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After-Harvest Care of Asparagus

Sarah Browning
Extension Educator

Asparagus can grow and thrive in a vegetable garden for many years, if it receives good care following harvest. Towards the end of June stop harvesting, allowing the asparagus fronds to grow throughout the remainder of the season. If summer conditions turn dry, don’t rely on deeper soil moisture to provide adequate water for your plants. If extended dry conditions occur, provide deep soaking irrigation to your plants at least twice a month or as needed to prevent soil cracking. Moisten the soil to a depth of at least 6 inches.

Weed Control
Controlling weeds in an asparagus planting can be difficult, but it is a necessary step toward maintaining a high-yielding planting. This top growth manufactures carbohydrates and sugars that will be stored in the fleshy roots and crowns. The plant will draw upon this reserve for next year’s crop. The size of next year’s crop is directly related to the growth of this summer’s foliage.

Fertilization
Each year after the final harvest, fertilize your asparagus planting. If your soil tests high in phosphorus, use a low phosphorus fertilizer such as 32-3-10 or 25-3-12 or a no-phosphorus fertilizer such as 30-0-10 or 24-0-15. The same is true for potassium. If your soil tests high, no additional potassium is needed. Apply 50 lb Nitrogen per acre by side-dressing the rows and lightly tilling it in. The equivalent amount for smaller plantings is:
• 1.2 lb N/100 sq. ft.
• 1.2 lb N/100 sq. ft.
Well-rotted manure can be used in place of commercial fertilizers. Apply approximately 50 lb/100 sq. ft.

Cultural Control
Use 3–4 inches of mulch in conjunction with hoeing or tilling. Organic mulch, such as wood chips, grass clippings, compost or clean straw, prevents germination of new weeds, minimizes soil temperature fluctuations in summer and helps preserve soil moisture.

Herbicides
A preemergent herbicide should have been applied in late April to kill germinating seeds of summer annual weeds, like crabgrass, spurge and oxalis. In late June, apply a second preemergent herbicide to prevent germination of additional summer annual weeds. Reapply every 4–6 weeks at labeled rates throughout the summer, but be careful not to apply it to areas where you will be planting additional seeded crops. One product, which has the added benefit of being organic, is corn gluten meal and can be found in Preen, Vegetable Garden Weed Preventer, as well as other products. Corn gluten meal is a by-product of corn processing and contains 10% nitrogen, along with its preemergent properties.

When using herbicide, always read and follow the label directions for personal protective equipment and application rates. Pay special attention to the pre-harvest interval, or the amount of time you must wait after a pesticide application before harvesting again.

No Salt
Do not use salt! An old recommendation for asparagus weed control involved the application of salt, by pouring the salty water from an ice cream maker on the asparagus patch. This provided some weed control because asparagus is deep-rooted and has a higher sodium tolerance than some common weeds. However, salt quickly destroys soil structure, resulting in poor water penetration in the soil. High levels of salt will eventually kill the asparagus too, or move out into nearby sections of your vegetable garden and kill other less salt tolerant vegetables. So if you make homemade ice cream on July 4th, don’t pour the salt water on your asparagus patch.

In Fall and Spring
Allow asparagus stems to stand over winter to catch and hold snow. The snow will help prevent drastic temperature fluctuations, as well as provide additional moisture as it melts. Remove the dead tops early in spring before new growth starts.

The size of next year’s asparagus crop is directly related to the growth of this summer’s foliage.
### 12 Tasty Salad Toppings

**Alice Heneman, MS, RDN**  
**Extension Educator**

“*You can put everything — and the more things the better — into a salad, as a conversation, but everything depends on the skill of missing.*” — Charles Dudley Warner

Sometimes people think green salad = lettuce = blah. Not so. The only limits to exciting salads are limits of the imagination.

**1. Artichoke Hearts: Marinated**  
Enjoy the tangy taste of sliced marinated artichoke hearts in your salad. It’s as easy as opening a jar and adding as desired.

**2. Cheese: Parmesan**  
Add crunch, flavor and fiber with homemade whole grain croutons.

**3. Croutons**  
If your experience with Parmesan cheese is limited to a sprinkling on salad, try using a vegetable peeler to shave a tablespoon per serving from a block of cheese. Or, sprinkle freshly grated Parmesan on salads. As just a small amount (about 1 tablespoon) can give extra flavor without too many calories, also, many provide a nutrition boost! Add from one to three of these flavor accents, depending on how many other ingredients are in your salad.

**4. Fried Fruit: Cherries, Cranberries, Raisins**  
Add these dried fruits for their flavor. Benefit from their antioxidants that may help protect against such diseases as cancer and heart disease.

**5. Fresh Herbs: Basil, Chives, Dill, Parsley**  
Toss small basil leaves or chopped larger ones in with your greens. Try chopped fresh dill. Add some minced chives or parsley. Start with about a teaspoon of herbs per person and adjust according to taste preference. Herbs boost flavor without increasing calories. Researchers also are finding many culinary herbs (both fresh and dried) have antioxidants that may help protect against such diseases as cancer and heart disease.

