Urban Agriculture is a Growing Trend

University of Nebraska–Lincoln Extension has observed an interesting upswing in gardening, locally-grown foods, and farmers markets. Much might be attributed to the current popularity of television food shows requiring those essential garden-fresh ingredients. Other reasons may be a craving for the great outdoors and physical activity. On a practical basis, some will point to saving money and reducing the carbon footprint of food traveling long distances to the consumer. Whatever the reason, the enthusiasm for urban agriculture appears very real and recent demographic changes suggest the trend will continue.

So, what is urban agriculture? Perhaps the easiest way to describe urban agriculture is simply farming in metropolitan or peri-urban areas. It can range from hand gardening in backyards or vacant lots, to highly complex aquaponic farm integrating fish and vegetable production or peri-urban areas. It can range from hand gardening in backyards or vacant lots, to highly complex aquaponic farm integrating fish and vegetable production to raise food for local consumption.

Urban agriculture can come in many forms and can be organized in many unique ways.

• Vacant properties in a neighborhood may be divided and used as individual gardens for the neighborhood’s enjoyment and benefit.
• Some are large-scale enterprises resembling traditional agriculture, but producing watermelons, tomatoes, and sweet corn for direct sale to grocery stores, roadside stands, or farmers markets.
• Others are intensively planted small farms selling fresh produce to restaurants or to create their own value-added products such as tomatoes grown for salsa, or pumpkin puree.
• Local churches with land may use available space as an outdoor learning activity for their children’s day care center.
• To reduce budgets, some municipalities are allowing city-owned land to be gardened by individuals and groups to help minimize their mowing and maintenance expense.
• Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farms, a business model in which customers purchase a weekly share of vegetables in return for providing financial support for the farm’s operating expenses are growing in scope as well.

Urban agriculture is a passion for some. A noticeable growth in farmers markets and grocery stores offering locally-grown food continues to evolve. Immigrant families accustomed to gardening in their homeland, want to continue growing their own food. Lincoln’s Community CROPS (Combining Resources, Opportunities, and People for Sustainability), a local nonprofit group dedicated to teaching and promoting gardening, continues to experience growth. Extension’s own Master Gardener program trains volunteers who have an interest in gardening. They, in turn, share their knowledge and expertise with gardeners through school and community gardens and gardening requests received by UNL Extension in Lancaster County.

Leslie Pillen, farm program manager at Community CROPS, says “We are seeing interest in food and agriculture explode across the board. More people want community garden plots or help starting a garden in their yard. People are learning about and joining CSAs for the first time. Entrepreneurs are realizing the market potential and seeking out information on how to start a market farm. People want to know their farmer. This trend has become a movement!”

Billene Nemec, coordinator of Buy Fresh Buy Local Nebraska, says, “Here in Nebraska, the number of farmers markets has grown rapidly over the past ten years, over 90, and they keep growing with each new market season. Some of the best models of these markets involve farmers with community gardens and are hosted by a cooperative group of local businesses who provide venues and traffic.”

The number of “urban farmers” answering a local demand within the growing and increasingly diverse urban agriculture market potential and seeking out information on how to start a market farm is growing at an explosive rate. This year, the number of farmers markets in the state has exploded. More people want to know their farmer. This trend has become a movement!”

Towns that never hosted a local farmers market, now have busy weekly markets, offering fresh from the farm food grown in or near their community and encouraging their community to eat healthier and build a vigorous local economy.

Lincoln will have six farmers markets this year. Pictured is Old Cheney Road Farmers Market.
Larger Diameter Bins Can Save Time and Energy When Drying Grain

Tom Dorn
UNL Extension Educator

The airflow produced by an aerations fan depends on the static pressure and the fan must overcome to push the air through the grain mass. Figure 1 shows a typical airflow fan curve. The greater the static pressure, the lower the volume of air cubic feet per minute (cfm) the fan can produce. Table 1 shows airflow resistance for shelled corn. More static pressure is required to push a given rate of airflow, cubic feet per minute per bushel (cfm/bu) through grain as the depth of grain increases. Static pressure also must increase to push increasing rates of airflow (cfm/bu) through any given depth of grain.

The time required to dry grain in a bin is a function of the amount of water removed, the air properties, and the rate of airflow through the grain (cfm/bu).

Since drying time is directly related to the rate of airflow, we want airflow rates as high as practical when drying grain. By keeping grain depth as shallow as possible, requiring higher airflow rates, we can reduce total drying time and reduce energy cost for drying grain.

Building larger diameter bins and then partially filling them when drying, keeps static pressure low while not sacrificing the number of bushels dried per batch. Consider the difference in static pressure when a 30-foot-diameter bin and a 36-foot-diameter bin are each used to dry 9,600 bushels. Grain depth in the 30-foot bin would be 17 feet, whereas grain depth in the 36-foot bin would be only 11.8 feet.

Using the FANS computer program from University of Minnesota to compare these scenarios provides some interesting results.

Less Horsepower — Same Bushels

The time to dry grain in a bin is directly proportional to the airflow (cfm/bu). It would take 3.74 inches of static pressure (diameter) and an estimated 11.8 horsepower (hp) to push 1.25 cfm/bu through 9,600 bushels in the 30-foot-diameter bin. To push the same airflow (1.25 cfm/bu) through 9,600 bushels in the 36-foot-diameter bin would only take 1.25 inches of static pressure and an estimated 4.89 horsepower to achieve the same 1.25 cfm/bu airflow though the same volume of grain.

Actual operating conditions are shown as the interaction between the fan curve and the system curves for various depths of corn in the bin.

In this scenario, it takes 2.4 times as much static pressure to achieve the same airflow (cfm/bu) in the 30-foot-diameter bin because of the greater grain depth required to hold 9,600 bushels compared to the 36-foot-diameter bin.

The horsepower required for the two bins, demonstrate the relationship between static pressure and energy consumption. To push 1.25 cfm/bu through each of the two bins requires 11.8 horsepower in the 30-foot-diameter bin whereas it only takes 4.89 horsepower to push 1.25 cfm/bu in the 36-foot-diameter bin holding the same amount of corn. Note 11.8 horsepower/4.89 horsepower = 2.4. The smaller bin with greater grain depth requires 11.8/4.89 = 2.4 times as much horsepower to dry the same volume of corn in the same time. This shows the horsepower and electricity consumed for grain drying are directly related to the static pressure required to achieve given airflow.

Assuming the 220 volt single phase aerations fan motor is 80% efficient, each horsepower required to power the fan for an hour requires 0.93 kilowatt-hours of electricity which is 22.3 kilowatt-hour per horsepower every day (24 hours).

Comparing these two bins, and assuming electricity costs 40¢ per kilowatt-hour, the electricity cost for the 30-foot-diameter bin is $15.40 more for each 24 hours of fan operation than the 36-foot-diameter bin. Assuming it takes 17 days to dry 9,600 bushels using natural air in both bins, the electricity cost for the 30-foot-diameter bin would be $262 more than the 36-foot-diameter bin when both are drying the same amount of corn in the same period of time.

Looking at this scenario from another perspective, how many bushels could be dried in the 36-foot-diameter bin in the same time and with same electricity consumption as required to dry 9,600 bushels in the 30-foot-diameter bin?

