The Nebraska 4-H Diamond Clover Program helps youth plan and achieve goals. For each level, the Diamond Clover Program provides a list of age-appropriate activities, increasing in number and difficulty for each level. At the beginning of the 4-H year, youth choose goals from a provided list for their level. At the end of the 4-H year, youth fill out a report of their accomplishments and what they learned.

The Diamond Clover program debuted in early 2008. Through 2010, 133 Lancaster County youth completed Plans and Reports, and were recognized at annual Achievement Nights.

In 2010, Lancaster County 4-H had its first 4-H’er earn the Nebraska 4-H Diamond Clover Program’s highest honor — the Diamond Award. Kyle Pederson did a two-part service-learning project of transplanting plants to a children’s home, and helped start a 4-H club for children living at the home.

Here are some testimonials and examples from 2010 Lancaster County 4-H’ers in the Diamond Clover Program.

What Youth Say About Diamond Clover Program

• Caleb Nielsen — “The 4-H Diamond Clover Program helps you plan accomplishments that you want to achieve during the year.”

• Emily Steinboch — “By participating in the Diamond Clover Award, I have learned that succeeding in 4-H isn’t about how many projects you enter in the county fair. By earning the Sapphire and Emerald Clover Awards I have learned that growing as a leader, participating in events such as PASE/Life Challenge, and working towards achieving my Diamond Clover Award has given me skills and become a well-rounded 4-H member.”

Now is a Good Time to Choose Diamond Clover Goals

Near the beginning of the year, a 4-H member completes the “Plan” portion of the Plan & Report form, setting goals for the year. The plan is saved and at the end of the year, the “Report” portion of the form is completed. Both parts of the form are due to the extension office by Dec. 31. For forms and additional information, go to http://db.unl.edu/diamondclover or call 402-441-7180.

As the world population continues to grow, safe and wholesome food production remains a top priority. Restricted livestock producers must make themselves familiar with the perceptions and perspectives of animal welfare in relation to consumers, retailers, and advocacy groups. University of Nebraska–Lincoln Extension is presenting four seminars across Nebraska, “Animal Welfare and Current Industry Issues for Livestock Producers” to address these issues. The seminars also will provide information on the most current industry issues. A seminar will be held in Lincoln on Tuesday, Feb. 7 at UNL East Campus Union, 33rd and Holdrege. Registration is at 9:30 am and the program is 10–10:45 a.m. The seminar will be taught by Dr. Candace Croney, Purdue University; Dr. Dan Tompsoon and Dr. Glynn Tomson, both from Kansas State University; and Mr. Jim Robb from the Livestock Marketing Information Center. Early bird registration before Feb. 1 is $50 per person and $25 for each additional person from the same operation; registration at the door is $60 per person, and $30 for each additional person from the same operation. Price includes meal. For more information and registration form, go to http://richardson.unl.edu or contact Lindsay Chichester at 402-245-4324.

Speaker includes: Dr. Candace Croney, Purdue University; Dr. Dan Tompsoon and Dr. Glynn Tomson, both from Kansas State University; and Mr. Jim Robb from the Livestock Marketing Information Center. Early bird registration before Feb. 1 is $50 per person and $25 for each additional person from the same operation; registration at the door is $60 per person, and $30 for each additional person from the same operation. Price includes meal. For more information and registration form, go to http://richardson.unl.edu or contact Lindsay Chichester at 402-245-4324.

Free Pasture Management School, Feb. 8

UNL Extension in Lancaster County present a free “Pasture Management School” on Wednesday, Feb. 8, 6:30 p.m. at the Lancaster Extension Education Center, 444 Cherrycrest Road. Featured speaker will be UNL Extension Forages Specialist Dr. Bruce Anderson. Topics will include:

- Plant mixtures for a new seeding
- Fertilizing pastures
- Weed control (proper grazing and herbicides)
- Rotational grazing/cross fencing
- Livestock water — location, quantity, and quality

The evening will conclude with a presentation from the new Tri-County Prescribed Burn Association who will talk about their association.

For more information, contact Tom Dorn or Karen Wedding at 402-441-7180.

Cornhusker Economics Conference, Feb. 28

University of Nebraska–Lincoln Extension and the UNL Department of Agricultural Economics are proud to present their 7th annual “Cornhusker Economics Management and Outlook Conference” series across Nebraska. Register and participate in one of this year’s conferences to hear UNL ag economists and educators team up with leading ag economists from across the region to discuss the ag situation and outlook for 2012.

A conference will be held in Lincoln on Tuesday, Feb. 28, 4:30– 9 p.m. at the Lancaster Extension Education Center, 444 Cherrycrest Road. Register by Feb. 21. For more information, contact Brad Labadie at 402-472-3240. The cost for each conference is $25, which covers refreshments, meal, and all conference materials. Other locations include Columbus, Clay Center, North Platte, and Alliance. Brochures with registration forms are online at http://agecon.unl.edu/cemoc.

Mid-Winter to Spring Grain Storage Management

Tom Dorn
UNL Extension Educator

We had a good fall for harvesting and drying grain in 2011. Hopefully, you were able to get the grain dried to safe moisture content (15% for corn; 13% for soybeans) in October and November. I also hope you remembered to use the grain storage as air temperature allowed. A rule of thumb is, at a given grain moisture content, the shelf life of corn is about twice as long for every 10°F lower temperature down to about 40°F. I do not recommend taking the grain temperature below freezing, however, because we want to leave open the possibility to do some additional aeration if we happen to get a few days of warmer temperatures in January or February.

Winter and Spring Aeration Management

If the forecast calls for a warm spell with low humidity, many producers who did not get their grain as dry as they wanted, will decide to take advantage of the good weather and turn the aeration fan on to get more drying. However, you might actually add moisture content to the grain initially depending on the grain temperature. For example: if the air temperature is 50°F and the relative humidity is 50%, the dew point temperature is 32°F. Likewise, if the air temperature is 50°F and the relative humidity is 60%, the dew point temperature is 37°F. The point is, when the grain temperature is lower than the dew point temperature, the air will condense moisture onto the grain until the air stream warms the grain to above the dew point temperature. If the grain temperature is below freezing, the condensation can be in the form of ice which will add moisture to the grain bin and the frost can impede airflow through the grain.

Check Your Stored Grain

Bins should be checked monthly through the winter months, especially if high winds might have caused blowing snow into the bin. The danger is, the snow will melt and create a wet spot in the grain which could set the stage for spoilage and insect activity when warmer temperatures return in the spring.

When you check grain in a bin, open the access hatch, then start the aeration fan. Climb up and lean into the access hatch as soon as possible after turning on the fan so you can feel and smell the air as it hits you in the face. You are looking for four things that could signal trouble:

- Do you smell a musty odor?
- Is the air exhausting from the bin warmer than expected?
- Can you feel moisture on your face as you lean into the access hatch?
- Is there condensation forming on the underside of the bin roof on a cold day?

In most of these conditions, the fan(s) should run long enough to bring the entire grain mass to a uniformly cool condition inside the bin. The best way to test if the grain temperature is uniform is to use a grain thermometer pushed three or four feet into the grain. Probe a couple of feet away from the bin wall, taking the temperature every 15 to 20 feet around the perimeter of the bin and at least three spots in the central part of the bin. If there are two spots differing in temperature by more than about 8°F, then check the bottom of the bin. Aeration will stop and push air through the bin until a see GRAIN STORAGE on page 11.