**6. Fresh Fruit: Apples and Pears**  
Slice apples with their skins into salads. The skin adds eye appeal and important dietary fiber, as well. Research shows an apple a day may indeed help keep the doctor away by helping reduce your risk of heart disease and cancer.

**7. Olives: Black or Green**  
Add extra oomph with olives. For ease of eating and to distribute their flavor throughout the salad, pit and slice olives before placing them in your salad.

**8. Nuts: Toasted Almonds and Walnuts**  
Though almonds are a source of fat and calories, they contain mostly unsaturated fat that may help protect against heart disease. They also provide vitamin E, a nutrient that may be good for your heart. Almonds have about 7 calories apiece. Likewise, the fat in walnuts is mostly unsaturated. Walnuts also provide heart healthy omega-3 fatty acids. A tablespoon or two of walnuts adds just 50 to 100 calories to a meal.

**9. Onions: Red**  
Sliced onions juice up the flavors of salads and add brightness with their sunny color. Plus, they give you a healthy dose of vitamin C and folate.

**10. Oranges**  
Sliced oranges juice up the flavor of salads and add brightness with their sunny color. Plus, they give you a healthy dose of vitamin C and folate.

**11. Sunflower Seeds: Toasted**  
Add some vitamin E by tossing a tablespoon of sunflower seeds per serving into salads. One tablespoon provides about 50 calories and mostly unsaturated fat. Toast them for extra flavor.

**12. Radishes**  
Thinly slice radishes and sprinkle into salads for their crisp texture and peppery flavor. If the leafy radish tops are attached, remove them before storing. Radishes will keep as well if their tops are left on. Store unwashed radishes in an open or perforated plastic bag in a refrigerator crisper drawer that is separate from the one in which you store fruits. Wash radishes and trim their roots just before using.
The Importance of Play in Early Childhood Development

Ruth Vonderhoe Extension Educator

Have you ever laughed until your sides ached? Well, if it has been awhile take time to play with your children. Give yourself permission to have a wonderful experience listening and laughing with each child. In today’s world of trying to balance work and home schedules, parents find it hard to spend quality time with their children. It is essential for parents to make the best use of the time they have with their children. Your child needs time to be with you to relax and play.

“When was asked me what I did in school today and I say, ‘I just played.’ Please don’t misunderstand me. For you see, I am learning as I play. I am learning to enjoy and be successful in my work. Today I am a child and my work is play.” —Anita Wadley, 1974

Lots of playing with children builds lasting bonds. Playing allows parents to appreciate the uniqueness of each child. Playing with your children can be a stress reliever. Laughing and relaxing are important to your own well-being as well as your children. Keep in mind parents are their children’s first and favorite playmates. From the very beginning of your child’s life, she is engaging in play with you, whether following your face as you move it slowly from one side to the other or listening to your voice as you sing to her during a diaper change. Children love it when you are “silly” with them in play, and learn social skills by modeling your behavior. Over the years your children may have lots of fun toys to play with, but they don’t compare to you. Play allows children to develop their imagination, dexterity, and physical, cognitive and emotional strength. Play is important to healthy brain development. It is the through play children at a very early age engage and interact with the world around them. Play allows them to explore new things at their own pace, master physical agility, learn new skills and figure things out in their own way. During play with others, children learn leadership skills by directing the action or by following a leader. Children do not do this all at once. Each child’s behavior in play develops in stages:

• Onlooker Behavior: Watching what other children are doing, but not joining in the play.
• Solitary Play: Playing alone without regard for others; being involved in independent activities like playing with blocks or other materials
• Parallel Activity: Playing near others but not interacting, even using the same play materials.
• Associative Play: Playing in small groups with no definite rules or assigned roles
• Cooperative Play: Deciding to work together to complete a building project or pretend play with assigned roles for all of the members of the group

Safety is of the utmost importance. Things to be:

• Well made with no sharp parts, splinters or broken pieces
• Strong enough to hold the child’s weight
• Non-toxic and lead-free
• Shatterproof and easily cleaned
• Non-electric
• Checked frequently for safety
• Out of children’s reach if they have small parts
• Properly supervised by adults

Play is a cherished part of childhood that offers children important developmental benefits and opportunities to fully engage with their children. Play starts in the child’s infancy and ideally, continues throughout their life. Play is how children learn to socialize, to think, to solve problems, to mature and most importantly, to have fun.

Parental involvement in a child’s world of play is not only beneficial for the child but is extremely beneficial to the parent. Playing with children establishes and strengthens bonds that will last forever. Parent-child play opens doors for the best use of the time they have to work together to complete tasks. Small groups with no definite materials

References:
• Durden, Tonia, Early Childhood Extension Specialist, Gerdes, Jennifer, Popp, Lisa, Early Childhood Educator. “Play and Learning in the Primary Years.”

http://child.unl.edu

Expanded With More Resources

Nebraska Extension’s Learning Child team of specialists and educators is proud to announce a major expansion of the Early Childhood Development website, http://child.unl.edu. The website provides research-based information, resources and strategies to help parents, grandparents, child care professionals, preschool teachers, early elementary teachers and other adults to support the holistic development of children ages newborn to 8.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events

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, bleach cleaners, latex-based paint, paint thinner, furniture stripper, oil-based stains, old gasoline, transmission fluid, pesticides, small propane cylinders. You can dispose of compact fluorescent light bulbs at these waste collections.