The horsepower required for the aeration fan depends on the volume of air moved and the static pressure the fan must overcome to move the air. As Table 1 shows, the static pressure required for a given airflow (cfm/bu) is a function of grain depth (ft).

According to the FANS computer program, Bin A with 17 feet of grain depth, requires 11.56 horsepower to push 1.25 cfm/bu through the 9,600 bushels of corn in the 30-foot-diameter bin.

The 36-foot-diameter bin requires the same horsepower (11.55 hp) to push the same airflow (1.25 cfm/bu) through 15.28 feet, (12,443 bushels) of corn.

In this scenario, the 36-foot-diameter bin is able to dry 2,843 more bushels (30% more corn) in the same time and using the same amount of electricity as compared to drying in the 30-foot-diameter bin.

Conclusion

Keep grain depth shallow when pushing the high airflow rates required for drying grain. Since grain depth affects the static pressure and static pressure directly affects the horsepower required for the fan operation, keeping grain depth shallow will increase airflow and reduce the length of time the fans must run to dry grain. Building larger diameter bins allows the producer to dry the same volume of grain in less time or to dry more bushels in the same time compared to smaller diameter bins.

---

Seeding Forages into Wheat Stubble

Wheat Stubble Can be an Excellent Seedbed to Plant Forages Into Using No-Till

Planting alfalfa, turnips, or summer annual grasses using no-till into wheat stubble, has many advantages. Soil moisture is conserved, erosion is reduced, weed seeds remain buried, and tillage expenses are eliminated. But despite these advantages, many growers still experience spotty stands.

To help ensure success when planting into wheat stubble, take a few extra steps. One big challenge is heavy residue; residue that might limit proper drill operation, seed placement, or even might partly smother new seedlings. Residue can be especially troublesome right behind the combine even when using a good straw chopper. The best way to minimize this problem is to bale the straw and remove excess residue. Be sure to have a well-functioning drill.

Another challenge is weeds; especially annual weeds that develop after wheat is combined, or volunteer wheat that sprouts later in the summer. Control weeds prior to planting with herbicides like glyphosate. Be ready with post-emergent herbicides like Select® or Poast Plus® for latter emerging weeds or volunteer wheat, if permitted. Finally, consider cross- or double-drilling. Plant one-half of the seed while driving one direction, then plant the other half driving in a different direction. This helps fill in gaps, develops canopy improves weed control earlier, and may help you plant the right amount of seed if you commonly end up running out, or have much seed left over. Wheat stubble makes a good seedbed. Make it even better with a few management adjustments.

Source: Dr. Bruce Anderson, UNL Extension Forage Specialist.
Pasture poultry turn grass into profits

Jessica Jones
UNL Extension Educator

Pasture poultry is a niche market that capitalizes on consumer demand for natural, humane, and environmentally-sound production practices. Consumers demanding this type of product are generally willing to pay more since many consider it to be healthier and tastier. Pasture poultry production can be an integrated animal production system. The product produced, but also the services provided by the animals. For example, poultry may provide: fertilization, tillage, insect, and weed control. Commonly, in this type of system, various species of domestic animals are raised together to complement each other. This type of system benefits animal health by breaking disease cycles that can occur when the same species occupies the same site all of the time. Before beginning a pasture poultry enterprise, you should consider a number of factors. First, do I have a customer base to sell the product to? Two methods of marketing include farmers markets, and direct sales. Second, do I have the time and dedication? Even at the small scale, the operator is tied down by the need to feed, water, and move cages daily. Finally, do I have the facilities to process the number of birds produced? According to the Nebraska State Department of Agriculture, "Poultry normally is processed under USDA inspection. However, there is an exemption that allows individuals to process poultry they have raised and sell them through commercial channels." Contact the State Department of Agriculture for further information regarding processing and inspection.

One resource to assist you in getting started is, "The National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service on the web at http://attra.ncat.org. They have publications addressing all aspects of pasture poultry production.

Tips to Keep Your Hearing on the Acreage

• Make hearing protection convenient. Keep earplugs near your wallet or keys. Hang ear muffs on your tractor steering wheel, ATV, and lawn mower.
• Keep machinery and equipment well lubricated to reduce noise.
• Take breaks from noisy environments throughout the day.
• Limit the duration of elevated noise exposure.
• Double the distance between the source of the sound and the listener reduces the sound level heard to one-fourth of what it was at the listener’s original position.

Signs You Might Have Hearing Loss

• Asking for frequent repetition.
• Have more difficulty following a conversation with background noise.
• Thinking others sound like they are mumbled.
• Turn up the volume on the television or radio.
• Watching people when they speak to you.

The Dangers of Acreage Noise

Lindsay Chichester
UNL Extension Educator

The Midwest Producer (Aug. 27, 2010) had a front page story by Shelby Haag I thought is something worth mentioning, as it is something we usually don’t think too much about — until it is too late: our HEARING.

The article says farmers and ranchers are frequently exposed to hazardous noise levels that can cause significant hearing loss, but noise-related hearing loss can affect anyone. The key to preventing or lessening hearing damage is early awareness and protective actions. Approximately 10–12 percent of the U.S. population experiences some sort of hearing difficulties. In Nebraska, that number jumps to 78 percent of the agricultural population with a measurably reduced capacity to hear, according to the University of Nebraska-Kearney. This hearing loss does not know any age boundaries — everyone is equally susceptible.

“Hearing is a very valuable asset,” audiologist, Kelly Wacker says, “Hearing loss from exposure to excessive noise is the only type of hearing loss that is 100% preventable. By following the necessary precautions, an individual does not need to experience hearing loss as a result of noise exposure.”

There are two variables which contribute to hearing loss. The first is the volume of the noise; the second is the duration of the noise. The longer and louder a noise is, the greater the chance of developing hearing loss at a higher rate. When a person is exposed to a noise, they may experience a ringing or muffled sound; which can return to normal in a few hours or days. Repeated noise exposure may cause the destruction of the thousands of hair cells in the inner ear.

According to OSHA, when a sound reaches 85–90 dB (decibels), it is becoming excessive, and hearing protection is recommended. To put this into perspective, an idling tractor has an average decibel level of 80 dB and a riding lawn mower averages 90 dB. ATVs range in sound levels from 91–100 dB, while power tools and woodshop noise averages 100 dB. A gas-power grass trimmer and chainsaw averages 105–110 dB, and a snowmobile averages 120 dB.

The American Speech-Language and Hearing Association says noise and hearing loss can have other negative effects on a person, which may include: stress, increased blood pressure, fatigue, irritability, tension, and difficulty sleeping, just to name a few. A study also indicated farmers who had difficulties hearing normal conversations, were 80% more likely to be involved in a farming accident. The best advice: wear proper ear protection when you know you will be exposed to loud noises. If you think you may be experiencing hearing loss, you should make an appointment with an audiologist. They can determine if you have hearing loss or if hearing loss will be something you develop in the future. It is also important to note, just because you have hearing loss now, it does not mean you cannot preserve what hearing is left. Wearing protective devices will help to preserve what hearing is left.

