplanting may have few roots to support them that are large enough to handle. The first step in root pruning is to tie in the branches of low-branched or bushy plants to keep them out of your way while you dig. Attach heavy wire, a wimpie string, or a one-half inch rope to a branch around the plant to the top of the plant, spiral it around the plant to the top, and tie it in a loop.

Begin root pruning by marking a circle around the tree or shrub (see the chart on page 5 to determine how large the circle should be) and dig a trench around the outside of the circle. Be sure to dig with as little disturbance as possible away from the plant so you don’t pry up transplant roots. Separate the topsoil from the subsoil so, when you backfill the trench, you’ll replace the subsoil first and then the topsoil. After backfilling, ease to the disturbed soil, remove air pockets and provide adequate moisture for new root development and uniform建立.

When you dig and transplant the tree or shrub next spring, the ball of roots you move with it needs to be big enough to provide for the full root system. Only then will you have enough to handle. Root pruning beforehand to concentrate the roots in a root ball that will be small enough to move more easily increases the plant’s chances of surviving transplanting. (DJ)
Planting Spring Flowering Bulbs

If you’re planning to plant spring-flowering bulbs this year, don’t rush to do so—prepare the planting site as soon as possible. Choose a sunny location and give your plants careful consideration in site selection are crucial factors. For example, bulbs can be planted under deciduous trees because they’ll have a microclimate created by the tree canopy. However, deciduous trees release their leaves in late summer, allowing the sun’s rays to reach the bulbs, which can be a problem. It is advisable to plant bulbs 2 to 4 inches deeper, as this will provide them with the necessary light to thrive. Positioning the bulbs correctly is crucial to ensure that they receive enough light and moisture to grow. torso levels in the ground will determine how deep you need to plant them. A general guideline is to plant bulbs at a depth of three to four times their diameter from the planting site. The correct planting depth is crucial to ensure that the bulbs have enough water and nutrients to thrive. The correct planting depth is crucial to ensure that the bulbs have enough water and nutrients to thrive.

Pseudorabies Testing Deadline Nears

The October 1, 1991, deadline for the first phase of pseudorabies assessment testing has arrived. The Pseudorabies Control and Eradication Act, LB359, requires that all swine herds be tested for their pseudorabies status. Failure to perform the required testing may result in quarantine of a herd. Testing is done on blood samples collected by an accredited veterinarian and submitted to a laboratory approved by the Nebraska Department of Agriculture, Plant and Livestock Inspection Service. Producers are responsible for the cost of performing the official pseudorabies assessment. Tocenpocy with the law and be a “Pseudorabies Negative Assessment Tested Herd,” a herd must have two negative tests within a 12-month period. October 1, 1991, and September 30, 1992.

The required number of samples is as follows:

- Number of Swine: 11-35
- 36 or more

Forage Test NOW to Inventory Winter Feeds

Fall is the best time to inventory winter forage supplies. The growing season is over and hay and silage harvest is complete. It’s a great time to inventory your forage program and be proactive in maintaining healthy, productive livestock at affordable costs. Forage testing can provide accurate measurements of the nutrients in your forage. With this information, you can target the use of each forage to:

1) meet the animal’s nutrient requirements
2) efficiently use available forages
3) know what supplements may or may not be needed

Forage testing is especially important when “odd” forages are in the diet, such as soybean silage, dry-stressed corn, weedy legumes, and hybrid forages. Forage testing is important when common feeds like alfalfa, corn silage or cut grass are being fed, especially when the feed is being fed to high protein and energy levels can be drastically different from normal feedstuffs.