DO NOT BRING latex paint, fertilizers, medicines, pharmaceuticals, electrical & computer items, large 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 or go to www.lincoln.ne.gov (keyword: household).

Saturday, May 30 • 9 a.m.–1 p.m.
Zoetis: 601 W. Cornhusker Hwy.
Friday, June 19 • 9 a.m.–1 p.m.
Union College: S. 52nd & Cooper Ave.
Saturday, Aug. 22 • 9 a.m.–1 p.m.
Veyance Technologies: 4021 N. 56th St.
Saturday, Sept. 26 • 9 a.m.–1 p.m.
Lincoln Industries: 600 W. E St.
Saturday, Oct. 24 • 9 a.m.–1 p.m.
Woods Park: S. 31st & J St.
Friday, Nov. 13
Appointment Only: Call 402-441-8021 to schedule

Latex paint is not accepted at Household Hazardous Waste Collections. Usable latex paint can be taken to EcoStores Nebraska paint exchanges May 30 & Sept. 26 at 530 W. P St., 402-477-3606.
Severe Weather Impacts on Crops

June is the peak month for severe weather and 2014 was a year for the record books for severe weather. Strong tornadoes and large hail destroyed crops and structures all across Nebraska. In 2014, there were 87 tornado reports, which were more than any state in the U.S., except Mississippi, which had 91. The odds are low we will reach this number in 2015, but I can guarantee it will be more than zero. Nebraska had a total of 1,077 wind, hail and tornado reports in 2014, which was only behind Texas and Kansas for the highest number of total reports. If you are looking for a place to get away from the severe weather, Alaska and Hawaii did not have any severe weather reports in 2014.

As we head into peak severe weather season, the odds are fairly high ag producers will have some sort of severe weather impact on their crops. Floods, hail, wind and tornadoes can cause minor to devastating damage on crops, pasture and livestock. One can never be entirely prepared for these events, but understanding the risks and the proper steps to take after the event can help you make the right decision if, or when, the event occurs.

In 2014 there were a number of resources put together from Nebraska Extension faculty to assist in the recovery of these events, and these resources can be useful in 2015. The resources are online at CropWatch “2014 Storm Recovery Information” Web page, http://cropwatch.unl.edu/2014-storm-recovery. The common questions associated with storm-damaged crops tend to concentrate around, “Is there a potential for the crop to recover and at what level?” or “What do I do with the field if I destroy the crop?” That question may be determined by the crop insurance adjuster, but this Web page addresses how to assess the current damage of the crop, potential crop diseases after damage and options for replanting.

Cover Crops for Storm Damaged Fields

Cover crops are one option for fields totally damaged by severe weather. Cover crops can provide protection against future weed infestations. This can be accomplished by selecting cover crops that are totally damaged by severe weather. Cover crops may provide rescue soil cover to protect the surface, but may also take up excess nutrients and add carbon to the soil. The surface cover may protect the soil from raindrop impact that can cause erosion and crust, or to reduce soil water evaporation. If nitrogen was already applied for the previous crop, the cover crop can be an effective way to take up nitrogen and put it into a biological form, rather than lose it to leaching.

The type of cover crop you select will depend on your previous crop and the goals you are trying to achieve with the cover crop. Grasses, brassicas, legumes and a mixture of these will provide various positives (or negatives) for your situation. The timing of seeding, preferred method of killing and the previous crop are all considerations when selecting the proper cover crop to plant.

There may also be insurance restrictions when planting a cover crop, so it is important you check with your provider before planting. If possible, leaving the damaged crop as part of the cover crop may have an advantage as something will be growing sooner. It is also important to note planting cover crops for cover is different than planting cover crops for grazing. Planting for grazing would be considered a forage crop, even though they may provide many of the benefits of a cover crop.

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The Migratory Bird Treaty Act Protects All Native Birds

Soni Cochran
Extension Associate

All native birds are federally protected in the United States by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (www.fws.gov/birds). This includes the majority of birds we enjoy in this area.

There are some birds considered non-native and non-protection exotic birds. These birds are not covered by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Common birds found in our area not covered include the House Sparrow (Passer domesticus), European Starling (Sturnus vulgaris), Domestic Pigeon or Rock Dove (Columba livia), Game birds fall under another category and are managed by individual states. In Nebraska, you would contact Nebraska Game and Parks Commission at 402-471-0641 for information on game birds.

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act is a strict liability law with no requirement to prove intent. This means enforcement is absolute and not discretionary.