Good Fences Make Good Neighbors

Steve Tonn
UNL Extension Educator

In 1914, poet Robert Frost wrote, “Good fences make good neighbors.” This is still true today in Nebraska, whether we live on an acreage or a large ranch. Keeping livestock out of fields, gardens, and off other’s property is just part of being a good neighbor. Keeping fences in good repair can help to build good relationships with neighbors.

For many years, Nebraska has been a fence-in state, in which livestock owners are liable for any damage livestock may cause to a neighbor’s property. This trespass liability created an obligation on the part of livestock owners to restrain the animals, but not a specific requirement that the animals be fenced in.

The 2010 unicameral revised Nebraska’s design fence statute by enacting Legislative Bill 667. The primary change is that the cost of a wire fence is split 50–50 in all cases, except where the neighbors have agreed to a different division of the fence cost.

Under LB867, the costs for constructing and maintaining a division fence are divided 50–50, even if only one landowner owns livestock. If a landowner wants to build a division fence or repair an existing fence, he must give written notice to the neighbor. If the neighbor does not agree, the landowner files a suit in county court. If the parties agree to negotiate the cost and work, the judge may refer the case to mediation. Otherwise, it goes to trial. Losing does not mean that the neighbor has the final say. Fences are divided 50–50, even if both landowners agree to a different division of the fence cost.

The likely result of the 2010 division fence statutes is once landowners realize they will have to pay 50 percent of a new division fence, most landowners will pay their share or else build their half of the fence as per the right hand rule. Hopefully, most landowners also will agree to the right-hand rule approach for fence maintenance, which would simplify fence maintenance disputes. According to the right-hand rule, if the landowners stand at the middle and face each other across the fence, they would each be responsible for the half of the fence to their right. If a neighbor is not maintaining his half of the fence, the other landowner can call the county judge in need of the repair. If the neighbor does not agree, then the two parties may go to court. Maintaining a fence includes keeping trees and shrubs out of the fence line. Each landowner is responsible for removal or trimming trees or shrubs within or encroaching upon the fence line.

Building good fences and maintaining them is just one of the many responsibilities that come with owning livestock and living in the country.
### Food Questions? Find Answers at food.unl.edu

**Alice Hennenman, MS, RD**
UNL Extension Educator

- Can I safely refreeze raw meat and poultry that has thawed?
- How can I make homemade ice cream without using raw eggs?
- I’d like to sell a food product I made — how do I get started?

Are these a few of the questions for which you can find answers at http://food.unl.edu.

University of Nebraska–Lincoln Extension developed the http://food.unl.edu Web site to connect you to information, resources, and food experts about food from farm to factory to fork. A collaboration of people working in various areas related to food at the University provides the content for food.unl.edu. Find information on:
- Food
- Nutrition & Health
- Food Safety
- Food Allergies
- Local Foods / Urban Agriculture
- Meat Products
- Home Food Preservation (canning, freezing, drying)
- Food Processing / Business Development
- Youth / 4-H food projects (food projects, activities and resources)
- Nebraska Food-related Programs related to food
- Graduate & Undergraduate Programs related to food

Here are the answers to the three questions at the beginning of the article. Use the navigation bars at the top of the page to find information on additional topics.

### Can I safely refreeze raw meat and poultry that has thawed?

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) advises, “Once food is thawed, it is safe to refreeze it, it is safe to refreeze it without cooking, although there may be a loss of quality due to the moisture lost through thawing. After cooking raw foods, which were previously frozen, it is safe to freeze the cooked foods. If previously cooked foods are thawed in the refrigerator, you may refreeze the unused portion. If you purchase previously frozen meat, poultry or fish at a retail store, you can refreeze if it has been handled properly.”

### How can I make homemade ice cream without using raw eggs?

Protect yourself from the danger of possible Salmonella infection by avoiding the use of raw eggs in homemade ice cream. To play it safe when making homemade ice cream, check out the services the UNL Food Processing Center offers to people wishing to start see FOOD.UNL.EDU next page.

---

### How to Make Baked Meatballs

- **2 lbs. lean ground beef**
- **3 eggs, beaten**
- **1 tablespoon dried parsley**
- **1 cup regular oatmeal**
- **1 cup low-fat milk**
- **1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg**
- **1/2 teaspoon pepper**
- **2 teaspoons onion powder**

Preheat oven to 350°F. Spray two baking sheets with non-stick cooking spray. Set aside. In a large bowl, mix all ingredients well. Shape into 1-1/2 inch balls. You will have about 48 meatballs.

**Baked Meatballs**

- **(16 servings, 3 meatballs each)**

---

### Most Americans Should Decrease Sodium

The 2010 Dietary Guidelines for Americans recommend we decrease sodium intake to less than 2300 milligrams per day or 1500 milligrams per day depending on age and other individual characteristics. African Americans, individuals ages 51 and older, and those with hypertension, diabetes, or kidney disease should aim for 1500 milligrams or less of sodium daily.

Sodium is primarily consumed in the form of salt. Most of the sodium consumed by Americans comes from salt added during food processing. With the convenience of ready-to-eat meals, many Americans rely heavily on these processed foods to feed their families amidst a hectic schedule. Following the sodium recommendations from the 2010 Dietary Guidelines proves difficult for many with limited time and a limited budget.

Use the following tips to help maintain a salt-savvy nutritional and monetary budget:
- **Read nutrition fact labels.** Processed foods often do not taste salty, but many are. Check the food label for information on the sodium content of foods. Look for lower sodium versions of your favorite foods or foods with no added salt. Foods with less than 140 milligrams of sodium can be labeled as low sodium foods.
- **Plan ahead.** Make a weekly meal plan and try to purchase and prepare foods ahead of time to avoid purchasing convenience foods. Consuming fewer convenience foods can help reduce sodium consumption.
- **Consume more fresh foods such as fruits and vegetables.** Fruits and vegetables are naturally low in sodium but are rich in flavor, vitamins, minerals, and count other nutrients. They can be perfect on-the-go snacks and meal sidekicks.
- **Use flavorings other than salt.** Replace salt with herbs and spices, citrus juices and zest, or flavored vinegars in your favorite recipes to enhance the flavor of your food. Try this nutritious recipe at your next meal which uses flavorings such as herbs and spice without adding salt.
President’s View — Irene’s Items

Irene Colborn
FCE Council Chair

I’m afraid the nice cool spring weather is passing on to “summer-time.” As I drive around Lincoln, I am enjoying what people are doing in their yards with plantings and flowers. I have a small strawberry patch and have had to cover it to keep the birds from harvesting the berries before I do. July brings the 4th of July holiday and the “Sizzling Summer Sampler.” I hope you are making plans to attend. Those of us that are members of FCE Clubs are bringing baskets to raffle for the scholarship fund.

“Happiness keeps you sweet, tears keep you strong, sorrow keeps you human, failure keeps you humble, success keeps you glowing, but...God, family and friends keep you going.”

FCE News & Events

Baskets Needed
Clubs and individuals are reminded, baskets are needed for the Scholarship Raffle at the Sizzling Summer Sampler (SSS). Each year a $440 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.

