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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” seedlings, 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 cold frame can be replaced with sand, peat moss, or another suitable soil medium for starting sweet potato slips. It can also be used to overwinter semi-hardy plants, stratify seeds, start root cuttings, and force flowering bulbs.

A cold frame has no supplemental heating source, but is passively heated by the sun. Heat is collected when the sun’s rays penetrate the sash or lid of the structure, which is made of clear plastic, glass, or fiberglass. Often the lid is a repurposed glass door or window(s).

Additional methods for passive heat storage can also be used, such as buckets or jugs painted black and filled with water that absorb heat during the day and release it at night. Other cold frames are built with a very high back and a steep sloping glass lid, insulated very well along the back and sides, and the plants covered with removable insulation at night or during extremely cold weather to provide extra protection.

**Hotbeds**

A hotbed differs only in that it has a supplementary 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. Just make sure the windbreak protection doesn’t shade the cold frame. Sinking the frame into the ground somewhat will also provide protection, using the earth for insulation.

Maintaining good drainage beneath the cold frame is essential to prevent water from accumulating in the soil. If natural drainage is poor, install drainage tile beneath the frame. Or build the frame atop a thick layer of coarse gravel.

Be sure to locate the structure close to a water source, and near an electric outlet if heating cables will be used.

**Building a Cold Frame or Hotbed**

There is no standard size for a cold frame or hotbed. Size should be determined based on the amount of available space, desired crops, permanency of the structure and the growers need. Do not make the structure too wide for weeding and harvesting; 4–5 feet is about as wide as is convenient to reach across.

This Old House provides great directions on building a cold frame at www.thisold-house.com/toh/how-to/intro/20417543,00.html.

**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 Webb sashes or old bamboo window blinds.

To reduce disease problems, watering should be done early in the day so plants dry before dark.

Extra insulation may be needed when a sudden cold snap is expected. A simple method is to throw a mat or blanket, or burlap sacks filled with leaves over the sash at night to protect against freezing. For added insulation, set bales of straw or hay around the outside of the frame.
Resolving Division Fence Disputes in Nebraska
Both Landowners Share Cost of Fence 50-50

J. David Aiken, Professor
UNL Agricultural Law Specialist

Ideally, neighbors can agree between themselves on most fence disputes, but if they don’t, Nebraska division fence statutes provide a legal process for resolving fence disputes. A 2010 amendment establishes the requirements for splitting cost of a wire division fence equally (50-50) between neighbors. Mediation is probably the most cost-effective way to resolve fence disputes if the parties cannot settle the matter between themselves.

Are division fences required? No, if neither neighbor wants the fence, there doesn’t need to be one. However, if one neighbor wants the fence and the other neighbor doesn’t, the neighbor desiring the fence can require the neighbor to pay half the fence cost even if the other neighbor doesn’t want the fence, doesn’t have livestock, or doesn’t want to pay for the fence. NRS § 34-102.

Who has to pay for a division fence between two lagoons? If a neighboring landowner wants to share the cost of the fence 50-50, unless they have agreed to a different split. The 50-50 rule applies even if the neighbor not wanting the fence does not have livestock. NRS § 34-102(1).

What type of fence can be built? If the 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. Barbed 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 the different type of fence may be constructed, NRS § 34-102(2), -115(3), -116.

What if the neighbor doesn’t want to pay his/her share? Under the statute, you can formally 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 get the notice legal requirements, you could lose your right to compensation. If the neighboring landowner does not maintain his/her portion of the fence, you must serve the notice to whoever lives there or the owner’s agent (probably a tenant). The written notice must serve the neighbor build, maintain, or repair his/her 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 pay for the fence and they refuse). Alternatively, you can file a lawsuit to force the neighbor to comply, as discussed below. NRS § 34-112.02(1)-(2).

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(3).

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 other property issues require a consideration of law and facts unique to each case. This is intended for educational purposes only. It is not to be used as a substitute for private legal counsel. Any person doing so may jeopardize his/her legal rights. Fence Disputes May 12.