Basically, the law says you may not pursue, hunt, take, capture, kill or possess at any time any migratory bird or any part, nest or egg. While a feather may be beautiful or a nest might look nice on a display shelf, this law prohibits the possession of all feathers, eggs, shells, nests or other parts related to protected birds. Federal sales permits are required to possess any bird.

So why does it matter whether you keep a feather or a nest? Historically, plume from many migratory birds was desirable to adorn women’s hats. This market was devastating to bird populations.

More recently, with the popularity of Native American artifacts increasing, a lucrative market still exists for migratory bird feathers and eagle feathers to decorate many curios and art objects. Enforcement officers now have no way to determine whether feathers used in artwork were found on the ground in a backyard, or if the feathers came from a bird killed illegally. The regulations are intended to eliminate any commercial market for the birds themselves, as well as their feathers and parts.

There are situations where birds are a nuisance or cause damage and control is necessary. In these cases, contact Nebraska Game and Parks Commission at 402-471-0641 for necessary permits/permission. If you are unsure how to handle a problem bird, contact the Extension office. The best advice is to leave all birds alone and as you find them.

If you find an injured or orphaned bird, contact Wildlife Rescue Team at 402-473-1951 or visit their website at www.wildliferescueteamincne.org. If you find an injured hawk or owl, contact Raptor Recovery at 402-994-2009 or 402-488-7396 or visit their website at www.found raptor-recovery.org.

There are additional laws in place to protect specific birds. For more information on the Bald Eagle Protection Act visit www.fws.gov/midwest/ wildlife/legepermits/b eaglep.html. For information on the Endangered Species Act, visit www.fws.gov/endangered/ laws-policies.

Celebrate Pollinator Week, June 15–21, by planting native perennial plants and placing a bee house in your landscape. Spring flowers attracting shrubs such as spirea, althea, lilac, forsythia should be pruned as soon as they are done blooming. Mid to late June is an excellent time to take softwood cuttings of shrubs to start new plants. Some shrubs which can be propagated in this way are spire, lilac, anbeam.

When you buy nursery stock that is container grown, check the root ball and make sure it is not bound too tightly. A mass of circling roots will stay that way even after it is planted in the ground.

Remove old flower heads from annual bedding plants to keep them blooming better. Remove foliage from spring bulbs after it turns yellow and begins to dry.

Use bark mulch around young trees to protect them from lawn mower damage.

Keep a close eye on the quality of your spring crops. Hot weather causes lettuce to bolt and become bitter. Plant a warm-season crop as soon as the spring vegetables are harvested.

In most cases, blossom end rot on tomatoes, peppers, squash and watermelons can be prevented. Do this by maintaining uniform soil moisture by mulching.

Identify garden pests before you attempt to control them. If you decide to use chemical control, read the label carefully.

Bats can be an effective way to control insects. One big brown bat can eat 3,000 to 7,000 insects each night. Attract bats by building and placing bat houses in your yard.

Leftover vegetable and flower seeds may be stored in a cool, dry location to be saved for planting next year.

Start a gardening notebook. During the hot summer months, mulch can be especially useful for conserving water. For vegetable gardens, shredded leaves or grass clippings are good mulch material. For ornamentals, pine needles or wood bark do the best job.

Tick Check!

Soni Cochran
Extension Associate

Whether you are planning a camping trip, taking a hike at a local park or doing some clean-up around the home, be sure to take steps to reduce your exposure to ticks.

At home, keep grass and other vegetation areas trimmed. Ticks can feed on mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians. These are host animals. Most ticks prefer to have a different host animal at each stage of their life. By keeping the area around your property well-maintained, you reduce places where tick hosts can live.

Whenever possible, stay out of tick-infested areas, grassy pastures, prairies and wooded areas. Of course if this isn’t possible, then plan ahead.

Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants. Tick your pants into your socks so ticks cannot crawl up into the inside of your pants. Wear light-colored clothing. Ticks are easier to see on a light background.

Use insect repellent containing the active ingredient diethyl toluamide (DEET). Apply to clothing and areas of exposed skin such as hands, wrists, ankles and neck. Be sure to read and follow laboratory directions. Conduct a body check when returning from potentially tick-infested areas. Promptly remove any attached ticks you find using the following procedure.

1. Use fine-tipped tweezers.

2. Grasp the tick as close to the skin surface as possible and pull upward with steady, even pressure. Do not twist or jerk the tick; this may cause its mouthparts to break off and remain in the skin.

3. Do not squeeze, crush or puncture the body of the tick because its fluids contain infectious organisms and get into the wound area.

4. After removing the tick, thoroughly disinfest the bite site and wash your hands with soap and water. If you have pets, check them for ticks.

5. Ticks and other arthropods and have flu-like symptoms later or the bite area appears infected, contact your physician.

Fragrance in the Perennial Garden

As a gardener, you know there are hundreds of garden plants to choose from when you are designing a landscape. Fragrant plants are an added bonus to your garden site. Consider adding these fragrant perennial plants to your outdoor living area.

