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April 2003

The NEBLINE, April 2003

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Plant and Pest Diagnostic Services Can Help You!

Barb Ogg
Extension Educator

Throughout the year, Lancaster County residents bring sick plant parts and an assortment of insects pests and wildlife "signs" to the Lancaster County Extension Office. A free service, horticulturists (Don Janssen, Mary Jane Frogge and Master Gardeners) and entomologists (Barb Ogg and Soni Cochran) identify insects, weeds and diseases in and around the home and garden and make recommendations about the best way to help you manage these problems.

The original extension office lab was so small (about five foot by seven foot) we were always tripping over each other, and there wasn't enough room to store reference materials or specimens. A couple years ago, the tiny lab was remodeled and expanded to help us better handle the needs of Lancaster County residents. We now have a multipurpose lab with two lab spaces, enough storage space for reference materials and lab supplies and a table to sit down

with clients. The increased space has also allowed us to organize a reference collection of insects, most of which the public has brought to the extension office over the last 10 years. Insects from this collection are used to show clients what specific pests look like and are used to help teach children and adults in various settings.

We use microscopes to identify small insects and plant diseases. The lab is also equipped with a computer connected to the Internet, in the event we need information from our Web site. About two years ago, we were able to purchase a digital microscope which is similar to a digital camera. With this digital microscope, we can take pictures of small insects and use them to enhance articles in the Nebline and on the Internet.

Properly diagnosing plant disease and insect pests is important because safe and effective treat-

ment depends on the specific problem. It is exactly like going to the doctor when you have a health problem — a correct diagnosis will determine the most appropriate treatment.

Folks can save money, protect trees and ornamentals and their home, eliminate nuisance pests — often with less pesticides — by having a correct diagnosis and using extension recommendations.

How can you take advantage of the diagnostic capabilities at the Lancaster County Extension Office? Drop your sick plants and pest specimens at our office between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. each week-day. We'll examine your specimens and give you a call and/or send you information to help you make the best decisions about treatment if one is needed. This service is free for Lancaster County residents!



Extension Associate Soni Cochran identifies an insect brought in by a Lancaster County resident.



Extension Associate Mary Jane Frogge looks at a plant specimen.

The Value of the Correct Diagnosis

Extension helps thousands of people each year. Here are some examples of how Lancaster County residents have used their extension resources:

- A large windbreak was thought by the owner's friend to have spider mites and was sprayed with an insecticide. After a couple years, the trees were still showing damage, so the owner brought samples of damaged foliage to the extension office. Extension horticulturists diagnosed the trees to have a needle cast disease. The property owner sprayed the trees according to recommendations given by extension — three years later, little to no damage was found in the windbreak. The value of the windbreak was set at \$20,000 with an annual heating savings to the dwelling estimated at \$600.

- A beginning organic market gardener was trying to grow his own transplants. Each time the seedlings would get started they would wither and die. Samples were diagnosed with a damping off

fungal disease. A series of cultural practices were recommended and the seedling survived to be transplanted. Growing his own transplants saved him approximately \$3,000.

- A homeowner found small, hard, black, seed-like objects under a basement sofa cushion. The cushion also had a hole in it. She called a pest control company and the service technician told her that this was a serious carpet beetle infestation. He said the whole house needed a monthly insecticide treatment for the next year — total cost of \$462! This didn't sound quite right, so she brought the seed debris and the sofa cushion to the extension office. The seed-like debris was identified to be the hulls of wildflower seeds. The hole in the cushion was about one-inch long — much too large for carpet beetle damage. The seeds and hole were diagnosed as evidence of mouse activity. The

mouse stored the seeds under the sofa cushion, ate them and left the hulls behind and chewed a hole in the cushion, perhaps to build a nest. By knowing the correct problem, this homeowner saved money and eliminated a potential unnecessary pesticide exposure.

- In the fall, a homeowner found tiny black insects flying around in her newly built home. She contacted three pest control companies and received three different answers as to her pest problem. Extension identified these tiny insects as foreign grain beetles. They are often found in late summer and early fall in brand new homes (we don't really understand why). Because foreign grain beetles cannot reproduce in dry, indoor environments, a "no treatment" approach was recommended. After these beetles died a natural death, the problem disappeared and did not reoccur.

- In early February, a homeowner found hundreds of small insects in the basement family room jumping everywhere. She brought several live specimens to the extension office for identification. They were identified as grasshopper nymphs. It seems that a female

grasshopper laid egg pods in the pots of hanging plants on the porch the previous fall. Before frost, these plants were brought indoors and located in the basement family room. Because of the warmer temperatures indoors, the grasshopper eggs hatched much earlier than if they were outside. She was advised not to use an insecticide, but to vacuum them with a vacuum cleaner to get rid of the tiny grasshoppers. This solution cost nothing and did not expose family members to an unnecessary pesticide exposure.

- A homeowner reported a problem with moths in a bedroom. He tried a number of insecticide sprays and still couldn't solve the problem. After bringing the moths into the extension office for identification, he learned they were Indian meal moths — a common pantry pest. After learning about the moths, the homeowner headed home to look for the source of the infestation. After a few more calls to the extension office and, after ruling out his

see *DIAGNOSIS* on page 11

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Visit Egg Cam!

View chicks hatching, photos of embryos as they develop, and educational resources for youth, parents and teachers on the 4-H Embryology Web site at

www.lancaster.unl.edu

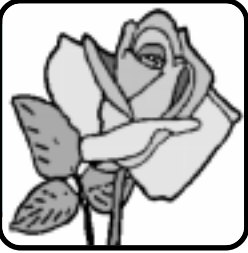


Chicks will hatch weekly until May 9!

Lancaster County 4-H Council
University of Nebraska
Cooperative Extension in Lancaster County
444 Cherry Creek Road • Suite A
Lincoln, Nebraska 68528-1507

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Horticulture

What Day is Arbor Day?

Arbor Day, the Tree Planter's Holiday, started more than a century ago in Nebraska, is still going strong today. In January 1872, J. Sterling Morton proposed to the State Board of Agriculture a tree planting holiday be observed in Nebraska on April 10, 1872. He proposed the holiday be named Arbor Day and its purpose, "to urge upon the people of the state the vital importance of tree planting." His efforts were successful and more than a million trees were planted in Nebraska on the first Arbor Day.

In 1885, Arbor Day became a legal holiday in Nebraska, to be observed on Morton's birthday, April 22. Since 1989, Nebraska has celebrated Arbor Day on the last Friday in April. Tree planting is as important now as it was to our grandparents. In fact, it is even more important now since many trees must be planted to keep up with the loss of trees and forests to land clearing, fire and urban development. By replacing these trees, we can be sure we will always have forests and trees for our future. Trees provide shelter from the wind and sun, wood products, wildlife habitat and more pleasurable surroundings for recreational activities. Many rural families

have always planted trees each year around their ranch or farm to protect soil, livestock and family.

Perhaps the most important aspect of Arbor Day is its emphasis on the future. In the words of J. Sterling Morton, "Other holidays repose on the past. Arbor Day proposes for the future." We learn to plant trees to show our hope for the future and our concern for those who will come after us.

Why is Arbor Day so important to Nebraskans? Certainly the holiday's origin in our state contributes to our enthusiasm. But even more important is the scarcity of trees and forests in Nebraska. We appreciate trees because we can easily see what life would be like without them.

Nebraskans should be proud of their tree planting heritage. We can feel satisfied in knowing this state is a more beautiful place to live and a better place for the future.

To celebrate Arbor Day this year, consider planting a tree in your yard, neighborhood, school yard, local park or city square. To find out more about Arbor Day, visit this web site at www.arborday.org (MJF)

Properly planted and cared for trees add beauty and value to almost any property, whether they are planted in a park, in front of your house, or along a street or highway.

Selecting Planting Location

Selecting planting locations is one of the most critical decisions made during the planting process. If the plant must eventually be removed because the site is unsuitable, then the planting was a failure.

To avoid failure, consider overhead and underground utilities, future construction sites and the mature size of the plant. Trees often have to be removed because they have grown too large for the site. Large landscape-sized trees should be planted a minimum of 15 to 20 feet away from buildings or other obstructions. Overhead and underground utilities must be considered in order to avoid potential conflicts. Large trees should be planted a minimum of 20 to 25 feet from overhead power lines.

When selecting your planting location, consider the plant's requirements for growth and survival, such as exposure to sunlight and soil drainage needs.