Save the Date: Join the FCE Galaxy of Stars
What: State FCE Leadership Conference
When: Thursday, Sept. 22 - Saturday, Sept. 24, 2011
Where: Lancaster Extension Education Center, 444 Cherry Creek Road, Lincoln
Who: FCE members

Shawnee County Extension Education Center

Research, Resources Provide Insight into Child Development

Social and emotional skills are a necessity in early childhood development, especially in regard to school success. Research in early childhood development has shown a link between a child's social and emotional health and his or her readiness for school. This is important because 20 percent of kindergartners report children entering school don’t have those necessary skills to succeed. In Nebraska, one goal is for all young children to have access to services, resources and informed caregivers that can effectively meet their social and emotional needs.

Some of these needs include home and classroom environments that allow children to explore their world freely while intentionally modeling and teaching positive social behaviors. Often times, when children bite, yell, hit, or kick it’s because they don’t have more appropriate behaviors or skills to communicate or accomplish a particular goal. UNL Extension educators and members of the Learning Child Team strive to provide strategies for teaching those skills instead of focusing on ways parents and teachers can help children stop using those challenging behaviors. The Learning Team has developed several NebGuide publications that are available to families, educators, and healthcare providers which provide specific strategies on promoting healthy social and emotional growth and development. For more information and resources, visit www.extension.unl.edu/child-youth. Extension educators are available to provide support, answer questions, and address situations parents or caregivers may have.

Source: Tonia Durden, Ph.D., UNL Extension Early Childhood Specialist

Fireworks Safety

Lorene Bartos, UNL Extension Educator

Summertime is a time for family outings and celebrations. Safety is important all year but especially during 4th of July celebrations. Keeping the home and family safe can be easily accomplished by taking the time to check over the home before leaving. Being safe when doing fireworks keeps the family free from injury. Careless or unsupervised people are not the only ones who can be injured by fireworks. When it comes to fireworks, no one is safe. Prevent Blindness estimates nearly 40 percent of fireworks injuries are to bystanders. The following tips can help a family have a fun and safe holiday.

• Always supervise children around fireworks.
• Read and follow the label instructions.
• Children should not be allowed to light or play with fireworks.
• Use age appropriate fireworks with children.
• Use only legal fireworks.
• Fireworks should only be use outdoors.
• Have a bucket of water and/or hose handy.
• Use special caution with children when using sparklers. Sparklers reach very high temperature and children can be easily burned if they touch the lit portion of the sparkler.
• Always light one item at a time. Injured people.
• Hard surfaces work best for fireworks.
• Stay clear of fireworks.
• Fireworks should be stored in a cool, dry place. Keep out of the reach of small children.
• Make sure all fireworks are out before putting them in the trash. Soaking them in water is a bad idea. Dispose of them properly.
• Never re-light a firework that didn’t go off completely.
• Handle fireworks carefully.
• Fireworks should not be carried in pockets.
• Smoking should not be allowed around fireworks.
• Alcohol and fireworks do not go together.

It is important to know and follow the laws and rules of your community when shooting off fireworks. Review all safety rules and guidelines with your family so you can have a safe and fun holiday.

FCE Council Chair

President’s View — Irene’s Items

Irene Colborn
FCE Council Chair

I’m afraid the nice cool spring weather is passing on to “summer-time.” As I drive around Lincoln, I am enjoying what people are doing in their yards with plantings and flowers. I have a small strawberry patch and have had to cover it to keep the birds from harvesting the berries before I do. July brings the 4th of July holiday and the “Sizzling Summer Sampler.” I hope you are making plans to attend. Those of us are members of FCE Clubs are bringing baskets to raffle for the scholarship fund.

“Happiness keeps you sweet, tears keep you strong, sorrow keeps you human, failure keeps you humble, success keeps you glowing, but...God, family and friends keep you going.”
4th of July Container Garden

Decorate your landscape for Independence Day with containers filled with red, white, and blue annuals. Fill your large, clean containers or urns with fresh potting soil. Select bedding plants with healthy foliage and bushy, compact growth. To get your 4th of July garden blooming sooner, select bedding plants growing in four- or six-inch pots, if possible. In container gardens, it is fine to put the plants closer together. Just remember to water more often, especially in hot weather.

Red flowers: geraniums, zinnias, celosia, snapdragons, impatiens, salvia, petunias, or verbena
White flowers: petunias, Euphorbia ‘Diamond Frost’, impatiens, vinca, geraniums, lobelia, or verbena
Blue flowers: lobelia, ageratum, bachelor buttons, petunias, verbena, or salvias

This patriotic display will last the rest of the growing season if you keep it well watered and trim out the spent flowers.

—Mary Jane Frogge, UNL Extension Associate

Geraniums, petunias, and lobelia are featured in this 4th of July container garden.

Proper Landscape Plant Maintenance

After plants are established in the landscape, maintenance needs can be minimized by following correct maintenance procedures on a timely basis. Following are some suggestions to reduce the time and amount of maintenance necessary in established landscapes.

1. Practice Preventive Maintenance

Be observant of your plants. Watch for disease and insect outbreaks regularly. Pests are much easier to control if they are affecting only a few leaves or one branch. By the time they spread to several plants or an entire shrub border, they will be more difficult to control.

2. Use the Right Tool

Power tools can make short work of many maintenance operations. However, make certain they are the right tools for the job. For example, weed whips or string trimmers quickly mow down weeds and grass around buildings and fences, but should be used with caution around trees. The force of the trimmer line can cause injury to the bark, leading to girdling, unless the tree is protected from direct contact with the trimmer.

3. Irrigate Various Plant Zones Separately

Some plants are better adapted to hot, dry conditions than others. If plants of similar growth requirements are grouped together in the landscape, they can be watered as a group. Use the appropriate type of irrigation system for the planting. Overhead sprinklers or pop-up heads on an underground irrigation system may be most appropriate for turf. For shrubs and flower beds, drip irrigation may be the most efficient system.

4. Fertilize in Moderation

Base your fertilization programs on soil test results. Recycle as many nutrients as possible on site by leaving plantings and clean-up materials on the property. Spread fertilizers around trees and shrubs where they will not harm the root systems. Mulch plants to reduce water losses and improve yields.

— Christopher Barbash, University of Missouri

There is Still Time to Control Bagworms in Early July

Bagworm larvae hatched in early June and have been feeding on plant material for nearly a month. They are about half of their mature size and may be hard to see in leafy plant material. Take a walk through your landscape and check all your landscape plants, especially spruce and junipers. If you find an outbreak of bagworms, chemical control may be needed. Bacillus thuringiensis is available at nurseries and garden centers as Dipel or Thuricide. Other insecticides currently labeled for bagworm control include acephate, carbaryl, cyfluthrin, malathion, permethrin, and methoxyfenozide. Affected plants must be thoroughly covered with the insecticide so the insects ingest it as they are feeding. Be sure to read and follow all label directions. If you have a large infestation in your evergreen trees or shrubs, do not delay in controlling the bagworms. Feeding by mature caterpillars slows in August before pupation into adults, so chemical control in late summer and fall is not effective. By that time your valuable landscape plants are already severely damaged by the maturing bagworms.

—Mary Jane Frogge, UNL Extension Associate

Bagworm larva early July (shown approximate size).