Private Pesticide Applicator Certification Opportunities

Private pesticide applicator certification is a requirement for private applicators to apply restricted use pesticides (RUP) in Nebraska. The Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA) is responsible for licensing private applicators. The NDA requires each applicator to have a private applicator certification. These are available in the form of written test, online test, or series of classes.

Testing Option

The third option is to take a written (closed-book) examination given by the NDA. Please contact NDA at 402-471-2394 for dates of testing. There is no testing fee if you choose this option. You will need to pay the $25 license fee. You should receive your new license within two weeks of passing grade on your written test.

Certify at a Crop Production Clinic

Private applicators may receive initial certification or recertification at one of UNL’s Crop Production Clinics held in January. This year’s clinics will be over by the time this newsletter is published.
Carpet beetles, hide beetles, skin beetles, and dermestids. All these names describe members of the insect family Dermentidae. The meaning of Dermentidae gives a pretty good idea of the habits of these insects. Dermestus means skin; estre, means to consume; and iodae refers to members of the family. We can surmise dermestids are members of a family of insects that consume skin. How gruesome indeed?

In the U.S., there are about 120 species of dermestid beetles. Outdoors, the larvae of some dermestid species help clean up the environment. Being scavengers, they feed on animal protein: mummified skin and flesh, hair, fur, feathers and even dead insects. Very few organisms feed on hair or fur because keratin, the protein in hair and feathers, is very strong and indigestible. But, carpet beetles have enzymes in their digestive tract which digest keratin. This makes them very unusual in the animal world.

Sometimes dermestids can help with criminal investigations. Forensic entomologists will look for dermestid beetles at crime scenes to help determine the time of death. Dermestids generally show up late in the decomposition process, when the corpse begins to dry out. Museum curators know dermestid beetles all too well. Because dermestids can devour museum specimens, precautions must be taken to prevent damage to museum collections. But, their habit of feeding on animal protein can also be useful, as colonies of dermestids are used to clean the skin and hair from bones and skulls.

Identification. Adult beetles are small and oval, and have knobbed antennae. They range in size from 1/16 inch (varied carpet beetle) to 3/8 inches (larder and hide beetles). Some species have brightly-colored scales on their body. Females may enter homes or structures seeking food to lay eggs on. After hatching, larvae develop through 5–16 instars, depending on species. Cast skins from larval development are often found near the food source and may be the only signs of dermestids when damage to fabrics is noted. Pupation occurs in their last larval skin. Adults that emerge must feed on pollen, so beetles trapped indoors are often found in window sills or attracted to lights, perhaps because they are trying to get outdoors.

Feeding Habits. A few dermestid larvae have expanded their food preferences and feed on plant proteins. They are often found feeding on flour, grains, nuts, seeds, and spices.

Some even feed on silk and cotton. Because they can digest wool and silk, dermestids can be a real nuisance in the home, where they may chew holes in sweaters and blankets. In Nebraska, dermestids damage woolens more often than clothes moths. In more humid states, clothes moths are a more common problem. Dermestids are often found in the bedroom, where hair accumulates and around the bed or in the closet where woolen garments are stored. It is usually the larva or cast skins that are found. When people are checking bedrooms for bed bugs, dermestids are the most likely (non-bed bug) insects found. Because dermestid feed on accumulated pet hair and feathers, they may be found in areas where pets sleep and be more of a problem when families have indoor pets.

Where Do They Go? Carpets areexceptions commonly indoors and some species are so small, they enter through window screen. Common reservoirs for dermestids are bird and rodent nests and old bee and wasp nests, where dermestid larvae feed on hair, feathers, and/or dead insects.

Management. The primary way to manage dermestids is to reduce their presence or potential food by regular sanitation practices. Regular, thorough vacuuming, and cleaning of bedrooms and closets where woolens are hanging, can be helpful. Damage to woolens usually occurs in the summertime, so removing woolens from closets in the spring, dry cleaning them, and storing them with moth crystals will be helpful until fall. In the pantry, throw away any foods and clean shelves to remove particles of food. Keep flour and other food items, including spices, in sealed, glass containers.

The Odd Beetle

I sometimes joke that entomologists aren’t very clever when they name insects. The names of many insects describe something obvious about the insect. Not, what is so odd about the odd beetle? Yes, there is actually an insect with that common name. The odd beetle (Thylodrias contractus) is a bizarre member of the dermentid family. The adults look completely different from other dermentid beetles, which makes them hard to identify. Another oddity is that male and females are sexually dimorphic and do not resemble each other. Males are about 1/6-inch long and are elongated with long, slender, filiform antennae and legs. Males have dytra (wing covers), but the hind wings are of variable size or completely lacking.

The wingless, larvariform females are brownish in color, but differ from the males so much they don’t even look like the same species. Female odd beetles resemble the larvae, but have antennae. Very odd, indeed. The larvae do resemble dermentid larvae, but do not have any hairs on their posterior. These larvae have similar feeding habits as other dermentid larvae and feed on dry animal protein (hair, dead insects, silk). It is rarely a serious pest problem. It has been reported that odd beetle larva can live three to four years without food. This unusual insect has not been studied very thoroughly; so much about its biology and behavior is unknown.
Turkey or Chicken Salsa Soup

16 oz. (2 cups) mild, chunky salsa
2 cups frozen whole kernel corn
2 (15 oz.) cans black soybeans, rinsed, drained
2 cups chopped, cooked turkey or chicken
1 quart (4 cups) low sodium chicken broth

Combine in a large saucepan or Dutch oven. Bring to a boil, then reduce heat and simmer for 5 minutes. Season to taste with salt and freshly ground black pepper. If desired, top with grated cheddar cheese.

Skillet Lasagna

(8 servings)
1 pound ground beef
1/2 onion, chopped
2 cloves garlic, minced or 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
3 cups spaghetti or pasta sauce
1/2 cup water
6 ounces wide noodles, uncooked
1 package (10 ounce) chopped spinach, thawed
1 can (6.5 ounce) sliced mushrooms, drained (optional)
1 container (12 ounce) low-fat cottage cheese
8 ounce package Mozzarella cheese, shredded

In a large skillet or electric frying pan, brown ground beef, onions and garlic. Drain fat. Add spaghetti sauce and water and bring to a boil. Layer noodles, cover with a lid and simmer for 5 minutes. Add spinach and mushrooms over noodles. Spoon cottage cheese over top. Sprinkle with Mozzarella cheese. Put lid on and heat for 5-10 minutes until noodles are tender. Serve immediately. After the meal, refrigerate leftovers promptly or freeze for a later meal.

### Planning Healthy Meals for One or Two — a Checklist

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

Sometimes, it can be hard to get motivated when cooking a meal for just one or two people. Here is a checklist to help you get the most value for your time and money if you’re cooking for two, or just you!