Lubbock County Laboratory currently provides forage testing services: [Contact information]

The required number of samples is as follows:

- Number of Swine: 11-35
- 36 or more

Store Tender Bulbs Properly

The dahlias, gladiolus, tuberoses, and tender bulb flowering bulbs and perennials require storage before planting next year. In the past season, growers in this area of the state to anticipate a resurgence of the chinch bug problem next year, especially if dry conditions persist in cool conditions. However, warm weather and sufficient moisture can help control the pest. If you plan to store tender bulbs, follow these guidelines:

1. Harvest the bulbs when they are dry and hard, but do not store them in direct sunlight. Choose a cool, dark location with good ventilation.
2. Store the bulbs in a dry, well-ventilated area with a temperature of 40 to 45 degrees F. Keep bulbs away from warm, humid areas.
3. Cut stems off at ground level before storing the bulbs. Dig chumps of rhizomes and store them dry on a shelf or in a cool, dry place. Do not mix bulbs with other plant material to reduce the risk of disease.
4. Use a slow-acting fungicide to prevent the development of mold and other diseases. Store the bulbs in a well-ventilated area.
5. Check the bulbs periodically for signs of mold or rot, and remove any affected bulbs.
6. If the bulbs are not going to be planted immediately, store them in a cool, dry place until planting time.
Flea Beetles to Fight Leafy Spurge

A site in Pioneers Park was the site of 14 sites in Nebraska for release of a flea beetle that attacks the roots of leafy spurge. This release was made by the USDA Plant Protection and Quarantine Office in Lincoln. This flea beetle is one of the natural enemies of leafy spurge in its native area of eastern Europe and Asia. It has been thoroughly screened and determined to only feed on leafy spurge roots. There are a number of natural enemies of leafy spurge in its native habitat to keep it in check.

The introduction of these natural enemies is a long term effort. It will take several years to obtain large enough populations to have a noticeable effect on leafy spurge infestations. It is hoped that an integrated program of biological controls, in combination with herbicides, can be developed that will minimize the economic impact and potential spread of leafy spurge.

Leafy Spurge Threat

Leafy spurge is a persistent, deep-rooted perennial which reproduces by seeds and roots. Unlike Musk Thistle, which can be easy to kill, Leafy Spurge can only be controlled, according to those who have experience in fighting this plant.

There is not a large number of acres in Lancaster County at this time, but there is a fast increasing number of infestations. Infestations are known to occur in about 1/10 to 1/3 of the 864 sections in the county. 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, mulch, livestock, etc.

Control of this plant must include spraying the plant in the spring and fall 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.

Control Requirements

All known county roadside infestations are being marked by signs and being sprayed atflowering time. Information efforts will continue with 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 to not disseminate by movement of infested articles or crops. If inspections find that this standard is not being met, the individual will receive a notice and quarantine of any contaminated crop or articles, requiring the standard be carried out and the crop or article to be decontaminated, if possible, prior to movement from the premises.

Crop and Article Inspection Program

The Lancaster County Noxious Weed Control Authority will be inspecting land throughout the county in September and October. This inspection program will be directed chiefly at Musk Thistle, since those plants that germinate this fall will be flowering and producing seed next year, if not controlled. This fall inspection is being continued to promote fall control efforts, which are essential to an effective Musk Thistle control program.

AREAS TO BE INSPECTED

All known areas that were not controlled prior to seed development in the spring and summer, will be inspected. If moisture is adequate, most of this seed will germinate this fall. If Musk Thistle rosettes are found, notices will be sent out to landowners with copies sent to farm tenants, providing required control methods.

LAW REQUIREMENTS

In accordance with the Nebraska Noxious Weed Control Act, the notice states that the infestation must be controlled by the tenth day after its issuance date, or be subject to control being carried out by the County. The required control is to kill all the Musk Thistle rosettes by spraying, or severing the root by digging or cultivation. If the County provides the control, the landowner will be billed for the cost. If the bill is not paid within sixty (60) days, a lien will be placed on the property.

The City of Lincoln Public Works Department will be cooperating with the County in this fall inspection program. The City Weed inspectors will be reporting areas of past known severe infestations. These areas will be inspected for emerging Musk Thistle rosettes. Private landowners will receive individual notices and agencies or departments responsible for public lands, will receive special notifications. In all cases, follow-up inspections will be made jointly by the City and the County to assure that these fall rosettes are eradicated.

