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The NEBLINE, September 2012

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Extend Your Growing Season with a Cold Frame or Hotbed

Sarah Browning
UNL Extension Educator

Building a cold frame or hotbed enables urban gardeners and small scale vegetable growers to protect young plants from adverse weather in spring and fall, extending their growing season. They are relatively inexpensive, simple structures that function as mini-greenhouses.

Cold Frames
A cold frame is a structure that provides protection for plants from wind, and cold spring or fall temperatures, moderating air temperatures by 5–10°F or more. Even though the temperature difference is small, there are times when a few degrees can prevent plant death.

It’s a great place to “harden off” seedling plants, which is very important as seedlings may be stunted if they are moved directly from the warmth and protection of a greenhouse to the garden. The cold frame provides a transition period for gradual adjustment to the outdoor weather.

Cold tolerant plants, such as Swiss chard, collards, or cabbage, can be started in the cold frame and then transplanted into the garden when the weather warms, or grown to maturity within the frame. The soil in a portion of the frame can be replaced with sand, to raise the frame above ground, or raised above ground (pictured below) for better drainage.

Hotbeds
A hotbed differs only in that is has a supplemental heating source. Heat is provided most commonly by organic material, such as manure, or by electric heating cables or mats, but steam or hot water pipes can also be used.

A cold frame can be converted to a hotbed either by adding manure or installing electric heating cables.

• Heating with manure utilizes the energy generated during decomposition of organic matter, similar to what occurs in a well-constructed compost pile. To convert a cold frame, start by digging a pit to a depth of 2 feet (or more if increased drainage is required) and add 18 inches of fresh, straw-filled horse manure. Cover the manure with 6 inches of good soil. Manure will need to be added each spring and fall to gain heating benefits.

• For an electrically heated bed, dig a pit 8–9 inches deep then lay down a thermostatically controlled electric cable in 6–8 inch wide loops. Evenly space the loops of cable throughout the pit, but never cross it over itself. Cover the cable with 2 inches of sand or soil, and cover the sand or soil with a sheet of hardware cloth to protect the cable. Finally, cover the hardware cloth with 4–6 inches of good soil.

Location
The ideal location for a cold frame is a southern or south-eastern exposure with a slight slope to insure good drainage and maximum sun exposure. A sheltered spot with a fence, building, hedge or stack of hay bales to the north will provide protection against winter winds. The sash should be raised or blanket, or burlap sacks to the north will provide protection against winter winds. The sash should be raised partially to prevent the buildup of extreme temperatures inside the frame. Lower or replace the sash early enough in the day to conserve some heat for the evening. In summer, extreme heat and intensive sunlight can damage plants. This can be avoided by shading the structure with leafy sashes or old bamboo window blinds.

Management
Ventilation is critical in late winter, early spring, and early fall on clear, sunny days when temperatures rise above 45°F. The sash should be raised partially to prevent the buildup of extreme temperatures inside the frame. Lower or replace the sash early enough in the day to conserve some heat for the evening. In summer, extreme heat and intensive sunlight can damage plants. This can be avoided by shading the structure with leafy sashes or old bamboo window blinds.

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Cold frames and hotbeds can be sunk into the ground (pictured above) to take advantage of the soil’s insulating properties, or raised above ground (pictured below) for better drainage.
Sewage Lagoon Maintenance: Duckweed

J. David Aiken, Professor
UNL Agricultural Law Specialist

Duckweed. The other symptom requiring treating the duckweed would be if the lagoon begins to smell bad. This happens because there are two types of bacteria in a lagoon. The bacteria on the bottom portion of the lagoon are anaerobic. Anaerobic means without oxygen. These bacteria digest organic matter and release various gases, including hydrogen sulfide and methane. The bacteria in the upper part of the lagoon are aerobic (needing oxygen). They convert some of the products given off by the anaerobic bacteria and complete the process of digesting the material in the lagoon.

If the duckweed gets too thick and there is not enough oxygen mixing with the water near the surface, the number of aerobic bacteria are reduced and more of the gases produced by the anaerobic bacteria escape into the air and create an offensive odor resembling rotten eggs.

You probably have noticed this smell in the early spring. In the early spring, the smell occurs because in the winter, the number of bacteria is diminished due to the cold temperatures. When the water warms up in the spring, the anaerobic and the aerobic bacteria are out of balance until the population of aerobic bacteria build up again when the water gets warmer.

Resolving Division Fence Disputes in Nebraska
Both Landowners Share Cost of Fence

City/County Surplus Items Now Online

The City of Lincoln, Lancaster County, and City/County Public Building Commission will be utilizing online auction services for surplus property sales. The public can access the auction sites and bid on items from within the county or nationwide. The auction sites that will be utilized are:

- GovDeals at www.govdeals.com
- Public Surplus at www.publicsurplus.com
- Big Iron at www.bigiron.com

These sites are easy to navigate and provide instructions on how to register and place bids.

The City, County, and Building Commission will be posting items on one of these three sites in the coming weeks and months for products such as police pursuit vehicles, cell phones, fluorescent lighting, shelving, and more. If you have questions regarding surplus property, please contact Shelly Hinze at 402-441-8313 or Lori Irion at 402-441-7416.

Do I need permission to go onto the neighbor’s land for fence construction, maintenance, or repair?

No — the statutes give you the right to enter on your neighbor’s property, but only to the extent reasonably necessary to build, maintain, or repair the fence. However, you cannot remove trees, buildings, personal property, or other obstacles without either (1) the neighbor’s permission, or (2) a court order. NRS § 34-112.02(1)-(2).

You would need legal assistance in obtaining a court order to remove trees, buildings, etc., from the neighbor’s land. The need for personal legal advice: Fence law and property issues require a consideration of law and facts unique to each case. This is intended for educational purposes only; it must not be used as a substitute for private legal counsel. Any person doing so may jeopardize his/her legal rights. Fence Disputes May 2012.

What happens if the neighbor won’t pay, won’t build or won’t repair the fence?

If a fence builder is going to pay for the fence, the statute does not restrict the type of fence built. But if the fence builder wants the neighbor to be responsible for half the fence, the fence must be at least four wires, at least number nine fencing wire, attached to posts no more than one rod (16.5 feet) apart, with a post or stake between every two posts. Barb wire may be used but is not required. The fence must be at least 4.5 feet high, with no more than one foot between the wires, measured from the top. If the neighbors both agree on a different type of fence may be constructed. NRS § 34-102(1), -115(3), -116.