Selecting the Tree

Once you have selected the species that will perform the desired function in your landscape, visit a reliable nursery in your local area who will guarantee its plant material. Consider the size and height of the tree when you are selecting your plant. Smaller trees will establish better than larger trees. If the tree is too large, it may go into transplant shock and never fully recover.

When to Grow

Container-grown stock may be planted during most of the year except when soils are frozen and during the extreme heat of summer. The best time for planting container-grown stock is in the spring between March 15 and May 30 if weather and soil conditions permit. Fall planting should be done between Sept. 1 and Oct. 30. All plant material should be planted as soon as possible after receipt. There is no advantage from storing landscape plants.

Digging

The planting site should be dug two to three times wider than the root system of the tree to be planted. The finished hole should be narrower at the bottom than at the top and be at



PHOTO/Keith Weller of USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

least two feet wider than the root mass. With heavy or hard soils, the sides of the planting hole should be loosened to facilitate root penetration into the adjacent soil.

Plant the tree back at the same depth it was originally grown. Make sure all the roots are covered with soil, but do not plant too deep. Soil should not be up around the trunk.

The soil used for backfill should be neither too wet nor too dry and all large stones or clods should be removed. Backfill with the existing soil. Do not use soil amendments.

Remove all labels and wires to prevent girdling.

Staking and Guying

The purpose of most staking and guying is to prevent a newly planted tree from tipping over in the wind. Excessive movement can dislodge the small, fibrous roots from their new footing in the soil before they are firmly established. However, many trees are lost because guying materials are not removed or are improperly installed.

If at all possible, staking and guying systems should not be used. If plants are staked and guyed, the material used should have a broad surface at the point of contact with the tree to prevent damage from rubbing. Supports should allow for some free movement of the plant. Do not use wire and hose.

To prevent girdling, remove all guying material at the end of the first growing season.

Wrapping

Tree wrap should not be used on newly planted trees. Tree wraps may not always protect trunks from damage and, in fact, can cause, hide and increase problems. In addition, tree wrap covers the photosynthetic tissues of the trunk, preventing the production of food that is needed by the young tree.

Tree wraps should be used during the time that the tree is being transported and needs protection from mechanical damage.

Some wraps are claimed to protect trees against insect damage. However, borer activity under wraps and guards is frequently reported, and research has shown that insect and disease problems can sometimes be even worse on trees that are wrapped. Often the tree wrap causes the bark to remain moist, even in dry weather. Bark and cambial tissue may be seriously damaged or killed when too much water is held against the trunk. This problem is compounded when wraps at the base of the trunk are covered with several inches of mulch.

Watering

Water is critical to the success of any tree planting. Tree roots, especially the small, water absorbing roots, are easily damaged during transplanting. For sufficient water uptake to occur, the root ball of a newly planted tree must be kept moist, but not saturated. Monitor the moisture in the root ball daily, and water as needed so that the root ball does not dry out.

The area outside of the root ball also should be watered to encourage root growth into the surrounding soil.

Avoid overwatering, which is a major cause of tree failure in many Nebraska communities. Heavy clay soils that have been compacted during construction activities severely restrict the movement of water and commonly lead to saturated conditions.

Mulching

Mulching is the most important post-planting practice that you can do to improve the health and vigor of your landscape plant. Studies have shown that wood chip mulch can nearly double plant growth in the first few years after planting. Mulching conserves moisture, reduces weed competition, and insulates roots from temperature extremes.

Mulch with a two to three inch layer of organic material. The minimum diameter of the mulched area should be two feet.

see *PLANTING A TREE* on p. 11

Garden Guide

Things to do this month

Consider planting flowers which may be dried for winter arrangements. Some of the best are strawflower, statice, celosia and globe amaranth.

Do not buy plants in bloom. Annual flowers, such as Petunias, that are blooming in the pack, are often rootbound or overgrown. Plants without blossoms will bloom and grow better.

Scatter annual poppy seeds in flower borders. The fine seeds need no covering. The plants grow rapidly and provide colorful flowers in early summer.

In a sunny location with poor soil, plant nasturtiums for a colorful show. They require warm soil to sprout and start blooming in about 50 days. Too much water and fertilizer produces excess leaves and few flowers.

When chrysanthemums show signs of life, dig up and divide large plants. Discard woody portions and replant divisions 12 to 15 inches apart.

Cut flower stalks back to the ground on daffodils, hyacinths and other spring flowering bulbs as the flowers fade. Do not cut the foliage until it dies naturally. The leaves are necessary to produce strong bulbs capable of reflowering next year.

Do not add organic matter to the soil when planting trees. It does not help the plant become established and it may create conditions that encourage the roots to stay inside the planting hole instead of spreading to surrounding soil. Do dig a large planting hole, but fill it with the original soil removed from it.

The last Friday in April is National Arbor Day. Plant a tree, or support an organization which does.

Prune spring blooming shrubs such as forsythia and spirea after they have finished flowering.

Remove sticks, rocks and other debris from your lawn to prevent damaging your lawnmower or injuring yourself when mowing. Check your lawnmower and other lawn care equipment in preparation for the coming season.

Put a birdhouse in the garden to attract insect eating friends.

Measure the rainfall with a rain gauge posted near the garden so you can tell when to water. The garden needs about one inch of rain per week from April to September. (MJF)

Easter Lily Care

If you have an Easter lily do not throw it away after it is done blooming. You can save the bulb and plant it outdoors. Easter lilies can be replanted outside after the blooms are gone.

Plant the Easter lily outdoors as soon as the ground can be worked. Select a sunny site with well-drained soil. Set the top of the bulb six inches below the soil surface. Do not remove the flower stalk until it dries, then cut it off at the soil surface. After the soil surface freezes in the fall, mulch the soil and do not remove the mulch until new growth begins in the spring. (MJF)

Take A Field Trip To Audubon Spring Creek Prairie

Before Nebraska was settled and farmers planted crops, it was mostly covered by prairie. The tallgrass prairie was the landscape that greeted the pioneers in eastern Nebraska, but today less than two percent remains.

In an effort to preserve a piece of native tallgrass prairie and inspire appreciation of our prairie heritage, the Audubon Society purchased the 610-acre O'Brien ranch south of Denton in 1998. The Wachiska Audubon Society purchased 16 acres of adjoining land in 2000, enlarging the site to 626 acres. Audubon Spring Creek Prairie is a rare place today — more than 500 acres of grassland never felt the bite of a plow.

Native flora and fauna thrive amid the beauty of pristine prairie vistas, offering visitors an unparalleled opportunity to experience Nebraska's tallgrass prairie. The plant checklist includes more than 350 species. Bird watchers can experience an abundance of bird species — more than 170 species have been documented at Audubon Spring Creek Prairie.

Spring Creek Prairie features five miles of hiking trails, more than 400 acres of native tallgrass prairie, a stream, six ponds, wetlands, springs and a mature burr oak forest. The topography is hilly. The soils are glacial till



with large amounts of sand.

You may also see deer, coyotes, badgers, pocket gophers, beaver, snapping turtles, yellow-bellied racers and other animals.

Audubon Spring Creek Prairie is also special because the Nebraska City-Fort Kearny Cutoff to the Oregon Trail Audubon ran right through the prairie and 140-year-old trail ruts are visible. These trail ruts — imprints of the passage west of freight wagons, oxen and bullwhackers — were officially listed on the National Register of Historic Places in July 2002. The wagon ruts are among the oldest (1860 to 1864) of the major alignments of the Trail. The Spring Creek Prairie Trail Ruts are the longest contiguous sequence of ruts still in existence.

Spring Creek Prairie is located three miles south of

Denton, 15 minutes southwest of Lincoln. From Lincoln, take 'O' Street (Highway 6) west out of town to Emerald. At the flashing light, turn south and travel 5 miles to Denton. Follow the road through town as it turns west and comes to SW 98th St.

Spring weekend hours are Sundays, April 27–June 29, 1–8 p.m. This is in addition to regular weekday hours: Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

Upcoming Family Programs at Spring Creek Prairie:

- April 26 — John James Audubon Birthday Party & Birdwalk
- June 7 — Firefly Picnic
- July 19 — Spring Creek Prairie Butterfly Count

For more information on educational programs, volunteer opportunities or making a contribution to support these programs, call Marian Langan at 797-2301. (BPO)

Environmental Focus



Termite Control Workshop May 22



"Everything Homeowners Need to Know about Termites and Termite Control" will be held at the Lancaster Extension Education Center, 444 Cherrycreek Road on Thursday, May 22 from 6:30–9:30 p.m. Barb Ogg, Dennis Ferraro and Clyde Ogg will discuss all aspects of termite biology and management. The goal of this workshop is to help consumers make better decisions about termite control. Cost: \$20. (BPO)

1st Annual Walk for the Birds

1 & 3 Mile Family Wellness Walk

Saturday, May 24th
Pioneers Park Nature Center



Registration by May 12th is \$10 per person (includes an International Migratory Bird Day T-shirt, a "Walk for the Birds" bird guide and other fun bird related items). Late registration after May 12th is \$12.