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;
- knows and/or has a map of noxious weed infestations on his, or her, or other 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;
- controls noxious weeds on his, or her, or other properties, and does something about it;
- talks about it in your organizations - garden clubs, chambers of commerce, etc.;
- 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);
- talks 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 neighboring farmers, etc.;
- talks about it in your organizations - garden clubs, extension clubs, farm organizations, homeowners associations, village boards, real estate organizations, etc.;
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- helps the individual landowners responsibility as set forth in state law 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".
Long Range Planning for Musk Thistle Control

A long range plan is needed to get the Musk Thistle infestation(s) on your land under control. You will probably have Musk Thistle in the same locations as they were in past seasons. Since Musk Thistle is such a prolific seed producer, and the seeds remain viable in the soil for several years, your infested areas have a supply of seeds that will be germinating for several years to come, even without more plants going to seed.

Key Points

The key to an effective Musk Thistle control program is persistence. It should include:

1. Maintaining a map of the locations of Musk Thistle by scouting areas in early April and again in early October;
2. Providing control in the rosette stage (late March to early May and mid-September until two (2) weeks before hard freezes);
3. Considering fall treatments as part of your base program;
4. Providing spring follow-up treatments for escapes and newly germinated seedlings; and
5. Not letting a single plant go to flower.

Letters Instead of a Notice

Landowners who have such a plan approved by the Lancaster County Weed Control Authority, will receive a reminder letter, instead of a notice when inspectors find Musk Thistle on their land.

The following land managing agencies, departments or units of government are utilizing or initiating the use of these key points in their noxious weed control programs:

- Nebraska National Guard
- Nebraska Game and Parks Commission
- State Department of Roads
- Lower Platte South Natural Resources District
- Lancaster County Engineer
- City of Lincoln
- Parks and Recreation
- Sanitary Landfill
- Street and Storm Sewer Maintenance
- Real Estate

Plan Completion

If you desire assistance in developing your plan, or wish to inform the Authority of the plan you have developed, please call this office at 471-7817.

Fall Control of Musk Thistle

Some of the first work on musk thistle control was done in southeast Nebraska in November, 1957. One to two pounds of 2,4-D gave 75 to 100 percent control. Even though good control resulted from fall applications, a large number of seedlings were present in the spring. Musk thistle has the ability to establish new seedlings in warm periods in late fall and early winter.

Tordon 22K, or 2,4-D plus Banvel, applied in the late rosette stage, showed more consistency than 2,4-D applied alone. Tordon 22K applied in mid to late fall has provided the most consistent control. It controls musk thistle infestations and later germinating fall and spring plants.

Tetal applied as foliar treatment also has residual activity on musk thistle seedlings, up to a year. This is especially helpful in controlling late fall and early spring seedling germination, following fall rosette treatments.

Herbicides

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Herbicide</th>
<th>Remarks and approximate coverage</th>
<th>Use in wheat, grains for seed, fallow and CRP</th>
<th>Cost: $6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tordon 22K</td>
<td>For use on range and permanent pasture. Use 2,4-D or Banvel - $6.20 Tordon 22K - $6.40.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2,4-D</td>
<td>Fall applications after trees drop leaves, no later than 2 weeks before &quot;soil freeze-up.&quot; Cost: $9-18.</td>
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<td>Banvel</td>
<td>Fall applications after trees drop leaves, no later than 2 weeks before &quot;soil freeze-up.&quot; Cost: $9-18.</td>
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Fall Application Recommendations

Musk Thistle can be a big threat to the 90,000 pasture and rangelands in Lancaster County.

Forage losses can be quite high. One musk thistle per square foot can reduce broomgrass 33 percent, and densely infested areas are inaccessible to livestock, effectively causing 100 percent grazing potential in the infested area. This clearly cuts carrying capacity. Unfortunately, when musk thistle goes untreated, it infests wider areas. Even if a stand of bolted musk thistle is sprayed or mowed before it sets seed, it has already damaged a patch of grass and kept cattle from getting into the area.

Uncontrolled, a large musk thistle plant can make 15,000 seeds - roughly one half are viable.