Morning with Herbs

Saturday, July 16 • 9:30 a.m.–12 Noon
Pioneers Park Nature Center - Prairie Building Fee: $10/person • Register by July 12

Enjoy the tastes and smells of herbs and join us for two exciting workshops:
9:30 a.m. workshop: Herbs, Beeswax and Candles by Janet Salvati — Learn how to hand-dip a beeswax taper. Then, using fresh herbs, decorate a small pillar candle to take home.
10:45 a.m. workshop: Cold Herbal Soups by Becky Seth — Demonstrations recipes and sampling of some refreshing summer treats. We’ll also discuss horseradish, the herb of the year.
Carpenter Bees on Increase in Southern Nebraska

Barb Ogg
UNL Extension Educator

Carpenter bees are large bees seen in the springtime hovering around the eaves of a house or the underside of a deck or porch rail. These bees are more common in states to the east and south of Nebraska, but the last few years, we have received an increasing number of callers reporting these carpenter bees in Lancaster and counties in the southern part of Nebraska. Most people mistake carpenter bees for bumble bees because they are robust, black, and yellow. They differ from bumble bees in having a black, shiny abdomen.

Carpenter bees get their name because they excavate tunnels in wood to lay eggs in. The perfectly round, 1/2-inch diameter entrance holes are usually found on the underside of a board, beam, bench, or tree limb. Coarse sawdust is often found beneath the hole. Wooden limbs, old burrows as adults in old tunnels which they will use during the summer. Adults begin to emerge in late summer. They do not construct new tunnels, but may be seen cleaning out old tunnels which will be used as overwintering sites when the weather turns cold.

Typically, carpenter bees do not cause serious structural damage to wood unless large numbers of bees are allowed to drill many tunnels over successive years. Woodpeckers may damage infested wood in search of bee larvae in the tunnels. In the case of thin wood, such as siding, this damage can be severe. Holes on exposed surfaces may lead to damage by wood-destroying fungi or attack by other insects, such as carpenter ants.

Control

Preventing carpenter bee damage with liquid chemical treatments is nearly impossible. Insecticide sprays applied to wood surfaces are effective for only short periods, even when repeated every few weeks. And, it is impractical and unsafe to try applying a pesticide to all possible sites where the bees might tunnel. Tending to spray bees seen hovering about is not a sensible (or particularly safe) use of pesticides either. Swatting hovering bees will often prove to be just as effective.

Dust formulations provide residual effects and are effective due to the nature of carpenter bee gallery construction. Inject the dust directly and deeply into each nest entrance hole. Wait for a few days before placing plugs. Bees distribute the insecticide within the galleries. Later in the summer, newly emerged bees will also contact the dust when attempting to leave their gallery. A completely non-chemical approach is to deny carpenter bees access to their galleries by sealing each entrance hole you find later in the summer. Thoroughly plug the hole with caulk, wood putty, or a wooden dowel affixed with wood glue. If possible, also fill the entire gallery system with an expandable sealant. Carpenter bee galleries are a critical resource, since the bees require these protective conditions to survive the winter. This barrier approach will reduce future carpenter bee infestations.

Ah, Wildlife...

Q. Some animal is crawling on my front porch each night because I find droppings on it every morning. I’ve put mouse traps on the porch, but nothing gets caught. I have to sweep off the droppings off the porch each morning and it is driving me crazy. What kind of animal is doing this and what can I do to stop it?

A. The porch-pooping animal is a bat. At night, bats fly and feed on night-flying insects, like moths, beetles, and mosquitoes. Some time in the middle of the night, the bat takes a well-deserved break and finds a covered, secluded place to sleep and digest its food. Hence the droppings. To see the culprit for yourself, set an alarm clock for about 2-3 a.m. and look above where you find the droppings. You should find a bat hanging there.

For its night-time roost, the bat will select a very secluded location, such as on the underside of the door or an inside corner of a covered porch or patio. It is usually a brick house because the rough brick facing allows the bat to hang onto the side of the house with its claws.

Preventing a bat from visiting its established night-time roost is difficult. There are no repellent sprays or devices that will effectively repel the bat. Some people have tried turning on a porch light, but have found it doesn’t work either.

A bat is a creature of habit and will keep returning to the same porch unless it is somehow made inaccessible or it cannot hang onto the side of the house. One possibility is to hang bird netting or other fabric around the porch. This will prevent the bat from accessing the porch to roost. This only needs to be done for a couple weeks, until the bat finds another suitable nighttime roost.

Just because a bat uses a porch for a night roost doesn’t mean there is a bat colony living in the attic. But, it’s a good idea to check out the attic during the daytime just to make sure. For people unable or unwilling to do this, you can hire a pest control company to do an inspection for you.

Barb Ogg, UNL Extension Educator

Follow Law When Relocating Wildlife

Most people don’t realize there are laws in Nebraska limiting how wild animals can be moved and/or released into the wild. These regulations help protect Nebraska wildlife populations. Without authorization from the Nebraska Game & Parks Commission, reptiles, amphibians, and most fur-bearing mammals cannot be moved more than 100 yards from their original location. Mammals held in captivity more than 48 hours cannot be released without proper authorization.

Before deciding to trap or move any wild animal, be sure you are following the law. The following are Nebraska Game & Parks Commission regulations passed and enacted by the Nebraska State Unicameral.

• The Amphibian & Reptile Regulation - enacted 2002 — Title 163: Chapter 4:010.04 states:

010.04 Release of Reptiles and Amphibians - It shall be unlawful to release into the wild any live reptile or amphibian after such animal has been transported from one location to another over a distance exceeding 100 yards without the authorization of the Commission.

010.04 Release of Reptiles and Amphibians - It shall be unlawful to release into the wild any live reptile or amphibian after such animal has been transported from one location to another over a distance exceeding 100 yards without the authorization of the Commission.

• The Fur-bearer Mammals Regulation - was enacted in 2007 — Title 163: Chapter 4:010.04 states:

010.04C3 Without the authorization of the Commission, it shall be unlawful to release into the wild any wild mammal other than fish, mollusks, and crustaceans and those listed in 008.08C2 which has been transported from one location to another over a distance exceeding 100 yards or after such wildlife has been in captivity for a time period exceeding 48 hours.

—Sonni Cathman, UNL Extension Associate
The Lancaster County 4-H & FFA Fair Book has complete information about entering 4-H/FFA exhibits and contests. Fair Books are available at the extension office and online at http://lancaster.unl.edu/4h/fair.

### County Fair 4-H/FFA News

**Volunteers Needed**

Adults and youth ages 12 and up are needed to help during the Lancaster County Super Fair. Help is especially needed in the following areas:

- In the 4-H Corner Stop food booth from Wednesday, Aug. 3 through Sunday, Aug. 7.
- **Static exhibit set-up:** Thursday, July 28 at 6:30 p.m. and Saturday, July 30 at 8 a.m. in the Lincoln Room.
- **During judging of static exhibits:** on Wednesday, Aug. 3.
- **Teen tour guides are needed for Fair Fun Day** for child care groups on Friday, Aug. 5 at 9:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.

If you, someone from your club or an interested volunteer would like to help, contact the extension office.