For more information and registration form, visit online at lancaster.unl.edu/enviro/pest/Articles/birdwatch.htm

Join in the International Migratory Bird Day Celebration after the "Walk for Birds"

Household Hazardous Waste Collections for 2003

Friday, May 16	Hickman Second and Main Streets 3–6 p.m.
Saturday, May 17	Pfizer Inc. 601 West Cornhusker Highway 9 a.m.–3 p.m. <i>Includes Latex Paint Exchange*</i>
Friday, June 20	Union College , Parking lot 52 and Cooper Streets 3–7 p.m.
Saturday, June 21	Nebraska Wesleyan University 56 and Huntington Streets 9 a.m.–3 p.m.
Friday, Aug. 15	Emerald , TBA
Saturday Aug. 16	Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Dept. 3140 N Street 9 a.m.–3 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 11	Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Dept. 3140 N Street 9 a.m.–3 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 8	State Fair Park, 4-H Youth Complex 9 a.m.–3 p.m.

Items you can bring for disposal:

- Heavy metals: items containing mercury such as thermometers and thermostats.
- Solvents: mineral spirits, turpentine, paint strippers and thinners, oil-based paints, varnishes, stains, polishes and waxes.
- Pesticides: weed killers, garden sprays, wood preservatives, roach powder, rat poisons. You may also bring EPA banned products, like DDT, chlordane, 2,4,5-T, pentachlorophenol, silvex, PCP and Dursban.
- PCB's: Ballasts from old fluorescent fixtures and capacitors from old appliances including radios, motors and televisions.

* Latex Paint Exchange only occurs on May 17. Only good, usable latex paint is accepted. Bring only containers that are at least half full.

Leave products in their original container and keep the label intact. Open, leaking or rusted containers should be placed in a clear plastic bag during transport. Do not mix chemicals.

Do not bring medicines, explosives or ammunition, fertilizers, used oil, general household trash, antifreeze or batteries.

For more specific information, call the
Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department at
441-8040

Summary of 2002 Nebraska West Nile Virus Surveillance Results

Last summer, Nebraskans were asked to report dead birds to local health authorities. Nebraska Health and Human Services System collected and tested 866 birds for West Nile Virus. Of the birds collected, 511 tested positive. Seventy-two counties in Nebraska reported at least one positive dead bird.

Fifty-four species of birds were tested, with 27 different species testing positive for West Nile Virus. The surveillance focused on two groups of birds: Corvids (crows, blue jays and magpies) and Raptors (hawks, owls, and falcons). Corvids represented 67% of the total birds tested in the study and 78% of the positive results. Raptors made up 19% of the total birds tested and 17% of the positive results.

HORSES: There were 1,100 documented West Nile Virus cases of equines representing 92 of Nebraska's 93 counties. This total ranked Nebraska third among all states behind Texas and Illinois.

HUMANS: A total of 174 human West Nile Virus cases were reported, including eight fatalities, ranking Nebraska

eighth highest of all states. Most people infected with the West Nile Virus will not show any symptoms, approximately 30% may develop "flu-like" symptoms, or, more rarely, an infection of the central nervous systems. In the Nebraska cases, 44 people were diagnosed with meningitis and 44 diagnosed with encephalitis. Five of the eight deaths were related to encephalitis and three related to meningitis. Eighty-six of the total cases showed viral symptoms, 67 people diagnosed, were diagnosed with West Nile fever (flu-like symptoms). The remaining 19 of the 86 viral syndrome cases showed positive test results but had less serious symptoms.

The first Nebraska case was reported Aug. 4, 2002. Cases rose until the week of Sept. 8, when there were 39 cases. The last case of the year was reported Oct. 15.

Of the 174 human cases, 98 were males and 76 were females. The age of patients ranged from one to 93 years old — the average age was 52.5. The virus was most common with patients between 30-44

years of age, but over half of the cases involved patients between 30 and 60 years old. Of the eight fatal cases, six were males, two were females—the average age was 69. The youngest fatality was 19 years old—the youngest West Nile-related death in the country. Forty-eight counties reported at least one case and Hall County had 21 cases, the highest in Nebraska. Lancaster and Scotts Bluff counties both reported two deaths. Buffalo, Clay, Lincoln and nearby Saline County reported one death each.

RESOURCES: West Nile Virus is here to stay. Make sure you protect yourself and your family from mosquito pests. Read the entire 2002 Nebraska West Nile Virus Surveillance Results, visit links to maps illustrating the disease in Nebraska and nationwide, find mosquito control information for your family (including information on repellents) and for horse owners online at lancaster.unl.edu/enviro/pest/Fly.htm. If you don't have access to the Internet, resources are also available from the extension office. (SC)



Farm Views

Graze Conservatively Following Drought Year

When spring finally arrives, all pastures will green up like normal. But don't let that first growth fool you. Below ground, many plants still are suffering from the effects of last year's drought.

During normal years, over half of the roots in grass plants die and need to be replaced. Drought reduces root growth, thus lowering the plant's ability to replace dead roots. Grazing drought-stressed plants, especially heavy defoliation, simply worsens the situation.

Deep, healthy roots are needed to absorb nutrients and moisture from soil and to initiate new growth after grazing. If you grazed drought-stressed pastures heavily last year, early removal of spring growth this year could leave you with plants with little energy for regrowth or roots too short to reach deep moisture. That means lower yield, reduced carrying capacity and extra stress again this year.

So what should you do? Begin with realistic stocking rates. Even with average subsoil moisture and growing season rainfall, reduce stocking rates about 10 percent from normal to account for weakened root systems. Also delay turn out a couple weeks so plants develop enough leaf area to begin repairing injured roots. And when you do graze, always have at least a couple of healthy leaves remaining to harvest sunlight to energize regrowth.

To make up for this forage production shortfall, graze winter wheat or alfalfa. Plant oats or summer annual grasses for grazing. Or cross fence pastures to encourage better grazing distribution.

Don't risk long-term pasture injury for short-term feed gains. Manage grazing to help pastures recover from last year's stress.

Source: Bruce Anderson, Extension Forage Specialist, UNL. (TD)

Nebraska Pioneer Farm Awards Deadline May 1

The Knights of Ak-Sar-Ben Foundation and the Nebraska Association of Fair Managers welcome nominations for the 48th Annual Nebraska Pioneer Farm Awards. The program honors farm families in Nebraska whose land has been owned by members of the same family for 100 years or more.

To date, nearly 6,000 families in 93 Nebraska counties have been honored at various county fairs. Honorees receive an engraved

plaque and gatepost marker as permanent recognition of this milestone.

The awards will be presented at the 2003 Lancaster County Fair.

Nomination forms are available at the extension office, 444 Cherrycreek Road or the Lancaster Event Center office, 84th & Havelock. Forms must be returned to either office by May 1.

For more information, contact Deanna Karmazin at 441-7180. (DK)

Security Concerns for Pesticides or Fertilizers

Recent terrorist events have created the need for people handling pesticides and fertilizers to re-evaluate the security of those materials. There are a number of concerns about poisonous or explosive materials ending up in the wrong hands.

Consider the following:

- How easy do you make it for an unauthorized person to gain access to pesticides and fertilizer? Can your vehicles or buildings be entered during times when employees are not present? Are locks and doors secure enough to deter a casual theft?

- If you are a pesticide dealer, how easy is it for an unfamiliar person to buy pesticides or fertilizer from your sales staff? Do all of your employees who sell pesticides or fertilizers know all of the customers and/or the people designated to pick up these products? Does your staff ask for identification of unfamiliar customers? Does your staff ask where these products will be used?

- Do you or your staff know what a "sentinel event" is? A sentinel event is a situation or specific occurrence that may indicate someone is testing their plans or your security. Sentinel events could be obvious or unnoticeable. Sentinel events could be things such as unsuccessful forced entry marks on



This open shed is not a secure storage place for pesticides.

locks or doors, unusual or curious tire marks near pesticide or fertilizer storage facilities, dead animals found in unexpected areas (not road kill), unexplained spills or stains in or near pesticide or fertilizer storage areas, unexpected discovery of tools stolen or left in storage areas or unusual telephone calls requesting the availability of fertilizer or pesticides.