As a non-native, biennial plant, musk thistles have no native enemies in the U.S. Some biocontrol agents have been introduced with limited, to moderate success. One often cited is the musk thistle head weevil, Rhinocyllus conicus. This insect has been set loose in many areas, and can be integrated into a management program. However, weevils cannot do the job alone.

Musk thistle is relatively easy to control with herbicides, when applications are made at the right time. Best results come from treatment during the weed's rosette stage. Bolted thistles are generally hard and expensive to control and prevent seed set.

Treatments

Use herbicides to contain large infestations in open pasture, CRP and other grassland areas. Fall treatments are the standard, while frequent mowing or digging are options with small infestations. Musk thistle head weevils can be integrated into sensitive areas, such as woods and waterways, but won't eradicate the weed.

View musk thistle control as a part of grass management. Weakened pastures are vulnerable to blowing seeds. Thistle infested pasture cannot support the same stocking rate as good lush grass. Cattle will graze away the good grass, allowing the thistles to spread onto weaker areas. Thus, the problem just gets bigger.

In general, fall application for musk thistle starts around October 1, but can begin earlier, depending on the year. Spraying can occur until the ground freezes, or until rosettes stop growing for the season after a hard, killing frost. In many years, fall spraying for musk thistle can continue into the month of December. Musk thistle can be a big threat to the 90,000 pasture and rangelands in Lancaster County.

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Report on Spring-Summer Inspection Program

As required by law, inspections are made of all lands known to have infestations of noxious weeds, and those lands on which complaints are received.

In order to accomplish this, four seasonal inspectors and the Chief Inspector are each assigned a division of the county to inspect. If an infestation is found, the landowner and tenant are notified by legal notice or letter. Letters were sent when we had information to show that past infestations had been timely controlled. Follow-up inspections were made in either case to verify control efforts.

Record Number of Inspections
A total of 1,748 inspections were made on 11,326 acres. This was more than a 60% increase in the number of inspections from previous years. This increase was due to an earlier start, hard work of the inspectors, and changes in operations.

A total of 1,411 infestations were found on 4,822 acres. A total of 1,400 legal notices and 240 letters were sent. There were 166 landowners that had their infestations controlled when we made our inspections.

Excellent Landowner Response
Landowners responded very well, even through a wet and windy spring encouraged the germination of new thistles through June, making it very difficult to apply herbicides. Of the 1,411 infestations, 1,166 or 83%, were controlled. There were 184, or 13% of the landowners that did not accomplish complete control, allowing more than 10% of their thistles to blow out. Force control was performed on 54 sites or 3%. There were many late germinating rosettes on numerous sites that were not controlled. This fall would be an excellent time to accomplish this control.

Noxious Weed Control on County Roadsides
County road right-of-ways are under constant view of the public. It is the perception of many that there are not adequate control efforts on county roads. Noxious weeds have infested portions of the rights-of-way throughout the county. They are subject to infestation from several dissemination sources. Inadvertent equipment operation, removal of infested vegetation and soil, and/or mulching with infested material may also contribute to the dissemination problem.

Noxious Weeds: Why Limited Control
Efforts Can Only Fail
Noxious weeds have been spread by deer, domestic livestock and birds over every-widening areas. They hitchhike on vehicles, clothing and other equipment of hunters and backpackers. They accompany pipeline, roadway and utility rights-of-way workers over long stretches of land. Not only are noxious weeds tough and persistent, they have abundant reproductive capacity. Many are deep-rooted, so that even if their tops are killed, they can regenerate from root segments that remain viable deep in the soil. Many are prolific seed producers, and most are perennials.

Before man settled in this area, grasses and other native vegetation grew so thick and in such balance that plant life not native to the area could not gain a foothold. But as settlers replaced nomadic Native Americans, fencing and overgrazing quickly thinned native grasses, allowing weeds to take hold. Movement of hay and other feeds containing weed seeds established infestations where none existed before.

...
Reading the Label

Before you buy a pesticide, read the label to determine:
- whether the pesticide is used for the job
- whether the pesticide can be used safely under the application conditions.
- the mixing procedure.