What happens if the neighbor won’t pay, won’t build or won’t repair the fence? If you have properly served the written notice and the neighbor has not made arrangements to take care of their portion of the fence, you may sue them. Again, you will need legal assistance here. If a lawsuit is filed, the neighbor may agree to mediate the dispute as an alternative to a lawsuit. If you don’t mediate, the case proceds as a normal civil lawsuit. NRS § 34-112.02(3)-(5).

If you fail to follow the written notice requirement, you may lose your right to compensation. So obtaining legal assistance is important.

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

What is my share of the fence maintenance? Each neighbor is responsible for his/her portion of the fence and could lose the other in the middle of the fence and would be responsible for half of the fence to their right. If is case went to court, there is no telling what the court would divide the responsibilities between the plaintiff and the defendant.

What about keeping trees and shrubs off the fence? Each landowner is responsible for removal or trimming of trees or shrubs within or encroaching upon the fence line. Failure to do so is private nuisance. NRS § 34-103.

How does mediation work? Fence disputes are precisely the type of issues best addressed through mediation. Mediation can help parties resolve their 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 offers you an opportunity to determine the outcome of the dispute, rather 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 either have their share or else build their 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 have the fence and then recover your expenses through mediation or litigation.

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 Hinz at 402-441-8513 or Lori Irons at 402-441-7416.

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Sewage Lagoon Maintenance: Duckweed

Tom Dorn
UNL Extension Educator

Q: There is a layer of little green dots floating on our sewage lagoon. What is it and what 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.

If the duckweed gets too thick and there is not enough oxygen reaching 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.

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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 some mosquito-borne 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. Waterfowl 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, some mosquitoes, 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 lay their eggs in surface water pools, surrounded by grasses and annual vegetation. Increased irrigation during dry periods creates these pools of water in roadside ditches near crop fields and increases the number of breeding sites. In more urban areas, standing water from watering lawns and gardens can also produce breeding pools.

Warmer temperatures contribute to an increased WNV risk, because mosquito populations grow faster when temperatures are warm and the virus replicates faster at higher temperatures.

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, malaise, and body aches, occasionally with a skin rash (on the trunk of the body) and swollen lymph glands. While the illness can be as short as a few days, even healthy people have reported being sick for several weeks.

The symptoms of severe disease — West Nile encephalitis, meningitis, or West Nile poliomyelitis — are estimated to develop in 1 in 150 persons infected with the virus. Symptoms include headache, high fever, neck stiffness, 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 between 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.

According to Roberto Cortinas, UNL Veterinary Entomologist, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

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.

Brown Recluse Spiders Do Not Increase in Hot Weather

Barb Ogg
UNL Extension Educator

A recent report by an Omaha TV station suggested the hot summer temperatures are increasing brown recluse spider infestations. This isn’t true.

Brown recluse spiders don’t live outdoors in Nebraska, like they do in more southern states, so they are not impacted as much by ambient outdoor temperatures as other outdoor-living spiders and insects are. Brown recluse spider infestations are generally feeding in Nebraska when people accidentally move them in boxes of shipped items or when people move from an infested place to a new one.

Once in a building, they can be very hard to control because of their reclusive nature. It usually takes the services of a pest control professional to control a brown recluse spider infestation and even then, eradication can be difficult.

In Nebraska, brown recluse spiders are not often found in single family homes, which is another clue they don’t live outdoors. They are mostly likely found

Brown recluse spiders have a fiddle-shaped mark on their back in warehouses or commercial buildings where items are stored or shipped in from states like Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas, or other southern states where brown recluse spiders are more abundant. They have been found in apartments in Nebraska, probably originally brought in with moving boxes from an infested place.

Once in an apartment, they can travel through walls and between floors, infesting other units in the building.

Brown recluse spiders are a health concern because they inject a cytotoxic venom which kills the tissue around the bite. The skin sloughs off and doesn’t heal properly. It is extremely important to seek medical treatment for any type of a wound that doesn’t heal.

If you are concerned about spiders, we recommend you buy some glueboards (often found in the rodent control section of stores) and place them flat in dark corners or other areas where you have seen them. After you catch the spiders, bring the glueboard to the extension office. UNL Extension in Lancaster County identifies spiders and insects at no cost to you and gives you suggestions of your next steps.

Most of the time, the spiders we see are outdoor spiders, which have come inside through cracks and crevices of your home.