What if the neighbor doesn’t want to pay his/her share? Under the statute, you may not have to serve written notice upon the neighbor if you are going to build, maintain, or repair the fence. You should obtain legal assistance here — if you don’t meet the notice legal requirements you might lose your right to compensation. If the neighboring landowner doesn’t want to pay for the fence, you must serve the notice to whoever lives there or the owner’s agent (probably a tenant). The written notice may state that the neighbor build, maintain, or repair his/hers portion of the fence or else pay you for doing so. After the written notice has been served, you may begin fence construction, maintenance, or repair (unless you have requested the neighbor to begin the work). Alternatively, you can file a lawsuit to force the neighbor to comply, as discussed below. NRS § 34-112.02(1)-(2).

What is my share of the fence maintenance?

Each neighbor is responsible for his/her own portion of the fence and good repair on the same basis as they are responsible for fence construction (50-50 in most cases). NRS § 34-102.

The common approach for dividing the responsibility for fence construction and maintenance in Nebraska is the “right hand rule.” If a case went to trial, there would face the other in the middle of the fence and would be responsible for half of the fence to their right. If a case went to court, there is no telling how the court would divide the fencing responsibilities between the plaintiff and the defendant.

What if the fence is damaged by a natural disaster? If a fence is injured or destroyed by fire, flood, or other casualty, each neighbor has the right to inspect the portion of the fence on the same basis as they are responsible for fence construction (50-50 in most cases). NRS § 34-112.

What does mediation work? Fence disputes are precisely the type of issues best addressed through mediation. Mediation can help resolve legal negotiations between the parties (without attorneys) under the supervision of the mediator. The mediator attempts to help the parties reach a voluntary compromise to resolve their dispute. About 85 percent of mediated disputes are resolved successfully. It is quicker, less expensive, and less stressful than a private lawsuit. For more information, contact 800-464-0258 (Nebraska Farm Mediation Services) or 402-471-3149 (Nebraska Office of Dispute Resolution).

Commentary. The likely result of the current division fence statutes is once they realize they must pay 50 percent of a new division fence, most landowners will pay either their share or half of the fence following the right hand rule. Hopefully most landowners will also agree to the right hand rule approach for fence maintenance. If a neighbor is not maintaining his/her half of the fence, the other landowner can formally notify the neighbor of the need for repair. If the neighbor does not agree, you have the option to file for the fence and then recover your expenses through mediation or litigation.

Web references:
- Nebraska Revised Statutes sections 34-101 to 317 (2011).
- Nebraska fence mediation information: www.ne.gov/mediation/index.html
- Nebraska Mediation Services: www.agr.ne.gov/mediation/index.html
- Nebraska Office of Domestic Mediation: www.supercourt.ne.gov/mediation/index.html
- Bugwood.org - Plant Disease Images & Information
- University of Nebraska-Lincoln Cooperative Extension Service - Bugwood.org
- DAiken@unl.edu or 402-472-1848.

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What is it and who should we try to control it?

A: The plants are duckweed. The duckweed plants probably are not hurting the function of your lagoon. The only way the water entering the lagoon leaves the lagoon is by evaporation. Duckweed can get so thick on the water surface they reduce the evaporation from the lagoon. If the water in your lagoon gets too high, you may need to use a herbicide like 2,4-D to kill some of the duckweed. Duckweed have a waxy surface, so you should add a surfactant to enhance absorption into the weed.

The other symptom requiring treating the duckweed would be if the lagoon begins to smell bad. This happens because there are two types of bacteria in a lagoon. The bacteria on the bottom portion of the lagoon are anaerobic bacteria. Anaerobic means without oxygen. These bacteria digest organic matter and release various gases, including hydrogen sulfide and methane. The bacteria in the upper part of the lagoon are aerobic (needing oxygen). They convert some of the products given off by the anaerobic bacteria and complete the process of digesting the material in the lagoon.

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Drought + Mosquitoes + West Nile Virus = Increased Risk

Barb Ogg
UNL Extension Educator

According to Roberto Cortinas, UNL Veterinary Entomologist, drought actually increases the risk of other irrigation-born pathogens, including West Nile Virus (WNV). Because most people associate mosquitoes with wet weather or flooding, they are not aware of this increased risk during dry conditions. In order to understand why this occurs, it is helpful to understand the biology of mosquitoes, as well as, how drought and high temperatures influence C. tarsalis, the mosquito that transmits WNV in Nebraska.

Mosquito immature stages — larvae and pupae — develop in standing water. However, differences in standing water — such as permanence, chemistry, organic matter content, and other factors — determine what mosquito species will develop. Floodwater mosquitoes lay their eggs on dry areas that will be subjected to flooding. A good example of a floodwater mosquito is Aedes vexans, a common nuisance mosquito in Nebraska. But, brown recluse spiders, known as standing-water mosquitoes, lay their eggs on more permanent water. C. tarsalis — also known as the western encephalitis mosquito and the primary vector of WNV in Nebraska — is a standing-water mosquito.

C. tarsalis populations increase during the spring and into the summer and peak in August and September. These mosquitoes are also known for their ability to nest and feed in quiet areas, such as standing water, for extended periods. In Nebraska, brown recluse spiders (Loxosceles rosea) and C. tarsalis do not compete for the same resource. Spider populations peak in June, whereas WNV populations peak in August and September. These differing life cycles work together to create the conditions necessary for increased risk of West Nile Virus.

What is West Nile Virus?

West Nile virus is a mosquito-transmitted disease which can infect humans, birds, horses, and other mammals. It first appeared in Nebraska during the summer of 2002 and has now spread across the continental United States. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in about 80 percent of the human population, WNV infection causes no symptoms or perhaps very mild, flu-like symptoms, lasting a short time.

About 20 percent of people will develop West Nile fever. Symptoms include fever, headache, muscle aches, and weakness. About 1 out of every 150 people infected with WNV develops West Nile encephalitis, meningitis, or West Nile poliomyelitis — are estimated to develop in 1 in 150 persons infected with the virus. Symptoms include headache, fever, stiff neck, stupor, disorientation, coma, tremors, convulsions, muscle weakness, and paralysis.

Serious illness can occur in people of any age, however, people over age 50 and immunocompromised persons (for example, transplant patients) are at the highest risk for getting severely ill when infected with WNV. It is impossible to predict before exposure, what reaction a person will have.

Reduce Your Risk

Because individuals at highest risk of a serious illness following WNV exposure are those over age 50, seniors should take care to prevent exposure to C. tarsalis mosquitoes. The following precautions are suggested:

- Limit activity when mosquitoes are most active. A recent study showed C. tarsalis is most active from 1–3 hours after sunset.
- Wear long pants and long-sleeved shirts, particularly during dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are active.
- Use an insect repellent when spending time outdoors. The CDC suggests repellents with DEET, picaridin, and oil of lemon eucalyptus are most effective at repelling mosquitoes.
- Empty bird baths, kiddie pools, and other water-filled containers regularly to reduce mosquito breeding locations. If you can’t do this for ponds, use Bacillus thuringiensis (Bt) granules or biscuits to kill mosquito larvae. They are available at garden centers and hardware stores.