Before you mix the pesticide, read the label to determine:
- what protective equipment you should use,
- what the pesticide can be mixed with (compatibility),
- how much pesticide to use,
- the mixing procedure.

Before you apply the pesticide, read the label to determine:
- what safety measures you should follow,
- where the pesticide can be used (livestock, crops, structures etc.),
- when to apply the pesticide (including the waiting period for crops and animals),
- how to apply the pesticide,
- whether there are any restrictions for use of the pesticide.

Before you store or dispose of the pesticide or pesticide container, read the label to determine:
- where and how to store the pesticide,
- how to decontaminate and dispose of the pesticide container,
- where to dispose of surplus pesticides.

Weed Awareness

NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL AUTHORITY NEWS
Rusell Shultz, Superintendent
Jennifer Lynn, Chief Inspector

Musk Thistle in Alfalfa

There are many 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 cuttings were made. As a result, any movement of this hay disseminated Musk Thistle seed. Fall emerging rosettes should be controlled in October and November, and Spring emerging rosettes in April.

Scout your alfalfa fields for Musk Thistles/rosettes. They begin showing up by the last week in September. These plants can be controlled by severing their roots by hand digging or spot spraying with Roundup. Velpar will provide some control. A light tillage operation with a spring tooth, or similar implement, will 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. Flowering must be prevented to avoid a quarantine of the field. Quantailes Next Spring

We will be placing a quarantine on alfalfa fields that have flowering Musk Thistle next spring as any fields that are quarantined will require that all the hay produced from this year's musk thistle be controlled before the hay is cut in order to move the hay from the premises. There are no known treatments to remove the musk thistle seed from the hay once it has been harvested.

Speaking Naturally

Noxious Weeds: Awareness Is the First Step

Weeds are a subject that may not immediately pique your interest. Before you turn the page because you feel weeds are of no concern, take a minute to think of your own property. The thistles in the garden and out by the road or the dandelions and ragweed in the lawn may be no more than an inconvenience to you. Most people, once the dandelions stop blooming and they have chopped a thistle or two, don’t give weeds a second thought. We think we have eliminated the weeds most evident to us, but this is not the case. The weeds are still there, still spreading, but our awareness of them stops, at least until next season.

Effective awareness means defining. When asked if they are aware of weeds, most people respond, “Yes, I know there are weeds.” But effective awareness is more than the simple knowledge that weeds exist. Effective weed awareness means we understand the negative impact of weeds on our environment. Effective noxious weed awareness is the first step toward solving our weed problems.

Often we are aware of the discomfort caused by a runny nose, itchy eyes, and scratchy skin. We recall the dust and sweat created from yard work. We are aware of the fact that our livestock doesn’t seem to have enough to eat, even though the pastures still appear green. Our awareness possibly extends to the inconvenience of wading through prickly vegetation to a favorite fishing spot.

Effective weed awareness is understanding that these conditions are directly caused by weeds. It is not enough to say “Yes, I know there are weeds.” It is essential that we understand — that we are aware — of the negative impact weeds make on our everyday lives. An additional reason that noxious weeds present such a threat is their magnitude. We may grasp that weeds growing on our property or on nearby land, irritate our bodies and drain our pocketbooks. We comprehend the impact on our homes and surrounding environment, but it is difficult to extend this comprehension to encompass the millions of acres of weeds that exist. Millions of acres of anything, especially weeds, are like millions of miles of ocean. It’s difficult to wrap our minds around such large numbers. The fact remains — with or without our ability to envision vast areas of our state infested with weeds — the weeds, knapweeds, spurge, toadflax, and other no weeds continue to spread.

Noxious weeds ruin things for all of us. They can render sports and recreation areas useless — and destroy the businesses that serve them. Parks, preserves, and even wilderness areas lose their attractiveness for visitors and hunters. Weeds harm public health, crops, livestock, and our land. To sportsmen, hunters, and tourists, weed infestations can decrease the quality of recreation.

