10-1992

The NEBLINE, October 1992

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City bans yard waste from landfill

Beginning October 1 garbage hauled with yard waste with trash because the city will no longer bury yard waste in the landfill. Instead, hauled waste is providing a separate collection of yard waste for a fee. This applies to all residential units and businesses which generate yard waste. Yard waste is defined as grass clippings and leaves. Items such as hedge and tree trimmings, nosy seeds and garden waste can be mixed with trash. The yard waste is taken to a new composting facility near the Bluff Road landfill for processing. There is a charge of $10.75 per ton for material deposited at the site. The city estimates that roughly 17 percent of the residential and commercial waste stream is yard waste. Roughly 20,000 tons or 2,000 garbage trucks full of grass clippings and leaves per year will be collected through this program for composting. The city also anticipates that an equal amount of yard waste will be mulched or composted on people's property. It is estimated that the diversion of the yard waste will add about three years to the life of the Bluff Road landfill. In addition, a beneficial soil amendment will be made available for Lincoln residents. Phone preparation and of a year-long process to reduce the amount of waste entering the Bluff Road landfill. It also complies with a new state law which will ban yard waste entering landfills across the state, effective in September, 1994. Due to the cost of separating plastic bags from the compost material, the city has prohibited their use for grass clippings and leaves. Instead the city would like households to use regular trash containers with tight fitting lids or 90 gallon cans that some of the haulers are offering as part of their yard waste collection. To supplement these containers, local retailers are making available 30 gallon paper lawn bags that easily decompose in the compost pile. Plastic bags can still be used for household trash, however, the city asks that the bags be placed in containers with tight fitting lids. Residents were given the opportunity to subscribe to specific types of service such as fall leaves only collection or once or twice per week trash collection. Initial response varies among neighborhoods but roughly 40 to 60 percent of the households have subscribed to either the fall only or year round collection of yard waste.

The University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension in Lancaster County is working with the city to coordinate a program to encourage waste reduction and recycling of yard waste through mulching and composting of yard waste. For additional information on the yard waste composting program contact the Lincoln Recycling Office voice mail answering system at 471-8215 and leave a message. Individuals interested in obtaining more information about composting or mulching can contact the University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension in Lancaster County at 471-7180. A Master Composter will respond to inquiries and can be left on voice mail after office hours. (MD/PH)

Wildlife workshops to air

The University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension in Lancaster County is working in cooperation with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission to host several wildlife workshops this fall. The workshops will be distributed across the state simultaneously to nearly 85 down link sites using the NEBSAT system.

Workshops scheduled for this fall include:
- Deer Hunting. October 14, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.
- Wild Game Processing - Preparation and Cooking, October 21, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.
- Waterfowl Hunting. November 4, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.
- Ice Fishing Techniques. December 9, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.
- Farm Pond and Sandpit Management - February
- Spring Turkey Hunting - March
- Attracting Birds to Your Backyard - April
- Pan Fishing Techniques - May
- Turkey Hunting - June

The workshops will be held at the Lancaster Extension Conference Center, 444 Cherry Creek Road, Lincoln. (DV/PH)

Swine carcass winners announced

Congratulations to Maria Tvrda, Lincoln and Brad Corr, Eagle for winning the Reserve Grand Champion title in the 1992 Lancaster County Fair 4-H Swine Carcass Contest. (DV)
Timely care needed for hardy chrysanthemums

Hardy mums may well be the best known fall-flowering perennial. Two questions often asked now about mums are “What do I do to the mums now?” and “What can be done to insure their winter survival?”

The quality of the mum plants in the fall as well as the growth and quantity of the flowers depends on the care that was given to them during the season. Fertilizing mums with a soluble fertilizer is usually helpful in the fall. The flowers show color. Watering during the growing season is also important, especially during drought periods. As soon as the flowers are killed by a hard freeze, the stems should be cut back to the ground. The word “cut” should be emphasized for the term “pruning” as the mums will give you the sites where they’re adapted to growing conditions and the flowers show color. Watering during the growing season is also important, especially during drought periods.

Mum plants properly mulched or even just left alone will survive and carry over winter. Those that have been mulched will send up early growth in the spring. The first killing frost need not spell the end of your flowering plants. You can save a few plants from frost and grow them as house plants.

Save annuals from frost

The first killing frost need not spell the end of your flowering annuals. You can save a few plants from frost and grow them as house plants.

