Lower Platte South Natural Resources District Trails in Lancaster County Offer Recreation & Education

O

N THAT FIRST trail spring day, when you realize a jacket would be too warm, what’s the first thing you look for in the shed; a rake; your baseball glove? If you answered a tire pump or a saddle, you’re already aware of one of Lancaster County’s best assets; its recreational trails. The Lower Platte South Natural Resources District (LPS-NRD) has extended the City of Lincoln’s impressive system of non-motorized thoroughfares beyond the city limits to Cortland and Wabash, for not just city-dwellers to enjoy, but rural folks, too.

The LPS-NRD maintains more than 50 miles of crushed limestone trails that are both recreational and educational. That total includes the LPS-NRD’s 12-mile Oak Creek Trail, between Valparaiso and Brainard, but the majority of its trail miles reside along the MoPac East Trail and the Homestead Trail, right here in Lancaster County. LPS-NRD Resources Conservationist, Ariana Kennedy, said, “The LPS-NRD works hard to keep its trails open and safe and we think they’re among the best recreational trails anywhere.”

MoPac East Trail and Charles L. Warner Equestrian Trail

“The MoPac” is a former Missouri Pacific Railroad corridor deeded to the LPS-NRD in 1991, after private fundraising efforts by the Nebraska Trail Foundation and the Great Plains Trails Network. From a trailhead just south of “O” Street on 84th Street in Lincoln, the 25-mile trail takes users through Walton, Eagle, Elmwood, and Wabash. Trail parking is available in all of those towns. Restrooms and drinking water are provided at Lincoln, Walton, Eagle, and Elmwood.

The tightly-packed, crushed-limestone path is ideal for running and biking or exercise is your mission. A leisurely or moderate walk will allow you to better enjoy the rural scenery and wildlife. The Charles L. Warner Equestrian Trail begins at 98th and “A” streets and parallels the main trail to 1.5 miles north of Elmwood. The 98th Street trailhead has plenty of space for horse trailers.

Nebraska Hall of Fame author Bess Streeter Aldrich made her home in Elmwood and the historical site is just off the trail. Eagle has embraced the MoPac with a recently-opened trailhead in the town park, near the swimming pool. Refreshments are available in all of the communities.

The MoPac East Trail (LPS-NRD) is 25 miles between Lincoln and Wabash. Above right is the Walton trailhead.

Homestead Trail

The Homestead Trail will, eventually, stretch from Lincoln’s Saltillo Road all the way to Marysville, Kansas. The Lower Platte South LPS-NRD has completed its portion, from Saltillo Road near 25th Street, to Cortland, a distance of 13 miles. Other entities are developing their segments as funding allows. The crushed limestone trail from Saltillo Road, south, is an extension of the City of Lincoln’s Jamaica North trail and follows a former Union Pacific Railroad line. Trail parking is available at Saltillo Road.

The LSP-NRD-titled portion opened in 2007. More than 30 volunteers spent their weekends that summer installing decking and railings to 12 bridges along the Homestead Trail. Kennedy said the summer-long project, “was an indicator of the strong support we have for our trails. It’s always gratifying for those volunteers and the LPS-NRD,” she said, “to see people enjoying them.”

The LPS-NRD believes their trails not only help improve fitness, but also help educate users about nature and agriculture. Iron boxes along the trails collect voluntary trail pass donations that are used exclusively for trail maintenance. Rules are posted at trailheads and detailed rules and regulations, along with trail maps and more information, can be viewed on the LSP-NRD’s Web site, http://lpsnrd.org, click on Recreation. Have fun on the trails and be safe.

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4-H SUMMER CAMPS
Discover, learn, and grow!
—see page 12

Source: Lower Platte South Natural Resources District
Tom Dorn
UNL Extension Educator

Pine Wilt Disease

Pine trees are a staple in rural and urban landscapes due to their hardness, beauty, and diversity, but hundreds are dying each year in southeast Nebraska from pine wilt. The disease, which was first spotted in Nebraska in 1980, mostly kills Scots pine (Pinus sylvestris) and displays a similar pattern of symptoms seen in other pines.

In the summer months, cows nursing a calf require about 22 gallons of water per day. Each cow will drink about 22 x 31 = 680 gallons of water per month.

If we assume the pump is 75% efficient, the motor driving the pump produces 1.05 x 0.75 = 0.7875 horsepower to drive the pump. Assuming the single phase (220 Volt) motor is 70% efficient, the pump motor consumes 1.07 kW of electric power. Therefore, we would expect this pump to use 1.07 kW/hp x 1.409 = 1.5 kW for each hour of operation.

A family of four will use about 250 gallons of water per day (91,250 gallons per year) for domestic uses. This pump would have to run 9,125 minutes (152 hours) per year. The electrical cost would be 323 hours x 1.5 kW x $0.09 per kWh = $43.65.

Soil Fertility: Potassium

Potassium (K) is absorbed by plants in larger amounts than any other mineral element, except Nitrogen and, in some cases, calcium. A 150 bushel corn crop will require 200 pounds of K during the growing season.

Potassium is the only essential plant nutrient that is not a constituent of any plant part. Potassium is a key nutrient in the plants tolerance to stresses such as cold/hot temperatures, drought, wear, and pest problems. Potassium acts as catalysts for many of the enzymatic processes in the plant necessary for plant growth to take place. Another key role of K is the regulation of water use in the plant (osmoregulation). This osmoregulation process affects water transport in the xylem, maintains high, daily-cell turgor pressure which affects wear tolerance, cell elongation for growth, and most importantly, it regulates the opening and closing of stomates which affect transpiration cooling and carbon dioxide uptake for photosynthesis.

Potassium is supplied to plants by soil minerals, organic materials, and commercial fertilizers. The mineral soils in Nebraska formed from minerals such as feldspar, mica, and hornblende. The availability of different minerals and clays is variable because soils were not all formed from the same minerals or parent materials. Potassium, unlike nitrogen and phosphorus, is not associated to any great extent with organic matter in the soil, but it is more dependent on the type and content of minerals and clay in different soil series. For example: The University of Nebraska publication Nutrient Management for Agronomic Crops in Nebraska (BE-55) presented a table comparing the exchangeable K in four soil series in the upper Midwest. Each six-inch depth of soil was from the surface to 36 inches was analyzed in each soil series. Table 1 shows the average concentration in each soil type.

Corn plants will draw potassium from the upper three feet of the soil profile. Exchangeable K is absorbed on the soil colloids surfaces and is available to plants; however, plants obtain most of their K from the soil solution (soil water).

Let’s consider Thurman loamy sand, a common soil type in central Nebraska. Thurman is assumed to weigh four million pounds per acre-foot. The average concentration of K shown in Table 1 is the average for the entire three-foot profile. Total exchangeable K was found to average 66.3 parts per million (ppm) x 4,000,000 pounds per acre-foot = 274 pounds of exchangeable K in the three-foot profile. At any one time, only about 10% of the exchangeable K is dissolved in the soil solution. To figure the pounds of 10% of 274, we would have 274 x 0.10 = 27.4 pounds. Therefore, at any given time only about 35% of the total K requirement is available for the corn crop. However, as the plant takes K up from the soil, more K converts to forms that can be taken up by the plant.

The purpose of developing a soil test is for K to estimate the availability of soil to supply K from the readily available K pool to crops during the growing season. A chemical soil test procedure does not measure total K in the soil. The value from the chemical analysis is an index and not a measure of total K. Note: Both Potassium and Nitrogen contribute to the salt index. Salt content is one of the most critical characteristics of fertilizers that should be considered when fertilizers are applied, especially with seed-slot placement.