One key to understanding the serious nature of noxious weeds is this — most noxious weeds do not fit in our world. By definition, a weed is simply a plant out of place. For instance, a rose in a corn field is a weed. Noxious weeds exceed this definition because most species are not a part of the historical, natural eco-system. With few exceptions they are not utilized for grazing nor as habitat. Noxious weeds are introduced plant species. Although not native to the Western United States, most noxious weeds are highly adaptive and thrive here.

Many noxious weeds were introduced by our pioneer ancestors who unknowingly utilized weed-contaminated hay or grain as they settled the West. Regardless of their method of introduction, once here, noxious weeds spread.

We encourage you to become more knowledgeable about noxious weeds. Visit with your local county extension agent, county weed supervisor, or federal land manager and park ranger about weeds in our area. Our natural resource heritage depends on your involvement.

A Natural Resource Report

Target Musk Thistle Rosettes

The musk thistle rossette is a tightly packed cluster of coarsely lobed leaves, may reach three to five feet in diameter by the end of the growing season, says Dr. Walter Fick, Kansas State University (KSU) range management research agronomist. It’s the best target for herbicide treatment because after the thistle bolt, control with herbicides becomes difficult.

“Musk thistle usually grows as a winter annual or biennial, producing a rosette the first year and developing seeds and flowers the second year,” Fick says. “But it has been observed as a summer annual, completing its life cycle from germination through seed production in the same growing season.”

Chemical control is most effective when the rosette is growing rapidly with adequate soil moisture and favorable air temperatures (70 to 90 degrees F), Fick says. “RSU research has shown that if herbicide is applied after the flower stalk develops (referred to as bolting), musk thistle control decreases by 20 percent or more. Also, treatment while the thistles are in bloom reduces, but does not prevent viable seed production.”

Musk thistle usually starts bolting in June and may bloom from seven to nine weeks. Many farmers are wrapping up spring planting at this time, so typically a spring spray program for thistles is inconvenient. The musk thistle won’t wait. Seed dispersal begins seven to 10 days after bloom. Most of these seeds germinate the year they are produced, however, some may remain viable several years, he says.

For these reasons, specialists advise farmers to attack thistles in the fall, when they have more time to spray and thistles haven’t bolted.
Teleconference to Stress Children's Nutrition and Health

Improving children's nutrition and health will be the focus of the Lancaster County 4-H Club parent and leader meeting. The teleconference will be broadcast by satellite from the Nebraska State Office. Participants are encouraged to call a friend or neighbor and invite them to participate in the teleconference.

Home Extension club and council members are reminded that the fall achievement program will be held on October 28. The theme for the event, according to Amie Motz, chairwoman of the planning committee, will be "International Flair."

Four-H'ers in Lancaster County can also enroll in Home Extension club members presented a skit to show what to do in emergencies when an emergency strikes. With the help of Leader Carolyn Bowman, club members will practice making an arm sling on Laura Bowman. The 4-H'ers will also learn about fire safety and first aid. Training options will include BB gun safety, archery, and 4-H shooting sports instructors. The annual camp at Somerset Campground is set for November 2 and 3 at the Ramada Inn in Kearney.

Salute To 4-H Stars!

Members and leaders of the stars of the 4-H program will be honored at the Lancaster County 4-H Club parent and leader meeting. The theme for the event, according to Amie Motz, chairwoman of the planning committee, will be "International Flair."

Four-H'ers from across Nebraska have the opportunity to do just that at the 1992 State 4-H Volunteer Leaders Recognition Banquet scheduled for January 25 at the Ramada Inn in Kearney. The weekend will include speakers who will strengthen the 4-H volunteer network and help them to work with youth and other adults. In addition, 4-H leaders will be able to attend workshops, leadership camps, and conferences. For more information, contact Marilee for more information and registration deadline is January 15, 1992.

Recipe Makeovers — LEAN and Lite Workshop

Enjoy a new, lighter version of your favorite recipes. Get tips on how to reduce the fat, cholesterol, sugar, calories, and salt in your current recipes and still keep the taste you like. Receive a booklet on adapting the ingredients in your recipes for improved nutrition. Fee is $5.