This time of year, spiders are on the move, seeking a protected location to overwinter. Sealing cracks and crevices can help prevent spiders and other insects from entering your home.

If you are concerned about spiders, use a glueboard (sticky trap) to monitor what spiders get caught.

Environmental Focus

September 2012

http://lancaster.unl.edu
Keeping “Bag” Lunches Safe

Whether it’s off to school or work or go, Americans carry “bag” lunches. Food brought from home can be kept safe if it is first handled and cooked safely. Then, perishable food must be kept cold while commuting via bus, bicycle, on foot, or on the subway. After arriving at school or work, perishable food must be kept cold until lunchtime.

Why keep food cold? Harmful bacteria multiply rapidly in the “Danger Zone” — the temperatures between 40 and 140°F. So, perishable food transported without an ice source won’t stay safe long. Here are safe handling recommendations to prevent foodborne illness from “bag” lunches.

Begin with Safe Food

Perishable food, such as raw or cooked meat and poultry, must be kept cold or frozen at the store and at home. In between, transport perishable food as fast as possible when no ice source is available. At the destination, it must be kept cold. Food should not be left out at room temperature more than 2 hours (1 hour if the temperature is above 90°F).

Prepackaged combos that contain luncheon meats along with crackers, cheese, and condiments must also be kept refrigerated. This includes luncheon meats and smoked ham which are cured or contain preservatives.

Keep Everything Clean

Wash your hands with soap and warm water for 20 seconds before you prepare or eat food. Wash cutting boards, dishes, utensils, and countertops with hot, soapy water, rinse, and dry. When preparing each food item and before you go on to the next item, a solution of 1 tablespoon of unscented, liquid chlorine bleach in 1 gallon of water may be used to sanitize cutting boards and utensils. Keep family pets away from kitchen counters.

Food brought from home can.

Don’t Cross-Contaminate

Harmful bacteria can spread throughout the kitchen and get on cutting boards, utensils, and countertops. Always use a clean cutting board. When using a cutting board for food prep, it will not be cooked, such as bread, lettuce, and tomatoes, be sure to wash the board after using it to cut raw meat and poultry. Consider using one cutting board for fresh produce and separate one for meat and poultry.

At lunchtime, discard all used food packaging and paper bags. Do not reuse packaging because it could contaminate other food and cause foodborne illness.

Packing Lunches

Pack just the amount of perishable food that can be eaten at lunchtime. That way, there won’t be a problem about the safety of leftovers. Throw away perishable leftovers if a refrigerator is not available. It’s fine to prepare the food the night before and store the packed lunch in the refrigerator. Freezing sandwiches containing mayonnaise, lettuce, or tomatoes. Add these later.

Insulated, soft-sided lunch boxes or bags can also be used for keeping food cold, but metal or plastic lunch boxes and paper bags can also be used. If using paper lunch bags, create layers by double bagging to help insulate the food. An ice source should be packed with perishable food in any type of lunch bag or box.

Keeping Cold

Lunches Cold

Prepare cold food, such as turkey, ham, chicken, and vegetables or pasta salads, ahead of time forallow to the refrigerator. Divide large amounts of food into smaller containers for fast chilling and ease of 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.

Lunches are safe if 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.

Keeping Hot

Lunches Hot

Use an insulated container to keep food like soup, chili, and stew hot. Fill the container with boiling water, let stand for a few minutes, empty, and then put in the perishable hot food. Keep the insulated container closed until lunchtime to keep the food hot — 140°F or above.

Microwave Cooking/Reheating

When using the microwave oven to reheat lunches, cover food to help maintain 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.


The Dish on Dairy Foods and Good Health

The 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.

A growing amount of scientific evidence 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 be fat-free or low-fat, to avoid saturated fat which can raise cholesterol. Fat-free and low-fat dairy choices are often less costly than their whole milk counterparts, keeping your wallet plump, but not your waistline.

If dairy products are made from milk, such as cream cheese, sour cream, cream, and butter may seem like they belong in the diet but since they contain little to no calcium or other nutrients, they do not count toward the recommended daily intake of dairy. These foods should 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:

- substitute fat-free/low-fat milk for water in creamy soups/sauces/casserole
- make oatmeal with milk for vegetables
- pair yogurt with fruit for a parfait
- make oatmeal with milk instead of water
- sprinkle low-fat cheese on your favorite dish

NEP, Nutrition Education Program

Helping limited-resource families learn to prepare nutritious and safe foods while stretching their food dollars.