Household Hazardous Waste Collections

These collections are for households only. Only residents of Lincoln and Lancaster County can bring items to collections.

SOME ITEMS YOU CAN BRING FOR DISPOSAL:

Thermometers, thermostats containing mercury, solvents, oil-based paint, paint thinner, stripper, stain, old gasoline, transmission fluid, pesticides, (even banned products like DDT), items containing PCB’s (ballasts from fluorescent fixtures and capacitors from old appliances). You can dispose of compact fluorescent light bulbs at these waste collections.

DO NOT latex paint, fertilizers, medicines/pharmaceuticals, electronics/TVs, propane cylinders, tires, used oil, batteries, antifreeze, or ammunition.

For more information or if you have questions how to recycle or dispose of items not accepted, call the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department at 402-441-8021.

Saturday, Sept. 22 • 9 a.m.–1 p.m.
Lincoln Industries, 600 W. E St.

Saturday, Oct. 13 • 9 a.m.–1 p.m.
Woods Park (31 & J Streets)

Friday, Nov. 16 • 9 a.m.–1 p.m.
Appointment Only. Call 402-441-8021

Take usable latex paint to EcoStores Nebraska at 530 W. P St. Call 402-477-3606 for details.
Food & Fitness

Enjoy Nebraska Foods!

Healthy Eating

Ada Hennenman, MS, RD, UNL Extension Educator

Avocados are so full of flavor; you don’t need much to turn them into delicious guacamole. Here’s a really quick recipe. Though avocados in high fat, most of the fat is heart-healthy monounsaturated fat. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) Fruits and Vegetables Matter website, “Avocados are loaded with nutrients such as dietary fiber, vitamin B6, vitamin C, vitamin E, potassium, magnesium, and folate. They’re also cholesteroled and sodium free. Avocados contain 60 percent more potassium per ounce than bananas.” Two tablespoons of mashed avocado or 1/5 ounce than bananas. “Two tablespoons of mashed avocado or 1/5

“Quick, Delicious One-Dish Meals” Free Class, Oct. 30

Attend a free class, “Delicious One-Dish Meals” Tuesday, Oct. 30, 7–8:30 p.m. at Bryan/LGH Medical Center, Plaza Conference Center, 160 S. 48th St. Pre-registration is required by calling 402-481-8886.

“Bag” Lunches Safe

Keeping “Bag” Lunches Safe

Keeping Hot Lunches Hot

When using the microwave oven to reheat lunches, cover food to keep moisture and promote safe, even heating. Reheat leftovers to at least 165°F. Food should be steaming hot. Cook frozen convenience meals according to package instructions.

Keeping Cold Lunches Cold

Prepare cold food, such as turkey, ham, chicken, and vegetable or pasta salads, ahead of time to allow for thorough chilling in the refrigerator. Divide large amounts of food into smaller containers for fast chilling and easier use. Keep cooked food refrigerated until time to leave home. To keep lunches cold away from home, include a small frozen gel pack or frozen juice box. Of course, if there’s a refrigerator available, store perishable items there upon arrival.

Some food is safe without a cold source. Items that don’t require refrigeration include whole fruits and vegetables, hard cheese, canned meat and fish, chips, breads, crackers, peanut butter, jelly, mustard, and pickles.

The Dish on Dairy Foods and Good Health

The NEP

Linda Kowalski UNL Extension Assistant Dietetic Intern

Daily consumption of foods from the dairy group contributes to good health. Foods in the dairy group such as milk, yogurt, and cheese have several nutrients essential for the health of your body, including calcium, potassium, vitamin D, and protein.

Consuming an adequate amount of dairy can reduce the risk of osteoporosis, which is the thinning of bone tissue causing bones to become weak. Osteoporosis puts a person at a higher risk of bone fractures and may even increase the risk of death. In addition to bone health, adequate dairy may reduce the risk of heart disease, type 2 diabetes, and high blood pressure.

Consuming dairy is critical during the early years of life, as the majority of our bone mass is developed by 18 years of age. As we grow into adulthood, we begin to lose bone mass, thus, maintaining calcium intake is crucial. But how much is enough to provide these benefits? The 2010 dietary guidelines recommend consuming 3 cups from the dairy group per day in order to receive adequate calcium.

Dairy choices should aim to provide fat-free or low-fat dairy and be consumed sparingly. If it seems difficult to integrate dairy into your plate, try these creative ways to add milk and other dairy products into a dish:

Making it Work with Dairy

Avoiding Smoothie

Adapted from UNL Nutrition Education Program’s cookbook: The Cook’s Helper.

The NEP

Linda Kowalski UNL Extension Assistant Dietetic Intern

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President’s View — Marian’s Message

Marian Storm
FCE Council Chair

This has been a very hot Summer. I spent most of my time in the house. School is in full session. It is a joy to see the kids walking to school all dressed up and new backpacks. Brings back lots of memories. The fresh vegetables have been enjoyable. I have missed my garden this year. September reminds me of apple pie. We always made a lot of them for the freezer. Council meeting will be Monday, Sept. 24 at 1 p.m. By this time you should have the information on the FCE Convention in North Platte. It will be Sept. 27–29. I hope you are making plans to attend.

“Enjoy the little things in life — for one day you’ll look back and realize they were the big things.”

FCE News & Events

FCE & Community Leader Training, Sept. 19
FCE and Community Leader Training Lessons give you the tools to present the topic as a program. Extension provides a teaching outline for the facilitator and a handout for participants.

Note: Date and time change. The lesson “Cut Clutter and Get Organized” will be presented by Extension Educator Lorene Bartos.
Wednesday, Sept. 19 at 1:30 p.m. The lesson will encourage individual and families to adopt new habits to keep their home organized. Knowing what to keep, how long to keep it and what to discard will be covered. Non FCE members or groups should call Pam at 402-441-7180 to register so materials can be prepared.

FCE Council Meeting, Sept. 24
The FCE Council meeting is scheduled for Monday, Sept. 24, 1 p.m. at the Lancaster Extension Education Center. Following the business meeting attendees will make a fabric flower. Please bring 12 three-inch squares of cotton or cotton blend fabric. Other notions will be furnished. All FCE members are invited to attend.

Achievement Day, Oct. 15
FCE members — Mark your calendars for the Achievement Day salad luncheon on Monday, Oct. 15, 12-30 p.m. Bring a salad and the recipe to share. FCE members will be recognized for years for membership and club achievements. It will also be the annual collection for the Food Bank. More details to follow.