Coleus, geraniums, impatiens and zinnias can be grown indoors in the winter. The key is to provide them with enough light to prevent long and straggly leaves from becoming sparse and small. Coleus can also be grown in the fall. If your coleus is growing quite slowly. Place straw or shredded leaves over the mold for additional protection. After the leaves turn brown, the stems can be cut down to about two inches above the ground. For proper care and maintenance, adequate winter mulch applied over the mums at the proper time. This assures that the mums have entered the fall in good, healthy condition in order for them to survive. However, mulch has two critical components. Do not apply mulch over the mums or other perennials until the soil has been killed down after several frosts and if the area tends to be a little wet at the time of mulching. Good winter mulch for mums can be a three-inch layer of shredded leaves, clean straw or pine needles. If this mulch is applied while the soil is still fairly warm, the roots may not reach a completely dormant stage and winter injury can occur.

The word “hardy” chrysanthemums are used, since these should survive from year to year. Since florist mums are grown for their blooming properties, they may not make it through the winter when planted in the landscape. (MDM)

Preserving the garden gourd

Garden gourds can last for years. And they can be easily grown in a variety of shapes and colors to suit your taste. One thing you must do to preserve them is to keep the leaves on the vine until they fully dry. Harvest and preservation methods make the difference between biggish decorations and rotting remains. To start with, leave the gourds on the vine until they fully dry. Harvest the gourds inside with a small bag and wash with a little soap and water to which a little disinfectant or chlorine bleach has been added. The object is to wash away any soil or organisms that could cause the gourd to mold, dry, and rot. Gifts that can be transported and mailed to cold climates exist. The best thing you can do is to store the gourds in a place that gets plenty of bright light. A sunny south window or under artificial light is a good place. Place cuttings out of direct sunlight and water as needed to keep the soil moist. At that point you’re ready for the final preservation stage. Apply several layers of paraffin or wax followed by a small floor wax to the gourd’s shell. A second layer of paraffin or wax is needed. This is on top of that. The object is to wash away any soil or organisms that could cause the gourd to mold, dry, and rot. The gourd should emit a hard ring when tapped. When the gourd is dry, cut it into two-inch chunks. The gourd is ready to be transplanted into four-inch pots or house plant pots. Use a soil mixture of one part soil, one part sand and one part peat. Plants grown under artificial light will tend to be bushier and more compact and less likely to bloom during the winter than those grown in natural light. A combination of one warm white and one cool white is recommended, but all cool white bulbs is OK. The best way to provide plants with 12 to 16 hours of light per day is to put the lights on a timer that turns them on and off automatically. If plants are near a sunny south window, lighting them for a few hours in the evening is sufficient.

Peony disease control

Now’s the time to control next year’s peony diseases. Botrytis blight is caused by a fungus that overwinters on dead peony leaves, stem and roots. The easiest control is sanitation by removing the plant tops (bury or burn them) this month. Cut the tops off flush with the top of the ground. (DJ)

Gardening gypsum hotline

The first killing frost need not spell the end of your flowering plants. You can save a few plants from frost and grow them as house plants.

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Fall is optimum time for alfalfa weed control

Fall is an excellent time to control weeds in established alfalfa. Fall weed control can be conducted either late fall or early spring. Many of the weeds that will be controlled during this period of time are biennials or perennials that have overwintered as crowns or rhizomes. Control of these weeds will not only provide for a better looking crop in the future, but it will also reduce competition for water, nutrients, and light. Fall weed control is also advantageous because it is conducted at a time when the quantity of water required is low. This allows for the use of herbicides with limited environmental impact. However, it is important to use the correct herbicide for the specific weed species present in the field.

**Mice and Rats**

Effective control of invading mice and rats involves removal of potential food sources and nesting areas. Mice and rats are nocturnal rodents that thrive in environments with abundant food sources and shelter. They are attracted to areas where there is moisture, warmth, and darkness. For more information on controlling mice and rats, please refer to the University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension publication “Controlling Mice and Rats in Your Home”.

**Nuisance by Damaging Stored Grain Items**

Animals such as birds, squirrels, and raccoons are common pests that can cause significant damage to stored grain items. These animals will seek shelter in grain bins, silos, and other storage structures during the winter months. To prevent damage to stored grain, it is important to take preventative measures. Often, this involves the use of natural predators to control pest populations. Natural predators such as birds, hawks, and owls can be effective in reducing pest populations.