**Food Booth Training, July 28**

The 4-H food booth at the county fair is the primary fundraiser for Lancaster County 4-H Council. 4-H Council asks clubs to help by staffing a 3–4 hour shift at the food booth. See back page for more information. All food booth volunteers are STRONGLY ENCOURAGED to attend the training on Thursday, July 28, 6–7 p.m. at the Lancaster Event Center, Lincoln Room. Learn about food safety, customer service, and volunteer responsibilities.

**Static Exhibit Check-In, Tuesday, Aug. 2, 4–8 p.m.**

Static exhibits do not preregister, but MUST be physically checked in during Static Exhibit Check-in on Tuesday, Aug. 2 between 4–8 p.m. at the Lancaster Event Center, Lincoln Room. An adult — such as a club leader or parent(s) — should assist 4-H members in entering exhibits. All entry tags, additional information, recipe cards, data tags, etc. MUST be attached at this time.

**Interview Judging, Aug. 3**

Interview judging is Wednesday, Aug. 3 starting at 9 a.m. in the Lincoln Room. 4-H’ers have the opportunity to talk to judges about their fair exhibits and share their trials and lessons they learned. 4-H’ers also learn what the judge looks for and how to improve skills. 4-H’ers may interview judge ONE exhibit from each project area. Refer to page 15 of the Fair Book for project areas which have interview judging. Members, parents or leaders can call the extension office at (402) 441-7180 to sign up members for a five-minute time slot. Preregister between July 6 and 30. If slots are still available, may sign up during Static Exhibit Check-in on Tuesday, Aug. 2, 4–8 p.m.

**4-H Swine Exhibitors**

If you want to sell your pigs after county fair, there are a lot of fun and showing at the county fair is a great experience. Here are a few tips to help you get started. Start by looking at the Horticulture area of the Fair Book. It is divided into two areas: Floriculture and Vegetables.

- **Easy flowers to grow and exhibit:** Marigold, Zinnia.
- **Vegetables to grow and exhibit:** Slicing cucumbers, Jalapeno peppers, Hot peppers, Salad or cherry tomatoes.

Be sure to keep all your plant tags and seed packages, so you have the cultivar or variety names of your flowers or vegetables. You will need that information when you enter your items at the county fair. When planting flowers from seed, it’s important to select a variety with a single flower color. That way it is easier to select flowers to exhibit that all look the same. The judge will be looking for uniformity when judging your exhibit, so they need to be the same color. When you are ready to select your exhibit for the fair, there are three helpful resources for you to use. All three are available at the extension office.

- 2011 Lancaster County Fair Book
- Selecting and Preparing Vegetables, Herbs and Fruits for the Fair (4-H) (cost $2)
- Tips For Fair, Cut Flower Exhibits

**Clover Kids Show & Tell, Aug. 7**

All Clover Kids, youth age 5–7 by January 1, 2011, are invited to show & tell their 4-H exhibits at the Lancaster County Fair, Sunday, Aug. 7, starting at 1 p.m. Clover Kids Show & Tell is held in the Lincoln Room at the Lancaster Event Center. Youth are also invited to do a skit or song at this time. See page 10 of the Fair Book for more information. To register, call (402) 441-7180 between July 5 and July 29, or sign up at the static exhibit area Tuesday, Aug. 2, 4–8 p.m.

**Premium Payouts Procedure**

No checks will be issued (except for Horse Hunter and Dressage exhibitors!) No changes or corrections will be made on premium amounts after 14 days.

**STATIC EXHIBITS and CONTESTS:**

- **Total premium payable:** $2.00 per prize and $2.00 per exhibitament for premiums to be received. Signatures from all representatives receiving payments will be required.
- **4-H exhibiting riders:** You will receive your payments mailed to them.
Donated Sewing Machine to go to a 4-H’er
This is the third year that Kath Conroy, a 4-H clothing superintendent, is graciously donating a brand new Bernina sewing machine to a Lancaster County 4-H youth. All 4-H youth who would like to be considered to receive this brand new sewing machine should submit a paper describing 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 Cherrycreek Road, Ste. A, Lincoln, NE 68528.

4-H Sewing Help
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 and have many years of experience helping 4-H’ers with their sewing projects.

Livestock Booster Club Scholarships Due July 5
Applications for the Lancaster County 4-H/FFA Livestock Booster Club $500 scholarships are due July 5. It is open to any 4-H’er who has completed their junior year of high school and has not surpassed the age of 18 as of January 1. The application is at the extension office and http://lancaster.unl.edu/4h/Programs/award.shtml. For more information, contact Cole Meador at (402) 441-7180.

Presentations Contest, July 23
This year’s livestock presentation contest will be Saturday, July 23, 10 a.m. at the Lancaster Extension Education Center. Open to all 4-H’ers ages 8–18 (4-H age). There are three methods in which 4-H’ers may present: 1) Presentation using Audio Visual (class name changed this year “using LCD projector”); 2) presentation using posters; or 3) multimedia presentation. See Fair Book page 12 for complete contest information. A handout is available at http://lancaster.unl.edu/4h/Fair and the extension office. All participants are strongly encouraged to read the handout as well. Preregister must by July 18.

Plant Science Contests, July 13
Three Plant Science Contests will be held Wednesday, July 13, 10 a.m.–Noon at the Lancaster Extension Education Center. Open to all 4-H’ers ages 8–18 — need not be enrolled in a horticulture project. Youth choose which of the following portions of the contest to participate in: Tree identification, Grass weed identification, Horticulture contest. Preregistration is not required — enter the day of contest.

State Revue Judging, July 27
Public Style Revue, Aug. 4
Style Revue judging will be Wednesday, July 27 starting at 8 a.m. The public Style Revue is Thursday, Aug. 4, at 7 p.m. (both revues will be held at the Lancaster Event Center, Exhibit Hall). A handout and entry forms are available at the extension office or online at http://lancaster.unl.edu/4h/Fair. Must submit entry forms by July 18.

Table Setting Contest, August 5
Table Setting Contest will be Friday, Aug. 5, 3 p.m. at Lancaster Event Center, Exhibit Hall. A handout is available at the extension office or online at http://lancaster.unl.edu/4h/Tour. All participants are strongly encouraged to read the handout. Must preregister by July 25 by contacting the extension office (there is no entry form).

County Fair 4-H Horse Entry Forms Due July 5
All Lancaster County Super Fair Horse Entry Forms are due in the extension office by Tuesday, July 5. NO LATE ENTRIES will be accepted. Reminder — you must have passed Level II Walk-Trot or Level I Horsemanship requirements and have all forms turned into the extension office before July 5 to show at the fair. You must have passed Level II to participate in off-the-horse classes. Basic Equitation requires passing Level III.

County Fair Horse Judging Contest, July 23
The Lancaster County Super Fair 4-H Horse Judging contest will be held on Saturday, July 23 at the Lancaster Event Center, Amy Countrymen Arena beginning at 9 a.m. Belt buckles will again be awarded for the elementary, junior, and senior age group champions. South Prairie Wranglers 4-H club will be selling snacks and drinks during the contest as a fund-raiser to help send kids to nationals.