National Preparedness Month

National Preparedness Month is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Ready Campaign to encourage Americans to take simple steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses and communities. September 2012 is the ninth annual National Preparedness Month, and will focus on the following topic areas:

• Get an Emergency Supply Kit
• Get Involved

Every family will have different needs for a disaster supply kit so it is important each family assess their personal needs. Basic kits include:

• Water, one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation
• At least a three-day supply of non-perishable food
• Battery powered NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert and extra batteries
• Flashlight and extra batteries
• First aid kit
• Whistle to signal for help
• Means to communicate, garbage bags, and plastic ties for personal sanitation
• Valuables or pliers to turn off utilities
• Can opener for food

Help your family be ready in case of a disaster. Make a kit. Items to be included in a basic kit are listed above. Review what to do in case of bad weather or disaster.

For additional information and items to consider please visit http://ready.gov.

Make a Family Emergency Plan
Fill out the card below and give one to each member of your family to make sure they know who to call and where to meet in case of an emergency. For more information on how to make a family emergency plan, or for additional cards, go to http://ready.gov.

Local Challenge Sept. 9–29
Lincoln Community Organizations Active in Disaster (LOCAD) will have a Disaster Preparedness Challenge Sept. 9–29. Individuals, families, class-rooms, and work groups may participate for a chance to win prizes. There will be activities to complete each week. The challenge form and rules will posted Sept. 1 at www.volunteerpartners.org.

Ready for Success, What Families Want to Know about Starting School in Nebraska is an excellent booklet which answers common questions from parents about preparing for, and entering kindergarten. The 14 page booklet, developed by the Nebraska Department of Education Office of Early Childhood (2012) is available at www.education.ne.gov/oeec/pdfs/Ready_for_Success_Booklet.pdf.

How Can I Support My Child’s Education?
Now that you have a new school routine, keep it up! With all the changes happening, your child will welcome a regular bedtime and morning routine. Having a successful entry into kindergarten helps children have a positive attitude about school and learning. As your child’s partner in education, it is important for you to get involved and stay informed.

• Be enthusiastic about school. Focus on the positives. When you show that school is important to you, your child will learn that, too.
• Help your child be at school on time, every day. Whenever possible, make your child’s appointments for after school or towards the end of the school day.
• Keep reading to, and with, your child daily. This can be a special time in your bedtime routine to see how much your child is learning.
• Ask about your child’s day and about the work he/she brings home.
• Talk to your child’s teacher often and early, especially if you concern specializes. The relationships and commu- nication between the teacher and your family is key to ensuring your child’s success.


AARP Drive Safety Program, Nov. 14
The course will be presented in Lincoln as a one 4-hour session on Wednesday, Nov. 14 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Lancaster Extension Education Center, 444 Cherry Creek Road.
A certified AARP instructor will teach the course. Cost is $12 for AARP members and $14 for non-members payable at the door. To register for the class, call 402-441-7180.
AARP members must bring their membership card with their ID number as well as their driver license. Payment by check is required — charge/credit cards are not accepted, nor is cash. All driver safety classes during November are free of charge to any veteran, active duty military member, their spouses and immediate family, including parents.
Fall is a Great Time for Tree Planting

Don’t Forget Mulch

Trees not establishing a strong root system within one year will most likely never root into the soil properly. This is often due to mistakes in planting depth (too deep) or container-grown trees with heavy circling roots not addressed at planting.

Don’t Forget Staking, If Possible

Staking is not always required at planting, particularly for small trees or trees planted in protected areas. However, trees that are tall and leggy or in high wind areas should be staked. The goal of staking is to anchor the root ball and prevent newly developed root hairs from breaking, not to eliminate all movement within the stem of the tree.

If staking is necessary, use a 1½–2 inch wide strap or material with a 2-point system.

You only get one shot at planting a tree properly, so do it right the first time. After determining the depth of the tree’s root system, dig a hole as deep as the root ball and twice as wide. This ensures you’ve loosened the soil around the new tree’s root system, and created a planting site where newly developing roots can easily establish themselves into the surrounding soil.

Don’t add any soil amendments to the planting site. This encourages roots to stay within the nicely amended soil and not move out into the native soil. If the root ball contains just a few spiraling roots, the sides of the root ball can be teased apart by hand or scored with a sharp knife to cut through the circling roots. This will encourage new root development.

After placing the tree in the planting hole, the first lateral root should be located at or near the soil surface. Planting at the proper depth is a necessary step to support the tree’s health and vigor, and to promote shallow rooting in your tree. Shallow root development is more closely related to watering practices, than tree planting depth.

Back fill the planting hole with crumbly loose soil, removing any hard soil clods or rocks, and eliminating air pockets. Gently compact the soil around the sides of the root ball with your hands or shovel. Don’t compact the soil by stomping on it with your boots. Watering right after planting will also help eliminate air pockets in the soil.

Don’t Forget Mulch

After your tree is in the ground, add a layer of wood chip mulch to protect the tree’s roots from extreme weather conditions, eliminate weed and grass competition and preserve soil moisture. Aim for a mulch layer 3–4 inches deep and as wide as possible; ideally, out to the dripline of the tree’s canopy.

Don’t pile mulch up against the tree’s trunk, pull it back a couple inches and allow the trunk bark to stay dry.

Skip the Fertilizer

ReTree Nebraska soils have good levels of naturally occurring nutrients. Supplementary nitrogen in particular can be detrimental at planting because it promotes leaf growth, over root growth. Development of a strong, vigorous root system is the first goal of tree planters, and is necessary before additional foliage can be supported.

Source: Jessica Kelling, ReTree Nebraska coordinator with the UNL Nebraska Forest Service.

Skip Staking, If Possible

Staking is not always required at planting, particularly for small trees or trees planted in protected areas. However, trees that are tall and leggy or in high wind areas should be staked. The goal of staking is to anchor the root ball and prevent newly developed root hairs from breaking, not to eliminate all movement within the stem of the tree.

If staking is necessary, don’t use the old “wire in garden hose” technique. Instead choose a 1½–2 inch wide strap or material with a 2-point system.

Trees not establishing a strong root system within one year will most likely never root into the soil properly. This is often due to mistakes in planting depth (too deep) or container-grown trees with heavy circling roots not addressed at planting.

The amount of water needed will depend on soil type and the type of tree planted. Water thoroughly at planting, the day after planting, three days later and three days after that. Continue monitoring your newly planted tree to be sure it doesn’t get too dry, but remember more newly planted trees die from too much water than from not enough. If you can easily push a 6-inch screwdriver into the soil surrounding the tree, you are probably providing adequate moisture. Using a turf irrigation system to water trees is usually not ideal, because turgar (watering deep) maintains the enough layer of soil to support good tree growth, and root development.