**Pest Prevention**

Ounce of pest prevention worth pound of cure! Since the fall is optimum time for alfalfa weed control, it is important to take steps to prevent the growth of weeds in the spring. This can be done by applying herbicides before the weeds have reached their maximum size. Other preventative measures include the use of crop rotation, the application of mulch, and the use of cover crops.

**Grain a little wet?**

The 1992 harvest season, as of the copy deadline for this issue of the NEBLINE, appeared to have the potential to pose some challenges in the area of grain handling for area producers. The first objective, of course, is to harvest the grain. Then for some producers another task is apparent. How do I store this grain to maintain quality? (For tips on how to effectively use natural air drying, see related article below.)

**Natural air drying**

Natural air drying times vary in Nebraska depending on 1) harvest date; 2) moisture content; 3) airflow; and 4) local weather conditions. Fan operation for airflow is usually started in mid-October. A cool fall may require fans to operate three times as many hours as in a warm fall. Whereas grain may be dry in November during a warm fall, it may take until April to complete the process when experiencing a cool fall.

Grain in a bin does not unit-dry uniformly. Drying occurs in a 1–2 foot zone which moves through the grain (see figure 1). The moisture content of corn behind this zone approaches equilibrium with the drying air. The moisture content at the corn surface may be 12% or more. Weather conditions have less impact on drying zone movement. Drying air conditions do affect the moisture content of the grain below the drying zone. Use Table 1 to determine the moisture content to which corn will dry for a given air temperature and relative humidity (see Table 2 for corn sorghum). For example, 35 degrees Fahrenheit at 70% relative humidity will dry corn to 15.4% moisture.

Supplemental heat may be added in late fall to help prevent wetting corn behind the drying zone. This can eliminate the need for moving a second drying zone through the grain in spring. Adding heat can be a good preventive measure to lower moisture content. Overdrying occurs if supplemental heat levels are too high for the airflow rate. Higher air temperatures may even create mold problems in the wet zone. Use Table 1 to determine the moisture content to which corn can dry for a given air temperature and relative humidity (see Table 2 for corn sorghum)
Take the Challenge: Be a Leaner Eater
Challange 13: Eating a Holiday
The following is part of a yearlong series on healthy eating. It’s based on materials developed by Nebraska Project Lifeline. When you are the guest...you are in control of what you select, but not what is served...
•Offer to bring a dish. Prepare this dish with low-fat cooking methods or with a low-fat recipe. Be prepared to share the recipe with others.
•Identify the low-fat foods being served and build your meal around them.
•For your favorite foods that are high in fat, take smaller portions. It’s usually acceptable to cut a portion in half.
•When food is part of your festival...don’t let your good intentions eat low-fat collapses...
•Try a few special low-fat recipes ahead of your party; include the ones you like in your holiday celebrations.
This recipe can be the beginning of new low-fat traditions.
•Plan for balance and moderation. Remember: fruits, vegetables, grains, low-fat dairy products and lean meats are ideal when you want to eat lean. Include foods from each group in your meal, and you won’t have room to overindulge. Holidays can be challenging times for the leaner eater. Take the challenge! Be a leaner eater, but don’t give up flavor and the fun of eating the finest foods...set out to enjoy everything in moderation. Good health takes more than a diet of low-fat foods; it requires many nutrients that can be found only in a diet with variety including fruits, vegetables, low-fat dairy foods, grains and lean meats. Happy Celebrations! You don’t have to give up special celebration foods to be a leaner eater, just use a few tricks to skim some fat out of your holiday!
Holidays and parties are times when rich foods are part of the tradition. Take a look at some favorites:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Calories</th>
<th>Grams</th>
<th>% Calories</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fudge, 1 square</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheeseball, 2 Tablespoons</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egg nog, no alcohol, 1/2 cup</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shortbread, 1 cookie</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pecan Pie, 1/8 of 9&quot; pie</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chocolate birthday cake, 2&quot; square</td>
<td>233</td>
<td>10.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you set out to avoid all the foods that have fat, you will probably miss them. Missing them may cause you to overindulge. Instead, set out to enjoy everything in moderation. Try a few of these tips to skim the fat, but not the flavor, out of your holiday celebrations:

1. When you are the host...you’ll want to please your guests! Your guests may be hoping you’ll serve some low-fat foods...
   • Include several low-fat foods along with the traditional foods your guests will expect. Many people will appreciate the low-fat choices.
   • Allow your guests to choose the foods they want; don’t force extra portions.
   • When possible, serve your food from one location. This technique allows guests to stand away from the food where they won’t be tempted to overindulge.