TABLE 2 — UNL Fertilizer Potassium Recommendations (No specific stated yield)

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Management
Sanitation is the most important management practice to prevent or slow the spread of pine wilt. To limit the spread of pine wilt to healthy trees, diseased trees must be removed and destroyed before the beetles emerge from the wood. From May 1st to July 1st, dead and dying pines should be cut down promptly and burned, buried or chipped. Do not hold your breath, it is never safe to simply cut diseased branches and perhaps hope it will affect the neighboring healthy trees. Pine sawyers are inactive in the winter, so if you find dead trees after Oct. 1, they do not need immediate removal, but it must be removed and destroyed by May 1.

A protective treatment for pine wilt is available. An insecticide/nematicide product can be trunk-injected into infested trees. Apply the injection into the trunk about 95 percent protection from the disease for approximately three years. Contact a local arborist for treatment prices.

Source: S. Scholar, Oregon State University.

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Placement of nitrogen and potassium near the seed may decrease seed germination or result in seedling injury. Usually, the fertilizer is placed at a depth greater than the seed to allow root interconnection of the fertilizer band as roots grow outward and downward in the soil. Recommendations for fertilizer in direct seed contact vary with crop. Maximum recommendations range from 10–20 lbs N of N + K per row in direct seed contact with corn and sorghum.

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Source: S. Scholar, Oregon State University.
Most Interior Pests Survive Better Outdoors

General Preventative Measures

- Because many of these pests live outdoors, please take preventative measures when seeking harborage, sealing cracks and crevices is an important long-term strategy which will help control many pests. If you have had problems in the past with some of these invading pests, now is the time to find and seal openings where they are coming indoors.
- Identifying and eliminating moisture problems in and around the home prevent or even solve some infestations, like carpenter ants.
- Clean up the landscape and maintain the exterior of your home. Overgrown vegetation, peeling paint, broken gutters, and downspouts will attract pests. Make sure soil grade slopes away from the house.

Once Pests are Indoors, Non-Toxic Measures Include

- Reduce moisture with a dehumidifier or a humidifier. Prevent damp areas. Materials such as wood mulch, and other moist locations. These insects thrive in moist environments.

Management of Home Invading Pests

How to manage these pests depends on the specific pest, so identification is extremely important. At the extension office, we offer the public free pest identifici- tions, bring specimens to the office at 444 Cherry creek Road, Suite A, Lincoln Monday thru Friday, 8 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

Avoiding Conflicts with Wild Turkeys

Soni Cochran
UNL Extension Associate

Just a few years ago, it was unusual to see wild turkeys. Now these beautiful birds are a common site in rural areas and have been spotted in urban areas like Lincoln and Omaha. While it may be novel to have turkeys in your neighbor- hood, it is important to keep wild things wild. Turkeys can easily become used to humans and are likely to lose their fear of people and when that happens, there can be conflicts. Here are some basic wild turkey do’s and don’ts.

Keep Your Distance. Enjoy wild turkeys from a distance. Don’t encourage them onto your property. Moisture problem is the first step to solving carpenter ant problems.

Decomposers and Detritivores

Many insects and small arthropods are important in decomposing and recycling nutrients in the landscape. These organisms are found abundantly in bark chips and organic mulch, leaf litter and other moist locations in the landscape. Some of the most important are:

- Termites: In the natural landscape, termites play an important part in decomposing dead wood. They are a problem when they damage structural wood of homes. Eliminating wood-soil contact is the most important preventa- tive measure you can take to prevent termites.
- Millipedes, pillbugs and sowbugs, springtails, booklice, silverfish, oriental and wood cockroaches, and crickets: These arthropods and insects feed on organic matter or fungi in the soil, leaf litter, wood mulch, and other moist locations. Some ant species feed on honeydew produced by aphids; others collect seeds or organic matter in the landscape and are important recyclers.

Insects Feeding on Plants or Trees

Many insects feed on plant materials in the landscape. A few which periodically invade homes include:

- Clover mites: These tiny reddish mites feed on outdoor plants and come indoors in the spring. They particularly like well fertilized fescue. Vacuuming is helpful.
- Boxelder bugs: They feed on box elder or maple trees during the summer and become adults in the fall. Overwintering adults squeeze into cracks of houses. Once inside walls, they cannot be controlled.
- Conifer seed bugs: These insects are in the same family as boxelder bugs, but are brownish colored. They feed on pine trees during the growing season and squeeze into cracks of homes in late-summer.

Preyed Insects

Preyed insects are beneficial because they control other insect populations. A few preyed insects which can cause problems for people include:

- Social wasps: Yellow jackets and paper wasps feed their young on cater- pillar and other insects. They can be a problem when they nest near human activities. Treat individual nests in high traffic areas.
- Lady beetles: These lady beetles are important predators of garden, landscape and agricultural plants and come inside in the fall. Seal cracks and crevices to prevent entry.
- Spiders: Most spiders do not survive well indoors and only come inside because they are looking for a hiding place. The spiders we have in Nebraska are aggressive and do not attack people.
- Carpenter ants: Carpenter ants feed on other insects and do not eat wood. They tunnel into wood and live inside it. In the natural landscape, carpenter ants nest in fallen trees. Moisture problems, like a leaky roof, plumbing, wet insulation, or ill-fitting windows can create moist conditions within the structure of the house. Solving the moisture problem is the first step to solving carpenter ant problems.

Several bird species are attracted to the seed spilled under bird feeders. If you feed birds and turkeys are roaming your neighborhood, clean up spilled bird seed each day. If turkeys begin feeding on the seed, take the bird feeders down and clean them.

Do Not Allow Turkeys to be Comfortable in the Presence of People. Wild turkeys who become conditioned to people are more likely to cause damage and/or attempt to dominate people. Once this behavior is established it is hard to change. These large birds live in flocks where there is a pecking order. Every wild turkey must view all humans as dominant in the pecking order. Birds that are used to humans may attempt to dominate or attack people the birds view as being lower in the pecking order.

Do Not Let Turkeys Intimidate You! Be bold around turkeys especially when they first show up. Encourage neighbors to do the same.

Decomposers and Detritivores

Many insects and small arthropods are important in decomposing and recycling nutrients in the landscape. These organisms are found abundantly in bark chips and organic mulch, leaf litter and other moist locations in the landscape. Some of the most important are:

- Hackberry psyllids: These insects live inside the galls of hackberry leaves. Grayish bug eggs emerge from leaf galls in the fall and are small, so they squeeze through window screen. Keeping windows closed will be helpful.
- Asian lady beetles: Asian lady beetles are important predators of garden, landscape and agricultural plants and come inside in the fall. Seal cracks and crevices to prevent entry.

Raise your arms, look “big” and don’t run from the birds. Make loud noises. Use non-lethal, non-injurious imple- ments like a broom to drive them away. There’s no need to harm the birds. Spraying water from a hose or a dog on a leash is a good deterrent.

Attacking Shiny Objects. If a turkey is pecking at windows, vehicles, or other shiny objects, cover or disguise the object. Harass the bird by chasing it, squaring with a hose, or by showing aggression towards the bird.

Protecting Your Gardens and Crops. Harass turkeys looking for food in your gardens. Be Bold! Be Big! Dogs tethered on a run near the garden can scare the birds away. Use bird netting to exclude the birds from your crops. Motion-activated sprinklers and scare devices can sometimes be effective.

Educate Your Neighbors. Everyone needs to help keep turkeys wild. If your neighbors are providing food for turkeys or running from the birds and failing to be bold, all your other efforts will be futile. Especially aggres- sive birds may need to be removed with a special permit by a pest control/ wildlife professional.

Sources: MA Dept of Natural Resources, Massachusetts Dept of Fisheries and Wildlife

Ah, Wildlife...