Horse Course Challenge, July 26
For a third year, the 4-H Horse Course Hippoloogy Challenge will be a part of the Lancaster County Super Fair. The Challenge will be held Tuesday, July 26, 9–11 a.m. at the Lancaster Extension Education Center. There will be three age divisions, elementary (9–11), junior (12–14), and senior (15–19). Premiums will be awarded at state fair. Top ten placings and Reserve and Champion trophies will be awarded at the 4-H Horse Awards Night on October 6. All Lancaster County 4-H’ers are welcome and are encouraged to attend! No pre-registration required. All test questions will come from the 2010-2011 email Horse Course. The testing will include identification stations and a written test.

If you did not sign up for the e-mail Horse Course, but would like to participate in the challenge, email mcruichshank2@unl.edu to have the lessons sent to you. Pizza will be served at the end of the contest at a charge of $1 a slice.

Loup Valley Livestock Classic, Aug. 20–21
The Fifth Annual Show of Champions will be held Aug. 20–21 at the Valley County Fairgrounds in Ord. Information is online at http://animalscience.unl.edu/web/animalsci/animalscience4h/shows.

Health Papers
A 14-day health certificate will be required. No Coggins’ Test is required.

Policy on Horse Drugs
No 4-H Horse exhibitors and/or owner shall exhibit a horse at the Frontier Park State 4-H Horse Exposition that has been given in any manner whatsoever, internally or externally, and narcotic, stimulant, depressant, analogic, local anesthetic, or drug of any kind or description within 24 hours before the first scheduled event of each show day (8 a.m.).

Horses on prescribed treatment of phenylbutazone and/or aspirin-like products must file a statement in the 4-H Horse Show office before the horse can be shown. This statement must describe the treatment reason and be signed by an accredited DVM.

One or more class winners and one or more horses in the same class that is tested may be tested a second time prior to the day of show.

County Fair 4-H Horse Judging contest will be held on Sunday, July 25 at the Lancaster Event Center, Amy Countrymen Arena beginning at 9 a.m. Belt buckles will again be awarded for the elementary, junior, and senior age group champions. South Prairie Wranglers 4-H club will be selling snacks and drinks during the contest as a fund-raiser to help send kids to nationals.

State 4-H Horse Show
The Frontier Park State 4-H Horse Exposition will be held July 17–21 at Frontier Park in Grand Island. Information is online at http://animalscience.unl.edu/web/animalsci/animalscience4h/shows.

Ak-Sar-Ben 4-H Show Entries Due Aug. 7
The Ak-Sar-Ben 4-H Stock Show will be held Sept. 22–25 at the Qwest Center in Omaha. The Ak-Sar-Ben 4-H Horse Show will be held Sept. 17–18 at the Lancaster Event Center in Lincoln. Categories of this 4-H only competition are dairy, feeder calf & breeding beef, market beef, market broilers, meat goats, market lamb and market swine, rabbit, dairy steer, and horse. Show entry forms must be at least 10 years of age by Jan. 1. Horse exhibitors must be 12 years of age by Jan. 1. All Ak-Sar-Ben 4-H Stock Show and Horse Show entries must be on file at the extension office no later than Sunday, Aug. 7, or they can be turned in at county fair. Forms can be picked up at the office. For more information, entry forms and tentative schedule, go to http://www.terkfoundation.org/events/4-h-club-of-the-month.

NEW! Nebraska Club of the Month
The Nebraska 4-H Foundation and the Nebraska 4-H Ambassadors are introducing a new program for Nebraska 4-H Clubs. Any 4-H club can nominate themselves to be the ‘Club of the Month.’ Each month, a winner with be chosen, will receive a $50 cash card from the Nebraska 4-H Foundation and a certificate. The Club of the Month’s story will be displayed on the 4-H Foundation’s Web site, Facebook, and Twitter and a news release will be sent out to their local newspaper. For applications, go to http://www.ne4hfoundation.org/events/4-h-club-of-the-month.
Virginia Piening Retires After 45 Years

Virginia Piening has retired after 45 years of service to the University of Nebraska–Lincoln. She has worked for the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) since April 1970, soon after it began in 1969. Prior to serving the Nutrition Education Program (NEP), she worked in the Department of Agronomy.

Over the past 41 years, Virginia has provided endless support to NEP staff. Her accuracy, attention to detail, and unwavering kindness was present day in and day out. She experienced many changes with new staff members, advances in technology and the ever-changing federal regulations. Virginia’s passion for giving assistance to staff in their quest to help families stay healthy remained constant. In 1998, she received the KFOR Employee of the Year award, and in 2001, Virginia was recognized with the distinguished service award of UNL Outstanding Employee. Carol Hudkins, former Nebraska State Senator said, “Her efforts and caring attitude have helped thousands of families in Lincoln/Lancaster County enjoy healthier, fuller, more productive lives.”

Those who worked side by side with Virginia say it best - “Virginia is always there for us. No matter what we need for our educational programming, she smiles and tells us she will see what she can do. We know she digs, hunts, and finds what we need; then dutifully gets what we need typed, copied, sorted, and in our boxes long before we need them. She is amazing.”

“Virginia’s long time service to NEP has provided her with a level of understanding of the program, provides her the ability to foresee the needs of the staff.”

“She is pleasant and positive all the time.”

In addition to the expertise she has provided professionally, she also has been instrumental in the success of her family farm. When not at the extension office, she has been known to walk fields digging thistles and cutting cedars, and helps her husband, Burdette, with other tasks.

Virginia says, “I have enjoyed working in the extension office and having access to the knowledge of the educators for our farming operation, our home, and for having 4-H for our children. The Nutrition Education Program staff is very caring and great to work with. Thanks for making it a great job.”

Welcome New 4-H Staff Member

Cole Meador joins the extension staff as an extension assistant. He will be responsible for the 4-H livestock program, dog program, as well as other duties. As many of you may know, he was Deanna Karmazin’s 4-H intern last summer. Cole is a graduate of UNL with a BS in Agriculture Leadership, Education, and Communication with a minor in Animal Science.

He is originally from the Omaha area and now lives in Lincoln. Most don’t associate Omaha with livestock but Cole was very active with the 4-H livestock program in Douglas/Sarpy County as well as Washington County. During his time in 4-H he raised and showed poultry, sheep, dairy goats, and dairy cattle. He had an extremely successful show career, being able to raise and show the Grand Champion market lamb at Ak-Sar-Ben.

4-H Youth Livestock Exposition in 2004, two division champion market lambs, five top five placing pens of market broilers, and many champion dairy cattle. He won showmanship in every species he showed at the Nebraska State Fair. He is very familiar with the competitive show circuit. To this day he and his family have a nationally competitive herd of Nubian dairy goats.

Those who worked side by side with Virginia say it best - “Virginia is always there for us. No matter what we need for our educational programming, she smiles and tells us she will see what she can do. We know she digs, hunts, and finds what we need; then dutifully gets what we need typed, copied, sorted, and in our boxes long before we need them. She is amazing.”

Welcome New 4-H Staff Member

Cole Meador joins the extension staff as an extension assistant. He will be responsible for the 4-H livestock program, dog program, as well as other duties. As many of you may know, he was Deanna Karmazin’s 4-H intern last summer. Cole is a graduate of UNL with a BS in Agriculture Leadership, Education, and Communication with a minor in Animal Science.