The Nebraska Department of Agriculture and University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension wants the public to avoid developing unneeded paranoia about their security, however, we feel it is prudent to raise your awareness of the issues impact-

ing all of us in today's world. If you would like further information on security issues or sentinel events call Tim Creger or Rich Reiman at the Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA) at 471-2394.

Information may also be found on the NDA Web site at: www.agr.state.ne.us/division/bpi/pes/security.htm. A link to this information and other information has been added to the Crops/Pesticides page of the Lancaster County Web site lanaster.unl.edu/ag/crops/pesticide.htm

Source: Tim Creger, Nebraska Department of Agriculture, Pesticide Program Manager. (TD)

Managing Fertilizer Use in Dry Soils

With below-normal soil moisture prevalent in eastern Nebraska, producers may consider changing how they use fertilizer this spring. Dry soil influences how fertilizer can be applied and what happens to it after application.

Application Rates

Producers should carefully consider application rates this spring, particularly for nitrogen, which is usually based on expected yield. With low subsoil moisture in much of the area, the yield potential for dryland crops will be reduced compared to "normal" years. Farmers should be realistic when setting yield expectations. Consider fertilizing for lower yields than last year on dryland fields.

Anhydrous Ammonia

Many producers fall-apply anhydrous ammonia in the heavy soils in the eastern part of the state. If the anhydrous was applied after the soil temperature was below 50°F it would have taken most of the winter for all of it to convert to nitrate, which is the form of nitrogen subject to leaching. The other factor in leaching of nitrogen is there must be excess moisture that percolates below the root zone. Since nitrate is carried in the soil water, water that escapes below the root zone carries nitrate-nitrogen with it. Thus far, only the top 18 to 24 inches of soil

has built significant soil moisture since harvest last fall. Even that zone is below field capacity (it could hold more moisture). An educated guess would be an additional six-inches of effective rainfall is needed to fill the root zone in most locations in the area. The good side is, the dry soil will have held all of the fall-applied nitrogen and it will be in the root zone when the crop needs it this spring.

The primary concern with spring application of anhydrous ammonia into dry soil is retention of the fertilizer. Silt loam and heavier textured soils in eastern Nebraska generally contain adequate moisture to react with and retain ammonia, even when seemingly very dry, as long as the injection depth is five to six inches below the soil surface and application rates are not excessive, according to Richard Ferguson, extension soils specialist.

Of greater concern is the ability to seal the injection slot. If the soil is very dry and cloddy, the farmer may observe white "smoke" behind the applicator. This "smoke" is actually water vapor condensed from the air by escaping ammonia. Although it takes a lot of "smoke" to add up to any significant fertilizer loss, it's still best to try to minimize fertilizer loss. If vapor loss cannot be minimized by 1) going to a deeper injection depth; 2) slowing down; or 3) reducing

the application rate, it may be advisable to wait for better soil conditions or switch to a different form of nitrogen fertilizer.

Broadcast Fertilizers

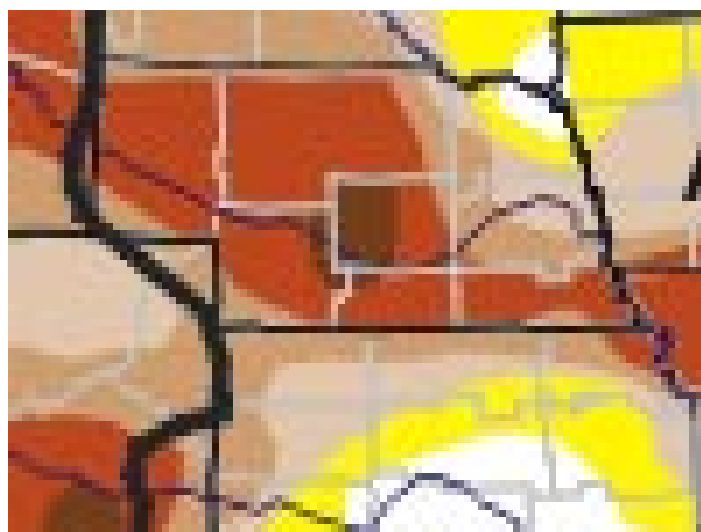
Both dry and liquid fertilizers broadcast on the soil surface will be influenced by large amounts of residue, which may not have decomposed significantly due to the dry winter. Urea (46-0-0) and nitrogen solutions containing urea (28-0-0) can lose nitrogen to the atmosphere through ammonia volatilization when surface applied unless incorporated by tillage or rainfall amounts over one-half inch. Losses are higher when the urea is intercepted by crop residue which insulate it from contact with the soil.

Starter Fertilizers

Producers should be cautious about applying starter fertilizer with the seed this spring. Starter fertilizers which contain nitrogen and potassium are particularly hygroscopic—they will draw moisture away from the seed and seedling plants, resulting in germination damage and loss of stand. This effect will be accentuated with dry soils. Placing starter fertilizer in a band a couple of inches away from the seed will minimize the potential for germination damage. (TD)

Latest U.S. Drought Monitor Map

As of April, Lancaster County is in **severe drought** conditions with the following dominate impact types: Agricultural and Hydrological



00 Abnormally Dry
01 Drought—Moderate
02 Drought—Severe
03 Drought—Extreme
04 Drought—Exceptional

Drought Impact Types:
Agriculture (crops, pastures, grasslands)
Hydrological (reservoirs, rivers, lakes, wetlands)
Other (livestock, recreation, etc.)
(If no type = both impacts)

For the most recent map, visit www.drought.unl.edu/dm

Preparing the Lawn for a Potential Drought

It is always difficult to predict the summer weather, but with precipitation 11 or more inches below normal over the last year, it is conceivable that water shortages and irrigation restrictions could occur. Following are a couple common questions and answers to consider when preparing turf for a drought.

How long will turf survive without water?

Generally, turf can survive five to eight weeks of dry conditions without substantial thinning or death. However, poor soils, traffic, excess heat, low mowing and/or scalping and improper fertility (too much nitrogen fertilizer in spring, not enough in fall) reduces the survivability of turf during drought. Turf species will also affect drought survival, with warm-season grasses like zoysia and buffalograss surviving the longest without water, followed by the cool-season

grasses tall fescue, fine fescue, Kentucky bluegrass and perennial ryegrass in that order.

What can be done NOW to improve drought tolerance or the turf?

Mowing. Mow as often as needed (remove no more than one-third of the total blade length) and at the upper end of the optimum range of mowing heights for the particular species. Frequent mowing reduces scalping. Scalping depletes energy reserves in the plant, reducing its ability to withstand and/or recover from drought stress.

Fertility. Heavy spring nitrogen fertilizer applications increase shoot growth at the expense of root growth and will also deplete energy reserves. If you must fertilize, use low rates of nitrogen (0.5-0.75 pounds Nitrogen per 100 square feet) every four to eight weeks as needed to maintain health of the turf while limiting growth surges. Slow release Nitrogen

sources will also limit growth surges. Though potassium is thought by some to encourage drought tolerance, it is not well documented and thus don't overdo potassium fertilization.

Irrigation. Water deeply and infrequently, keeping the soil as dry as possible. Water thoroughly to wet the soil to the depth of the root zone and then don't water again until areas of the turf turn a slight bluish-gray. Not only will this tend to encourage deeper rooting, it will also keep shoot growth at a minimum, and conserving energy reserves. Water early in the morning (between 4 and 9 am) and avoid watering during the heat of the day because much of the water is lost to evaporation.

Aerification. Consider aggressive aerification to reduce soil compaction and improve rooting. Use the largest available hollow tines (not solid tines) and punch between 20 and 40 holes per square foot. (DJ)

Take Measures to Control Sphaeropsis Tip Blight

Sphaeropsis tip blight is a common serious disease on Austrian, ponderosa and mugo pine in Nebraska, and occurs less destructively on Scots pine. It is caused by the fungus *Sphaeropsis sapinea*. Symptoms range from tip blight, cankers on branches or trunk, death of cones and blight of seedlings. Tip blight occurs when the fungus infects buds or shoots. Stunted, brown shoot tips with short needles result. Tissues are often resin-soaked. In the fall, small black fruiting structures of the fungus can be seen on needle bases. The annual death of buds and shoots causes trees to decline gradually from the bottom branches upward. The fungus may also penetrate young stems and cause cankers which eventually girdle and kill branches. Fungal spores are spread during wet weather from



The most conspicuous symptoms of *Sphaeropsis tip blight* are stunted new shoots with short, brown needles.

early spring until fall. Infected cones serve as a source of spores.