—Mary Jane Frogge, UNL Extension Associate

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—Mary Jane Frogge, UNL Extension Associate

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Cover crops may provide rescue soil cover to prevent erosion and crusting, or to reduce soil loss. Cover crops can be an effective way to take up nitrogen that was not fixed by the previous crop, or to manage excess nutrients and add carbon to the soil. Planting cover crops for grazing would be different than planting cover crops for erosion and crusting, or to reduce soil loss. Cover crops can be an effective way to take up nitrogen that was not fixed by the previous crop, or to manage excess nutrients and add carbon to the soil.

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4-H Horse Judging Contest, June 5
The Lancaster County 4-H Fair 4-H Horse Judging Contest will be held on Friday, June 5 at the Lancaster Event Center – Pavilion 3. Registration begins at 5 p.m. Enter the day of the contest. The required dress for judging is a 4-H shirt or plain white t-shirt, blue jeans, belt, boots and 4-H armband OR English attire.

Pre-District 4-H Horse Show, June 6
The Lancaster County 4-H Horse VIPs Committee and the Salt Creek Wranglers are sponsoring a 4-H Horse Pre-District Clinic and 4-H Fundraiser and Tack Swap on Saturday, June 6, 9 a.m. at the Lancaster Event Center, Pavilion 3. Sunday, June 7 will have an open show at the same location. Show flyer is at https://animalscience.unl.edu/4h/4h horrorshow.shtml. If you have questions, call Jennifer Rawlinson at 402-560-3319.

State Hippology and Judging Entries
Hippology and judging entry forms for the State 4-H Horse Expo at Fonner Park are due to the Extension office by Friday, June 19. All entry fees will be paid by the Lancaster County 4-H Council. Contest entry forms and information can be found at http://animalscience.unl.edu/ ANSState4HHorseShowInformation. For more information or if you have questions, contact Marty at 402-441-7180.

JUNE 15 DEADLINE
4-H Member Online Enrollment
Nebraska 4-H has introduced a new online enrollment system, called “4-H Online.” Paper enrollment is no longer an option. The basic process to enroll is https://ne.4honline.com. The process is easy and only takes a few minutes per member. The health information is optional!

NOTES: only parents/guardians may enroll 4-H members. Each 4-H household will need to set up a profile in which the 4-H youth for the household will be added.

A step-by-step instruction guide with pictures is available online at http://lancaster.unl.edu/4h/StepToEnroll.pdf. If you have questions about the process or need access to a computer, call Karen Evans at 402-441-7180.

3-H Projects Updated
4-H members’ projects must be updated by June 15 using “4-H Online” (see enrollment information above). These are project area(s) each exhibitor needs to enter at the Super Fair (specific classes within each project area not needed). NOTE: only 4-H members or their parents/guardians may update projects.

4-H Volunteer Enrollment Forms
For new, volunteers and leaders must still enroll using the form at http://lancaster.unl.edu/4h/volunteerform.php. If you have questions, contact Cole at 402-441-7180.

4-H Bicycle Contest, June 13
The 4-H Bicycle Safety Contest will be held Saturday, June 13, 8 a.m. at the Lancaster Extension Education Center, 444 Cherry Creek Road. The contest is open to all 4-H’ers ages 8 and up. Participants must provide their own bicycle and must wear a helmet. Register by June 8 by calling 402-441-7180 (there is no entry form). There are two parts to the contest. In the bicycle skill events, 4-H’ers maneuver through several designated courses to test their riding skills and safety. 4-H’ers also take a multiple choice quiz. A bicycle inspection reinforces the importance of bicycle maintenance and safety features.

Premier Animal Science Events, June 29–30
The statewide Premier Animal Science Events (PASE) will be held Saturday, June 27. PASE consists of a series of contests involving 4-H’ers in the following categories:

• livestock quiz bowl
• livestock, meats and poultry
• livestock, meats and poultry judging
• livestock skill-a-thon
• livestock quiz bowl

For more information, go to http://pase.unl.edu. To participate in the contest, contact Cole at 402-441-7180 by June 15.

Horse Bits

4-H Horse Identiﬁcation Due June 1
Each horse which will be shown at Super Fair must be identiﬁed on form “4-H Horse Identiﬁcation Certiﬁcate” and submitted to Extension by June 1. Form is available at the Extension ofﬁce as a carbon copy form. If you use the online form at http://go.unl.edu/mjsd, make a copy for yourself.

4-H Riding Skills Level Testings
A 4-H horsemanship level group testing will be held on Tuesday, June 2, 5-5:30 p.m. at the Lancaster Event Center – Amy Countryman Arena. Anyone wishing to test must sign up by May 26 by contacting Marty at 402-441-7180 or mcruick- shank2@unl.edu. All of the written horsemanship level requirements must be completed and submitted to Marty before the riding portion of the levels can be conducted. A ﬁnal testing will be held on Tuesday, June 30, 5-5:30 p.m. at the same location. Anyone wishing to test must sign up with Marty by June 23.