He is originally from the Omaha area and now lives in Lincoln. Most don’t associate Omaha with livestock but Cole was very active with the 4-H livestock program in Douglas/Sarpy County as well as Washington County. During his time in 4-H he raised and showed poultry, sheep, dairy goats, and dairy cattle. He had an extremely successful show career, being able to raise and show the Grand Champion market lamb at Ak-Sar-Ben.

Welcome New 4-H Staff Member

Cole Meador joins the extension staff as an extension assistant. He will be responsible for the 4-H livestock program, dog program, as well as other duties. As many of you may know, he was Deanna Karmazin’s 4-H intern last summer. Cole is a graduate of UNL with a BS in Agriculture Leadership, Education, and Communication with a minor in Animal Science.

He is originally from the Omaha area and now lives in Lincoln. Most don’t associate Omaha with livestock but Cole was very active with the 4-H livestock program in Douglas/Sarpy County as well as Washington County. During his time in 4-H he raised and showed poultry, sheep, dairy goats, and dairy cattle. He had an extremely successful show career, being able to raise and show the Grand Champion market lamb at Ak-Sar-Ben.

4-H Youth Livestock Exposition in 2004, two division champion market lambs, five top five placing pens of market broilers, and many champion dairy cattle. He won showmanship in every species he showed at the Nebraska State Fair. He is very familiar with the competitive show circuit. To this day he and his family have a nationally competitive herd of Nubian dairy goats.

Each year, student interns join the 4-H staff at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln Extension in Lancaster County and provide much needed assistance during the summer for contests, county fair, and other activities.

• Dan Romans assists Tracy (Kulan) Anderson with Clover College, county fair static exhibits, and contests. Dan is a 5th year student at UNL, majoring in Elementary Education. This is his first summer as a 4-H intern.

• Shayna Truax assists Cole Meador in the livestock areas. Shayna is a student at UNL getting her masters in Applied Science. This is her first summer as a 4-H intern. She was a 4-H member in Lancaster County for 10 years.
July

All 4-H/FFA Lancaster County Fair Animal Entries Due to Extension
5 4-H Horse Level Testing, Lancaster Event Center, Any Countryymen Arena 6 p.m.
5 Family & Community Education (FCE) Council Meeting ............. 8 a.m.
6 4-H Life Challenge Contest – Stagy-Level Junior Division ....... 9 a.m.
6 4-H Horse Level Testing, Lancaster Event Center, Any Countryymen Arena .6 p.m.
7 4-H Livestock Quality Assurance Training ........................................... 6 p.m.
11 4-H/FFA Livestock Quality Assurance Training ........................................... 6 p.m.
13–14 State 4-H Horse Show, Famer Park, Grand Island
14 Guardian/Conservator Training ............................................................... 8 a.m.
14 4-H Dog Skill-a-thon ....................................................................... 1 p.m.
15 4-H Presentations Contest .................................................................. 9 a.m.
16 4-H Horse Judging Contest, Lancaster Event Center, Any Countryymen
16 Area ................. 9 a.m.
16–17 4-H Horse Course Challenge .............................................................. 9 a.m.
17–18 4-H Style Revue Judging, Lancaster Event Center, Exhibit Hall ....... 8 a.m.
18 4-H Food Booth Training, Lancaster Event Center, Lincoln Room...... 6–7 p.m.

4-H Regional Speech Results

Congratulations to an outstanding performance by Lancaster County 4-H’ers at the 2011 Regional Speech and Regional Public Service Announcement (PSA) contest held May 26 on UNL East Campus. The top five in each division received medals. Regional contest winners in the senior division in Speech and PSA advance to the State Contest which will be held during the Nebraska State Fair. Speech Contest:
• Junior division — Emma Noel (purple), Peter Greff (blue)
• Intermediate division — Ivy Dearmont (purple), Victoria Garza (purple), Sheridan Swoetke (blue)
• Senior division — Ellii Dearmont (purple), Holly Hillebrand (purple), and Erin Peterson (purple)

Public Service Announcement (PSA) Contest:
• Junior division — Emma Lanik (blue), Alyssa Zimmer (blue), McKenzie Kapperman (red)
• Intermediate division — Paige Roach (purple and medal), Ivy Dearmont (red), Victoria Garza (red)
• Senior division — Erin Peterson (purple and medal); Ellii Dearmont (blue)

Statewide 4-H & FFA Tractor Operators’ Contest, Aug. 10
4-H and FFA students from across Nebraska will compete for trophies and a $500 CASNR scholarship at the 2011 Nebraska Tractor Operators’ Contest on Wednesday, Aug. 10, 8 a.m.– 4 p.m. at the Lancaster Extension Center near the Muklabach Motor Sports Complex during the Lancaster County Super Fair. Rain date is Thursday, Aug. 11.

Congratulations ages 14 & up may represent either their 4-H club or their FFA chapter by completing a general knowledge test, identifying parts and tools, conducting a tractor safety inspection, finding information from an operator’s manual and mowing a tractor pulling a two wheel implement and a tractor pulling a four wheel trailer through separate driving courses. Points are assessed for errors on the written stations and elapsed time, crossing boundary lines, touching markers and safety errors. The lowest total score wins the competition.

New for 2011 is an alumni driving demonstration that will be held immedia- tely after the Nebraska 4-H and FFA contest. Demonstration participants must have competed at the state level prior to 2007. If you have questions, please contact the Extension office by Aug. 1, No cost. For more information and registration brochure, go to http://tractorsteam.unl.edu or contact Dave Morgan at (402) 472-3951.
Volunteer at 4-H Corner Stop
Help Raise Money for 4-H and Have Fun!

The 4-H Corner Stop concession stand at the county fair is Lancaster County 4-H Council’s primary fundraiser. A non-profit organization, 4-H Council financially supports several 4-H programs and activities such as:
- Achievement Night
- College and camp scholarships
- Support for state and national contest registrations
- 4-H promotional activities

4-H Council asks clubs and independent members to help by staffing 3-4 hour shift at the 4-H Corner Stop. At any given time, 5-6 youth (age 8 & up) are needed with 2 adults supervising. Volunteering is an opportunity to meet individuals in the industry (production judging and the livestock industry), says Roger. “It also gives them an opportunity to meet individuals in the industry (production and education). My favorite experience as a 4-H volunteer was helping organized 4-H Rabbit VIPS from the show will go toward educational shows/clinics and trophies for the Lancaster County Super Fair 4-H Rabbit Show. Rabbit VIPS based on structural condition. Roger has volunteered with 4-H in Nebraska, Iowa, and Missouri for 31 years. “I like being a 4-H volunteer because I enjoy working with 4-H’ers and seeing them wanting to learn more about livestock judging and the livestock industry,” says Roger. “It also gives them an opportunity to meet individuals in the industry (production and education). My favorite experience as a 4-H volunteer was seeing the teams develop in their ability to make decisions and be able to defend their decisions by giving oral reasons. Also to see the individuals become team members. They did well at 2010 state contest and contests they have participated in 2011.” Congratulations to Roger. Volunteers like him are indeed the heart of 4-H!

The answer was: Beardtongue, Penstemon grandiflorus.