Lisa Kowalski
UNL Extension Assistant
UNL, 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

aweseome Smoothie

(Makes 2 servings)
2 tablespoons ground flaxseed
1 banana
1 cup low-fat yogurt, plain
1/2 cup blueberries or strawberries, frozen
1 cup low-fat milk

Place all the ingredients in a blender and process until high until smooth. Serve immediately.

Adapted from UNL Nutrition Education Program’s cookbook: The Coach’s Helper.
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 Loren 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 Involved and stay involved.
• Make a Family Emergency Plan.
• Get Involved.
• Basic Disaster Supply Kit

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
• Money, checks, garage 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 (LOCALD) will have a Disaster Preparedness Challenge Sept. 9–29. Individuals, families, classes, room 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.

Family Emergency Plan

FCE Council

Lorene Bartos, UNL Extension Educator

Energy Saving Facts

• Energy saving light bulbs last around ten times longer than ordinary bulbs — over 10,000 hours.
• A laptop is more environmentally friendly than a desktop. It consumes five times less electricity.
• Energy Star equipment uses on average 65 percent less electricity than standard models.
• Unplugging phone and other chargers when not charging items will help reduce energy usage.

Ready for Success Booklet from Nebraska Dept. of Education

The AARP Driver Safety Program, Nov. 14

The course will be presented in Lincoln as a one 4-hour session on Wednesday, Nov. 14, 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.

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/sec/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 involved.

• 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 have concerns.
• The relationships and communication between the teacher and your family is key to ensuring your child’s success.


FCE Council Chair Marian Storm FCE Council

Note: FCE and Community Education (FCE) Clubs

FCE News & Events

Ready for Success Booklet from Nebraska Dept. of Education

Energy Saving Facts

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Fall is a Great Time for Tree Planting

Fall’s cooler temperatures, increased moisture, and reduced humidity allow properly planted trees to establish their root systems quickly, giving them a jump-start on spring growth. Consider the following tips to help make your fall planting a success.

Pay Close Attention to Planting Site
To avoid conflicts with buildings, utilities, lines and other trees, look up and around as you consider the mature height and width of any tree(s) you plant. Before you dig, call Diggers Hotline at 800-331-5666 and within two days any buried utility lines on your property will be marked. This is especially important if you have recently moved onto a new property, since you are liable for damage to utility lines.

Don’t Forget About the Soil
If it’s sandy, select species adapted to sandy conditions or that are drought tolerant. A few good choices include common juniper, juniperus communis; eastern red cedar, J. virginiana; eastern cottonwood, Populus deltoids; Blackjack oak, Q. marilandica; Bur oak, Q. macrocarpa; and Scarlet oak, Q. coccin. Clay soils also require trees that are well-adapted to their heavier texture, and potential higher soil pH and moisture content. Strive for diversity.

There are many species of trees that grow well in Nebraska, but aren’t widely promoted. To promote these species, ReTree Nebraska has developed a list of “Good Trees for the Good Life.” To find out more about these species and where you can purchase them, go to www.retreenebraska.unl.edu. Or check out these Nebraska Forest Service publications:

“Trees for Eastern Nebraska,” http://go.unl.edu/839
• “Recommended Trees for Western Nebraska,” http://go.unl.edu/csk

Buy Good Roots
Be sure plants are vigorous and healthy when you purchase them. End of the year close-out sales on plants can appear attractive to your pocketbook, but if plants die in a year or two it’s not much of a bargain. Avoid plants that appear too large for their container; they are probably root bound. Look for plants with deep green foliage; avoid those with yellow or yellowish leaves.

Inspect the roots and pass by those with heavy circling roots. These plants often fail to establish well in the new location, or die in future years from stem girdling roots. Purchase plants with white, healthy roots and minimal circling. Look for nurseries using RootMaker or green bag production methods for the healthiest tree root systems. Check out ReTree Nebraska’s list of participating nurseries, www.nsf.unl.edu/ReTree/participating.asp.