4-H Life Challenge Judging
4-H Life Challenge judging contests help youth learn more about issues related to family and consumer science and entrepreneurship. Contests are open to all 4-H’ers, need not be entered at the Super Fair (speciﬁc classes within each project area not needed). Contact Tracy at 402-441-7180 for more information.

County-Level Junior (for ages 6 – 11) AND Senior Life Challenge (for ages 12 and up) will be held Saturday, May 30, 9 a.m. at the Lancaster Extension Education Center. Pre-register by May 28 by calling 402-441-7180 (there is no entry form). Contact Tracy for a study guide for the Junior Life Challenge.

Statewide Life Challenge (for ages 12 and up) will be held June 29–30 on UNL East Campus. To participate, contact Tracy at 402-441-7180 by June 1. Information will be available online at http://pase.unl.edu.

New 4-H Entomology Exhibits
Two new entomology classes should have been in the Super Fair Book: “Insect Habitats” and “Macro- habitats.” Online resources may have slightly different rules. Descriptions are available at http://lancaster.unl.edu/4h/horsebits Group, photography.” “Special Interest Display” has slightly different rules. Descriptions are available at http://lancaster.unl.edu/dh/fair and the Extension ofﬁce.

Horse Bits

4-H Horse Identiﬁcation Due June 1
Each horse which will be shown at Super Fair must be identiﬁed on form “4-H Horse Identiﬁcation Certiﬁcate” and submitted to Extension by June 1. Form is available at the Extension ofﬁce as a carbon copy form. If you use the online form at http://go.unl.edu/mjsd, make a copy for yourself.

4-H Riding Skills Level Testings
A 4-H horsemanship level group testing will be held on Tuesday, June 2, 5-5:30 p.m. at the Lancaster Event Center – Amy Countryman Arena. Anyone wishing to test must sign up by May 26 by contacting Marty at 402-441-7180 or mcruick-shank2@unl.edu. All of the written horsemanship level requirements must be completed and submitted to Marty before the riding portion of the levels can be conducted. A ﬁnal testing will be held on Tuesday, June 30, 5-5:30 p.m. at the same location. Anyone wishing to test must sign up with Marty by June 23.

4-H Life Challenge Judging
4-H Life Challenge judging contests help youth learn more about issues related to family and consumer science and entrepreneurship. Contests are open to all 4-H’ers, need not be entered at the Super Fair (speciﬁc classes within each project area not needed). Contact Tracy at 402-441-7180 for more information.

County-Level Junior (for ages 6 – 11) AND Senior Life Challenge (for ages 12 and up) will be held Saturday, May 30, 9 a.m. at the Lancaster Extension Education Center. Pre-register by May 28 by calling 402-441-7180 (there is no entry form). Contact Tracy for a study guide for the Junior Life Challenge.

Statewide Life Challenge (for ages 12 and up) will be held June 29–30 on UNL East Campus. To participate, contact Tracy at 402-441-7180 by June 1. Information will be available online at http://pase.unl.edu.

New 4-H Entomology Exhibits
Two new entomology classes should have been in the Super Fair Book: “Insect Habitats” and “Macro- habitats.” Online resources may have slightly different rules. Descriptions are available at http://lancaster.unl.edu/dh/fair and the Extension ofﬁce.
Day 4 Workshops
1. **Electronic Textiles**
   - Use special thread and minute computers to create electronic fabrics such as a bracelet, bookmark and other items.
   - Sewing machines will not be used.
   - TUE, JUNE 16; 9-10AM
   - AGES 8 & up • FEE $8

2. **Clover Chess Tourney**
   - Play in a unique chess tournament. Children play 2 rounds per day for three days, alternating colors.
   - Time controls Game20, Swiss system. Boards are provided.
   - TUE, THU, JUNE 16-18; 10:15AM-12:15PM
   - AGES 8 & up • FEE $10

1-Day Workshops
3. **Fox Walking & Stalking**
   - Learn how to fox walk and the stalking steps needed for quiet, undetected movement in the wilderness. Dress for the weather and bring a flashlight.
   - TUE, JUNE 16; 10:15AM
   - AGES 8 & up • FEE $3

4. **Beginning Knitting**
   - Learn to knit your first project. The finished item is your own personalized bag.
   - TUE, JUNE 16; 11:30AM
   - AGES 10 & up • FEE $7

5. **Finger Painting Fun**
   - Learn a great finger painting technique and create your own masterpiece.
   - TUE, JUNE 16; 12:45-2:45PM
   - AGES 8 & up • FEE $8

6. **Clock, Clock, Quack!**
   - Poultry will be on hand to help you learn about chickens, ducks, etc.
   - TUE, JUNE 16; 12:45-2:45PM
   - AGES 8 & up • FEE $5

7. **T-Shirt Transmutation**
   - Bring old adult XL T-shirts and learn how to re-style them into new items.
   - TUE, JUNE 16; 12:45-2:45PM
   - AGES 8 & up • FEE $3

8. **Express Yourself***
   - Express yourself through card creation.
   - TUE, JUNE 16; 3-5PM
   - AGES 8 & up • FEE $2