Control Methods

- Avoid planting Austrian pine.
- Promote good air circulation by adequate spacing and weed control.
- Trees may be pruned to improve their appearance, but this does not control the disease.
- Spray chlorothalonil, Bordeaux



Small, black fruiting bodies called *pycnidia*, in which *S. sapinea* spores develop, form on scales of second-year seed cones

mixture or other appropriately labeled copper fungicides at bud swell, then repeat twice at intervals of 10–14 days.

For further information on Sphaeropsis tip blight, check the Web site at lancaster.unl.edu. (DJ)

Watch for Pine Sawfly Damage

Now is the time to begin watching pine trees for feeding damage by clusters of European pine sawfly larvae. These gray-green larvae with the shiny-black, beady heads are common on mugo, Scots and red pine and may be found on other pine species as well (white and Austrian pines are usually only



European pine sawfly larvae

attacked if interplanted with the more susceptible species). The phenological indicator plants and their stage of development that coincide with the onset of European pine sawfly egg hatch and presence of small larvae are:

- Serviceberry in bloom
- Redbud beginning bloom

- Purpleleaf sand cherry in bloom

Sawfly control is not difficult when the larvae are detected early. Mechanical control by pruning cluster-containing twigs from the tree is possible. Vigorous shaking to dislodge the larvae and raking them up from the ground for discarding is also a possibility. Spot-spray treatment of infested trees can be done for control. Sevin, Diazinon and horticultural oil (at the "summer rate") are suggested choices. Read and follow label directions. (DJ)

Urban Agriculture



Needle Cast on Spruce

Rhizosphaera needle cast on blue spruce, caused by the fungus *Rhizosphaera kalkhoffii*, is the most common plant disease of Colorado spruce. This disease typically causes second-year needles to turn a purple-brown color and fall from the tree. Small black fruiting structures of the fungus can be seen in the small, pore-like openings of infected needles. These fruiting bodies appear in rows along the length of the needle. A hand lens or magnifying glass is helpful in viewing these structures.

Symptoms most commonly start on the lower branches of the tree and work upward. The symptoms, however, may first appear and spread on one side of the tree. Trees of any age may be affected, especially those that are stressed. The fungus can overwinter in infected needles. In the spring spores are released during wet weather and infect newly emerging needles.

If the disease is present, control consists of using a fungicide in the spring to protect these newly emerging needles. The tree should be sprayed with a product such as chlorothalonil (trade name Daconil 2787) or Bordeaux mixture in the last two weeks of May and again four to



Rhizosphaera needle cast symptoms usually start on the lower branches.

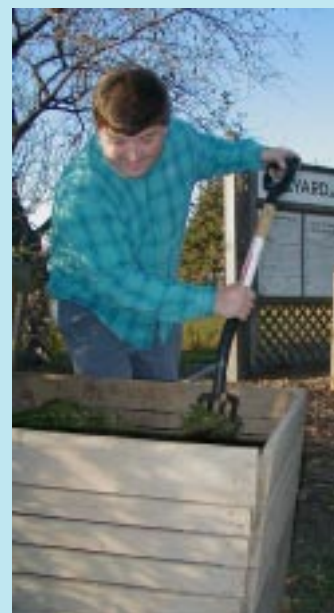
six weeks later. Good coverage and correct timing of the applications are important. Be sure to read the label for rates.

Other control measures include proper tree spacing and weed control to promote good air circulation, improving tree vigor through mulching and watering when needed, avoiding shearing trees when the foliage is wet, inspecting trees for disease before planting and avoiding planting susceptible trees next to infected trees. (DJ)

Free Composting Workshops

Grass and leaves are banned from the Lincoln Landfill from April 1 through Nov. 30 each year. Composting is a simple, practical and convenient way to transform yard wastes into a resource. By maintaining a compost pile or bin in your backyard, you can speed up nature's process of decomposition to create usable compost within a few months. Compost can then be used to improve soil structure and return vital nutrients to the soil.

Learn how to successfully compost by attending free composting workshops or demonstrations sponsored by the City of Lincoln Recycling Office and UNL Cooperative Extension in Lancaster County. Attendees will receive a free compost bin or composting thermometer.



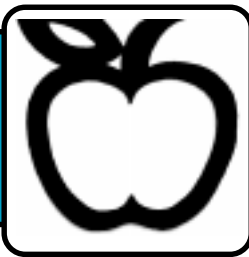
Composting Workshops (7–8 p.m.)

- April 15 — Belmont Recreation Ctr, 1234 Judson St.
- April 17 — Calvert Recreation Ctr, 4500 Stockwell St.
- April 22 — Easterday Recreation Ctr, 6130 Adams St.
- April 24 — Irving Recreation Ctr, 2010 Van Dorn St.

Compositing Demonstrations

From May to October, composting workshops with hands-on demonstrations will be presented the third Saturday of each month at 8:30 a.m. at the City Yard Waste Composting Demonstration Site, 50th and Colby.

For more information, call UNL Cooperative Extension in Lancaster County at 441-7180.



Food & Fitness



Alice Henneman, RD, LMNT, Extension Educator

April is Soyfoods month, making it an excellent time to try including more soy in your diet.

The Food and Drug Administration has authorized the use of health claims about the role of soy protein in reducing the risk of coronary heart disease (CHD) on labeling of foods containing soy protein. This is based on the FDA's conclusion these foods, when included in a diet low in saturated fat and cholesterol, may reduce the risk of CHD by lowering blood cholesterol levels.

A typical claim on a soy product might read: "Eating 25 grams of soy protein per day may reduce the risk of heart disease." In order for a food to contain this health message, it must contain at least 6.25 grams of soy protein per serving.

Here's a recipe from a soy cookbook called "Favorites from the Heartland" (2nd edition). If you'd like more information on including soyfoods in your meals, call the Nebraska Soybean Board at 1-800-852-2326 or 441-3240 in the Lincoln area. For additional recipes and tips on using soy, you also can visit www.soyfoods.com/recipes

Pumpkin Bread

3/4 cup sugar
1/4 cup soy vegetable oil
2 eggs
1 cup pumpkin
1 cup flour
1/2 cup soy flour
2 teaspoons baking powder
1 1/2 teaspoons cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon nutmeg
1/4 teaspoon cloves
1/2 cup raisins

In mixing bowl, beat sugar and oil until well mixed. Beat in eggs and pumpkin. Mix in flours, baking powder and spices. Add raisins and stir. Pour into greased loaf pan and bake in 325 degrees oven for one hour or until done.

Yield: 1 loaf (16 slices)

Per slice: 133 calories; 4 g total fat; 1 g saturated fat; 27 mg cholesterol; 96 mg sodium; 21 g carbohydrate; 2 g fiber; 3 g total protein; 1.9 g soy protein.

This recipe uses soy flour. Here's what the "Favorites from the Heartland" cookbook recommends regarding using soy flour: "Roasted soybeans are ground to make soy flour. There are full-fat and low-fat varieties. Adding soy flour makes a moist, tender product that stays fresh longer. It is widely used by the food industry to improve the quality of baked goods. To preserve freshness, store full-fat soy flour in the refrigerator or freezer. Defatted soy flour may be stored on the shelf."

"Soy flour tends to pack down in a container, so always stir or sift it before measuring. Baked products containing soy flour tend to brown more quickly, so you may want to lower the oven temperature slightly."

"When using soy flour in baking, you can replace up to 25 to 30 percent of the wheat flour with soy flour when making quick breads. For yeast breads only replace 15 percent (an easy way to do this is to put 2 tablespoons of soy flour into the measuring cup before filling it with wheat flour. Soy flour does not contain gluten which gives structure to bread."

Web Resource of the Month

ONE dietary change may be all it takes to lose weight. Learn simple changes, involving just ONE food, that can help you lose up to 10 pounds a year at lanaster.unl.edu/food/ftjan03.htm

Visit our NEW "Quick Tip of the Month" to help you prepare healthy food in a hurry at lanaster.unl.edu/food/ciqtips.htm



Eat Smart: How to Fill Up, Not Out!

Alice Henneman, MS, RD
 Extension Educator

We've all heard "What you don't know can't hurt you" but the truth is, lack of knowledge CAN be harmful.

When it comes to eating, we might say "What we don't know CAN make us gain weight." Following are six "Eat Smart" tips to help a person fill up, not out!