Remove Excess Soil
When you’re ready to plant, remove the tree from its container. If the tree is balled and burlapped, cut away the metal basket and pull off the burlap. Using a flat tile spade or hand trowel, remove excess soil from the top of the root ball until you find the tree’s first primary lateral root. This will determine the depth of your planting hole. Even a couple of inches of excess soil over the root system can be detrimental to the health and vigor of the root system.

Plant Your Tree Properly
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 tree 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 the tree at the proper depth is a necessary step to support the tree’s health and vigor, and not 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
Nebraska soils have good levels of naturally occurring nutrients. Supplemental 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.
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-snow</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 pseudolniginosus</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 'Annua'</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>

THINGS TO DO THIS MONTH

**GARDENING AT LUNCH**

**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!

_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. Each webinar can be viewed from any 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, 12:05–12:55 p.m. For more information, contact Natalie Bjorklund at nbjorklund3@unl.edu or 402-727-2775.

* Sept. 5: Weed Identification — Being 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.
* Sept. 20: Tree Hazard Awareness — Learn what to look for in recognizing tree hazards.
* March 6: Get Ready for Spring Vegetable Gardening — Learn ideal planting times 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!

Garden Guide

**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 Gere Library, 2400 S. 56th St.
* Tuesday, Oct. 16, 6:30 p.m. — Anderson Library, 3632 Tousey 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.

**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, gourds, sumac seed heads, rose hips, 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 color in the fall. 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 sumac, viburnum, winged euonymus, and barberry.

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

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

Divide lilies/tulipwoods.

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 pussy weedy 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 manure, compost and leaves to increase the organic matter content.

Plant peas 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.

Root cuttings of annual bedding plants such as coleus, coleus, geraniums, and impatiens. These plants can be overwintered 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 dead leaves, and fruit from conifer 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.

Garden Guide

_BYTES TO DO THIS MONTH_

By Mary Jane Frogge, UNL Extension Associate

- Get ready for spring vegetable gardening.
- Learn ideal planting times of vegetables.
- Also get tips on growing strong, healthy transplants at home.
- 1
- Plant peonies now, but make sure the crowns are buried only
- 2
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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 events throughout the fair, please go to http://4h.unl.edu/4hhorseresults.

The Lancaster County 4-H’er top placings are:
- Reserve Champion Senior Judging Team: Cory Peters, Josie Ang, Kenzie Wolfe, Erika Warner
- Champion Senior (Ch): Sierra Nelson, Bailey Sobotka, Vanessa Butterfield, Ashley Holm

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

GENERAL AREAS
Poster: Haley Elston
Club Banner: All American Kids
Quiet Quest: Sheridan Swetek

SCIENCE, ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY
Rocket: Lauren Holvet
Woodworking: Ben Ingracia
Safety: Trinity Bohaty

FOOD & NUTRITION
Yeast Bread: Kylee Yakel
Quick Bread: Sierra Sander
Food Preservation: Emma Nolan
Cake/Pie: Ashlyn Cooper
Cookie: Emma Brown

HOME ENVIRONMENT
Home Environment: Sophia Gengenbach
Home Environment: Sadie Hammond
Home Environment: Martin Ptashnik

CHILD DEVELOPMENT
Child Development: Madelyn Loucks

PHOTOGRAPHY
Unit 1: Kyle Rushman
Unit 2: Makenzie Dahning
Unit 3: Natalie Meckel

CLOTHING
Clothing Level 1: Taylor Spatz
Decorate Your Duds: Emily Steinbach

HORTICULTURE
Vegetable Exhibit: Emily Steinbach
Herb Exhibit: Austin Hurt
Annual Flower Exhibit: Jared Nielsen
Personal Health: Emma Haarzad
Rose Exhibit: Megan Neal

CONSERVATION & WILDLIFE & FORESTRY
Conservation and Wildlife Exhibit: Emma Deaimont
Forestry Exhibit: Elia Babcock

Top Contest Awards

PLANT SCIENCE
Horticulture Contest: Lily Noel
Free Identification Contest: Mary Dowd
Grass & Weed Identification Contest: Abigail Babcock