9. **Crazy About Aprons**
   - Sew a fun apron. Bring 3/4 yd each of two contrasting cotton fabrics (no stripes or matching plaid), matching thread, basic sewing supplies and sewing machine. Must have basic sewing skills.
   - TUE, JUNE 16; 3-5PM
   - AGES 8 & up • FEE $5

10. **Control the Flow**
    - Explore the “Magic of Electricity” by creating a light switch you can enter in the fair.
    - TUE, JUNE 16; 3-5PM
    - AGES 8 & up • FEE $5

11. **Happily Helping Others**
    - Learn how to make a fun hands-on community service project.
    - WED, JUNE 17; 9-10AM
    - AGES 8 & up • FEE $5

12. **Animal First Aid**
    - Learn about your pet while making a fun and usable first aid kit.
    - WED, JUNE 17; 9-10AM
    - AGES 8 & up • FEE $10

13. **Wonderful Wildlife**
    - Be a styling diva and learn the ins and outs of modeling. Perfect preparation for 4-H Style Revue.
    - WED, JUNE 17; 12:45-2:45PM
    - AGES 8 & up • FEE $2

14. **Modeling Madness**
    - Build a styling doll and learn the ins and outs of modeling. Perfect preparation for 4-H Style Revue.
    - WED, JUNE 17; 12:45-2:45PM
    - AGES 8 & up • FEE $2

15. **Hamburger! Nail! Build!**
    - Build and decorate a hanging plant holder to display outside.
    - WED, JUNE 17; 12:45-2:45PM
    - AGES 8 & up • FEE $5

16. **YUM, is it Real?**
    - Create an amazing recipe for “deceiving mealt.”
    - WED, JUNE 17; 12:45-2:45PM
    - AGES 8 & up • FEE $10

17. **Excellent Electronics**
    - You’ll be astounded when you create different sounds and lights with an electronic circuit board.
    - WED, JUNE 17; 12:45-2:45PM
    - AGES 8 & up • FEE $5

18. **Dough Fun**
    - It’s easier than it looks to mix and shape bread and rolls. Participants learn techniques and take home samples they have made.
    - WED, JUNE 17; 3-5PM
    - AGES 8 & up • FEE $10

19. **Container Gardening**
    - Have fun creating your own container garden.
    - WED, JUNE 17; 3-5PM
    - AGES 8 & up • FEE $8

20. **Soccer Basics**
    - Learn a few moves and fancy footwork. Wear closed toe shoes, shin guards and bring your own soccer ball.
    - THU, JUNE 18; 8-10AM
    - AGES 8 & up • FEE $3

21. **Great Goats**
    - Be prepared to help you find out why they’re GREAT!
    - THU, JUNE 18; 8-10AM
    - AGES 8 & up • FEE $4

22. **America's Rose**
    - Learn how to plant, care for and show roses.
    - THU, JUNE 18; 10:15AM-12:15PM
    - AGES 10 & up • FEE $5

23. **Perfect Purse**
    - Sew your own perfect purse. Bring 3/4 yd of each of two contrasting cotton fabrics (no stripes or matching plaid), matching thread, basic sewing supplies and sewing machine. Must have basic sewing skills.
    - THU, JUNE 18; 10:15AM-12:15PM
    - AGES 10 & up • FEE $5

24. **Babysitting Basics**
    - Learn the basics needed to be a responsible and creative babysitter. Participants will learn fun activities, making snacks and toys.
    - THU, JUNE 18; 12:45-2:45PM
    - AGES 11 & up • FEE $5

25. **Food Fun**
    - Make fun, healthy snacks that are tasty and learn nutrition fun facts!
    - THU, JUNE 18; 12:45-2:45PM
    - AGES 8 & up • FEE $5

26. **3-Day Workshops**
   - Intermediate (11–12 years): Ella Hendricksen, David Swotek, John Boesen
   - Senior (13–18 years): Peter Greff, Sheridan Swotek

Public Service Announcement contest:
- Junior (8–10 years): Livia Swanson, Sarah Lange, Aleyna Curtiss
- Intermediate (11–12 years): Ella Hendricksen, David Swotek, John Boesen
- Senior (13–18 years): Sheridan Swotek

**Discover, Learn and Grow at 4-H Summer Camps**

4-H Summer Camps, offered June 8–Aug. 6, are open to all youth ages 3–18 (need not be in 4-H).

With locations at Gretna and Halsey, there are nearly 50 camps ranging from half day to seven days/six nights! More information is online at http://4h.unl.edu/camp and the Extension office.

**For registration form and current class availability, go to**
http://lancaster.unl.edu/4h/programs/colleverge
4th Graders Gain Understanding of Agriculture at Ag Literacy Festival

More than 500 fourth graders from eight Lincoln area schools attended the Ag Literacy Festival held April 22–23 at the Lancaster Event Center. Students gained a greater understanding of agriculture and how it impacts their daily lives. They rotated between the following eight interactive stations: Beef, Swine, Dairy, Poultry, Corn & Soybeans, Water, Ag Technology. By-products, followed by an opportunity to “Ask a Farmer.”