Q: There are a couple of squirrels in my yard that have hardly any hair on them. What can we do? Do we need to worry about our dog catching something? A: The hairless squirrels probably have mange. Mange is caused by a type of mite burrowing into the skin of the animals. The skin becomes irritated, itchy, resulting in hair loss by the host animal (the squirrels in this case). Most mites, including the mites that cause mange, are fairly host-specific meaning the mite survives best on one species of animal or closely related animals. For example, mice and rats are related and share mites. There’s nothing we can do to help the squirrels. If you find a dead squirrel in your yard, remove it quickly. Do not let your pets “roll in” the carcass. Use a shovel and gloves to put the carcass into a plastic bag. Double bag and put in a garbage can stored outside. Do not let your pets “roll in” the carcass. Even though you or your family dog isn’t related to squirrels, mites from squirrels could try to feed on you and/or your dog. Any discomfort from mites trying to feed on you should be short-lived because these mites can’t permanently establish on other host animals not related to squirrels.
Name that Veggie!

Alice Henneman, MS, RD
UNL Extension Educator

How well do you know your veggies? The Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2010 (DGA2010) recommend eating at least 2-1/2 cups of vegetables daily (based on a 2,000-calorie diet). The DGA2010 further divide vegetables into five subgroups and recommend the following intake from each subgroup per week (for a 2,000-calorie diet):

- Dark-green vegetables (1-1/2 cups/week)
- Red and orange vegetables (3-1/2 cups/week)
- Beans and peas (legumes) (1-1/2 cups/week)
- Starchy vegetables (5 cups/week)
- Other vegetables (4 cups/week)

See if you can guess the following vegetables. There is one from each vegetable subgroup. The answers are at the end of the article.

Veggie 1
1.Excellent source of protein, high in dietary fiber, potassium, and folate
2. Often eaten cold in salads or hot in soups
3. The type sold in the United States is usually cream-colored and relatively round
4. Main ingredient in hummus

Veggie 2
1. The French called them “love apples”
2. High in lycopene, an anti-oxidant that may help lower the risk of certain cancers and other conditions such as cardiovascular disease and osteoporosis
3. Taste best when stored at room temperature
4. Botanically, they are a fruit

Veggie 3
1. High in vitamin A
2. A dark green lettuce
3. Had its start as a Mediterranean weed
4. Has a long, loaf-shaped head of sturdy leaves

Veggie 4
1. Contains phytochemicals that may help reduce the risk of certain cancers
2. Its four-petaled flowers bear a resemblance to a Greek cross, resulting in it frequently referred to as a crucifer or cruciferous vegetable
3. Mark Twain called this vegetable “…a cabbage with a college education”
4. Creamy white in color

Veggie 5
1. The leading vegetable crop in the United States
2. A medium (5.0 oz.) skin-on serving has just 110 calories
3. High in potassium, a nutrient the DGA2010 recommend Americans increase in their diet
4. A model of this vegetable serves as the basis for a toy named after it

ANSWERS
Veggie 1: Garbanzo beans; also called chickpeas. (Beans and Peas [Legumes] Subgroup)
Veggie 2: Tomatoes. (Red and Orange Vegetables Subgroup)
Veggie 3: Romaine Lettuce. (Dark-Green Vegetables Subgroup)
Veggie 4: Cauliflower. (Other Vegetables Subgroup)
Veggie 5: White Potatoes. (Starchy Vegetables Subgroup)

Additional vegetables in this subgroup include all fresh, frozen, and canned dark-green leafy vegetables and broccoli, cooked or raw — for example, broccoli; spinach; collard, turnip, and mustard greens.

References:

Easy, Cheesy Quesadilla
(Makes 1 serving)

Ingredients:
1 flour tortilla
Shredded cheese
Salsa

Directions:
1. Wash your hands
2. Sprinkle cheese on tortilla
3. Fold in half and microwave on high 15-20 seconds
4. Cut into sections, dip in salsa.

$stretch Your Food Dollar with Healthy Summer Snacks

Mix two parts plain yogurt with one part salsa (for example, mix 1 cup plain yogurt with 1/2 cup salsa.)

Serve with veggie dippers, such as carrot and celery sticks; broccoli flowerets; sliced cauliflowerets; cucumber wedges.

Dip Tips
1. Keep cut fruits, such as apples, pears, bananas and peaches, from turning brown by coating them with an acidic juice such as lemon, orange, or pineapple juice. Or use a commercial produce protector such as Fruit Fresh®, and follow the manufacturer’s directions.
2. Cover and refrigerate cut fruit and vegetables until ready to serve.
3. Most cold dips taste best if refrigerated for about an hour before serving to let the flavors blend.
4. Perishable foods like dips and cut fruit and vegetables should not sit at room temperature for more than two hours, total time. If you will be serving dip for a longer period than this, set out a smaller bowl of dip and then replace it with another one when it is empty. DO NOT add fresh dip to dip that has been sitting out.

Use any extra dip that has not been served within three to four days of preparation date.

Mix two parts plain yogurt with one part salsa. You also may make great snacks and many meals.

Food & Fitness

Are you looking for ideas for healthy summer snacks? One or two nutritious snacks a day can be healthy for all of us. They can boost our energy throughout the day and keep us from overeating at meal times. In addition, snacks can help us sneak in a few servings from two or more of the five food groups.

Stretch your food dollar and snack healthy by planning ahead and having snacks written on your grocery list. Keep an eye on the weekly advertisements and purchase products when they are on sale. Fruits and vegetables make great snacks and microwave in season and less expensive during the summer months.

Here are a few healthy snacking tips:
1. Plan your family’s snacks.
2. Eat snacks 1-2 hours before meals so you aren’t full at meal time.
3. Choose snacks low in fat, sugar, and salt.
4. Make snacks fun. Have your children help make the snacks.
5. Snacks should include foods from 2 of the 5 food groups.
6. Variety is key! Try some new snacks.

Here are more recipes and fun activities, the “Summer Snack of the Week” handout is available for download at http://www.unl.edu/ nep/resources.shtml.

The following recipe is from the “Summer Snack of the Week” handout. It is the recipe for the week of June 26–July 2.

Salsa Yogurt Dip

Cut into sections, dip in salsa.
FAMILY & COMMUNITY EDUCATION (FCE) CLUBS

President’s View — Irene’s Items
Irene Colborn
FCE Council Chair

It has been cool, but that has left the tulips and other flowers last longer. The June council meeting will be June 27, 1 p.m. at the Lancaster Extension Education Center. Helpful Homemakers are in charge of the program. The guest speaker will be LaDonna Van Engren from the St. Elizabeth Hospice program. Please bring your heritage skills items to the council meeting so they can be judged to go on to the state convention. They are: quilting, ceramics, original heritage skills, glass. I hope you are getting things together for the baskets for our Sizzling Summer Sampler for our scholarship fund. My “items” — Enjoy the little things in life. One day you will look back and realize they were the big things.

FCE News & Events

June Council Meeting
The June FCE Council meeting is Monday, June 27, 1 p.m. at the Lancaster Extension Education Center. We will have LaDonna Van Engren from the St. Elizabeth Hospice Program as our guest speaker. All FCE members are invited to attend.

Heritage Arts Contest
Contest areas for 2011 are quilting, ceramics, original heritage skills, and glass. Bring articles for judging to the June FCE Council meeting.

Baskets Needed
Clubs and individuals are reminded, baskets are needed for the Scholarship Raﬄe at the Sizzling Summer Sampler (SSS). Each year a $400 scholarship is awarded to a college student majoring in Family and Consumer Science or a health occupation. Tickets for the raﬄe will be available at the SSS.

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Clubs and individuals are reminded, baskets are needed for the Scholarship Raﬄe at the Sizzling Summer Sampler (SSS). Each year a $400 scholarship is awarded to a college student majoring in Family and Consumer Science or a health occupation. Tickets for the raﬄe will be available at the SSS.