For more information about ReTree Nebraska, species selection, proper tree planting and care, go to www.retreenebraska.org or view tree-related videos, go to Backyard Farmer at http://bfy.unl.edu/treeshrub.
Garden Plants With Silver Foliage

Mary Jane Frogge
UNL Extension Associate

Silver or gray is an interesting color in the landscape. Similar to white, silver has the ability to soothe and blend with other colors. There are many plants that will sparkle in your garden. As an added benefit, many silver foliage plants prefer full sun with dry soils, making them excellent summer tolerant performers in the garden.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMMON NAME</th>
<th>SCIENTIFIC NAME</th>
<th>TYPE</th>
<th>HEIGHT</th>
<th>FLOWER</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lamb’s ear</td>
<td>Stachys byzantina</td>
<td>perennial</td>
<td>12–15 in.</td>
<td>purple</td>
<td>full sun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White sage</td>
<td>Artemisia ludoviciana</td>
<td>perennial</td>
<td>2–4 ft.</td>
<td>white</td>
<td>full sun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silver mound</td>
<td>Artemisia schmidtiana</td>
<td>perennial</td>
<td>15–24 in.</td>
<td>yellow</td>
<td>full sun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russian sage</td>
<td>Perovskia atriplicifolia</td>
<td>perennial</td>
<td>4 ft.</td>
<td>purple</td>
<td>full sun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snow-in-sun</td>
<td>Cerastium tomentosum</td>
<td>perennial</td>
<td>6–8 in.</td>
<td>white</td>
<td>full sun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rose campion</td>
<td>Lychnis coronaria</td>
<td>perennial</td>
<td>30 in.</td>
<td>pink, purple, white</td>
<td>full sun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lavender cotton</td>
<td>Santolina chamaecyparissus</td>
<td>perennial</td>
<td>1–2 ft.</td>
<td>yellow</td>
<td>full sun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woolly thyme</td>
<td>Thymus pseudolanuginosus</td>
<td>perennial</td>
<td>2–4 in.</td>
<td>pink</td>
<td>full sun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edelweiss</td>
<td>Leontopodium alpinum</td>
<td>perennial</td>
<td>6–10 in.</td>
<td>yellow</td>
<td>full sun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common stock</td>
<td>Matthiola incana</td>
<td>annual</td>
<td>12–30 in.</td>
<td>white, blue, yellow, pink, purple</td>
<td>full sun to light shade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dusty miller</td>
<td>Senecio cineraria</td>
<td>annual</td>
<td>8–15 in.</td>
<td>yellow</td>
<td>full sun</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Gardening at Lunch Webinar Series

Learn about various aspects of gardening from UNL Extension experts. Join us for an exciting “Gardening at Lunch” webinar series, right from your desk at work or home. During each program you can listen and interact with the speakers. You will need a computer with Internet access and sound to participate.

Cost is $10 per program or $60 for the entire series. Must pre-register for each program at http://marketplace.unl.edu/extension.

Webinars are held Wednesdays, 12:00–12:55 p.m. For more information, contact Natalia Bjorklund at nbjorklund3@unl.edu or 402-727-2775.

• Sept. 5: Weed Identification — Be able to identify weeds properly is the first step in proper control.
• Oct. 10: Fall Gardening — Extend your gardening into fall and some key things to keep in mind going into winter.
• Feb. 6: Pruning — Learn the basics of proper pruning techniques.
• Feb. 20: Tree Hazard Awareness — Learn what to look for in recognizing tree hazards.
• March 6: Get Ready for Spring Vegetable Gardening — Learn ideal planting time of vegetables. Also get tips on growing strong, healthy transplants at home.
• April 3: Plant Diseases — Learn how to identify plant diseases, and how to treat them.
• May 1: Outdoor Insects — Learn how to identify the good insects from the bad!

Composting Workshops and Demonstrations

Learn how to be successful with composting by attending a free composting workshop or demonstration sponsored by University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension in Lancaster County and the City of Lincoln Recycling Office.

Composting Workshops are held at various Lincoln locations:
• Tuesday, Oct. 9, 6:30 p.m. — Charles H Gerle Library, 2400 S. 56th St.
• Tuesday, Oct. 16, 6:30 p.m. — Anderson Library, 3635 Touzalin Ave.

Composting Demonstrations are presented at the Pioneers Park Nature Center’s backyard composting demonstration area. These demonstrations will show you how to be successful with backyard composting. You will see three types of composting bins and how to use them. Every family will receive a composting thermometer. Demonstrations will be held:
• Saturday, Sept. 22, 10 a.m.
• Saturday, Oct. 13, 10 a.m.

Garden Guide

THINGS TO DO THIS MONTH

By Mary Jane Frogge, UNL Extension Associate

Allow plants to finish the summer growth cycle in a normal manner. Never encourage growth with heavy applications of fertilizer or excessive pruning at this time. Plants will delay their dormancy process that has already begun in anticipation of winter in the months ahead. New growth can be injured by an early freeze.

Do not wait for frost warnings to move your plants indoors. Temperatures of 45°F or lower can damage many tropical house plants.

Collect okra seed pods, cucumbers, asparagus tips, and other suitable materials for dried arrangements. Air dry these materials in a dark, cool location.

Select accent plants for your landscape that will provide autumn color. Trees that have red fall color are flowering dogwood, red maple, sugar maple, Norway maple, red oak, and scarlet oak. Shrubs with red fall foliage include sumacs, viburnum, winged euonymus, and barberry.

Before the first frost dig up calendula. Allow them to dry and store in a dry place for the winter.

Perennial phlox can be divided about every third or fourth year. Divide big clumps of perennial phlox into thirds. Early fall or early spring are the best times to plant or transplant them.

Divide lilac and wisteria. Put up chives, parsley, and other herbs to extend the growing season in the house.

Tree wound paints used after pruning are no longer recommended as they can slow healing and may promote decay.

If pesky seedlings of woody plants, such as elm, mulberry, hackberry, or maples are found growing in your yard, remove them as soon as possible. If left too long they will take over gardens and other landscape plantings.

Fall is a good time for improving your garden soil. Add mulch, compost and leaves to increase the organic matter content.

Plant peonies now, but make sure the crowns are buried only 1–2 inches below ground level. Planting them deeper than 2 inches may keep them from blooming.

Bust cuttings from annual bedding plants such as begonias, coleus, geraniums, and impatiens. These plants can be air dried in a sunny window and provide plants for next year’s garden.

Pears should be picked at the hard ripe stage and allowed to finish ripening off the tree. The base color of yellow pears should change from green to yellow as the fruit approaches maturity.