Healthy Heart Food Tour

Monday, November 4, 1:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. - Cottontails about cholesterol? Frustrated about fat? Take a Healthy Heart Food Tour! Unsure about sodium? Concerned about calories? On the Healthy Heart Food Tour registered dietitian will help you learn about food choices which foods are heart healthy and how to生活质量.

Fee: $5 - in advance to Cooperative Extension.

Other Programs:

Scheduled Individually for your group or organization

Contact Alice Henneman for more information or to schedule these programs. A minimum of 10 participants is requested.

Scheduling flyer available.

Department of Extension, 4-H Program.

The NEBLINE

Volume 25.

October 1991

Swinne Carcass Winners

The 1991 Lancaster County Fair 4-H Swine Carcass Contest involved 24 exhibitors with 18 of youth bringing home premium placements. The grand champion this year was Dustin Lovorn of Hickman and the reserve grand champion was Nathan Dowdell of Bremen.

Other Side

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LABO Visit Lancaster County

by Becky Vahle

4-H Ambassadors

The LABO Visit Lancaster County is a chain of islands which stretch for 2,000 miles along the northeastern coast of Asia. There are 118 million people living in Japan, an area the size of Montana. In August, we had the opportunity to meet five of Japanese students visiting Lincoln. The LABO exchange program brought 56 Japanese to Nebraska, and sent 40 Nebraskans to Japan.

Geoffrey Stevens, state extension specialist, had staff member Mika Nakayama staying with her. Nakayama taught Ms. Stevens' children, Stephanie and Michael Neruda, how to do origami and calligraphy. Nakayama, who loves to flamenco dance, commented about her stay, “I love taking a walk, traveling and seeing Michael practice his demonstration. I don’t see much of public speaking in Japan. We (tend to be) poor communicators.” Shihoko Nakajimeno, 26-year-old student staying with the Max McHale family, knew very little English, but understood the words “World of Fun.” All of the students and their host families were expected about the Czech Days in Lincoln and visiting country fair. In fact, most of the LABO students in Lancaster County exhibited at the county fair and helped with events their host families were involved in. Judy Jansen’s visitor, Manami Kitamuro, knew enough English to say, “America’s friendly.” It was really exciting to see people from different cultures wanting to learn from one another, especially when language was not a common factor.

If your family is interested in hosting a student next year or you’re interested in traveling to Japan, contact the extension office for more information.

Graze Pastures Lightly This Fall

Fall rains usually come along and stimulate regrowth of drought-stressed pastures. After many weeks without sufficient grass supplies for cattle, it is tempting to use this new growth to cut back severely. However, it is important to avoid grazing the new growth early this fall. Grazing may be more rapid than if grazing is limited to the fall. Grazing will allow the pasture maximum recovery from drought, avoid grazing this fall. Instead, feed drought-stressed harvested forage, corn silage, sorghum silage, sudan or millet hay, etc., in place of pasture (WS).

Neble Feedback Form

In order to best serve our subscribers, we will be offering a new feedback form to appear in every issue of the Neble. You can use this form to:
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3. submit general comments and/or story ideas.

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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.

October 1 Cat VIPS Meeting
7 p.m.

October 1 Household Pets VIPS Meeting
7 p.m.

October 10 Rabbit VIPS Meeting
7:30 p.m.

October 14 Horse VIPS Meeting
7:30 p.m.

October 22 Recipe Makeovers LEAN and Light Workshop
1 to 2:30 or 7 to 8:30 p.m.

November 4 & 5 Alive Driving Workshop
10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

November 5 4-H Council
7:30 p.m.

The NEBLINE Nebraska Cooperative Extension Newsletter Lancaster County

The Neble is edited by Mark D. Hendricks, Extension Assistant, Media, and Eini K. Nyman, Extension Assistant, Marketing. It is published monthly by the University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension in Lancaster County, 444 Cherry Creek Road, Lincoln, Nebraska, 68528. For more information, contact Mark Hendricks at (402) 471-7180.

Don D. Miller
Extension Agent, Chair, Lancaster County

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