**General Tips**
- Maximize your nutrition!
- Make half your plate fruits and vegetables
- Make at least half your grains whole grains
- Switch to fat free or low-fat (1%) milk
- Cook once, eat twice
- Plan two meals from the same entrée
- Separate out extra food BEFORE serving
- Eat extras in 3–4 days or freeze

### Shopping Tips
- Should you buy in bulk?
  - May be the half cost but just as expensive if you toss half!
  - Smaller portions help avoid eating same food over and over
  - Repackage meat in freezer bags for smaller servings and freeze

### Reducing Recipe Size
- Recipes can frequently be successfully reduced by 1/2 to 1/3. Some helpful equivalents include:
  - 1 cup = 16 tablespoons
  - 1 tablespoon = 3 teaspoons
  - 1 cup = 8 fluid ounces
  - 1 fluid ounce = 2 tablespoons
  - 1 pound = 16 ounces (weight)
  - 1 pint = 2 cups
  - 1 quart = 2 pints

- To change pan sizes:
  - 9 x 2 x 13-inch pan holds 14 to 15 cups; for half, use:
    - Square 8 x 2-inch
    - Round 9 x 2-inch
  - Reduce oven temperature by 25°F if substituting glass for metal pan

### Turkey or Chicken Salsa Soup

- **Ingredients:**
  - 16 oz. (2 cups) mild, chunky salsa
  - 2 cups frozen whole kernel corn
  - 2 (15 oz.) cans black soybeans, rinsed, drained
  - 2 cups chopped, cooked turkey or chicken
  - 1 quart (4 cups) low sodium chicken broth

### Skillet Lasagna

- **Ingredients:**
  - 1 pound ground beef
  - 1/2 onion, chopped
  - 2 cloves garlic, minced or 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
  - 3 cups spaghetti or pasta sauce
  - 1/2 cup water
  - 6 ounces wide noodles, uncooked
  - 1 package (10 ounce) chopped spinach, thawed
  - 1 can (6.5 ounce) sliced mushrooms, drained (optional)
  - 1 container (12 ounce) low-fat cottage cheese
  - 8 ounce package Mozzarella cheese, shredded

### Shopping Tips

- **Should you buy in bulk?**
  - May be half the cost but just as expensive if you toss half!
  - Smaller portions help avoid eating same food over and over
  - Repackaging meat in freezer bags for smaller servings and freeze

- **Consider individually packaged servings of items if you frequently have leftovers**
  - String cheese, wrapped cheese slices
  - Single containers of tuna, soup, fruit
  - Individual cartons of yogurt

### Reducing Recipe Size

- Recipes can frequently be successfully reduced by 1/2 to 1/3. Some helpful equivalents include:
  - 1 cup = 16 tablespoons
  - 1 tablespoon = 3 teaspoons
  - 1 cup = 8 fluid ounces
  - 1 fluid ounce = 2 tablespoons
  - 1 pound = 16 ounces (weight)
  - 1 pint = 2 cups
  - 1 quart = 2 pints

- To change pan sizes:
  - 9 x 2 x 13-inch pan holds 14 to 15 cups; for half, use:
    - Square 8 x 2-inch
    - Round 9 x 2-inch
  - Reduce oven temperature by 25°F if substituting glass for metal pan

### Restaurant Tips

- **Benefit from large restaurant portions**
  - Two meals for price of one
  - Divide meal in half BEFORE eating!
  - Refrigerate perishables in shallow containers within 2 hours of service

### Storage Tips

- **Refrigerator storage tips**
  - Refrigerate in a shallow pan — food should be no more than 2 inches deep
  - Eat perishable foods in 3–4 days; heat until steaming hot (165°F)
  - Thaw packages on a plate in refrigerator near bottom so they don’t drip on other foods

- **Freezer Storage Tips**
  - Store it, don’t ignore it — food is “safe” indefinitely at 0°F but “quality” lowers over time
  - Use freezer quality containers for freezer storage
  - Safest to thaw in fridge; it takes about 24 hours to thaw 5 pounds of food
  - Foods that don’t freeze well include: watery foods such as cabbage, celery, lettuce, etc.; cream or custard fillings; milk soups; sour cream; cheese or crumb toppings, mayonnaise; gelatin; and fried foods
  - Store bread in freezer; remove a slice at a time and toast as needed.
**Energy Saving Tips**

**Range and Oven**
- Use the microwave when possible. The microwave uses less energy and does not need to be preheated.
- Use the kitchen exhaust fan when cooking to reduce moisture problems and pollutants.
- Use lids on pans and using pans fitting a burner will reduce heat loss.

**Refrigerator**
- Refrigerators cost about $5–$8 more per month to operate, and consume 3–5 percent of your total home energy use. Keep the refrigerator at 36–38°F and the freezer at 0°F.
- Check the gasket (soft, plastic piece sealing the door to the body of the refrigerator) for gaps and improper fit. The door should close firmly against the gasket. Check the tightness of the door by placing a dollar bill between the gasket and the door. You should feel a slight drag when you pull out the bill.
- Do not place an oven or heating appliance close to a refrigerator, as the refrigerator will have to work harder to keep items cool. Do not put refrigerators in unconditioned rooms such as garages or porches.

**Washer and Dryer**
- Use hot water only when very dirty clothes and diapers, and if there is an illness in the family or someone has a suppressed immune system. Refer to the washing instructions on the clothing labels and on the washing machine. Wash in cold water using cold-water detergents, whenever possible.
- Full loads of laundry can save both energy and water. Adjust water levels for smaller loads.
- Clean the filters on the dryer. Operate the dryer like the washer: don’t overload it. Overloading uses excess energy, because the items take longer to dry.

**Dishwasher**
- Run the dishwasher only when it’s full.
- Many dishwashers have energy-saving settings, such as a setting for partial loads (which use less hot water) or energy efficient drying cycles.

**Turn off, clean, and unplug seldom used refrigerators.**
- Do not leave the door open any longer than necessary.
- Vacuum coils and keep drain trays clean.

**Honesty**

Honesty is an important character trait to teach children. Without honesty, children may find it difficult to build healthy relationships and have a successful future. It takes time, patience, and effort to teach children honesty.

Parents need to set a positive example by being honest themselves. Many of children’s senses of manners and morals are learned through imitation of their parents. If parents model cheating and lying, children may learn these as acceptable behaviors (e.g., keeping someone else’s belongings without their permission, keeping extra change from a cashier, or telling a lie).

Children sometimes start a dishonest tendency during the pre-school years. For instance, they may grab toys from a child or try to take candy in a store. Parents should correct this type of behavior immediately by teaching children to return what was taken, apologize for their behavior, or teach children a way to pay for what was taken.

Use age-appropriate language to teach positive character development. Help young children understand honesty and why dishonesty is unacceptable by reading stories related to honesty. Ask children questions throughout the story. This process gives children time to share their thoughts, understanding, and questions.

Children often lie out of fear or to protect themselves. They worry about being punished or making parents mad. When parents react harshly to children’s mistakes, it may result in more lies instead of taking responsibility for their behavior.

It is important for parents to talk to children about their behavior, what they could have done differently and what they can do to make things right. When children tell the truth, parents should praise them for being honest. Children should know their parents value and appreciate honesty.
2012 “Great Plants” Selections

**Tree of the Year**
Shantung maple or Acer truncatum has no serious insect or disease problems and is highly ornamental throughout the growing season. Emerging leaves and winged seeds are reddish purple in spring, turning to a very glossy green that withstands even mid-summer heat. Fall color ranges from yellow to orange with deep red accents. It prefers moist, fertile soil and sun but tolerates alkaline soils better than most maples and can be grown even in full shade. Mature height and spread is 25–30 feet.