PRESENTATIONS
Senior Ch. & Premier Presenter: Sam Schuster
Senior Res Ch.: Maddie Gabel
Junior Ch.: Nathan Gabel
Junior Res: Rose Ingracia

STYLE REVUE
Senior Ch. Style Revue: Emily Steinbach
Res Grand Ch Style Revue: Renae Sieck
Grand Ch Shopping in Style: Sadie Hammond
Res Grand Ch Shopping in Style: McKenzie Kapperman

Top Animal Exhibits

BEEF
Ch Supreme Breeding Heifer: Kylie Gana
Res Ch Supreme Breeding Heifer: Brandon Sieck
Ch Supreme Feeder: Renee Sieck
Res Ch Supreme Feeder: Kylie Gana
Grand Ch Market Heifer: Brandon Sieck
Res Grand Ch Market Heifer: Caitlyn Wolbrecht
Grand Ch Market Steer: Brysen Goreake
Res Grand Ch Market Steer: Dylan Hafer
Ch Senior Showmanship: Taylon Lieman
Ch Intermediate Showmanship: Renee Sieck
Ch Junior Showmanship: Jodyn Heinrich

DAIRY CATTLE
Overall Grand Ch Dairy Cattle: Ben Rice
Overall Res Grand Ch Dairy Cattle: Kassidy Andrews
Top Producing Cow: Ben Rice
Ch Advanced Showmanship and Overall Showman: Ben Rice
Ch Senior Showmanship: Kassidy Andrews
Ch Intermediate Showmanship: Joshua Fry

BUCKET CALF
Ch Bucket Calf Junior Division: Kaila Jordan
Ch Bucket Calf Intermediate Division: Rachael Lange
Ch Bucket Calf Overall 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. Kassie Bruss
Top Commercial Ewe - Res Ch: Keegan Bruss
Supreme Ch Breeding Ewe: Keegan Bruss
Supreme Res Ch Breeding Ewe: Keegan Bruss
Ch Senior Showmanship: Allison Docter
Ch Intermediate Showmanship: Ashlyn Cooper
Ch Junior Showmanship: Riley Scott

SWINE
Ch Overall Market Swine: Trevor Speth
Res Ch Overall Market Swine: Jodyn Heinrich
Ch Senior Showmanship: Trevor Speth
Ch Intermediate Showmanship: Jodyn Heinrich

DAIRY GOAT
Ch Overall Oberhashi Goat: Colin Henshaw
Res Ch Overall Oberhashi Goat: Joshua Henshaw
Ch Oberhashi Goat: Corinne Kubicek
Ch Junior Showmanship: Genevieve Moye
Ch Mini Goat Showmanship: Katherine Moye

MEAT GOAT
Grand Ch Meat Goat: Bailey Sieck
Res Ch Meat Goat: Logan Sieck
Ch Meat Goat Showmanship: Logan Sieck
Res Ch Meat Goat Showmanship: Bailee Sieck

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

POULTRY
Best of 4 H Poultry Show: Kord Gunnerson
Ch Large Fowl: Cassandra Barber
Sh Shallow Fowl: Taylor Stephens
Ch Water Fowl: Kord Gunnerson
Res Ch Water Fowl: Kord Gunnerson

BEEF
Ch English Elementary Showmanship:
Ch English Junior Showmanship:
Ch English Senior Showmanship:

HORSE
Ch Grand Ch Hunter/Saddleseat Horse:
Ch Supreme Hunter/Saddleseat Horse:
Ch All Around Hunter/Saddleseat Horse:

CAT
Ch Prebeginning Agility A - Level 1: Morilee Moss
Ch Prebeginning Agility B - Level 1: Spencer Peters
Ch Beginning Agility A - Level 2: Ivy Deaimont
Ch intermediate Agility - Level 3: Cassie Moye
Ch Trophy Showmanship: Rebecca Whaling
Ch Senior Showmanship: Ivy Deaimont
Ch Intermediate Showmanship: Cassie Moye
Ch Junior Showmanship: Morilee Moss

FOOTBALL
Best in Show: Starr Fowler

HOUSEHOLD PETS
Ch Bantam: Abbie Heusinger
Ch Fish, Reptiles/Amphibians: Starr Fowler