1. Don't Let Tastes Go to Waist

It takes an excess of about 3,500 calories to gain a pound. One hundred extra calories a day can put on 10 pounds a year. A bite here, a bite there and we've run up 100 (OR MORE!) calories in just a few tiny tastes. For example:

Bite 1: One-fourth cup of orange juice remains in the carton. We might as well finish it, right? CALORIES: 26

Bite 2: Two tablespoons of granola are left in the box. It's hardly worth returning to the cupboard. We add it to the cereal bowl. CALORIES: 64

Bite 3: We add two teaspoons powdered cream substitute in our coffee shortly after arriving at work. CALORIES: 20

We're already up to 100 extra calories and it's not even break time yet!

2. Avoid Portion Distortion

A "Journal of the American Medical Association" article

(Jan. 22, 2003) reported with the exception of pizza, food portion sizes consumed in the United States for persons 2 years or older increased for all categories studied: home, restaurant and fast food locations. The survey covered 1977 to 1996 and looked at these items: salty snacks, desserts, soft drinks, fruit drinks, french fries, hamburgers, cheeseburgers, pizza and Mexican food. Portion sizes tended to be largest at fast food places and smallest at restaurants.

Lean young men ate more when offered larger portions in research by Dr. Barbara Rolls, Pennsylvania State University nutrition professor and author of "Volumetrics: Feel Full on Fewer Calories." Young men ate 10 ounces of a 16 ounce portion of macaroni. When they were offered 25 ounces, they ate 15 ounces, a 50 percent increase!

Home and Away Portion Control Tips

Here are some commonly cited images to help visualize approximate portion sizes, whether at home or eating out. Hand-size illustrations are just guidelines—we don't get to choose the largest hand in the group when dishing up ice cream!

- 3 ounces of meat = a deck of cards or the palm of your hand
- 1/2 cup of cereal, rice, pasta or ice cream = 1/2 baseball
- 1 1/2 ounces of natural cheese = a 9-volt battery or 3 dominoes
- 1 teaspoon butter, margarine, mayonnaise or oil = a thumb

tip (the top joint)

- 1 ounce nuts = one handful (not heaping!)
- 1 tablespoon of salad dressing or peanut butter = 1/2 ping-pong ball

Restaurant Portion Control Tips

If restaurant main dish portions are larger than you want, share them with a friend or order an appetizer or side dish instead. If you'll be able to refrigerate leftovers within TWO hours of being served—take extra food home for a later meal. Eat within TWO days for best safety and quality.

Fast Food Portion Control Tips

Be size-wise and order smaller burgers, fries and drinks. If we supersize our food, we may supersize ourselves, as well too!

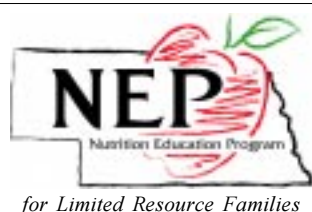
3. Slow Down to Slim Down

It takes about 20 minutes after food enters our mouths before the brain starts perceiving we're filling up.

Take time to sit down and savor food flavors. When eating on the run, we miss the full impact of the taste sensations that come through when food is eaten more slowly. At the very least, we should wait until we've swallowed one bite before we take the next one!

Part 2 of this article will be published in the May NEBLINE.

Smiles & Butterflies



Zainab Rida
 Extension Assistant

During January and February, the Nutrition Education Program (NEP) in Lancaster County provided programing for Cedars After-School Club at Hartley School. The program was designed for youth with hands-on learning about nutrition. There were 22 youth between the ages of seven and 10. The program was held once a week for six weeks. The sessions included interactive activities such as kitchen safety, food guide pyramid, hand washing, breakfast, snacks, fruits and vegetables. Children made a creative snack at each session. Pre- and post-evaluations were done for each topic.

At the first session students learned about the food guide pyramid and played Food Guide

Pyramid Bingo. They made "butterfly" snacks using celery, peanut butter, pretzels and raisins, with milk to drink to include all five groups.

The second session focused on the importance of hand washing including washing hands before and after handling food to stay healthy. Students became aware of places germs could hide. They enjoyed making peanut butter bites for a snack.

The third session was an interactive kitchen safety lesson. We heard many success stories from the students. For example, one student shared a situation from home in which a pot holder was hanging from the table with a hot dish on it. The student told his mom it wasn't safe. Another girl said she helped her mom take something out of the oven using pot holders. Another girl stated she showed her mom the correct way to pass a knife.

Healthy snacks were highlighted for the fourth session. The leader demonstrated to the students most soda contains 10 to 12 teaspoons of sugar in just one 12-ounce can. The post-test showed 10 of 18



Hartley students prepared healthy snacks during a recent after-school NEP program.

participants plan to reduce the amount of soda they consume. They enjoyed making the apple smile snack.

The last two sessions focused on breakfast and fruits and vegetables. We shared the importance of having breakfast every morning which provides energy for their bodies and brains. They learned fruits and vegetables provide the body with essential vitamins and fiber.

Every student received the NEP kid's cookbook, which includes recipes they made.

Lines from Lynn

Lynn Bush
FCE Council Chair

According to the calendar, spring has arrived. However, I think Mother Nature is having trouble letting go of winter. At least she gave us some rain.

Mark your calendars for the next Council meeting, Monday, June 23, 7 p.m. We will meet at the Lancaster Event Center, 84 and Havelock Street, for our business meeting and a tour of the facilities. Clubs hosting the evening will be Live & Learn and Salt Creek Circle. Everyone is invited to attend.



Thank you to all who participated in the Cultural Arts Contest. We had some beautiful quilts. Now is the time to start another project for next year's contest. The categories will be painting, hand stitchery, creative writing and glass.

Has your club decided to put a basket together for the raffle at State Convention? It's not too late. Our goal is to have every club contribute a complete basket or at least items to complete a basket. The money



Irene Colburn, a member of the Helpful Homemakers FCE Club, with her quilted wall hanging was selected to represent Lancaster County in the Cultural Arts Contest at the Family & Community Education State Convention in August.

raised from this project goes for scholarships on the state level.

★ FCE News ★

Family Community Education (FCE Upcoming Dates)

June 23 — FCE Council Meeting, Lancaster Event Center, 7 p.m.

July 14 — Sizzling Summer Sampler (watch the May NEBLINE for full details)

Aug. 18-19 — Nebraska Association for Family & Community Education Clubs State Convention, Syracuse

When War Is in the News

The United States is at war. Many troops have been mobilized. The president has described some of the evil actions of the country with which we have concerns.

Children probably do not understand the politics of this situation. For many, especially the youngest children, war is a distant event and they do not pay attention to it. But many others are likely to be confused. They see parents being deployed and leaving their children behind. Seeing children in the news attracts other children's attention. They may wonder if their own parents will be called to go away. Older children may be confused when they hear differing opinions and recommendations. Many words are being used that are not familiar to children.

Some Parents are Being Deployed

For children whose parents are being deployed, there are special pressures. They need to deal with secrecy, uncertainty, separation and major changes in their lifestyle. They will not know where the family member is going or when or even if he or she will return. The remaining parent needs to take on different roles. If both parents are in the military, the children may need to adjust to living with other relatives or substitute parents. They will need to adjust again when the deployed family member returns home.

Children May be Confused

Most children are likely to be confused by the current events. Their confusion may vary depending on their age.

Younger children will hear a number of unfamiliar words and may not understand what they mean. Many children may confuse Afghanistan and Iraq. They may confuse Osama bin Laden with Sadaam Hussein. There are good reasons for that confusion; many adults are confused as well. Children, especially younger ones, also confuse fantasy with reality and historic events and figures with current ones. They may connect unrelated current events, such as assuming the Columbia shuttle disaster is related to the conflict with Iraq. They may be more sensitized to war and violence in general after the events of September 11, 2001.

War May be a New Topic for Parents

Most parents do not include war in their daily conversations with children. Some never talk about it. This author has conducted interviews with children and parents beginning several months after the September 11 attacks. Almost 25 percent of parents reported they never talked to their children about war. Over 40 percent of children reported they hadn't had such conversations with their parents. This means some parents thought they talked about it, but the children either didn't remember or didn't recognize the topic. So some parents may need to discuss this topic with their children for the first time and others may need to repeat some things they have said before.

There are Contrasting Attitudes About the War

Some people are working hard to prevent war, while others are actively supporting it.

Children will hear about protests and peace marches, and they will hear about speeches and actions to support military action. They will probably want to know how their parents feel about it. Parents should explain how they feel. They can describe what action they are taking. They also can explore with the children how the children can express their own opinions.