Challenge:
Now take a moment to plan a strategy that you can use to control the amount of high-fat foods you eat at a celebration. Think of your favorite party food; then write down at least two strategies you can use to control the portion you eat.

My favorite party food is _________________________________ (example: chips and dip, fried mushrooms, nuts, etc.)
I will try these strategies to eat lean at my next party:

1. _________________________________
2. _________________________________
Planning ahead is a key to successful low-fat eating! Congratulations! You have completed the challenge.

Important Information
Look for an evaluation of our continuing series on lean eating in the November NEBRINE. Return the evaluation and have your name entered in a drawing for a hard cover, 542 page, American Heart Association Cookbook, courtesy of the Heart Association. Our thanks to the Lincoln Division of the American Heart Association for their cooperation in helping promote low-fat eating! (AHE)

Nutrition & Food Safety Programs 92
All programs, unless otherwise noted, will be held at the Lancaster Extension Conference Center, 444 Cherrybrook Drive, Off State Road 271, 40 miles Northwest of Lincoln. For more information or to register:

Body Image — What You Weigh or What You Wear
Tuesday, October 20, 1 - 3 p.m. and 7 - 9 p.m.
Do you feel you’re about 5 to 20 pounds above your “ideal” weight and that you’d like to look more slender? Are you satisfied with your current weight but still feel that you “look” overweight? Would you like to learn more about whether you’re at a “healthy” weight? Participants will receive a 15-page handout. Fee is $5. NOTE: The fee for 4-H leaders, junior leaders and parents is $3.

Coffee and Conversation About series ...Cooking With Younger Kids
Saturday, October 3, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.
This class can help if you’d like to start cooking with your 5 or 6 year old but have concerns about finding the right balance, using a variety of foods, recipes, age-appropriate activities and avoiding kitchen accidents. Fee is $1.

Indulging Without Bulging
Saturday, November 14, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.
Learn MORE about eating LESS (while still enjoying food!) in situations such as parties; eating out, family gatherings, afterwork socializing, business meals, receptions/tast/e etc. Fee is $1.

Nolan’s Comments
Your club is now reorganized, dues are paid. We’re all set for another year. I hope that this change went well.
Next change, a different name, Nebraska Association for Family and Consumer Sciences. Before you get all upset, think about it for a little while. Maybe for someone who has never heard about us this name might be more descriptive of what we are really about and what we do.
October, a beautiful month in Nebraska. Take time to enjoy the nature around you. Also, take time to enjoy our activities.

Proclamation
Whereas: The family is the core of society; and
Whereas: The well-being of the family is dependent upon the development of the value system; and
Whereas: The homemaker has the responsibility to guard the morals and ideals of the family; and
Whereas: Extension Homemaker club members continue in the education program in cooperation with the Cooperative Extension in making significant betterment of family living; and
Whereas: We recognize this great undertaking;
Now therefore, I, Carole Dueschot, council chair, do proclaim October 11 through 17 National Extension Homemaker Weeks.

The NCHESC District D Fall meeting will be held in Syracuse on October 26. This will probably be the last district meeting as such (another change). If you would like to go, it is open to any member; let me know, we need to register by October 12.

Achievement Day will be Monday, October 26
10 a.m. Registration and coffee
10:30 Learnshop - Attic Baskets and Calico by Roxanne O’Hare
11:45 - 12:30 p.m. Luncheon - Bring a healthy covered dish
12:30 Sing Along
12:50 District D Director - Peggy Leahy
1 Women and Health - Peg Peterson
2 Humming Birds - Cathy Christensen

Tables will be set up for displays. We would like for those of you who entered the cultural area contest to bring your entries for all to see. If you are asked to bring some of your hand work, it’s fun to see what everyone has made.

Don’t forget Council meeting, September 28, 7 to 9 p.m.