Be sure to keep strawberry beds weed free. Every weed you pull now will help make weeding much easier next spring.

Remove baby, heaths, and fruit from crabapple trees and dispose of them in the trash to help control apple scab disease.

Wood ashes contain phosphorous, potassium, and calcium. It can be placed on vegetable gardens and flower beds.
Shari Becker
Lancaster County 4-H is proud to announce Shari Becker as winner of September’s “Heart of 4-H Award” in recognition of outstanding volunteer service. Shari has volunteered with 4-H for three years and been leader of the Rock Creek Ranchers 4-H Club for two years. The club is very active, currently with 26 members including three Clover Kids ages 5–7. The club holds regular meetings, members work on projects together (including beef, photography, and public service announcements), does community service activities (such as playing bingo at the Waverly Care Center), and helps at the 4-H food booth during the Lancaster County Super Fair. This year, members had 224 total entries at the Lancaster County Super Fair.

“I enjoy watching the kids grow and take on more challenging projects,” Shari says. “My husband was in 4-H growing up, but I was not, so I like learning about the opportunities available through 4-H and encouraging the kids to try new things. My favorite experience as a 4-H volunteer is going to the fair to see the kids’ completed projects they have worked so hard on.”

Nominate your favorite 4-H volunteer by submitting the form online at http://lancaster.unl.edu/4h or at the extension office.

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Ak-Sar-Ben 4-H Horse Show, Sept. 15–16

The Ak-Sar-Ben 4-H Horse Show will be held on Sept. 15–16 at the Lancaster Event Center in Lincoln. A veterinarian health check is required within 15 days of the exhibition date. For more information, go to www.4h.unl.edu.

Ak-Sar-Ben 4-H Stock Show, Sept. 27–30

The 85th Ak-Sar-Ben 4-H Stock Show will be held Sept. 27–30 at the CenturyLink Center in Omaha. More than 2,000 4-H families from an eight state area participate in this all 4-H Expo. Categories of this 4-H only competition are dairy, feeder calf & breeding beef, market beef, market broilers, meat goats, market lamb, market swine, rabbit, and dairy steer. For more information and schedule, go to www.4h.unl.edu.

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State Fair 4-H Tickets

Get ready for fun at the 2012 Nebraska State Fair, Friday, Aug. 24 through Monday, Sept. 3 at Fonner Park in Grand Island! For a schedule of 4-H activities, see page 24 for more, go to http://4h.unl.edu/nebraskanationfair.

The Lancaster County extension office has a limited number of $4 exhibitor tickets for 4-H exhibitors and their immediate family members. These can be purchased at the office at 444 Cherrycreek Road (cash or check only; no credit cards). Public gate admission will be $10, with $5 days Aug. 27–29. Children 2–11 will be free every day and children 5 and under will be free every day.

General parking on the fairgrounds is free this year.

Nominate your favorite 4-H volunteer by submitting the form online at http://lancaster.unl.edu/4h or at the extension office.

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4-H Teen Council Invites New Members

4-H Teen Council is a leadership organization for youth in grades 7–12. Meetings are held the second Sunday of each month at 3 p.m. at the Lancaster Extension Education Center, 444 Cherrycreek Road, Lincoln. The next meeting will be Sunday, Sept. 9 at 3 p.m.

4-H Teen Council members:
• participate in several community service activities
• plan, set up, and facilitate the organization’s annual 4th & 5th grade Lock-In activities
• are involved in other leadership activities

For more information or to join, call Tracy at 402-441-7180.

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Rabbit Clinic, Oct. 13

A free 4-H Rabbit Clinic will be held Saturday, Oct. 13, 9 a.m.–noon at the Lancaster Extension Education Center, 444 Cherrycreek Rd., Lincoln. This is a great opportunity to learn about the 4-H Rabbit Program, which is open to all youth ages 8–18. Sessions/demonstrations include:
• Feeding and Care of a Rabbit
• How to Judge Rabbits
• Breed ID & Breeder’s Choice
• Showmanship
• Static Exhibits
• Education Resources

For more information, call Marty at 402-441-7180.
Junior Casual: McKenzie Kapperman
Junior Picnic: Eric Vander Woude
**TABLE SETTING**
Recycled Garment: Sheridan Swotek
Attention Shoppers: Alyssa Zimmer
Make One/Buy One: Emily Steinbach
Decorate Your Duds: Emily Steinbach
Clothing 1: Julia Stephenson
Grand Ch Shopping in Style:
Grand Ch Style Revue: Emily Steinbach
Junior Res: Rose Ingracia
Senior Res Ch: Maddie Gabel
Senior Ch & Premier Presenter:
Horticulture Contest:
Vegetable Exhibit: Emily Steinbach
Res Grand Ch Market Steer: Dylan Hafer
Ch Senior Showmanship: Taylor Lienen
Ch Intermediate Showmanship: Renee Sieck
Ch Junior Showmanship: Jodyn Heinrich

**DAIRY CATTLE**
Overall Grand Ch Dairy Cattle: Ben Rice
Ch Advanced Showmanship and Overall Showman: Travis Beres
Ch Senior Showmanship: Kassidy Andrews
Ch Intermediate Showmanship: Joshua Fry

**BUCKET CALF**
Ch Bucket Calf Division: Julia Jordan
Ch Intermediate Division: Rachael Lange
Ch Bucket Calf: Charlotte Division: Amanda Jordan
Res Ch Bucket Calf Intermediate Division: Cassie Meyer

**SHEEP**
Grand Ch Market Lamb: Madalyn Scott
Res Grand Ch Market Lamb: Cole Cooper
Top Commercial Ewe - Ch: Kaija Bruss
Top Commercial Ewe - Res Ch: Kaija Bruss
Supreme Ch Breeding Ewe: Kaija Bruss
Supreme Res Ch Breeding Ewe: Kaija Bruss
Ch Senior Showmanship: Allison Docter
Ch Intermediate Showmanship: Ashlyn Cooper
Ch Junior Showmanship: Riley Scott

**SWINE**
Ch Overall Market Swine: Trevor Spoth
Res Ch Overall Market Swine: Jodyn Heinrich
Ch Senior Showmanship: Trevor Spoth
Ch Intermediate Showmanship: Hannah Bellinghausen
Ch Junior Showmanship: Sam Schuster

**DOG**
Ch Obedience: Beginning A - Olivia Keringan
Ch Obedience - Novice: Rebecca Wehling
Team Obedience - Advanced: Ivy Dearmont & Spencer Peters