June Council Meeting
The June FCE Council meeting is Monday, June 27, 1 p.m. at the Lancaster Extension Education Center. We will have LaDonna Van Engren from the St. Elizabeth Hospice Program as our guest speaker. All FCE members are invited to attend.

Heritage Arts Contest
Contest areas for 2011 are quilting, ceramics, original heritage skills, and glass. Bring articles for judging to the June FCE Council meeting.

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Nebraska Wildflower Week, June 4-11

Inspired by a similar national event, the aim of Nebraska Wildflower Week is to increase awareness and appreciation of wildflowers and native plants in the landscape through an array of events and activities across Nebraska.

Nebraska Wildflower Week will be observed in early June when Nebraska’s prairies and gardens are typically at their prime. National Wildflower Week, which is coordinated by the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Texas, is observed in early May.

Nebraska Statewide Arboretum Assistant Director for Horticulture Programs, Bob Henriksen, suggests these wildflowers for Nebraska gardens.

Beardtongue, Penstemon grandiflorus. There are over 200 species of Penstemon, with nearly 24 native to the Great Plains. Ours are upright, multi-stemmed perennials, growing from 2–3 feet tall. Flowers are shaped like snapdragons, in shades of pink, red, blue, purple, or white, arranged in upright spikes. Prefer full sun and well-drained soil. Look great planted in masses.

Black-eyed Susan, Rudbeckia hirta. Bright golden yellow daisies bloom mid-summer into autumn. Deep brown center disks are striking through winter. Grows in full sun or partial shade in soil that is well-drained but not dry.

Compass plant, Siphium laciniatum. This classic prairie plant is a relative of the sunflowers, with many large bright yellow flowers in late summer. The large 15 inch coarse, oak-like leaves align themselves in a north-south direction, then it sends up a 4–7 feet flowering stalk in summer. Also called “century plant” because of its ability to survive for decades. Best for larger gardens where the prairie sky is your background. Can grow to 3 feet wide and 7 feet high.

Desert globemallow, Sphaeralcea coccinea. Hardy, low-growing native ground-cover with coral red flowers throughout the summer. Foliage is silvery gray and deeply cut. Prefers dry site once established.

Leadplant, Amorpha canescens. Native perennial with arching, grass-like leaves. Produces showy clusters of flowers in late spring and early summer. Colors range from various shades of blue to pink, rose, purple, and white.

Prairie coneflower, Echinacea pallida. Native annual that flowers from June to September. Showy yellow flowers with red centers and brown center disks are produced on fairly large branched plants. Grows from 1–3 feet tall and prefers dry prairies or open woodlands.

Prairie larkspur, Delphinium virens. Native perennial with rounded clusters of deep pink to magenta flowers blooms May–June. Grows from 1–3 feet tall in dry to moist, well-drained prairies. Narrow leaves can be up to 4 inches long.

Purple poppy mallow, Callirhoe involucrata. This tough native is often grown as a groundcover or allowed to weave among taller perennials. Its stems lie close to the ground, but do not root, growing out to 4 feet each year from a bulb-like corm that gets as big as a turnip. Bright purple cup-shaped flowers bloom profusely in early summer among the attractive, cut-leaf foliage.

Spiderwort, Tradescantia ohiensis. Clamp-forming, multi-stemmed perennials with arching, grass-like leaves. Produce showy clusters of flowers in late spring and early summer. Colors range from various shades of blue to pink, rose, purple, and white.

Yellow coneflower, Ratibida columnifera. This bushy 2 feet tall native prairie plant is extremely drought-tolerant. In late summer, the top of the plant is covered with flowers of bright yellow petals drooping around a dark, dome-shaped disk. Grows 1–3 feet tall in moist to dry upland prairies. Stout, unbranched stems are covered with coarse, stiff hairs. Seed heads remain through winter.

Prairie phlox, Phlox pilosa. Native perennial with arching, grass-like leaves.
Aquatic Plant Control with Herbicides

Todd Barrow
UNL Water Quality Educator

With waters gradually warming and aquatic plant or “weed” growth increasing, early summer is a good time to think about implementing an aquatic plant management plan. Aquatic plants can be found in most lakes and ponds throughout Nebraska. Moderate growths are important to the ecology of the pond system by providing dissolved oxygen and habitat for aquatic organisms and fish. However, in overabundance, aquatic plants, can restrict recreational activities such as swimming, fishing and boating, impair fish health, reduce water flows and decrease aesthetics of the lake or pond.

Decreasing plant biomass in a pond or lake can be achieved by a number of techniques; hand pulling, raking, chaining, cutting, applying nontoxic dye, deepening, and herbicide application. Due to the effectiveness and ease of application, herbicide control of aquatic plant growth is often the management tool of choice.

Considerations
If control by herbicide is the selected method of removal/control, there are at least eight important considerations in planning a successful program.

• Potential toxicity of the plant • Uses of the water to be treated • Potential non-target plants that may be affected • Timing of the treatment • Water temperature • Method of application • Probability of retreatment, perhaps within the same year • Cost

Timing of Application
Most aquatic herbicides should be applied in mid to late-spring or early summer when water temperatures are above 65°F and plants are growing rapidly. Herbicide penetration is generally maximum at this time. Plants are not only very susceptible during this time, but there is also less biomass to treat early as opposed to later in the season, once maturity has been reached.

If vegetation is treated later in the season, to avoid oxygen depletion and fish kills, only treat one-third to one-half of the area to be treated, wait two to three weeks before any follow-up applications. Fall treatments are generally not effective as the growing season is complete. However, fall treatments of cattail with Roundup® generally sells for around $103 per 30 pound bag, with prices subject to change. The manufacturer of copper sulfate recommends 0.8–1.75 pounds (0.3–0.65 parts per million) of per acre foot of water. Other pond treatment recommendations are around 0.5 pounds per acre foot of water.

Hint: An acre foot of water is equal to one surface acre one foot deep. A bag of copper sulfate generally runs around $2 per pound, after shipping. It may require some experimentation with application rates, you may find a slightly higher or lower dose is best for the level of control you desire.

Dose Rates and Costs of Cutrine Plus® and Copper Sulfate
Cutrine Plus® recommended application rate is a 30 pound bag for every 0.5 acre. Cutrine Plus® generally sells for around $103 per 30 pound bag, with prices subject to change. The manufacturer of copper sulfate recommends 0.8–1.75 pounds (0.3–0.65 parts per million) of per acre foot of water. Other pond treatment recommendations are around 0.5 pounds per acre foot of water.

Filamentous Algae Control
Filamentous algae is the stringy green “hair” or “cotton candy” like material that can form green carpet like mats on the waters surface. It commonly grows on the surface near submerged plants or cattails and can be wind blown to the leeward side of the pond. There are two effective methods for removing filamentous algae from a pond, 1) hand removal by raking and 2) the use of a chemical called Cutrine Plus®.

Cutrine Plus® granular, is a buffered version of the blue granular copper sulfate familiar to many lake and pond owners, has been widely used by lake owners and managers who claim excellent success by simply hand broadcasting the granules onto/into the area of concern. The granules settle to the bottom and attack the algae before it can form mats upon the surface. There is no minimum water temperature recommended for use, so it can be applied and should be applied early in the season before the algae develops dense mats, which are more difficult to control.

Copper sulfate may also work to control filamentous algae, however over time, the copper sulfates can damage the bottom dwelling insects and zooplankton important to the overall aquatic ecosystem. Multiple treatments throughout the season may be necessary with either product.