Carole Dueschot, Home Extension Club Council Chair

Home Extension News Briefs
“Catering as a Business” Workshop
AllREALsheld on business aspects of catering will be held Monday, November 16. The program is targeted to persons already involved in catering as well as those interested in starting a catering business. Call 471-7180 for more information and a registration form. (AH)

55 Alive Mature Driving Course
Cy Miller, representative for the AARP Mature Driving Course, will be teaching 55 Alive, an eight hour class, on Monday and Thursday, November 9 and 12, from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. each day. Registration fee for the complete course is $8. Interested persons are asked to register for the class by phoning the extension office, 471-7180. Participants are asked to bring a sack lunch. Beverages will be available. (LB)

World Food Day is held annually to commemorate the creation of the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (UN/FAO). The all-day event will be held Friday, October 16 at the East Campus Union. Sponsors of the event are the International Programs Division of IANR, the Nebraska Department of Agriculture and the Lincoln International Student Coordinator, the public relations office for the program. Please call the International Programs office (472-2758) for more information. (IJ)

EPNF EP Pyramid Goes National
The July NEBRINE reported on the food pyramid puzzle developed by the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EPFEP) for summer programming in the parks. The pyramid puzzle has continued to be a popular activity at community sites and with other 4-H groups.
On August 13, 1992 the puzzle, as it was presented at the Malone Community Center by Sondra Phillips, nutrition advisor, was included as part of a national satellite video conference sponsored by the Cooperative Extension- USDA. The broadcast featured information on the research base supporting the food guide pyramid, and also highlighted ways in which the pyramid had been used in educational programs throughout the United States. (IJ)

Fall Money Management Classes
Home “Updates” That Increase Resale Value Workshop
Thursday, October 22, 1 - 3:30 and 7 - 8:30 p.m.
When remodeling or redecorating, consider which improvements also add to resale value. Learn which features appeal most to future owners. Joan Anderson, a licensed realtor with a Ph.D. in communication sciences, will be the presenter of the workshop. The class fee is $8 for a couple sharing materials, payable at the door. To register or for more information, call 471-7180.

How to Calculate Net Worth — How Much Is Enough?
Thursday, November 12, 1:30 or 7:30 p.m.
The most exciting concept you can learn is knowing your current financial situation by doing a net worth statement. Learn how to calculate your net worth and use this information to aid you checking progress toward financial goals. Marilyn Scheinost, a certified financial planner with a master’s degree in consumer science, will be the presenter. The class fee is $4 per person or $8 for couple sharing materials.
Salute to 4-H Stars!

Members and leaders are the stars of the 4-H program. Two upcoming events salute these stars.

Tuesday, October 27, 4-H members' accomplishments will be celebrated at the annual 4-H Achievement Night. 4-H members receiving county awards and scholarships will be honored at the event beginning at 7:30. All 4-H families and friends are welcome to help recognize these members. The county award books and scholarship applications are due by October 1.

Leaders and other volunteers will be honored at the 4-H Honors Banquet, Tuesday, November 17. Special recognition will be given to meritorious service recipients, VIPs, 4-H-ers, 4-H Council members, 4-H Recruiters and 5, 10, 15, 20 and 25 year leaders. Join us as we salute our 4-H stars!

Pictured are some of the club members with their t-shirts. The front of the shirt features a cat face incorporating a "Paws & Claws" clover. The back spells out the club name in fuzzy paws and white sharpened claws. Members, leaders and family members as club supporters, were allowed to pick their own shirt color, red, white or blue. A visible sign of 4-H-er participation are the paw prints earned by taking part in club, county and state 4-H activities. (Examples: demonstrations, club meetings, showmanship, leadership, etc.) (ALH)

Community service?

Lincoln Center Kiwanis needs volunteers, 4-H members or adults, to help clear and set tables at their annual pancake feed, Thursday, November 5. Two shifts are available, 5:00-6:30 p.m. or 6:15-7:30 p.m. If you or your club would like to help, call Lorene at 471-7180. Kiwanis supports many 4-H activities throughout the year.

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Musk Thistle poses real threat to grassland areas

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

Forage losses can be quite high. One musk thistle per square foot can reduce bromegrass 33 percent, and densely infested areas are inaccessible to livestock, even causing a 100 percent loss of grazing potential in the infested area. This clearly cuts carrying capacity.

Unfortunately, when musk thistle goes untreated, it invades water sources. Even small stands of boiled musk thistle is sprayed or mowed before it sets seed, it has, thus far, been much less damaging to pasture.

Treatments

Use herbicides to contain large infestations in open pastures, CRP, and non-agricultural areas. Dazzle treatments are the standard, while frequent mowing or digging are options with small infestations.