**Conifer of the Year**
Rocky Mountain Douglas fir or Pseudotsuga menziesii var. glauca is commonly known as a Christmas tree, but this subspecies, native to the Rocky Mountains, makes a beautiful, hardy landscape tree. It prefers sun and moist soil, but is drought-tolerant once established. Seed is important to chipmunks, chipettes, squirrels, and many other birds and mammals. Grows 40–60 feet high with a spread of 5–20 feet.

**Shrub of the Year**
Dean's arrowwood viburnum or Viburnum dentatum var. deamii. This arrowwood viburnum is rare in the trade, but its foliage alone makes it a standout. Even heat and drought do not diminish the lacquer-like glossiness of the leaves. In early spring, flower buds are in a tight red cluster that resembles raspberries. Flowers are creamy white and flat-topped. In fall, glossy foliage turns orange to purple. Abundant, dark blue fruits are held above the foliage and persist through the winter. Grows to 8 feet by 8 feet.

**Perennial of the Year**
Pink turltcehead or Chelone lyonii. A wonderful plant for fall color. Pink blossoms, in the shape of a turtle's head, cover the deep green foliage from August into October. It prefers rich, moist soil and mulch and can tolerate sun or shade. In deep shade, it's best cut back to avoid staking. No serious pests or diseases, and a wonderful plant for rain gardens, growing 2–3 feet high.

The "Great Plants®" program is a joint effort of the Nebraska Nursery & Landscape Association and the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum. They select and promote exceptional plants relative to varying, easy to care for, and ornamental worth-while for “Plants of the Year” and for “Great Plants” releases and introductions. Here are the 2012 GreatPlants® Plants of the Year.

---

**Grass of the Year**
Northwind switchgrass or Panicum virgatum 'Northwind' The most common response to this grass is simply, “Wow.” In trials, this narrow 4–5 feet grass remained upright through droughts, storms, and even hurricanes. Leaves are wide and steel-blue, turning yellow in fall. Very dramatic in the landscape, it works well as a specimen, in masses and as a strong vertical accent in borders.

Source: Nebraska Statewide Arboretum

---

**2012 All-America Rose Selections**

All-America Rose Selections (AARS) has selected its newest winner to add to its already impressive lineup. Living up to its name, Sunshine Daydream exemplifies the quality and beauty that is implicit in an AARS winner. The light yellow Grandiflora, the first garden rose to win under no spray conditions, was selected as the best of the best after participating in the rigorous two-year AARS testing cycle. This process has proven to be one of the most challenging horticultural testing programs in the world. The AARS award recognizes new varieties that are not only beautiful in appearance, but also roses that will be easy to grow, and require minimal care by today's busy homeowner.

Topping the charts with fantastic bloom production and great vigor, this rose is sure to brighten any garden. A Grandiflora, Sunshine Daydream embodies both great flower color and foliage - with light yellow flowers finishing cream yellow. Its cup-like petals offer the perfect backdrop to its dark green, glossy foliage. Featuring excellent disease resistance, Sunshine Daydream will appeal to all gardeners and rose enthusiasts. Round, bushy and blooming continuously from spring to early frost.

To be chosen as an AARS winner, Sunshine Daydream thrived during two years of comprehensive testing in 21 testing gardens nationwide. AARS’s testing must flourish in 15 categories including the ability to resist disease, overall beauty and general ease of maintenance. AARS is a nonprofit association of rose growers and introducers dedicated to bringing exceptional, easy-to-grow roses to gardeners across the county. AARS operates the world’s most rigorous plant trial program via its national test garden network which represents all climate zones. This sophisticated evaluation process results in a new crop of AARS winning roses each year, guaranteeing only the best make it into your garden. AARS strives to identify roses that are easy to grow, and evaluates plants on more than 15 qualities, including disease resistance, vigor, and fragrance.

Source: All-America Rose Selections
Pruning Fruit Trees — Part 2

This is the second of a three part series.

Fruit Tree Training Systems

There are many training systems for fruit trees, and each system has its own advantages and disadvantages. For home-owners, the modified leader system is the most versatile and the easiest to learn. Any fruit tree, whether standard sized or dwarf, can be trained to the modified leader system.

In training fruit trees, remember these two basic concepts:

- Excessively heavy pruning delays fruiting and branch development.
- Branches spread at a 45–55 degree angle with the main trunk are stronger and produce more fruit than branches with narrower branch-trunk angles.

Working with Unbranched One-Year Trees or ‘Whips’

Unbranched, one-year old fruit trees are often called ‘whips’ because they have a single straight trunk with no side branches and resemble a riding whip. After planting a new whip, cut the top of the trunk back to encourage buds low on the trunk to sprout and develop. This results in a tree with branches low enough for easy harvesting. Head the whip back to the following height:

- Standard trees, 44 inches
- Semi-dwarf trees, 36–40 inches
- Dwarf trees, 29–30 inches

Assuming the tree is planted in spring, after completing this initial pruning required at planting, the tree will not be pruned again until the following March when the selection of scaffold branches begins.

Selecting Scaffold Branches

The lowest scaffold branch should be 20–24 inches above the ground, so remove any lower branches or shoots from the trunk. Choose the most vigorous, upright-growing branch at the top of the tree to become the central leader.

Among the remaining branches, remove those that form narrow angles, less than 45 degrees, with the trunk. Select for permanent scaffold branches 2 or 3 well placed branches that are spaced evenly around the trunk, like the spokes of a wheel, and are vertically spaced at least 6 inches apart. Remove all remaining shoots or branches.

If any remaining scaffold branches compete with the central leader in height, then head back or shorten them about half their length by making a slanted cut just above an outward facing bud.

Apply branch spreaders to the scaffold shoots, if needed, to widen the trunk–branch angle. The central leader shoot should be two times as tall as the longest side shoot, so prune any long lateral branches back so they are a foot shorter than the tip of the central leader when held in an upright position.

Second Year Pruning

During the second dormant season following planting, maintain the dominance of the central leader shoot by cutting any excessively-long lateral branches back below the height of the central leader. Choose two or three additional scaffold branches at the top of the tree.

Secondary shoots may have started to develop on the main scaffold branches. Treat each of the main scaffold branches as a small tree, in regards to choosing secondary scaffold branches. Don’t allow the secondary shoots, or laterals, of the scaffold branches to compete with the leader of that branch; so head back any extra long secondary lateral branches. Also, don’t prune out the short fruiting branches known as spurs.

Source: UNL Extension publication “Pruning Fruit Trees,” EB78-23MB

Growing Nuts: Webinar Feb. 9, Seminar Feb. 23

Hundreds of farmers, both large and small grow nut crops in Nebraska. Black walnuts and pecans are favorites, but chestnut and hickory are specialty crops that can also bring income to landowners.

Webinar, Feb. 9

Heartland Nuts ‘N More, 206 West 2nd Street, Box 439, Valparaiso, NE 68065, (402) 788-2717. Email: joknorr@attglobal.net

There is a nominal $1 registration fee by calling 402-788-2717. No cost at the door.

If you want to plant just a couple nut trees or an orchard, you will find this seminar informative.

Everyone has different expectations and goals when planting nut tree seedlings. This seminar will introduce you to most aspects of what it takes to accomplish your goals and expectations. There will be professional growers on hand to answer your questions.

Topics include:

- Planning phase will cover setting real- istic goals, understanding an orchard environment, and the tasks to meet your goals so you will be successful.
- Planting phase will cover planting considerations and seedling selections.
- Caring phase will cover tasks required to bring a seedling to a productive, producing nut tree.