Bacterial Safety of Private Drinking Water

Is it time to check the bacterial safety of your private water supply? Late winter and early spring conditions can result in saturated soil and localized flooding. Any well inundated with surface water could have bacterial contamination. In addition, bacteria are most likely to be found during periods of wet weather, especially once the soil is warm. Testing a private water supply is not regulated in Nebraska. Although it’s not required, it is recommended private water supplies be tested for bacteria annually.

For additional information on bacterial safety of drinking water, see the NebGuide “Drinking Water: Bacteria” (G1826) available at the extension office or online at http://go.unl.edu/wmtz. The NebGuide was co-authored by drinking water experts at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln Extension and Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services.

—Sharon Skipton, UNL Extension Water Quality Educator

FOR MORE INFORMATION
If there are any questions regarding aquatic plant identification, contact the UNL Water Quality Extension Program at (402) 472-7783, on the web at http://water.unl.edu/lakes.

Suppliers
There are numerous suppliers of aquatic herbicides throughout Nebraska. They can commonly be found by using your local Farmers Cooperatives, Many Co-op’s are retailers of aquatic herbicides, but most do not have the chemical on hand, if requested, they can generally have the product you request within a week’s time. Remember to follow label directions for the herbicide and location.

Duckweed Control
Duckweed, often referred to as watermeal, appears as minute (1-3 mm) lime green dots on the water. Duckweed is the smallest of all flowering plants commonly associated with stagnant conditions or backwater areas. The best method for removal is by using a liquid herbicide called Weedrine-D®. This contact herbicide begins working immediately. It is easy to apply with a simple tank sprayer. One gallon will cover approximately 4000 square feet. Weedrine-D® is also very effective if submerged aquatic plants become a problem.

WARNING: Water treated with Weedrine-D® should not be used for swimming for one day. Wait five days for irrigation, human, or animal consumption.

Treated cattails will show results in two to four days
Filamentous algae
Duckweed

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Duckweed from depths of 1–20 feet. They have thin leaves attached along the main stem. Many species of submerged plants exist, thus different chemical formulations are required for the most effective treatment. The most commonly used and most effective chemicals are Reward®, Sonar®, Weedtrine®-D, and Aquathol®. These chemicals are available in liquid form, to be applied in mid- to late-spring by a tank sprayer, or in granular form (similar to kitty litter) that can be hand broadcast. If necessary, contact Todd Barrow, UNL Lake Water Quality Extension, for proper identification.

Cattail Control
Cattails thrive in areas where water is six inches to two feet in depth. Although deepening may allow for some control, there may still be areas that require an alternative approach. There are a variety of herbicides on the market effective on cattails, look for a product that has glyphosate as the active ingredient and is aquatic certified. Roundup® is a glyphosate product but IS NOT certified for use near water.

One aquatic-certified product available through many Nebraska retailers is Shore-Klear® manufactured by Applied Biochemists. Follow label directions for mixing the Shore-Klear® concentrate into a tank sprayer and then follow application rates. It is suggested you add 4.5–7.5 pints per acre of cattails you are treating to the tank spray as a 75% solution with handheld equipment. It is also recommended you add a non-ionic surfactant into the chemical mixture, this will help ensure the chemical adheres to the plant and penetrates the waxy cuticle.

It is best to treat cattails in the summer to early fall months when they are green and actively growing. Real results will occur in one to four days. Results begin with wilting and yellowing followed by full browning. Well-established, heavy growth may require one to three weeks to show results.
Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Program, Deadline June 4

The Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Program is a fun and challenging outdoor adventure where 4-H and FFA members learn about wildlife, conservation, and management. The statewide contest will be held June 19–21 at Niobrara State Park by Niesbrab, Neb. Junior (age 12–13) and senior (age 14–18) division teams (individual participation possible) compete in the contest. The novice group (ages 8–11) does not compete, but learns about wildlife through fun educational activities and games. June 4 is the last day to register by mail. Cost is $47.50 per person. For more information, go to http://lancaster.unl.edu/whelp or contact (402) 441-7180.

Horse 4-H

**4-H Teen Council Won’t Meet in June**
The next meeting will be Sunday, July 10 at 3 p.m.

**4-H/FFA Animal ID’s and DNA Due June 15**
All identifications for 4-H/FFA sheep, goats, swine, breeding beef, bucket calves, feeder calves, dairy cattle, dairy rabbits which will be entered in the 4-H or FFA this year are due to extension by June 15. Animal ID forms are available online at http://lancaster.unl.edu/4h/Fair and the extension office.

**4-H Bicycle Safety Contest, June 25**
The 4-H Bicycle Safety Contest will be held Saturday, June 25, 9 a.m. at the Lancaster Extension Education Center. Contest is open to all 4-Hers ages 8 and older. Participants must provide their own bicycle and must wear a helmet. MUST preregister by June 20 by calling (402) 441-7180 (there is no entry form). Late registrations not accepted.

There are two parts of the contest. In the bicycle skills events, 4-H’ers maneuver through several designated courses to test their riding skills and safety. A bicycle inspection requirement is included in this portion of bicycle maintenance and safety features. See Fair Book p. 11.

**4-H Bicycle Machine/Go to a 4-H’er**
This is the third year that Kari Conroy, a 4-H clothing superintendent, is granting many of a new branding sewing machine to one Lancaster County 4-H youth. All 4-H youth who would like to consider this brand new sewing machine should submit a paper outlining why the clothing projects they have done in the past and plan to do in the future. Also explain why they should be the youth to receive it. All papers should be sent by June 30 to Tracy, Lancaster County Extension, 444 Cherry Creek Road, Ste. A, Lincoln, NE 68528.

Donated Sewing Machine to go to a 4-H’er
If you or your club would like help sewing your 4-H project, contact Tracy at (402) 441-7180. We have volunteers who are exceptional seamstresses with many years of experience helping 4-H’ers with their sewing projects.

**Spotlight on 4-H Newsletter “Index by Topic” Now Available**
The “Spotlight on 4-H” newsletter is written by extension staff for 4-H volunteers during the months of January through July. It is packed with information and resources to educate, inform, and motivate 4-H members and families. It is online at http://lancaster.unl.edu/4h/Spotlight.shtml. An “index by topic” is now available to make it easy to find articles by topic.

**County Fair 4-H Horse IDs Due June 1**
4-H horse identification forms for the Lancaster County Super Fair are due in the extension office by June 1. Late ID forms WILL NOT be accepted. Take the time to fill forms out completely and thoughtfully. Draw your horse’s markings on the picture as accurately as you can. Also, be sure to indicate the horse’s color on the drawing. Please remember to fill out the online horse identification form — use the carbon copy form available at the extension office. If you do use the online ID form, be sure and make a copy for yourself before sending it to the extension office.

**State 4-H Hippology and Judging Forms Due June 1**
Hippoology and judging entry forms for the State 4-H Horse Exposition at Fonner Park are due in the extension office on Monday, June 1. Contest entry forms are available at the extension office or online at http://lancaster.unl.edu/4h. All entry fees will be paid at 4-H Council. For more information and contest rules, go to http://www.animalscience.unl.edu/extension/ Equine/4Hdistrictstateshows/states.html.

**Judging Clinic and Contests** A 4-H Horse judging clinic will be held at Pitser Ranch, Ericson on Wednesday, June 1. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. with orientation at 9 a.m. For more information, call Steve Niemeyer at (402) 444-7804 or go to http://www.glw.unl.edu.
A 10 Horse Judging Contest will be held Monday, June 6, 6:30 p.m. at Chance Ridge Arena on West Dodge Street near Omaha. An Eastern Nebraska Horse Judging Contest will be held Wednesday, June 29, 8:30 a.m. at Fairview Stables south of Gretna. For more information, call Monte Stauffer at (402) 444-7804.