Tips and Cautions

Listen and talk. Let children know it is okay to talk about war and peace. Listen for misunderstandings. Let the children guide you in the discussions. Remember this will probably not be only one discussion.

Consider using books and art to communicate. Children may be able to express ideas in drawings that they cannot put into words. Reading a book about a topic makes it less threatening. It is easier to talk about someone else than to talk about our own feelings.

Be careful about painting the other side as the enemy. It is more helpful to children to talk about "bad actions" rather than "bad people." Help them understand people can choose their behaviors. Even if they have done something bad in the past, they can choose to do something good in the future.

Help children understand the United States is not angry with the Iraqi people. Explain the leaders of our country are upset with the decisions of the other government.

Help children understand religious differences. Explain Islam is a religion that is practiced by many people in the world. Help them understand

see WAR on page 11

Family Living



by Lorene Bartos, Extension Educator

Don't Send Your Money Down the Drain

There are many ways to conserve water and lower your water bill. Repair leaky faucets promptly, and install aerating, low-flow faucets and showerheads. The biggest water-user in a home is typically the toilet. Install low-flow toilets or place a plastic container filled with water or gravel in the tank of your conventional toilet. (Be sure it does not interfere with the toilet's flush mechanisms.)

In the kitchen, scrape, don't rinse, off large food pieces and add food wastes to a compost pile rather than using a garbage disposal. If you use a dishwasher, soaking or pre-washing dishes is generally only recommended in cases of burned-on or dried-on food. Run your dishwasher when it is full, but not overloaded. And don't use the "rinse hold" setting for just a few soiled dishes.

For laundry, wash full loads or use the appropriate water-level setting.

National Infant Immunization Week

April 13-19, 2003

- Immunizations are one of the most important ways parents can protect their children against serious diseases.
- Each day 11,000 babies are born who will need to be immunized against 11 vaccine preventable diseases before age two.
- We can now prevent more diseases than ever before. Because we can prevent more diseases, parents are often not aware of what it takes to fully immunize a child.
- Infants and young children are particularly vulnerable to infectious diseases; that is why it is critical that they are protected through immunization.
- Parents and caregivers need to take responsibility for their child's vaccinations. They are encouraged to become informed consumers and keep a record of each immunization.
- Immunizations are extremely safe thanks to advancements in medical research and ongoing review by doctors, researchers and public health officials. (LB)

Child Care Providers Conference

Saturday, April 26 • 8 a.m.–4 p.m.
Lancaster Extension Education Center

"Your Game Plan for a Winning Team" is the theme of this year's conference. Speakers include Jody Isernhagen, UNL; Pam Dolberg, Family Service; Pat Enevoldson, Southeast Community College; Sharon Cheney, Humorist and more.

Cost is \$10. For a conference flyer call the extension office 441-7180 or Family Service, 441-7949.

Preregistration is due April 15.

In-service hours will be given for this conference. (LB)

CHARACTER COUNTS! Corner

Understanding the Golden Rule

Treat others the way you want to be treated. It means to treat people with respect by being polite, kind and courteous. It also means to accept the differences of individuals without prejudice and to treat others with decency and show consideration by listening to them. It doesn't mean if someone insults you, you should insult him in return, because you can't fight fire with fire. It may be hard to like someone who bullies and teases, but showing them respect and kindness may help them learn how people should be treated. Be positive and treat others with dignity. (BR)





4-H & Youth

LANCASTER COUNTY FAIR NEWS

2003

LANCASTER COUNTY FAIR

Discover the Fun!

JULY 30–AUGUST 3

The 2003 Lancaster County Fair Books have been mailed (or will be shortly) to 4-H families and past Open Class exhibitors. The 4-H & FFA version is online at lancaster.unl.edu/4H.

County Fair Plaques

Every year plaques are given to the "Top Exhibits" in the static exhibit areas. For example, plaques are given to the top poster exhibit, top baking exhibit (three levels), top child development exhibit, top safety exhibit, top woodworking exhibit, etc. 4-H'ers have expressed how much they look forward to seeing who receives these plaques, and it has become a highlight of the fair for them. This year, funding is no longer secured and in order for plaques to be presented at this year's fair, we need sponsors to fund them. Please contact Tracy if you are willing to be on a committee to secure monies or if you are willing to help sponsor these plaques. Sponsors will be recognized on plaques and via signage. If monies are not secured, plaques will not be presented. Thanks. (TK)

APRIL

Ruth Lantis

Lancaster County 4-H and 4-H Council are proud to announce Ruth Lantis as the winner of the April "Heart of 4-H Award" in recognition of outstanding volunteer service.

Ruth has been the organizational leader of the Star City Kids since it formed six years ago. Star City Kids is Lancaster County's largest 4-H club with 65 members. All of the members are homeschoolers. The mothers of the members are all very involved as project leaders and try to attend all the meetings. Ruth coordinates the meetings and project leaders.

Cathy Hurdle, a Star City Kids parent and project leader, nominated Ruth, saying, "Ruth is the 'heart' of our 4-H group. Even though the group has grown to 22 families, she has managed to maintain order and a freshness to the group."

"I love watching the kids learn and grow," Ruth says of being a 4-H volunteer. "I also enjoy working with all the moms in our club."

Her favorite experience as a 4-H volunteer was watching club members develop, practice and perform skits for last year's Music Contest which they took to the State Fair.

She attends the State 4-H Volunteer Leader Forum whenever possible. She says, "It is a wonderful experience and opens my eyes to all the opportunities within 4-H."

Ruth and her husband Tom homeschool their children: Julie (age 16), Katherine (age 15), Jordan (age 14), Tommy (age 13) and Josh (age 11).

Ruth also helps out at the annual 4-H Clover College (last year, Katherine, Jordan and Tommy also assisted).

She works at Martin Luther Homes and is active in her church. Ruth and her children deliver Meals on Wheels.

Congratulations to Ruth Lantis. Volunteers like her are indeed, the heart of 4-H!



To nominate your favorite 4-H volunteer for the "Heart of 4-H Award", visit online at lancaster.unl.edu/4h/club or visit the extension office for a registration form.

Speech Contest Winners

The 2003 Lancaster County Speech Contest was held March 16 at the State Capitol. More than 50 youth participated! Public speaking is an important skill that people use throughout their lifetime. Congratulations to the winners who will go on to the District Speech Contest, held April 12 at the UNL East Campus Union! New this year, Junior Division winners are able to advance to the District competition.

Speech Contest

Senior Division: Ian Badeer, Connie Lemke and Allison Hurdle. Alternate: Elizabeth Kalisch.

Intermediate Division: Sean Badeer, Karis Parker and Will Fox.

Junior Division: Preston Badeer, Ryan Keys and Terra Thompson. Alternate: Sarah Hurdle.



(Back row, L-R) Connie Lemke, Allison Hurdle, Sarah Hurdle, Karis Parker, Ian Badeer; (Front row, L-R) Sean Badeer and Preston Badeer.

Public Service Announcements (PSA's) Contest

Senior Division: Alyssa Fiala, Karen Clinch and Ian Badeer. Alternate: Nicole Pedersen.

Intermediate Division: Sean Badeer, Samantha Brandt and Will Fox. Alternate: Mary Hubbard.

Junior Division: Terra Thompson, Hannah Spencer and Ryan Keys. Alternate: Michelle Fry.



(L-R) Alyssa Fiala, Hannah Spencer, Karen Clinch, Sean Badeer and Ian Badeer.

Lancaster County 4-H Rabbit Clinic & Show

The Lancaster County 4-H Rabbit VIPS Committee held their annual Spring Rabbit Clinic on Thursday, March 20 and show on Saturday, March 22.

Presentations at the Thursday clinic were done by 4-H parents and current and former 4-H'ers. Thanks to Lindsay Brinson, Dawn Eggert, Desiree Bramhall, Kirstin Liljestrand and the Maahs and Cudaback families who all participated in presenting at the clinic. Also, a huge thank you to the members of the 4-H Rabbit VIPS Committee who spend so much of their time and energy providing these free educational clinics. (EK)

4-H Theme Night at Saltdogs June 20

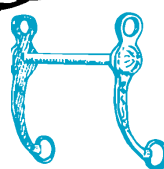
Lancaster 4-H Council is sponsoring "Discover 4-H, Discover You" theme night at the Lincoln Saltdogs baseball home game on Friday, June 20! Ticket information will be published in upcoming NEBLINES.