For more information about the live seminar, contact NeNGA.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

HEARTLAND NUTS ‘N MORE
President, Larry Martin
206 West 2nd Street, Box 439
Valparaiso, NE 68065
402-788-2717
Email: lottanuts@windstream.net

NEBRASKA NUT GROWERS ASSOCIATION (NeNGA)
President, John Kinner
206 West 2nd Street, Box 439
Valparaiso, NE 68065
402-788-2717
Email: jknarr@attglobal.net

The Ne Line
http://lancaster.unl.edu
Urban Agriculture
February 2012
Meet the 2012 Lancaster County 4-H Council
Lancaster County 4-H Council represents the interests of youth, parents, and leaders. 4-H Council is responsible for determining long- and short-term goals and policy for Lancaster County 4-H. They also raise funds by operating a food booth at the Lancaster County Fair. These funds help support 4-H programs, activities, and scholarships. Here is this year’s 4-H Council:

Officers: Ann Pickrel (President), Bailey Johnson (Vice-President), Lynnette Nelson (Treasurer), and Sadie Hammond (Secretary).

Members: Elizabeth Froebsh, Kent Froebsh, Austin Hurt, Mark Hurt, Jacob Pickrel, Kathy Pickrel, Kylee Plager, Kari Prize, Abby Spencer, and Stephanie Wachter.

4-H Enrollment Forms Due!
Attention 4-H club leaders and dependent members—your full enrollment forms MUST be updated with member and volunteer information, and returned to the extension office in order to be enrolled for the 2012 year. Project information can be updated until June 15.

Pick-a-Pig Informational Meeting, Feb. 7
Youth wanting to participate in this year’s Pick-a-Pig program will need to attend an orientation meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 7, 6:30 p.m. at the Lancaster Extension Education Center, 444 Cherrycreek Road, Lincoln. At this meeting we will discuss what is involved with the program and what is expected of the members.

The Pick-a-Pig project gives urban youth the opportunity to participate in a 4-H livestock project. There is a minimal cost to participate in the program and 4-H members will be required to attend weekly meetings and training sessions at a local farm. For more information about this program, contact Cole Meador at cmeador2@unl.edu or 402-441-7180.

4-H/FFA Market Beef Weigh-In, Feb. 9
4-H and FFA exhibitors showing market steers or heifers at the Lancaster County Super Fair, Nebraska State Fair, and/or Ak-Sar-Ben 4-H Stock Show must identify and weigh in their projects on Thursday, Feb. 9, 6-8 p.m. at the Lancaster Event Center—Pavilion 2.

4-H’ers planning on exhibiting market beef at State Fair or Ak-Sar-Ben must have DNA sampled. There is a $6 per head charge. It is encouraged to have DNA pulled at the time of weigh-in. Exhibitors have until April 1 to identify, weigh, and pull DNA on any market beef that may go to State Fair or Ak-Sar-Ben. Please note all other market livestock (swine, sheep, and market goats) possibly going to Nebraska State Fair or Ak-Sar-Ben will need to be DNA sampled by June 15.

February 2012

4-H Horse Scholarships Due March 1
One $500 R.B. Warren 4-H Horse Educational scholarship and four $1,000 Grand Island Saddle Club scholarships are available for 4-H’ers enrolled and active in the Nebraska 4-H Horse program. For complete directions and applications, go to http://go.unl.edu/3o4. Applications must be postmarked by March 1.

Horseshop Level Testing Dates
Mark your calendars! The 2012 group testings will be held at the Lancaster Event Center on the following dates:
- Tuesday, April 17, 5:30 p.m.
- Monday, May 1, 5:30 p.m.
- Monday, June 18, 5:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, June 26, 5:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, July 3, 5:30 p.m.

ORSE BITS
Horse Stampede
The annual 4-H Horse Stampede will be held Saturday, Feb. 18 on UNL East Campus at the Animal Science Building. Stampede is a state 4-H Horse competition. These are contests which do not require a horse: Horse Bowl, Public Speaking, Demonstration, and Art.

Lancaster County has several horse 4-H’ers competing this year. Those aren’t familiar with Stampede are highly encouraged to stop in and see what it is all about. Support our county 4-H’ers and see if the contests might be something you would enjoy doing in the future.

No cost to attend. Free parking in the lot south of the Animal Science Building. Schedule:
- 7:30 a.m. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Check-in for Demonstration
- 8 a.m. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Check-in for Horse Bowl
- 8 a.m. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Demonstration contest begin
- 8-8:30 a.m. . . . . . . . . . . . . Check-in for Art entries
- 9:30 a.m. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Public Speaking contest begin
- 8:30 a.m.–2 p.m. . . . . . . . . Art contest judging and display
- 2-2:30 p.m. . . . . . . . . . . . . Pick-up art entries
- 10:00–11:45 a.m. . . . . . Check-in for Horse Bowl teams
- 12 p.m. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Horse Bowl orientation
- 12:30 p.m. . . . . . . . . . . . . Horse Bowl begins

Nominate your favorite 4-H volunteer by submitting the form available online at http://lancaster.unl.edu/4h or at the extension office. Nominations of co-volunteers welcome.
4-H Achievement Night
Thursday, Feb. 2 • 6:30 p.m.
Lancaster Extension Education Center
444 Cherrycreek Road, Lincoln


Starts With A Dessert Potluck
Please bring a finger food dessert to share

Congratulations to all 4-H youth who commit themselves to excellence!
4-H members, clubs and volunteers receiving awards, scholarships, or pins will be mailed detailed information.

Jammie Jamboree, March 17
Practice basic sewing skills as part of the 4-H Clothing Level 1 project and make a jammie bottom at the "Jammie Jamboree" sewing workshop on Saturday, March 17, 9 a.m. at the Lancaster Extension Education Center, 444 Cherrycreek Road, Lincoln. Open to all youth (need not be in 4-H). No cost to attend.
Adults are welcome to help. Bring your sewing machine, basic sewing equipment (scissors, pins, measuring tape, etc.), ½-inch elastic, and matching thread. Also bring a sack lunch.
Sign up by March 14 by calling 402-441-7180. 4-H’ers may enter jammie bottoms at the county fair and styled in Style Revue under Clothing Level 1.

Community Service Grants Due March 2
The Governor’s Agricultural Excellence Awards are sponsored by the Nebraska Investment Finance Authority (NIFA) in cooperation with the Nebraska 4-H Foundation. These awards recognize 25 4-H clubs each year for the work of the individuals in the club and the community service work of the entire club. Recognition is in the form of $500 checks issued to the club's treasury to be used as described in the award application form completed by the club. Forms are due by March 2 (email to 4hfoundation@unl.edu) and the awards will be presented at UNL’s East Campus on June 25. For more information, go to www.neehfoundation.org.

4-H Photography Nebraska Themes
Unit II Nebraska photog- raphy exhibit print — capture a photo of a Nebraska landscape. Unit III Nebraska photog- raphy exhibit print — capture a photo of a newsworthy event in Nebraska.

Painting Barrels for Event Center, March 18
It has been ten years since Lancaster County 4-H’ers painted trash barrels for the Lancaster Event Center and county fair.
All 4-H families are invited to participate in this group community service project on Sunday, March 18, 1:30–3:30 at the Lancaster Event Center (room to be announced). All paint and brushes will be supplied.
To help plan supplies, please let us know if you are planning to attend by calling 402-441-7180.