**LEAD ANIMAL EXHIBITS**

**BEEF**
Ch Supreme Breeding Heifer: Kylee Yakel
Ch Supreme Feeder: Reeme Sieck
Res Ch Supreme Feeder: Kylee Yakel
Grand Ch Market Heifer: Brandan Sieck
Res Grand Ch Market Heifer: Cailyn Welfrecht
Grand Ch Market Steer: Brysen Goracke
Res Grand Ch Market Steer: Dylan Hafer
Ch Senior Showmanship: Taylor Lienen
Ch Intermediate Showmanship: Renee Sieck
Ch Junior Showmanship: Jodyn Heinrich

**Dairy Goat**
Ch Junior Showmanship: Jodyn Heinrich

**DAIRY GOAT**
Ch Supreme Goat: Dylan Hafer
Res Ch Supreme Goat: Emma Brown
Ch Intermediate Showmanship: Trever Spoth
Res Ch Intermediate Showmanship: Lauren Holte
Ch Junior Showmanship: Riley Scott

**SWINE**
Ch Overall Market Swine: Trevor Spoth
Res Ch Overall Market Swine: Jodyn Heinrich
Ch Senior Showmanship: Trevor Spoth
Ch Intermediate Showmanship: Hannah Bellinghausen
Ch Junior Showmanship: Sam Schuster

**DAIRY GOAT**
Ch Overall Oberhasli Goat: Colin Henshaw
Res Ch Overall Oberhasli Goat: Joshua Henshaw
Ch Supreme Oberhasli Goat: Holly Henshaw
Ch Overall Grand Oberhasli Goat: Corianna Kubicek
Ch Junior Showmanship: Joshua Henshaw
Ch Mini Goat Showmanship: Katherine Moyer

**MEAT GOAT**
Grand Ch Meat Goat: Bayne Sieck
Res Ch Meat Goat: Logan Sieck
Ch Meat Goat Showmanship: Logan Sieck
Res Ch Meat Goat Showmanship: Bayne Sieck

**LLAMA/ALPACA**
Ch Senior Showmanship: Lindsey VanArsdol
Ch Intermediate Showmanship: Alyssa Jensen
Ch Junior Showmanship: Olivia Waters

**POULTRY**
Best of 4 H Poultry Show: Koral Gunnerson
Ch Large Fowl: Cassandra Barber
Ch Small Fowl: Kylee Yakel
Ch Water Fowl: Koral Gunnerson
Res Ch Water Fowl: Koral Gunnerson
Ch Bantam: Bayne Sieck
Ch Senior Showmanship: Bayne Sieck
Ch Junior Showmanship: Anthony Vinton

**RABBIT**
All Around Showman Award Ch: Kayja Green
All Around Showman Award Res Ch: Hannah Bellinghausen
Ch Senior Showmanship: Kayja Green
Ch Intermediate Showmanship: Kyle Hurt
Ch Junior Showmanship: Sam Schuster

**DOG**
Ch Obedience - Beginning A - Olivia Keringan
Ch Obedience - Novice: Rebecca Wehling
Team Obedience - Advanced: Ivy Dearmont & Spencer Peters

**HORSE**
Ch English Senior Showmanship: Cameron Hanke
Ch English Junior Showmanship:悬浮
Ch English Elementary Showmanship:悬浮
Ch Groom & Care: Marlee Moss
Grand Ch Halter Pony: Kaitlyn Wolf
Res Grand Ch Halter Pony: Justine Gall
Grand Ch Stock Horse ages 4 & up:悬浮
Res Grand Ch Stock Horse ages 4 & up:悬浮
Res Grand Ch Halter Horse:悬浮
Grand Ch Aged Horse Ages 15 & up:悬浮
Ch Pre-beginning Agility A - Level 1:悬浮
Ch Pre-beginning Agility B - Level 1:悬浮
Ch Beginning Agility A - Level 2:悬浮
Ch intermediate Agility - Level 3:悬浮
Ch Trophy Showmanship: Rebecca Wehling
Ch Senior Showmanship: Ivy Dearmont
Ch Intermediate Showmanship: Cassie Meyer
Ch Junior Showmanship: Marlee Moss

**CAT**
Best in Show: Starr Fowler
**HOUSEHOLD PETS**
Ch Molimial: Madison Duffey
Ch Bird: Jessica Stephenson
Ch Fish, Reptiles: Amanbaba: Starr Fowler

**HORSE**
Ch Western Senior Showmanship: Bailey Peterson
Ch Western Junior Showmanship:悬浮
Ch Western Elementary Showmanship:悬浮
Ch Senior Showmanship:悬浮
Ch Intermediate Showmanship:悬浮
Ch Junior Showmanship:悬浮

**TECHNOLOGY**
Club Banner: All American Kids
Poster: Haley Elstun

**PHOTOGRAPHY**
Child Development: Madelyn Loucks

**HOME ENVIRONMENT**
Home Environment: Sadie Hammond
Home Environment: Martin Ingracia

**CLOTHING**
Clothing Level 3: Renae Sieck
Clothing Level 2: Anna Vosicky
Clothing Level 1: Taylor Spatz

**PLANT SCIENCE**
Forestry Exhibit: Eliana Babcock
Conservation and Wildlife Exhibit:

**CONSERVATION & WILDLIFE & FORESTRY**
Conservation and Wildlife Exhibit: Emily Deemont
Forestry Exhibit: Emilia Babcock

**EXHIBIT**
Junior Picnic: Eric Vander Woude
Junior Casual: McKenzie Kapperman

**TOP STATIC EXHIBITS**
Junior Birthday: Tyler Vander Woude
Senior Casual: Carol Nobity
Senior Birthday: Jessica Stephenson

**LIVESTOCK JUDGING CONTEST**
Senior High Individual: Ashlyn Cooper
Intermediate High Individual: Bayne Sieck
Junior High Individual: Cole Cooper
Top 5 Individuals: Overall: Ashlyn Cooper
(1st), Jake Robertson (2nd), Trevor Spoth (3rd), Cole Cooper (4th), Caleb Schatz (5th)

**TOP ANIMAL EXHIBITS**
Ch Supreme Breeding Heifer: Kylee Yakel
Ch Supreme Feeder: Reeme Sieck
Res Ch Supreme Feeder: Kylee Yakel
Grand Ch Market Heifer: Brandan Sieck
Res Grand Ch Market Heifer: Cailyn Welfrecht
Grand Ch Market Steer: Brysen Goracke
Res Grand Ch Market Steer: Dylan Hafer
Ch Senior Showmanship: Taylor Lienen
Ch Intermediate Showmanship: Renee Sieck
Ch Junior Showmanship: Jodyn Heinrich

**FORESTRY**
Specimen Plant: Kyle Hurt

**HORTICULTURE**
Vegetable Exhibit: Emily Steinbach
Res Grand Ch Market Steer: Dylan Hafer
Ch Senior Showmanship: Taylor Lienen
Ch Intermediate Showmanship: Renee Sieck
Ch Junior Showmanship: Jodyn Heinrich