In general, fall application for musk thistle starts around October 1. Spraying with Tordon 22 can occur until the ground freezes, or until musk thistle is growing for the season after a hard, killing frost. Other effective herbicides are Lactofen, but Tordon 22, LDE and LVE may be used in combination with the above named herbicides or used by itself.

Quarantines to be placed on musk thistle infested alfalfa fields next spring

There are many alfalfa fields throughout the county with Musk Thistle infestations. Mowing was not an effective method of control in these fields, since some musk thistles 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.

Use alfalfa fields for Musk Thistle rosettes. They begin showing up by the last week in October. These plants can be controlled by severing their roots by hand digging or spot spraying roundup. Vequon will provide some control. A light tillage operation with a spring tooth, or a disk, would also provide some control. You would have to weigh the advantage of this type of tillage against possible damage to the alfalfa crowns. Flowering must be prevented to avoid a quarantine of the field.

Quarantines next spring

We will be placing quarantine on alfalfa fields that have flowering Mus Thistle next spring. Fields that are quarantined will require that all the blooming musk thistle be controlled before the hay is baled. The hay can then be sold if it meets the quarantine standards. Quarantines next year will be placed on alfalfa fields that have musk thistle. Any fields that do have musk thistle will require that all the blooming musk thistle be controlled before the hay is baled. In addition to the hay baled, the hay made from the premises. There are no known treatments to remove this type of hay once it has been harvested.

Musk Thistle control

The Nebraska Noxious Weed Control Act gives the authority to field personnel to enter upon all lands within Lancaster County, whether public or private, to make inspections, collect samples, control noxious weed infestations, etc., as part of their prescribed duties.

Legal Notice

If noxious weeds are found on property, documentation and mapping of the infestation is completed while on-site. When returned to the office, the legal land ownership is determined from County Assessor’s office and records of Deeds. A Legal Notice for Control is then sent to the landowner of record by certified mail.

Ten day control period

By law, every landowner receiving a Legal Notice for Control through this office is allowed ten days to control the infestation. The legal notice also specifies recommendations by the County Weed Control Superintendent for the time of year that is best for control, both chemical and nonchemical control means.

Forced control

After the ten days has gone by, the legal notice will be used to verify the type and amount of control, if any, the landowner has made. If there has been no action, or if control efforts made by the landowner were insufficient to control the noxious weeds, the property is referred to the enforcement team for Forced- Control.

Possible Fine

The enforcement division prioritizes uncontrolled infestations by size and stage of growth, and schedules the inspection of the county control work on each property, as time and resources allow. The 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, in turn, bills the landowner for the work done, plus inspection fee. If the bill is not paid 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.

Weed Awareness

Due to the cool weather, the noxious weed season has continued to the end of July instead of the end of June. Landowners had to provide additional follow-up control to deal with late maturing plants and the many musk thistle that acted like spring annuals. The weed control authorities responded well to this difficult season.

Private and public landowners put out an extra effort to keep noxious weeds under control. As a result noxious weed control accomplishments were outstanding. Following is a summary of the inspection and accomplishments.

21% more inspections

A total of 2,112 musk thistle inspections were made compared to 1,748 in 1991. These inspections on over 20,000 acres located 1,399 musk thistle infestations. The largest number of infestations were on non-agricultural land (66%). The most acres were found in pastures (45%). Non agricultural land had 1,335 infestations on 1,143 acres. Pastures had 65 infestations on 1,564 acres, 523 notices and 742 letters were sent to landowners with infestations.

335 leafy spurge inspections were made. 109 of the inspections were on private land and 226 on public land. 98 notices were sent to private land owners and 6 letters were sent to public land managers. 27 inspections were made of Canada thistle infestations. One inspection found diffuse knapweed which was added to the noxious weed list last year.

93% of infestations were controlled.

1,391 of 1,399 musk thistle infestations were controlled. This was a 11% increase in infestations controlled over last year even though this was a very difficult year to control musk thistle. Landowners controlled 2,993 infestations on 2,640 acres. Inspectors completed the control on 2,626 infestations that covered 2,219 acres. 33 forced controls were carried out on 165 acres.

There were 94 leafy spurge infestations on 552 acres of private land. 15 spraying sites on county roadsides were sprayed for the fourth year.