4-H Speech & PSA Contests
The Speech and Public Service Announcement (PSA) contests are open to all 4-H’ers ages 8–18 — need not be enrolled in a specific project. Youth may choose to participate in either or both the Speech and PSA contests.
The 4-H Speech Contest will be Sunday, April 22, 1 p.m. at the Lancaster Extension Education Center, 444 Cherrycreek Road, Lincoln. Register by April 13 by calling 402-441-7180 or emailing cmeador2@unl.edu with your name, speech title, and your age division.
In the Public Service Announcement (PSA) Contest, 4-H’ers submit a 60-second “radio commercial” promoting 4-H. The PSA contest will be held via audio only (not in person). Submit a PSA via CD or DVD of an original recorded radio program

For more information, call Bob at 402-477-6888 or Marty at 402-441-7180.

Raffle for Many Prizes! Tickets for $1 or 20 for $5. Please bring an item for raffle such as crafts, rabbit items, plants, Easter/Spring items, books, etc. All rabbits must be tattooed in the left ear (available at the show 7:30–8:30 a.m. — $1 per rabbit). All rabbits must be brought in carriers with leak-proof bottoms.

Opportunity to learn and practice your showmanship!

For more information, call Bob at 402-477-6888 or Marty at 402-441-7180.

4-H Clubs Needed to Help Provide Booths at Kiwanis Carnival, April 14
The annual Kiwanis Carnival, a FREE family event, is sponsored by the Lincoln Center Kiwanis. This year, it will be held Saturday, April 14, 6–8 p.m. at Elliott Elementary School, 225 S. 26th St., Lincoln. The carnival features carnival type games for the kids, bingo for adults, prizes, snacks, fun, and fellowship. Lincoln Center Kiwanis has sponsored this event for over 50 years — providing prizes and snacks. 4-H clubs are needed to provide carnival-type booths. This is a great community service and leadership activity for clubs. If your 4-H club or family would like to have a booth or for more information, call Lorene at 402-441-7180. Come join the fun!

Spring Rabbit Show
Saturday, March 24, 9 a.m.
Registrations 7:30–8:30 a.m.
Lancaster Extension Education Center
444 Cherrycreek Road, Lincoln

Awards will be given! CLASS: Fancy Rabbits, Commercial Rabbits, Pet Class, and Pee Wee Class.
REGISTRATION FEES: $3.50 per rabbit or entry, $1 fur class, $1 showmanship.
FREE CONTESTS: Rabbit Quiz & Breed ID
Raffle for Many Prizes! Tickets for $1 or 20 for $5. Please bring an item for raffle such as crafts, rabbit items, plants, Easter/Spring items, books, etc.

Sponsored by Lancaster County 4-H Rabbit VIPS Committee and UNL Extension in Lancaster County.
Free Community Tax Preparation Services

With tax season just around the corner it is never too early to begin thinking about where you are going to get your taxes filed. As the countdown to the filing season approaches, consider utilizing one of community tax preparation services through Lincoln’s Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA). VITA offers tax preparation to low-to-moderate income individuals and households in Lancaster and Saunders Counties at no cost. Tax preparation assistance sites at several convenient locations throughout the City of Lincoln from January through April.

New this year, various sites will offer self-preparation tax “beehive” kiosks. These kiosks offer individuals the opportunity to file their own taxes following a series of questions, and step by step instructions. Volunteers will also be available to guide individuals through the process, and answer questions.

You may be eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) — a refundable federal income tax to guide to file their own taxes following low-income working families and individuals. The credit reduces the amount of federal tax owed and can result in a refund check. When the EITC exceeds the amount of taxes owed, it results in a tax refund to qualified taxpayers. Income and family size determine the amount of the EITC. EITC may mean a larger refund for you if you meet the qualifying rules, and your earned income is less than:

• $40,964 ($46,044 married filing jointly) with one qualifying child
• $36,052 ($41,394 married filing jointly) with two qualifying children
• $13,660 ($18,470 married filing jointly) with no qualifying children

For information regarding eligibility and other tax questions, go to the IRS website at www.irs.gov or call 1-800-829-1040.

UNL Students Get Involved at Campus Tax Preparation Sites

Now in its sixth year, the University of Nebraska–Lincoln students will be able to provide free self-preparation tax assistance services at UNL’s Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites.

• Nebraska East Union on east campus Jan. 21 – Feb. 28
• Nebraska East Union on city campus March 3 – 14

Free parking and childcare is provided at the UNL sites. New this year, both UNL sites will offer self-preparation tax “beehive” kiosks offering individuals the opportunity to file their own taxes.

Aside from gaining real-world experience with tax laws, student volunteers also interact with the community intimately. Linda Moody, assistant director of service-learning and volunteer services says, “Within 20 minutes, you gain trust and respect because people are sharing confidential information. Something about that process makes the program have a high impact on the volunteers. We ultimately want to have as many people as possible involved in VITA. It’s a wonderful opportunity for students to see the community and to work with a variety of people.”

In its inaugural year, the UNL campus VITA site completed 128 returns. During the 2011 tax season, the site completed more than 800 returns.

Caleb Pickard, a senior economics major and the VITA program undergraduate assistant says, “We’re getting better every year at what we do. With roughly the same number of preparers, we’re able to increase the number of returns, which speaks to our competency and efficiency as a program.”

Community Focus

February 2012

New Nutrition Support Staff Member

Konnie Robertson joined UNL Extension in Lancaster County in December as a part time office assistant for the Nutrition Education Program (NEP). Her duties include providing clerical support to seven NEP staff and managing office responsibilities such as data entry, processing reports, and maintaining programming and administrative supplies.

Konnie says, “Allow me to introduce myself — I’m the new Virginia Piening.” While not sure how often I’ve been introduced as being the newest team member of NEP, Konnie knows she is OK, because if I can do half the job Virginia Piening did in the 45 years she was here, I will feel pretty good about my accomplishments. Filling the shoes of someone that held a position for so long is a pretty daunting task, but I’d like to think that I am up for the challenge. And in a way, Virginia and I share a lot of similarities. She is part of my family and is an integral part of its operation. My husband, Russ, is a farmer and for the past 12 years, while I’ve been home raising our son, Marcus, I’ve been slowly groomed to be the so called, farm wife. Like Virginia, my job as a farm wife has included spending time out in pastures cutting and spraying weeds and locust trees. Doing bookwork and working with scale tickets. Occasionally running the big tractors and pulling the grain cart around the field during harvest and sometimes at the start. Being a single parent during planting season and harvest. All of these attributes help the Virginia development.

2012 Extension Board

Meet the Lancaster County Extension Board. Current extension board members are:

• Wesley Daberkow, President
• Denise Farley, Vice President
• Linda K. Butcher
• Pablo Cervantes
• Boshra Rida
• Patricia M. Schmidt
• Marian Storm, Family & Community Education Council representative
• Stephanie Wachtel, 4-H Council representative

Extending 4-H Club, youth, and community extension efforts, the 2012 extension board will work in partnership with UNL to conduct a complete and effective educational program. Pictured with Board President Wesley Daberkow (left) and Extension Educator Gay Parman (right).
Grain Storage continued from page 2
uniform temperature is reached throughout the grain mass.