**Top Contest Awards**
Top 5 Individuals Overall: Ashtyn Cooper
Junior High Individual: Cole Cooper
Intermediate High Individual: Bayne Sieck
Senior High Individual: Ashlyn Cooper
Grand Ch Stock Horse ages 4 & up:悬浮
Res Grand Ch Stock Horse ages 4 & up:悬浮
Res Grand Ch Halter Horse:悬浮
Grand Ch Aged Horse Ages 15 & up:悬浮
Ch Pre-beginning Agility A - Level 1:悬浮
Ch Pre-beginning Agility B - Level 1:悬浮
Ch Beginning Agility A - Level 2:悬浮
Ch intermediate Agility - Level 3:悬浮
Ch Trophy Showmanship: Rebecca Wehling
Ch Senior Showmanship: Ivy Dearmont
Ch Intermediate Showmanship: Cassie Meyer
Ch Junior Showmanship: Marlee Moss

[4-H/FFA complete results and photos are online at http://www.lancaster.unl.edu/4h]
In 2012, USDA will commemorate and celebrate the 150th anniversary of our founding in 1862, when President Abraham Lincoln signed into law an act of Congress establishing the United States Department of Agriculture.

Two and one-half years later, in what would be his final annual message to the Congress, Lincoln called USDA “The People’s Department.” At that time, about half of all Americans lived on farms, compared with about 2 percent today. But through our work on food, agriculture, economic development, science, natural resource conservation, and a host of issues, USDA still fulfills Lincoln’s vision — touching the lives of every American, every day.

As we commemorate 150 years of accomplishments, USDA is learning from past experiences and looking to the future. In the years to come, we must help feed the world. We must continue to provide a safe, ample food supply for our nation and the world. To meet those goals, we are working to make USDA a more modern and effective service provider and to deliver the best possible results for all of the American people.

Over the course of the year, I hope Americans will acknowledge and join us in our commemoration of 150 years of USDA. It is a great time to learn about our contributions to the strength and health of this nation, and to see how we can continue to partner with Americans working to provide a better life for their families.

Thanks for joining us in this celebration, Secretary Vilsack.
Experience the Power of Red

An open house for prospective high school, transfer students, and guests

Sponsored by the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources

Saturday, Nov. 3

9 a.m.–2 p.m. • UNL’s East Campus

• Learn more about how we prepare students for careers in everything from animals to plants, soil to climate, golf to business, mechanization to leadership, food to forensic science
• Meet current students, faculty, and staff
• Experience East Campus

To view the half-day event schedule or to register, go to http://casnr.unl.edu/openhouse

No charge to attend

(800) 742-8800, ext. 2541

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA
Lincoln

Open House Events

RED LETTER DAYS
An all-day open house experience for high school seniors.

• September 8
• October 19, 22, 26, 29

HUSKER WEEKDAYS
This is Nebraska’s most versatile half-day campus visit option for any student and their guests. You can schedule a visit for most weekdays and select Saturdays.

For more information or to register, see http://admissions.unl.edu/visit

Take a virtual tour http://gobig.unl.edu
Celebrating 4-H Youth Achievement at Super Fair

Many 4-H youth choose to exhibit their project(s) and participate in contests at county and state fairs. The 2012 Lancaster County Super Fair was held Aug. 2–11 at the Lancaster Event Center. This was the third year the Lancaster County Fair was 10 days. 4-H & FFA exhibits and events were held Aug. 2–5. More than 800 4-H/FFA exhibitors showcased more than 6,000 exhibits (including static exhibits, Clover Kids, animals, and contest entries). This is an 11 percent increase in 4-H/FFA exhibits over last year. New this year was a 4-H Livestock Judging Contest and three new horse events: extreme versatility class, discipline rail, and miniature horse in-hand obstacle trail. Also new was a display of "4-H Through the Decades," with 47 exhibits from 1920s–2000s. A special thank you to all the volunteers and sponsors who help make 4-H & FFA at the fair a success! See top exhibits on page 9 of this issue. Complete 4-H/FFA ribbon results and numerous photographs are at http://lancaster.unl.edu/4h.

4-H'er Quotes About Super Fair

Some comments from 4-H members include:
• Spencer Peters (age 14), "I’m learning lessons I didn’t know when I was younger. The effort pays off. The more effort you put in, the better the payoff is going to be. To be the best, you have to work the hardest.”
• Abby Stephens (age 10), “It’s really going great and fun. It’s a really good experience for me because the judge is telling me what is good and what could be better. I learned from interview judging, poultry, and Style Revue.”
• Judson Tietjen (age 8), “I learned that you get nervous going in front of everybody. I also learned about parts of the chicken body. My favorite part is chicken showmanship. I’m looking forward to next year’s fair.”
• Kylee Plager (age 15), "I had a good time learning about how things work in the animal barns with the Pick-a-Pig club. Also, the fair has helped me find hobbies and interests that I wouldn’t have known otherwise.”

In Interview Judging, 4-H members talk to judges about their static exhibits.

In the Table Setting Contest, 4-H'ers use their creativity to plan a healthy menu, set a table, and present to a judge.

Now in its second year, the 4-H Meat Goat Show had eight youth exhibitors.

The 4-H Dog show includes Obedience, Showmanship, and Agility.

The 4-H Rabbit Show spans three days and includes Rabbit Judging Contest, Pet Class, Breed/Fur Class, and Showmanship.

The Lancaster County Super Fair has the largest county 4-H Horse Show in Nebraska, with 36 events spanning six days. New this year was a 4-H/FFA Livestock Judging Contest. About 80 youth participated, judging Angus heifers (beef cattle), market steers (beef cattle), commercial gilts (hogs), market hogs, commercial ewes (sheep), and market goats (meat goats).

The 4-H Meat Goat Show had eight youth exhibitors.

4-H Kick Off
Thursday, Oct. 4, 6 p.m.
Lancaster Extension Education Center
444 Cherrycreek Road, Lincoln

Come Find Out How to Join 4-H!
• Help form a new 4-H club
• Be an independent member
• Join an existing 4-H club (limited availability)
• Participate in 4-H activities such as camps

4-H is a learn-by-doing program with many exciting projects to choose from. Youth learn practical skills and develop life skills!

4-H'ers will share completed projects!

Q & A!

Prizes!

Learn about 4-H!

402-441-7180 • http://lancaster.unl.edu/4h

Clover Kids are 4-H youth ages 5–7. At the Lancaster County Super Fair, Clover Kids receive participation ribbons only and are not judged competitively.

The 4-H youth development program is open to all youth ages 5–18.