Problem sites scheduled for fall inspections

Inspection began September 14th on 719 sites. The sites selected for fall inspection were those that were not controlled this summer, that had a moderate or severe infestation, or was forced controlled. Notices will be sent to private landowners where musk thistle rosettes are found. Public land managers will send letters. Follow-up inspections will be made in all cases to assure that control is carried out. The 27 Canada thistle and one diffuse knapweed infestation will be inspected and sprayed this fall.

County road sides will be sprayed.

Inspections will be made of roadsides that were not sprayed this year and musk thistle this spring. All locations found to have rosettes will be sprayed this fall.

Quarantines to be placed on musk thistle infested alfalfa fields next spring

There are many alfalfa fields throughout the county with Musk Thistle infestations. Mowing was not an effective method of control in these fields, since some musk thistles 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.

Weed Awareness

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.

-Available to control weeds on his or her own property, as well as adjacent property.

-Knows the accepted control methods.

-Has a plan to control noxious weeds on his or her own property that includes:

-Inspections, notices and documentation as required by law.

-Spraying with the above named herbicides to contain large infestations of noxious weeds not previously documented in our records.

-For each of these, a first inspection is made. The Nebraska Noxious Weed Control Act gives the authority to field personnel to enter upon all lands within Lancaster County, whether public or private, to make inspections, collect samples, control noxious weed infestations, etc., as part of their prescribed duties.

Legal Notice

If noxious weeds are found on property, documentation and mapping of the infestation is completed while on-site. When returned to the office, the legal land ownership is determined from County Assessor’s office and records of Deeds. A Legal Notice for Control is then sent to the landowner of record by certified mail.

Ten day control period

By law, every landowner receiving a Legal Notice for Control through this office is allowed ten days to control the infestation. The legal notice also specifies recommendations by the County Weed Control Superintendent for the time of year that is best for control, both chemical and nonchemical control means.

Forced control

After the ten days has gone by, the legal notice will be used to verify the type and amount of control, if any, the landowner has made. If there has been no action, or if control efforts made by the landowner were insufficient to control the noxious weeds, the property is referred to the enforcement team for Forced-Control.

Possible Fine

The enforcement division prioritizes uncontrolled infestations by size and stage of growth, and schedules the inspection of the county control work on each property, as time and resources allow. The 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, in turn, bills the landowner for the work done, plus inspection fee. If the bill is not paid 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.
Noxious weed control in the city of Lincoln

Both public and private landowners have been well prepared to control musk thistle even though this cool wet year made it difficult. A special thanks to those involved with city right-of-ways and city parks for their extra effort. This spring and summer we made 980 inspections on 3,068 acres in Lincoln. We found 631 infestations on 796 acres. 585 (94%) of these infestations were controlled before they went to seed. 73 of these infestations were controlled by contractors or our inspectors. 62 of 36 of these infestations were not controlled before some of the infestation seeded out.

The owners of the land with these 36 infestations have already received a letter indicating that we expect them to control any musk thistle rosettes this fall. We will begin making inspections this fall beginning September 14, 1992 on 254 problem sites in the city.

Combined city and Noxious Weed Program began

The County Commissioners entered into an agreement with City effective September 1 to create a combined weed program. The City of Lincoln will be funding the cost of the noxious weed control program within their jurisdiction. The three city weed inspectors will be inspecting for noxious weeds as well as for their weed abatement programs under the supervision of the Lancaster County Noxious Weed Control Authority weed control superintendent March to November. Only one set of weed inspectors will be making inspections in Lincoln. The goal is to make both programs more effective and efficient.

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 this area (late March to early May and mid-September until two weeks before hard freezes); (3) considering fall treatments as your base program;

Plan long range to control musk thistle

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 a biennial it requires 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.

Before... read the label

Before you buy a pesticide, read the label to determine:

- whether it is the pesticide you need for the job
- whether the pesticide can be used under the application conditions
- what pesticide can be mixed with (compatibility)
- what pesticides will require surface
- what protective equipment you should use:

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),
- where and how to store the pesticide,
- how to decontaminate and dispose of the pesticide container,
- where to dispose of surplus pesticides.

Canada Thistle

Canada thistle (Cirsium arvense) is a troublesome weed. Rangeland is interspersed with grassy areas. These weeds are spread by seeds. It has a large root system which makes control difficult. The roots must be removed from the soil in order to control the weed. The roots can grow up to five years. Within three weeks after germination a new seedling has become a perennial plant. This weed is a perennial with an extensive root system and can spread over an area several feet in diameter. It can be irregular and deeply cut with spiny margins. The roots may produce up to five years. Within three weeks after germination a new seedling has become a perennial plant.