TECHNOLOGY
Ch Western Senior Showmanship: Bailey Peterson
Ch Western Junior Showmanship: Olivia Wittenstedt
Ch Western Elementary Showmanship: Madison Sobotka
Ch English Senior Showmanship: Abbie Heusinger
Ch English Junior Showmanship: McKenzie Beach
Ch English Elementary Showmanship: Kassidy Andrews
Ch Groom & Care: Morilee Moss
Ch Grand Ch Halter Pony: Katelyn Wolf
Res Grand Ch Halter Pony: Justice Gall
Ch Grand Stock Horse ages 4 & up: McKenzie Beach
Res Grand Ch Stock Horse ages 4 & up: Jessica Rushman
Grand Ch Aged Horse Ages 15 & up: Jacob Chipp
Res Grand Ch Aged Horse Ages 15 & up: Olivia Wittenstedt
Ch Grand Ch 2 & 3 year old Horse: Heather Welch
Res Grand Ch 2 & 3 year old Horse: Ashley Bradbury
Ch Grand Ch Hunter/Saddleseat Horse ages 4 & up: Abbie Heusinger
Res Grand Ch Hunter/Saddleseat Horse ages 4 & up: Brittany Albers
Ch Grand Hunter/Saddleseat Aged Horse Ages 15 & up: Kenzy Hayes
Res Grand Ch Aged Hunter/Saddleseat Horse Ages 15 & up: Anna Heusinger

Other top horse awards will be announced at 4-H Horse Awards Night.
This year’s honorees are the late Don Crawford and his wife Norene of Lincoln, Bernie Heier of Walton, and Larry Pershing of Lincoln. Photo plaques with their biographies will be placed on the official wall of fame at the Lancaster Event Center in the Business Center.

Don Crawford and Norene Crawford

Don was involved in many areas of 4-H. He has been a charter member of the Happy-Go-Lucky 4-H club. Later he became the leader of the club and a beef superintendent. He served several years on the Ag Society board. Don was instrumental in getting the 4-H Complex building at the old State Fair Park site. Both Don and Norene served as open class farm produce superintendents for many years.

Bernie Heier

A Lancaster County Commissioner since 1998, Bernie has been a major supporter of the new fairgrounds and Lancaster Event Center the past 20 years. Bernie always makes a point to attend the fair each year and attend all the many events year round. Without his support, the fair and the Lancaster Event Center would not be what it is today.

Larry Pershing

Larry has been an active participant and volunteer in the 4-H program for over 50 years. Many of those years were in Lancaster County where he served on the 4-H Council and 4-H VIPS Committees. He also served as 4-H sheep and goat show superintendent at the Lancaster County Fair. Larry’s commitment did not quit after his kids graduated from the program. Thirty years later, he still serves as a member of the Production Livestock Booster Club, securing funds for livestock programs. When asked why he continues to volunteer at the fair, he says he enjoys witnessing the success the kids find through participating in the county fair and the 4-H program.
Make It With Wool Deadline Oct. 27
The Make It With Wool contest offers youth and adults the opportunity to promote the beauty and versatility of wool fabric and yarn. Personal creations in sewing, knitting, crocheting, spinning, and weaving of wool fabric, yarn is encouraged. Categories are: Preteen, Junior, Senior, Adult, and Made for Others. There will be no district competition, only a state contest held in Hastings on Saturday, Nov. 17. Entry deadline is Oct. 27. For more information, call Tracy at 402-441-7180.

UNL Companion Animal Science and Wildlife Career Day
The UNL Department of Animal Science and the School of Natural Resources will host a Companion Animal Science and Wildlife Career Day for high school seniors. Sponsored by the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources • September 28

Open House Events
RED LETTER DAYS
An all-day open house experience for high school seniors.
• September 28
• October 19, 22, 26, 29
• November 2, 9, 16, 30

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

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

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444 Cherry Creek Road, Ste. A, Lincoln, NE 68528
402-441-7180
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Lancaster Extension Education Center Conference Facilities
444 Cherry Creek Road, Lincoln
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.

Celebrating 4-H Youth Achievement at 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.”

The 4-H Kick Off
Thursday, Oct. 4, 6 p.m.
Lancaster Extension Education Center
444 Cherrcreek 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