Will You Need to Finish Drying Grain in the Spring?
If you were unable to get the grain down to a safe moisture level in the fall, and the grain was cooled to 30°F for safe keeping in winter, it will need to be warmed in stages to 40°F in late February or early March so you are set to take advantage of days with low humidity to finish drying the grain in the spring.

If you warmed the grain to do some additional drying but now the forecast is for unfavorable weather conditions, run the aeration fans at every opportunity when the air temperature is right to cool the grain again to reduce deterioration. Your goal should be to get the grain back down to 40°F.

You can keep dry corn held in April to 40°F; if dry corn is kept into May or June, warm the grain down to 40°F.

The Nebline is published monthly (except December). Mailed to more than 12,000 households in Lancaster County and can be read online at http://lancaster.unl.edu/nebline. The Nebraska Library Commission’s Talking Book and Braille Service records the Nebline for individuals with a visual or physical condition or a reading disability which limits use of regular print. For more information, go to http://www.nl.nebraskalibrary.gov or call 402-471-4038 or 800-742-7691.

The Nebline articles may be reprinted without special permission if the source is acknowledged as “University of Nebraska–Lincoln Extension in Lancaster County.” If the article contains a byline, please include the author’s name and title. Reference to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination in their availability is implied. Information is posted online.

Email Notifications
Sign up at http://lancaster.unl.edu/nebline to be notified by email when the Nebline is posted online.

Mail Subscriptions
Subscriptions to the Nebline via mail are free to Lancaster County residents. There is an annual $5 mailing and handling fee for addresses in zip codes other than 68631, 68641, 68650, 68670 and 68065.

Order subscription □ Change of address □

Name ____________________________
Address ____________________________
City ____________________________ Zip __________

Phone: ____________________________
We will only use your phone number in case there is a problem with your mailing address.

Mail to: UNL Extension in Lancaster County 444 Cherry Creek Road, Suite A  Springfield, Nebraska 68528-1507

February (February is Nebraska 4-H Month)
2 4-H Achievement Night — 6:30 p.m.
3 Initial Pesticide Training — 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m.
4 Animal Welfare and Current Industry Issues Seminar for Livestock Producers, UNL East Campus Union — 9:30 a.m.–5 p.m.
4 4-H Pick-A-Pig Informational Meeting — 6:30 p.m.
5 4-H Council Meeting — 7 p.m.
6 Pasture Management School — 6:30 p.m.
7 Recertification Pesticide Training — 9 a.m.–5 p.m.
9 4-H/FFA Beef Weigh In, Lancaster Event Center - Pav. 2 — 6–8 p.m.
10 Extension Board Meeting — 8 a.m.
12 4-H Crocheting Workshop — 9 a.m.
16 4-H Teen Council Meeting — 7 p.m.
16 Co-parenting for Successful Kids (formerly Parents Forever) — 9 a.m.–12:30 p.m. / 5:30–9 p.m.
16 Private Pesticide Appraiser Training Session — 6:30–9:30 p.m.
16 4-H Horse Stampede, Animal Science Building, UNL East Campus — 9 a.m.–5 p.m.
21 Guardian/Conservator Training — 1:30–4:30 p.m.
22 Family & Community Education (FCE) and Community Leader Training Lesson, “Social Networking Sites” — 1 p.m.
23 #IamCropAg Planning, Planting, Care, and Investing in Corn pathological meeting — 7–9 p.m.
24 4-H Pillow Party Sewing Workshop — 7 p.m.
28 Cornhusker Economics Management and Outlook Conference — 1:30–9:30 p.m.

Applications Open for 4-H Camp Staff
The three 4-H Camps in Nebraska are currently accepting applications for summer staff. All positions provide opportunities for growth in a fun, fast-paced outdoor atmosphere. Need not be in 4-H to apply. You may apply for a variety of positions:
• Camp Staff — Ages 18 and older who lead camp programs. Spend mid-May to early August working full time to provide day to day leadership of camp activities and teaching groups of all ages. Salary is dependent on position. Deadline is Feb. 15.
• Cabin Mentors — Ages 17 and up who provide cabin supervision and assist in leading camp programs. Mentors receive an honorarium for their service and are scheduled according to their availability. Mentor for a few days or for the entire summer—the choice is yours! Deadline is April 1.
• Camp Counselors — Ages 15 and up who assist with coordinating and leading of camp programs. Join over 150 volunteer teens in providing valuable leadership to a group of campers by day and assist with cabin supervision at night. Camp counselors are scheduled according to their availability and counseling is a fantastic leadership experience for any young person. Minimum three days over the summer. Deadline is May 1.

More information and applications are online at http://4h.unl.edu/camp.
Lancaster County 4-H Horse Youth are National Champions!

Team Nebraska took the national High Overall State Award. The team included Lancaster and Douglas/Sarpy 4-H youth: Elii Dearmont, Megan Luedtke, Cory Peters, Ian Schuster, Erika Warner, and Kendra Wolfe. Kendra Ronnau coached the Lancaster County youth.

In January, youth from 34 states and Canada traveled to Denver to take part in the 4-HFEA Western National Roundup. Competitions in the Western National 4-H Horse Classic portion of the Roundup included horse bowl, hippology, public speaking, and individual and team demonstration. Each individual and team had to first win the state competition to qualify for nationals.

Team Nebraska which consisted of 4-H youth from Lancaster and Douglas/Sarpy Counties took the national title! The High Overall State Award is given to the state with the overall highest score based on placings in the five different competitions. Top five teams in the nation were, in order of placing: Nebraska, California, Mississippi, South Dakota, and Texas.

National Champions in Horse Bowl was the Lancaster County team of Megan Luedtke, Cory Peters, Ian Schuster, and Erika Warner. The team won their first two rounds but then lost to Iowa in a close round. They then came back up through the losers bracket and again met Iowa in the championship round. Nebraska had to beat Iowa in two straight rounds for the national championship title. The top five teams ranked in placing order were: Nebraska, Iowa, Georgia, Kansas, and Texas.

Individual All-Arounds in Horse Bowl included Cory Peters tying for 1st, Megan Luedtke placing 3rd, and Erika placing 8th. Coach Kendra Ronnau says, “With all of the hard work the team did — practicing as a group twice or more a week, and on their own every day — the kids made it not only so they could do well in quiz bowl, they made themselves into National Champions. More importantly, they created lifelong friendships and memories. All the Nebraska youth really did a superb job representing Nebraska! I couldn’t be more proud of them.”

Elli Dearmont took reserve national champion in public speaking with her speech entitled “Gut Feeling.” Kendra Wolfe placed 5th in Individual Demonstration with her presentation entitled “Million Dollar Mouth.” The Douglas/Sarpy Hippology team was reserve champion and the Douglas/Sarpy hippology team placed 3rd.

In the past, Nebraska youth have been champions in individual national events, however, UNL Extension Associate Marty Cruickshank believes this is the first time ever for Nebraska to win the Overall State title in horse competitions.

4-H Diamond Clover continued from page 1

- Jacob Rushman — “I learned how to plan what I wanted to achieve the beginning of the year, then the hard part was following through with my plan. The best part is receiving the award and recognition at achievement night.”

Examples of Member Reported Accomplishments

- Sam Schuster (Level 1 accomplishment: learning the pledge) — “I learned that I’m not here for only me, that you need to get involved and that no matter how young you are, you can make a difference! I learned all this from the 4-H pledge.”

- Collin Schmidt (Level 1 accomplishment: hosted a meeting and provided refreshments) — “I had a meeting at my house and had brownies.”