Be sure to mix the pesticide, read the label to determine:

- how to decontaminate and dispose of the pesticide container,
- where to dispose of surplus pesticides.

Leaky spurge will not go away

The problem of leaky spurge requires a long term solution. It spreads two ways: by seed and by root. Each seed can produce as many as 140 seeds. When seed capsules explode, they propel the seed up to 15 feet. Even if the seed does not land in good soil, the roots can grow for several years before becoming dormant. 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 area (late March to early May and mid-September until two weeks before hard freezes); (3) considering fall treatments as 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.

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.

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EFNEP & Lincoln Housing Authority work together

The need for nutrition education and prevention of nutrition-related problems is increasing in Lancaster County. Figures from many human service agencies indicate increased use of food stamps, community food pantries, community commercial food and food vouchers distributed by the Women, Infant, and Children's Program (WIC). Families utilizing food and clothing services through the People's City Mission have increased dramatically as have the number of families being housed at the City Mission. The notion that housing and food and nutrition problems often go hand in hand is supported by these facts.

In an effort to work with other agencies in the community to address these two related problems, the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) submitted a grant to the Lincoln Housing Authority proposing that the Authority partially fund an EFNEP nutrition advisor to work in Housing Authority units during the next year. Dave Murrell, executive director of the Housing Authority, was enthusiastic about the opportunity, and the grant was approved by the Housing Authority board. On September 4, Charlene Rollins, an EFNEP advisor, began working part-time with families in Housing Authority units. It is expected that as Charlene works with families, positive changes will be made not only in diets, but also in safety and sanitation practices in the home. As homemakers feel better as a result of improved nutrition and learn new skills, they are more likely to make positive changes in other areas of their lives. By working hand in hand, EFNEP and the Lincoln Housing Authority, hope to have positive impacts in the lives of people and in their development of lifelong skills which promote a higher quality of life for themselves and their families. (LJ)

EFNEP NEWS

Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program

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(Return of Nebraska Cooperative Extension in Lancaster County)

The NEBLINE

The NEBLINE is produced and edited by Jeff Gaskins, Extension Assistant, Marketing. It is published monthly by the University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension in Lancaster County, 444 Cherry Creek Road, Lincoln, Nebraska, 68528-1507. For more information, contact Jeff Gaskins at (402) 471-7180.

Notice!!!

All programs and events listed in this newsletter will be held at the Lancaster Extension Conference Center 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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68528-1507

Extension Calendar

September 28
Home Extension Club Council Meeting 7 p.m.

September 29
Bowhunter Safety Course 7-9:30 p.m.

October 1
Bowhunter Safety Course 7-9:30 p.m.
Hunter Safety Course Videoconference 6:30-9 p.m.

October 2
Paws & Claws Appreciation Night 7:30 p.m.

October 3
Cooking With Younger Kids 10:30 a.m.

October 4-10
Regional 4-H Week
Fire Prevention Week

October 6
Bowhunter Safety Course Videoconference 6:30-9 p.m.

October 8
Hunter Safety Course Videoconference 6:30-9 p.m.

October 11
Teen Council Meeting 2:30 p.m.

October 11-17
National Extension Homemakers Week

October 13
Horse VIPS Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Hunter Safety Course Videoconference 6:30-9 p.m.

October 14
Deer Hunting Videoconference 7:30-9:30 p.m.

October 20
Body Image: What You Weigh or What You Wear 1 or 7 p.m.
NCHEC District D Fall Meeting - Syracuse

October 21
Wild Game Processing, Preparation & Cooking Videoconference 7:30-9:30 p.m.

October 22
Home Updates That Increase Resale Value 1 or 7 p.m.

October 26
Home Extension Club Achievement Day 10 a.m.
Critter Sitters 4-H Club Meeting 7 p.m.

October 27
4-H Achievement Night 7:30 p.m.

October 31-November 1
4-H Halloween Camp - Eastern Nebraska 4-H Center

November 4
Waterfowl Hunting Videoconference 7:30-9:30 p.m.

November 5-8
North Central Regional 4-H Leaders Forum - Purdue University

November 9 & 12
AARP Mature Driving Course 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

November 12
How to Calculate Net Worth-How Much is Enough? 1 or 7 p.m.

November 14
Indulging Without Bulging 10:30 a.m.