The Ag Awareness Coalition, led by Nebraska Extension, organizes the festival with the help of agriculture businesses, commodity associations and food industry companies. This is the 15th year the festival has been held in Lincoln.

More photos are online at www.flickr.com/photos/unlextension/albums.

4th Horse Incentive Program Ends

May
21 4-H Interview Judging Regional Contest, UNL East Campus ...........1–7 p.m.
28 4-H/FFA Beef, Sheep, Swine and Meat Goat Nutrition and Fitting Clinic, Lancaster Event Center, Pav. 1 .......5:30 p.m.
30 Lincoln Shooting Stars 4-H Club Skeet and Sporting Clays Shotgun Shoot, Lincoln Trap and Skeet Club, 4855 N 48th St........................................8 a.m.
30 4-H Life Challenge Contest – Junior & County-Level Senior........9 a.m.

June
1 4-H Super Fair Horse ID’s Due to Extension
2 4-H Horsemanship Level Testing, Lancaster Event Center - Pav 3..........................5:30 p.m.
2 4-H Council Meeting .............................................................................................................7 p.m.
4–5 Tractor Safety Course for Youth, Lancaster Event Center 5 4-H Horse Judging Contest Lancaster Event Center - Pav 3 .......................5 p.m.
6 4-H Horse Pre-District Clinic/Show/Fundraiser and Tack Swap, Lancaster Event Center - Pav 3 .................................................................9 a.m.
10–18 4-H Horse District Shows, Bridgeport, Valentine, McCook, Ord, Wayne, 
10 4-H Plant Science Contests: Horticulture/Tree ID/ 12 Extension Board Meeting .........................................................8 a.m.
13 4-H Bicycle Contest ..........................................................9 a.m.
15 Deadline to Enroll New 4-H Members and for All Members to List Project Area(s) Planning to Enter at Super Fair. Must Use “4-H Online” at https://ne.4honline.com.
15 Deadline for 4-H Volunteers to Enroll. Must Use Form at http://lancaster.unl.edu/4h/club/4hrollformleader.pdf
15 Deadline for 4-H & FFA Sheep/Goats/Swine/Breeding Beef/Bucket Calves/Dairy Cattle/Llamas & Alpacas/Rabbits Identification Forms (and DNA for State Fair or Ak-Sar-Ben)
15 Deadline for 4-H & FFA Livestock Market Animal Exhibitors Showing at State Fair or Ak-Sar-Ben to Complete Quality Assurance Training
16–19 4-H Clover College
20 Composting Demonstration, Pioneers Park Nature Center’s backyard composting demonstration area .........................................................................10 a.m.
23 Guardian/Conservator Training..........................................................1:30–4:30 p.m.
25 Co-Parenting for Successful Kids Class.................................9:30 a.m.–1 p.m.
25–30 4-H Premiere Animal Science Events (PASE)/PICS Life Challenge, 20 Composting Demonstration, Pioneers Park Nature Center’s backyard composting demonstration area .........................................................................10 a.m.
30 4-H Horsemanship Level Testing, Lancaster Event Center – 4-H County Fairgrounds Arena .................................................................5:30 p.m.
30 4-H Plant Science Contests: Grass/Weed ID.................................10 a.m.–12 p.m.

Lincoln Event Center Help Wanted

The Lancaster Event Center is growing and looking for new team members. The Operations team is looking for people with equipment experience who enjoy active work which is often outdoors. Knowledge of animals is a plus. The Cafe team is looking for crew members to handle cash registers, prepare food and beverages, and work booths. Both crews offer flexible hours (day, night, weekends and number of hours per week). Employment applications are online at http://lancastereventcenter.com, or stop at the Lancaster Event Center, 84th & Havelock, Monday-Friday 8–4:30 and ask for Mike Wulf.

Tractor Safety Courses for Youth 14–15

All youth 14 or 15 years of age who work on a farm or ranch other than his/her parents is required to be certified through a tractor safety course.

Nebraska Extension Tractor Safety Courses will be offered at seven locations in Nebraska during May and June. A training will be held in Lincoln at the Lancaster Event Center (84th & Havelock streets) on June 4–5.

Pre-registration is strongly encouraged at least one week in advance. Cost is $60. Registration form is online at https://counsey.unl.edu. Mail to Tyler Williams, Nebraska Extension in Lancaster County, 444 Cherrycreek Rd., Suite A, Lincoln NE 68528. For more information, call 402-441-7180.

Lancaster County 4-H Council is part of

Weed Awareness Hidden Word Find Solution

Here is the solution to the Hidden Word Find printed in the Weed Awareness special section produced by the Lancaster County Weed Control office in the April News. Congratulations to Lloyd Anderson of Kearney whose name was drawn from submitted entries. He received a Weeds of the Great Plains book published by the Nebraska Department of Agriculture. The Weed Control office thanks everyone for participating and hopes you learned something about invasive plants.

Lancaster County 4-H Council
May 28, 2015