- Alyssa Zimmer (Level 1 accomplishment: attended 60 percent of club meetings) — “I learned how to build a rocket and all the parts included in building a rocket. I learned about rabbits and what is needed to care for them. I learned how to tell several different breeds by looking at them.”

- McKenzie Kapperman (Level 1 accomplishment: 4-H community service) — “During my first year of 4-H, my sister and I made birthday cards for the Meals on Wheels program each month. This past year, we decided it would be fun to actually deliver the meals. I have learned when you help people, they are so gracious.”

- Ashlyn Devall (Level 2 accomplishment: worked at the food booth) — “I learned food safety at the county fair 4-H food booth.”

- Caleb Nielson (Level 2 accomplishment: attended at least two 4-H activities or events) — “I attended the county fair and Clover College. I learned about bugs.”

- Jaclyn Heinrich (Level 2 accomplishment: 4-H club and community activities) — “Our club held meetings each month. I attended all meetings and also went to all of our community projects such as highway cleanup. I also spent time fundraising for the livestock auction.”

- Jacob Rushman (Level 2 accomplishment: completed Woodworking Unit I) — “I completed the entire Woodworking Unit by learning how to use various handtools and safety rules. I am now ready to utilize power tools and have already used a router.”

- Valerie Gabell (Level 3 accomplishment: participated in the Table Setting contest and Fair Fun Day tours) — “When doing my table setting, I learned how to set dishes and silverware the correct way on a table. When I helped do tours, I learned I had to keep the children focused or they would not listen.”

- Ivy Dearmont (Level 4 accomplishment: participated in a team demonstration about horse riders apparel. I learned how to talk to a group of people and more about horse rider apparel.”

- Spencer Peters (Level 4 accomplishment: helped a younger member with their project) — “I helped a member in my 4-H club with his poultry project. I worked with him on his poultry showmanship as he had to build a show, know what to expect for the actual show. I learned it is fun to help someone and see them learn and be excited about a project.”

- Emily Steinbach (Level 5 accomplishment: served as a 4-H camp counselor) — “I attended the Eastern Nebraska 4-H Center training in the beginning of June. I then signed up to help with a camp. I learned how to deal with a variety of situations with campers. I also learned how to entertain campers.”

- Kyle Pedersen (Level 6 accomplishment: service-learning project) — “My project involved creating a 4-H club at a children’s home and started a 4-H club at the home.”

Local 4-H'er Publishes Book, Daisy Goes to the County Fair

Lancaster County 4-H’er Erica Peterson has recently published a children’s book aimed at youth grades Kindergarten to third grade. Daisy Goes to the County Fair.

Erica has been a 4-H member for 10 years (exhibiting sheep, beef cattle, swine, photography, gardening, and many other projects), an FFA member for four years, and volunteered with Ag in the Classroom for five years.

Erica feels it is important youth and adults understand what farming is about and what is involved with farming today. She plans to go to University of Nebraska—Lincoln to study agricultural journalism. She hopes to continue to be an advocate for agriculture. She says, “I already have a dream for more books!”

The book is available for sale at the Four Star Drug in Waverly and online from the publisher, Rose Dog Books (www.roosedogbookstore.com/digotocofa.html), and Amazon.com and Barnes & Noble websites.

Member Reported Accomplishments

- Reported accomplishment: participated in three county 4-H activities. Learned how to show a horse, a dog, and rabbits.

- Reported accomplishment: competed in the Bicycle Contest. Learned how to ride safely and utilize hand signals.

- Reported accomplishment: served as club president and member of 4-H Teen Council.

4-H Diamond Clover continued from page 1

- Jacob Rushman — “I learned how to plan what I wanted to achieve the beginning of the year, then the hard part was following through with my plan. The best part is receiving the award and recognition at achievement night.”

Examples of Member Reported Accomplishments

- Sam Schuster (Level 1 accomplishment: learning the pledge) — “I learned that I’m not here for only me, that you need to get involved and that no matter how young you are, you can make a difference! I learned all this from the 4-H pledge.”

- Collin Schmidt (Level 1 accomplishment: hosted a meeting and provided refreshments) — “I had a meeting at my house and had brownies.”

- Alyssa Zimmer (Level 1 accomplishment: attended 60 percent of club meetings) — “I learned how to build a rocket and all the parts included in building a rocket. I learned about rabbits and what is needed to care for them. I learned how to tell several different breeds by looking at them.”

- McKenzie Kapperman (Level 1 accomplishment: 4-H community service) — “During my first year of 4-H, my sister and I made birthday cards for the Meals on Wheels program each month. This past year, we decided it would be fun to actually deliver the meals. I have learned when you help people, they are so gracious.”

- Ashlyn Devall (Level 2 accomplishment: worked at the food booth) — “I learned food safety at the county fair 4-H food booth.”

- Caleb Nielson (Level 2 accomplishment: attended at least two 4-H activities or events) — “I attended the county fair and Clover College. I learned about bugs.”

- Jaclyn Heinrich (Level 2 accomplishment: 4-H club and community activities) — “Our club held meetings each month. I attended all meetings and also went to all of our community projects such as highway cleanup. I also spent time fundraising for the livestock auction.”

- Jacob Rushman (Level 2 accomplishment: completed Woodworking Unit I) — “I completed the entire Woodworking Unit by learning how to use various handtools and safety rules. I am now ready to utilize power tools and have already used a router.”

- Valerie Gabell (Level 3 accomplishment: participated in the Table Setting contest and Fair Fun Day tours) — “When doing my table setting, I learned how to set dishes and silverware the correct way on a table. When I helped do tours, I learned I had to keep the children focused or they would not listen.”

- Ivy Dearmont (Level 4 accomplishment: participated in a team demonstration about horse riders apparel. I learned how to talk to a group of people and more about horse rider apparel.”

- Spencer Peters (Level 4 accomplishment: helped a younger member with their project) — “I helped a member in my 4-H club with his poultry project. I worked with him on his poultry showmanship as he had to build a show, know what to expect for the actual show. I learned it is fun to help someone and see them learn and be excited about a project.”

- Emily Steinbach (Level 5 accomplishment: served as a 4-H camp counselor) — “I attended the Eastern Nebraska 4-H Center training in the beginning of June. I then signed up to help with a camp. I learned how to deal with a variety of situations with campers. I also learned how to entertain campers.”

- Kyle Pedersen (Level 6 accomplishment: service-learning project) — “My project involved creating a 4-H club at a children’s home and started a 4-H club at the home.”

Local 4-H'er Publishes Book, Daisy Goes to the County Fair

Lancaster County 4-H’er Erica Peterson has recently published a children’s book aimed at youth grades Kindergarten to third grade. Daisy Goes to the County Fair.

Erica has been a 4-H member for 10 years (exhibiting sheep, beef cattle, swine, photography, gardening, and many other projects), an FFA member for four years, and volunteered with Ag in the Classroom for five years.

Erica feels it is important youth and adults understand what farming is about and what is involved with farming today. She plans to go to University of Nebraska—Lincoln to study agricultural journalism. She hopes to continue to be an advocate for agriculture. She says, “I already have a dream for more books!”

The book is available for sale at the Four Star Drug in Waverly and online from the publisher, Rose Dog Books (www.roosedogbookstore.com/digotocofa.html), and Amazon.com and Barnes & Noble websites.