**Riding Skills Level Testing on June 21, June 28, and July 5**
A 4-H riding skills level testing will be held on Tuesday, June 21, 5:30 p.m. at the Lancaster Extension Center – Amy Countryman Arena. Anyone wishing to be tested must be signed up by June 14 by contacting Marty at (402) 441-7180 or mcruickshank@unl.edu. Testing will also be held on June 28 and July 5 at the Lancaster Extension Center – Amy Countryman Arena. July 5 will be the last date to test in order to ride in the Lancaster County Super Fair. All of the horsemanship requirements must be passed and paperwork, including the sign-off sheet, submitted to the 4-H Office no later than June 30. The Lancaster County riding skills level tests must be done in group testing. Individual tests done by leaders are no longer accepted.
Life Challenge
Contests
4-H Life Challenge judging contests help youth learn more about the four-H heart of 4-H. For more information on a specific project, contact Tracy at (402) 441-7180 for more information.

- **Statewide FCS Life Challenge** (for ages 12 and up) is scheduled for Saturday, June 19, 9 a.m. at the Lancaster Extension Education Center. Preregister by June 2 by calling (402) 441-7180 (there is no entry form). Contest questions will be based on the following 4-H curriculum areas of food and nutrition, child development, and design. This is a Lancaster County Super Fair 4-H Contest.

- **Statewide FCS Life Challenge** (for ages 8–11) will be held Monday, June 27 and Tuesday, June 28 on UNL East Campus. To participate, contact the extension office at (402) 441-7180 by June 9. Information is online at http://pase.unl.edu.

- **Global Volunteer Challenge** is scheduled for Tuesday, June 14–Friday, June 17. Lancaster County Super Fair 4-H Contest.

- **4-Day Workshops** each day from Monday, June 13 through Thursday, June 16.

4-Day Workshops

- **Round the Clock Camp** will participate in several hands-on activities while learning about animals, food, science, technology, and more. Refreshments provided for this workshop. TUE-FRI, JUNE 14-17; 8AM-12:15PM AGES 8 & FEE $25

- **4-H Clover Tourney** Play in a unique chess tournament. Children play 2 rounds per day all four days, alternating colors. Time controls: 30 min practice, 15 min clock provided. TUE-FRI, JUNE 14-17; 10:15AM-12:15PM AGES 10 & UP $10 INSTRUCTOR: James Wachter, 4-H Volunteer

- **3-Day Workshop**

  - **Rags to Rugs** Make a rug from a 3, 4, 5, 6, or 7, or 8 strip of fabric. Sewn fabric will then be looped into a professional. Bring sewing machine with gray thread and bobbin, scissors, and a chair. WED-FRI, JUNE 15-17; 9AM-3PM AGES 10 & UP • FEE $14 INSTRUCTOR: Patricia Schmitt, Extension Board Member

- **1-Day Workshops**

  - **Hooded Towels** Create a hooded towel for a baby or toddler. Free fabric included with towel and add your own design, sewing pins, ruler, and sewing machine (if available). TUE, JUNE 14; 8-10AM AGES 11 & UP • FEE $10 INSTRUCTOR: Eva Mennen, Extension Educator

  - **Fox Walking & Stalking** Learn primitive walking techniques. Learn how to fox walk and the stalking steps needed for quin. unce. of movement in the wilderness. Dress for the weather and bring a flashlight. TUE, JUNE 14; 8-10AM AGES 8 & UP • FEE $10 INSTRUCTOR: Rosemarie Bennett, 4-H Volunteer

- **2 Workshops in a Row**

  - **Cool Quick Quilt** Design a quick and fun pieced quilt. Bring sewing machine and basic sewing supplies. Material provided. WED, JUNE 15; 12:45-2:45PM AGES 10 & UP • FEE $5 INSTRUCTOR: Paige Roach, 4-H Volunteer

- **Hula Hoop Rugs** Create a hula hoop rug using old t-shirts. Bring your colorful old youth large t-shirts. TUE, JUNE 14; 3:30PM AGES 10 & UP • FEE $3 INSTRUCTOR: Janel Anderson, 4-H Volunteer

- **You Be the Judge** Learn about the judging process judges look for while learning how to prepare and present your animal, crops, and flowers for the fair! WED, JUNE 15; 8-10AM AGES 8 & UP • FEE $5 INSTRUCTOR: Karen Browning, Extension Educator

- **Babysitting Basics** Learn the basic skills needed to be a successful babysitter. Focus is on activities, making snacks, and toys. THU, JUNE 16; 10:15AM-12:15PM AGES 8 & UP • FEE $5 INSTRUCTOR: Evan Kucera, College Basketball Player

- **Chillin’ for Freedom** Learn styling procedures and practice modeling! Come to this fun workshop and learn styling procedures and practice modeling! TUE, JUNE 14; 12:45-2:45PM AGES 8 & UP • FEE None INSTRUCTOR: TBA

- **Cookin’ for Freedom** Learn cooking techniques to prepare food to send to the soldiers. Fabric provided. Bring your sewing machine, basic sewing supplies, fabric, scissors and white thread with filled bobbin. TUE, JUNE 14; 12:45-2:45PM AGES 10 & UP • FEE $4 INSTRUCTOR: Karen Wedding, Extension Staff

- **Youth Career Camp** Learn about careers related to animals, food, the outdoors and more. Tuesday, June 14–Friday, June 17.

- **Creative Cards** It’s easier than it looks to mix and shape cookie dough. Students learn techniques and bring home samples! WED, JUNE 15; 10AM & 6PM AGES 8 & UP • FEE $5 INSTRUCTOR: Lorene Bartos, Extension Educator

- **Babysitting Basics** Learn the basic skills needed to be a successful babysitter. Focus is on activities, making snacks, and toys. THU, JUNE 16; 10:15AM-12:15PM AGES 8 & UP • FEE $5 INSTRUCTOR: Evan Kucera, College Basketball Player

- **Downtown** An action-packed class filled with authentic food, craft, language, and even dances of Spanish-speaking cultures.

WORKSHOPS WITH OPENINGS AS OF MAY 17

- **Soccer Basics** Learn the basic skills needed to be a street-wise player. Bring included. WED, JUNE 15; 3:30-5:30PM AGES 8 & UP • FEE $5 INSTRUCTOR: Lorene Bartos, Extension Educator

- **Terrific Tailoring Setting Create** Create an awesome centerpiece and participate in the table setting contest. THU, JUNE 16; 10:30AM-12:30PM AGES 8 & UP • FEE $5 INSTRUCTOR: Jamee Rush, Extension Assistant

- **Candyland Cottage** Adorable and scalable and adapt it with the candy of your dreams. Bring baking candy to add to the supplies. THU, JUNE 16; 1:30-4:30PM AGES 8 & UP • FEE $4 INSTRUCTOR: Karol Swotek, 4-H Volunteer

- **Babysitting Basics** Learn the basic skills needed to be a successful babysitter. Focus is on activities, making snacks, and toys. THU, JUNE 16; 12:45-2:45PM AGES 11 & UP • FEE $5 INSTRUCTOR: Nicole Efie, 4-H Volunteer

- **Babysitting Basics** Learn the basic skills needed to be a successful babysitter. Focus is on activities, making snacks, and toys. FR, JUNE 17; 10AM & 6PM AGES 8 & UP • FEE $5 INSTRUCTOR: Shayna Truax, Extension Staff

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- **Babysitting Basics** Learn the basic skills needed to be a successful babysitter. Focus is on activities, making snacks, and toys. FR, JUNE 17; 10AM & 6PM AGES 8 & UP • FEE $5 INSTRUCTOR: Shayna Truax, Extension Intern

**For register for form and current class availability, go to:** http://lancaster.unl.edu/4h/programs/college4h
suitable. Not only do young years only (50 cc) machines are For children between 6 and 12 their families some basic safety and teaching the ATV riders in seriously enough to be taken to. You will also need to decide the consequences if the rules are not followed (loss of ATV privileges might be a good one). Make an appointment for one or more of your local ATV dealer or contact your local UNL extension office for a rider course in your area. If your children visit homes where there is an ATV, you should also discuss your expectations and how your children should handle situations where there are few or no rules — such as no use of helmets or the allowing of passengers on the ATV.

Tractor Safety is Everyone’s Business

"Higher, Grandpa, higher!” Glenna shouted 4-year-old Mikey Dobberpuhl to his grand- father, Harlow. His grandfather was feeding cattle with a front- end loader on a brisk March day in South Dakota. Mikey loved shadowing his grandfather’s every move. The sun was hidden on a snowpacked winter day like this one. As he had done many times before, Mikey climbed in the scoop of the tractor-loader.

With Mikey in tow, his grandfather drove toward the barn. The sun had briefly glanced backward. Horrified, he saw Mikey’s body lying in the snow. “I was hoping the soft snow would have cushioned him, but it wasn’t enough,” his grandfather said. Today, in the Mikey D. Chapter (of Farm Safety 4 Just Kids) of Conde, SD, works feverishly to educate children and adults on farm safety. He has taught children how to get help quickly. Older teens and adults should learn CPR.

They should also learn about lighting and emptying pool or pond. Farm ponds can look "frozen over" in early spring, but the ice is not thick enough to support weight. "You can’t get out of the water when you slide in, “reach, throw, and wade.” The water is not only cold, but it can entangle a person, making it difficult to get to the surface. If you live close to a pond or irrigation source, take steps to help keep your family safe. Begin with these:

- Provide children over 3 years with swimming lessons
- Fence off ponds and other water areas as feasible
- Never leave a young child alone in water. A child can drown in the time it takes to answer a phone call
- Adopt a "swimming buddy” policy for children. Where swimming is allowed, be sure children swim with a friend or adult
- Insist children use personal flotation devices, such as buoyancy belts
- Keep rescue equipment near water areas. Purchase a flota- tion device, such as a life jacket or pool noodle, a gallon plastic jug and attach a rope. Install a safety post near the pond. Tie the loose end of the rope to the post. Add a laminated poster with instruc- tions on how to keep your family safe near water
- Have everyone’s business

Every family needs to develop critical thinking skills and good decision-making skills resulting in a change in ATV-related behaviors and a reduction in ATV-related injuries and deaths in Nebraska.

Safety Around Ponds

Drowning ranks second only to vehicle mishaps as the most common cause of accidental death for children. Children below the age of 4, especially high risk. Even adults are at risk in water muddied by silt, plants, and fish. It takes only a few moments and an inch of water for a child to drown. Small children have been known to drown in 5-gallon buckets. Most drowning, however, occurs when a child is left alone or accidentally falls into a pool or pond. Farm ponds can look appealing to children. Many children are deep with a sudden dropoff. A person can go from knee deep to water to 30 feet deep in seconds. When children are swimming, they are growing from the bottom can entangle a person, making it difficult to get to the surface. If you live close to a pond or irrigation source, take steps to help keep your family safe. Begin with these:

- Provide children over 3 years with swimming lessons
- Fence off ponds and other water areas as feasible
- Never leave a young child alone in water. A child can drown in the time it takes to answer a phone call
- Adopt a “swimming buddy” policy for children. Where swimming is allowed, be sure children swim with a friend or adult
- Insist children use personal flotation devices, such as buoyancy belts
- Keep rescue equipment near water areas. Purchase a flotation device, such as a life jacket or pool noodle, a gallon plastic jug and attach a rope. Install a safety post near the pond. Tie the loose end of the rope to the post. Add a laminated poster with instructions on how to keep your family safe near water

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May
26 4-H Leader Training ......................................................... 9:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.

June
1 County Fair 4-H Horse ID’s Due to Extension
1 State Horse Hippology and Judging Forms Due to Extension
2 Sign-up deadline for June 4-H Life Challenge Contest – County-Level Senior Division
3 4-H Life Challenge Contest – County-Level Senior Division ............. 9 a.m.
3 4-H Horse Pre-Districts Clinic Show/Fundraiser, Lancaster Event Center
3 9 a.m.
7 4-H Council Meeting .......................................................... 7 p.m.
10 Extension Board Meeting .................................................. 8 a.m.
10 Composting Demonstration, Pioneers Park Nature Center’s
10 1 p.m. 
11 Sign-up deadline for June 21 4-H Horse Level Testing
14–17 4-H Clover College
14–16 4-H District Horse Shows, O’Neill, Chadron
15–16 4-H District Horse Shows, Hastings, Columbus
15 4-H/FFA Sheep/Goats/Swine/Breeding Beef/Bucket Calves/Dairy
17 4-H Club Enrollment Forms Due to Extension — Must List Project Area(s)
18 4-H Club Enrollment Forms Due to Extension — Each Member Plans to Enter at County Fair
18 4-H Leader Training, UNL Tractor Test Lab
19–21 Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Program, Niobrara State Park
20 Sign-up deadline for June 25 4-H Bicycle Safety Contest
21 Guardian/Conservator Training ........................................ 1:30–4:30 p.m.
21 4-H Horse Level Testing, Lancaster Event Center Arny Countyman Arena.
21 6 p.m.
22–23 Sign-up deadline for June 28 4-H Horse Level Testing
22, 23 4-H District Horse Shows, Ogallala, Beatrice
23 4-H Family Forever Class .................................................. 9 a.m.–12:30 / 5:30–9 p.m.
24 4-H Bicycle Safety Contest ................................................. 9 a.m.
27 Family & Community Education (FCE) Council Meeting ............. 1 p.m.
27–28 4-H Premiere Animal Science Events (PASE)/Life Challenge
28 4-H Horse Level Testing, Lancaster Event Center Arny Countyman Arena.
28 6 p.m.
28 Sign-Up Deadline for July 5 4-H Horse Level Testing

Lancaster County 4-H’ers Qualify for Regional Speech Contest

The Lancaster County 4-H Speech and Public Service Announcement contest was held May 1, Over 42 Lancaster County 4-H youth competed in this year’s communication events. Top PSA’s will be posted online soon. The top winners will represent our county at the Regional Speech contest on May 26 at University of Nebraska-Lincoln’s East Campus. Those representing Lancaster County in Speech are: Erica Peterson, Holly Hillebran, Ellie Dearmont, Emma Noel, Alyssa Zimmer, Peter Greff, Ivy Dearmont, Sheridan Swotek, and Victoria Garza. Those representing Lancaster County in the Public Service Announcement contest are: Ellie Dearmont, Erica Peterson, Victoria Garza, Paige Roach, Ivy Dearmont, Emma Lanik, McKenzie Kapperman, and Alyssa Zimmer.

Tractor Safety Course for Youth 14 or 15
University of Nebraska–Lincoln Extension Tractor Safety/ Hazardous Occupations Courses will be offered at seven locations across the state in May and June, including at the UNL Tractor Test Lab, Lincoln on June 16–17. Any youth 14 or 15 years of age who works on a farm or ranch other than his own is required to be certified through a tractor safety course.
Classes consist of two full days of instruction plus homework assignments. Classes are from 8 a.m.–5 p.m. each day. Cost is $60, which includes materials, supplies, lunches, and refreshments. Registration is requested a week prior to class. For more information and registration form, go to http://hearny.unl.edu or call Sharry Nielsen at (308) 832-0645.

Lancaster Extension Education Center Conference Facilities
444 Cherrybrook Road, Lincoln

University of Nebraska–Lincoln Extension in Lancaster County
444 Cherrybrook Rd, Ste. A, Lincoln, NE 68528-1507
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444 Cherrybrook Rd, Suite A • Lincoln, Nebraska 68528-1507
**Sign Up for 4-H Summer Camps!**

4-H Summer Camps & Trips are a great place to discover, learn, and grow! Specializing in leadership development, team building, and natural resource education, 4-H camp professionals are prepared to give your child opportunities to experience responsibility, teamwork, and leadership. Camps are open to all youth ages 5–19 — need not be in 4-H.

With three unique Nebraska locations at Halsey, Gretna, and Alma, there are nearly 30 camps ranging from half day to seven days/six nights. Some camp sessions offer a range of activities while others focus on a specific theme. Most camps include one to four overnight stays in comfortable cabins.

UNL Extension, through its 4-H Youth Development Program, has been operating 4-H Camps for over 40 years. The 4-H camps and centers all meet over 300 standards established by the American Camping Association.

2011 4-H Summer Camp brochures have complete information and registration forms — available online at [http://4h.unl.edu/camp](http://4h.unl.edu/camp) or at the extension office. Register online at [http://4h.unl.edu/camp](http://4h.unl.edu/camp).

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**Can You Guess It?**

Did you guess it? Find out at [http://lancaster.unl.edu](http://lancaster.unl.edu).

The answer was: Chicken Eggs — Broods Brachana and Arawuna

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**Dates** | **Camp Session Title** | **Days** | **Nights** | **Ages** | **Standard**
---|---|---|---|---|---
**2011 STATE 4-H CAMP SCHEDULE**
July 2 | Sparklers—Day Camp* | 1 | 0 | 5–8 | $40
July 16 | Double Dig Day Camp | 1 | 0 | 5–8 | $40
July 21–24 | Kough It with Mom and Dad Camp | 3 | 2 | 8–11 | $175
June 6–8 | Explorer—Summer Fun I | 3 | 2 | 8–11 | $175
June 20–22 | Explorer—Summer Fun II | 3 | 2 | 8–11 | $175
June 22–24 | Explorer—Tank & Tube the Loup | 3 | 2 | 8–11 | $175
June 25–27 | Explorer—Animal Adventures | 3 | 2 | 8–11 | $175
June 13–17 | Discovery—Outdoor Skills | 5 | 4 | 11–15 | $293
June 20–24 | Discovery—Sandhills Sampler | 5 | 4 | 11–15 | $293
June 27–July 1 | Discovery—Outback Halsey | 5 | 4 | 11–15 | $293
July 8 | Discovery—Nebrrara Kayaking & Tubing | 4 | 3 | 11–15 | $293
July 17–20 | Discovery—Ultimate Girls Rock (NBA) | 4 | 3 | 11–15 | $230
July 19–22 | Discovery—Extreme Robotics/GPS/GIS-Year 1.0 | 4 | 3 | 11–15 | $110
July 19–22 | Discovery—Advanced Robotics/GPS/GIS-Year 2.0 | 4 | 3 | 11–15 | $110
July 25–28 | Discovery—Veterinary Science | 5 | 4 | 11–15 | $293

**2011 EASTERN NEBRASKA 4-H CENTER SCHEDULE**
June 11 | Wet N’ Wild Day Camp* | 1 | 0 | 5–8 | $40
Sept 3-5 | Labor Day Family Camp | 3 | 2 | All Ages | $280
June 12–15 | Explorer—Summer Fun I | 4 | 3 | 8–11 | $205
June 27–29 | Explorer—Zoo Bound I | 3 | 2 | 8–11 | $215
June 30–July 2 | Explorer—Zoo Bound II | 3 | 2 | 8–11 | $215
July 5–9 | Explorer—Summer Fun II | 5 | 4 | 8–11 | $275
July 24–30 | Explorer—Aquatic Blast I | 7 | 6 | 8–11 | $435
July 24–27 | Explorer—Aquatic Blast Mini | 4 | 3 | 8–11 | $215
July 28–30 | Explorer—Zoo Bound III | 3 | 2 | 8–11 | $215
July 31–Aug 3 | Explorer—Summer Fun III | 3 | 2 | 8–11 | $205
Aug 3–6 | Explorer—Sky’s The Limit II | 4 | 3 | 8–11 | $230
Aug 7–11 | Explorer—Aquatic Blast II | 5 | 4 | 8–11 | $290
Julie 13–17 | Explorer & Toddler Fun Camp | 5 | 4 | 11–15 | $340
June 26–July 2 | Discovery—Sky’s The Limit I | 7 | 6 | 11–15 | $435
July 5–9 | Discovery—Summer Fun II | 5 | 4 | 11–15 | $275
July 5–9 | Discovery—Extreme Robotics/GPS/GIS-Year 1.0 | 5 | 4 | 11–15 | $110
July 5–9 | Discovery—Advanced Robotics/GPS/GIS-Year 2.0 | 5 | 4 | 11–15 | $110
July 10–15 | Discovery—Outdoor Skills | 6 | 5 | 11–15 | $340
July 24–30 | Discovery—Aquatic Blast I | 7 | 6 | 11–15 | $435
July 31–Aug 3 | Discovery—Summer Fun III | 3 | 2 | 11–15 | $205
Aug 7–10 | Discovery—Aquatic Blast II | 5 | 4 | 11–15 | $290

**2011 SOUTH CENTRAL 4-H CENTER SCHEDULE**
June 8–10 | Explorer—Summer Fun | 3 | 2 | 8–11 | $155
June 14–17 | Explorer—Water Bound | 4 | 3 | 8–11 | $260
June 20–22 | Explorer—Summer Fun II | 3 | 2 | 8–11 | $155
June 22–24 | Explorer—Adventure Trek | 3 | 2 | 8–11 | $155
June 27–30 | Explorer—Frontier Adventure | 4 | 3 | 8–11 | $270
June 8–10 | Discovery—Summer Fun I | 3 | 2 | 11–15 | $155
June 14–17 | Discovery—Water Bound | 4 | 3 | 11–15 | $260
June 20–22 | Discovery—Summer Fun II | 3 | 2 | 11–15 | $155
June 20–24 | Discovery—Shooting Skills | 6 | 5 | 11–15 | $315
June 22–24 | Discovery—Adventure Trek | 3 | 2 | 11–15 | $155
June 27–30 | Discovery—Frontier Adventure | 4 | 3 | 11–15 | $270

**2011 EXPERIENCE CAMP SCHEDULE**
June 20–23 | Aquatic Skills | 4 | 3 | 14–18 | $360
July 18–22 | Tube & Kayak the Niobrara | 5 | 4 | 14–18 | $385

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Days camp fees include lunch for nine campers. Chaperones are encouraged, but not required.*** Those attending Experience Camps will need to register through Eastern 4-H Center.

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**Nearly 375 Attended Kiwanis Karnival**

Nearly 375 4-H families and Elliott School students and their families attended this year’s Kiwanis Karnival held April 9 at Elliott Elementary School. Lincoln Center Kiwanis sponsors the free, family event by providing snacks and prizes. Ten 4-H clubs created and ran 14 carnival-type games for the kids. The participating clubs were: Coddington Clovers, 4-H Explorers, Extreme Green, Fantastic 4, Heart to Heart, Pet Pals, Rabbits ‘R Us, South Prairie Wranglers, Super Shamrocks, and Zeeny Bees. 4-H Teen Council ran Bingo for adults.

Paige Roach of Fantastic 4 club said, “It’s a great way to learn how to be in charge of something and have fun at the same time. Making the games is a FUN club project where we get to be as creative as we want.”

Brooke Kreikemeier of Super Shamrocks club said, “It was a fun community service that leaves you a good feeling inside.”

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**Photos: Jim Budka, Lincoln Center Kiwanis**