Historial Society Opens Virtual 4-H Exhibit

You may remember the Nebraska State Historical Society planned to open a 4-H Centennial exhibit in 2002. Unfortunately, it could not be completed because of a museum air conditioning failure. Instead, the Society has put together a virtual exhibit entitled "One Hundred Years of 4-H in Nebraska" on its Web site at www.nebraskahistory.org/sites/mnh/4-H/index.htm.

It's an interesting and well-done site with lots of information and pictures about Nebraska 4-H from across the entire state! Please visit when you have a chance! Thanks to the many of you who contributed items and made the site possible!



HORSE BITS

2003 4-H State Horse Contests

The 2003 4-H State Horse Contests were held during the Nebraska Horse Expo at the Lancaster Event Center on Saturday, March 15. Contests held were Horse Bowl, Demonstration and Speech contests. The Lancaster County Horse Bowl team consisted of Victoria Kirilloff, Lindsay Kerns, Katy Cockerill and Melissa Raisch. The team came in fourth out of 18 teams. Congratulations and thank you for representing Lancaster County so well Victoria, Lindsay, Katy and Melissa.

2003 Pre-District Horse Show June 7

The Lancaster County 4-H Horse VIPS Committee will be sponsoring this year's Pre-District Horse Show at 9 a.m., Saturday, June 7 at Capital City Horse and Pony Club, 12900 N. 14 Street. The show will be run in district format and will include the eight district classes which consist of Western Pleasure, Western Horsemanship, Western Pony Pleasure, English Pleasure, English Equitation, Reining, Pole Bending and Barrels. Any 4-H'er can participate.

Capital City Horse and Pony Club Clinics

Capital City Horse and Pony Club will be hosting a free clinic for any rider, including beginning adult rider, at 9 a.m., Saturday, May 3. Topics covered will be basic horsemanship, equitation, western pleasure, trail, barrels and poles.

For the more experienced rider, there will be a reining clinic at 10 a.m., Saturday, May 17. There will be a small fee, the amount depends on the number of riders registered (if 20 exhibitors, the fee will be \$5 per rider).

Capital City is located at 12900 N. 14 Street. For information or to RSVP, call Joyce at 486-0335.

Clover College

Tue., June 24–Fri., June 27

All workshops held at Lancaster Extension Education Center, 444 Cherrycreek Road

Open to 4-H & non-4-H youth ages 5–16

Clover College is four days of “hands-on” workshops full of fun and learning! Youth may attend as many or as few workshops as they wish. Youth attending workshops that overlap the lunch period may bring a sack lunch. Food will not be available (unless otherwise stated in the workshop description.) If you have questions, contact Tracy Kulm at 441-7180.

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

4-Day Workshops

Clover Kids Camp

Clover Kids will participate in several hands-on activities while learning about animals, food fun, science, the outdoors and more. Refreshments provided for this workshop.
TUE–FRI, 8AM–12:15PM
AGES: 5-7
FEE: \$25
INSTRUCTORS: Multiple instructors

Rockets... Countdown to Family Fun

3...2...1...blast off! Have you ever wanted to build a rocket and launch it? Come to this workshop and receive a rocket kit and one engine.
TUE–FRI, 8–10AM
AGES: 8-10
FEE: \$9
INSTRUCTOR: Ron Suing, 4-H volunteer

Bird Seed Feeder

Fly in and make a bird house or feeder! Learn basic woodworking skills, learn about habitats for backyard animals. All materials will be provided for this four-day workshop.
TUE–FRI, 12:45–2:45PM
AGES: 8 and up
FEE: \$5
INSTRUCTOR: Shirley Condon, 4-H volunteer

3-Day Workshop

Insect Collecting for Beginners

In this three-day workshop, learn the most common insect orders and make your own starter collection. You will collect aquatic insects so come dressed to enjoy the outdoors! This class is for youth who did not attend this workshop last year.
WED–FRI, 12:45–2:45PM
AGES: 10 and up
FEE: \$20 (some supplies included)
INSTRUCTOR: Barb Ogg, Extension Educator

2-Day Workshops

Puppets on Parade

In this two day workshop, you will get creative in making several different kinds of puppets, learn a little bit about the history of puppet performance and put on a performance of your own.
WED–THU, 8–10AM
AGES: 8 and up
FEE: \$7
INSTRUCTOR: Brenda Fiala, 4-H volunteer

Fun with Scrapbooking

Use scrapbooking techniques to create a bound anytime calendar. Bring 12 photos, 1 appropriate for each month.
THU–FRI, 10:15AM–12:15PM
AGES: 9 and up
FEE: \$10
INSTRUCTOR: Kitt Saathoff, owner of A Page in Time and 4-H volunteer

Say it with Posters

Learn how to visually tell a story with posters. Use

lettering, graphics and color to communicate a clear message.
THU–FRI, 12:45–2:45PM
AGES: 8 and up
FEE: \$3
INSTRUCTOR: Vicki Jedlicka, Extension Assistant

Under the Hood: Getting a Jump Start on Auto Mechanics
Get a handle on what’s under the hood, learn how to change a flat tire, jump start a car and what to do in several emergency situations. Preventive maintenance, such as how to check tire pressure, filters, and fluids.
TUE–WED, 3–5PM
AGES: 12 and up
FEE: \$5
INSTRUCTOR: Robert Fox, 4-H volunteer

1-Day Workshops

Perfect Pies
Practice making perfect pie crusts and even learn some decorative techniques in this hands on workshop.
TUE, 8–10AM
AGES: 10 and up
FEE: \$5
INSTRUCTORS: Brenda Fiala and Cindy Fiala, 4-H volunteers

3R’s - Reduce, Reuse, Recycle
Learn about Shopping S.M.A.R.T (Save Money and Reduce Trash) and make treasures from trash.
TUE, 10:15AM–12:15PM
AGES: 9 and up
FEE: \$5
INSTRUCTOR: Lorene Bartos, Extension Educator

Sensational Summertime Crafts
Come and explore your creative side in this summertime arts and crafts hands-on workshop.
TUE, 10:15AM–12:15PM
AGES: 8 and up
FEE: \$5

Fishing Fun
Hike on over to the “Crawdad Hole.” Bring along your fishing pole, complete with line, hook and bobber for some ol’ fashioned fishing fun at a nearby stream. Extra tackle is optional. Bait provided as well as a “wormy snack” for humans.
TUE, 12:45–2:45PM
AGES: 9 and up
FEE: \$5
INSTRUCTOR: David Smith, Extension Technologist

Design Your Own Stickers & Tattoos
Design your own stickers and temporary tattoos which will be scanned into a computer and printed on specialty paper.
TUE, 12:45–2:45PM
AGES: 8 & up
FEE: \$7
INSTRUCTOR: Vicki Jedlicka, Extension Assistant

A Fishy Topic
Join us and we will swim in the fun! We will create a Beta fish bowl and learn about fish and plants.
TUE, 3–5PM
AGES: 8 and up
FEE: \$8
INSTRUCTORS: Deanna Karmazin, Extension Associate & Julia French, Extension Intern

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE				
	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:00–10:00	Clover Kids	Clover Kids	Clover Kids	Clover Kids
	Rockets...	Rockets...	Rockets...	Rockets...
	Perfect Pies	Puppets	Puppets	Back to School
10:15–12:15	Clover Kids	Clover Kids	Clover Kids	Clover Kids
	3 R’s	Face Painting	Scrapbooking	Scrapbooking
	Summer Crafts	Money	Table Setting	Color Galleria
12:45–2:45	Bird Seed Feeder	Bird Seed Feeder	Bird Seed Feeder	Bird Seed Feeder
	Fishing Fun	Insect Collecting	Insect Collecting	Insect Collecting
	Stickers & Tattoos	Ukrainian Eggs	Posters	Posters
3:00–5:00	Under the Hood	Under the Hood	Chenille	Serving Up Service
	Fishy Topic	Floral Fun	Style Revue	Stamping
	Babysitting Basics	Fun in Kitchen	Burps & Slurps!	—

Babysitting Basics
Learn the basic skills needed to be a responsible and creative babysitter. Focus is on activities, making snacks and toys.
TUE, 3–5PM
AGES: 11 and up
FEE: \$5
INSTRUCTOR: Lorene Bartos, Extension Educator

Fabulous Face Painting
Learn how to do fabulous full face painting from face painter extraordinaire, Matilda Belle. Starter paint kits will be available to purchase for \$10.
WED, 10:15AM–12:15PM
AGES: 12 and up
FEE: \$5
INSTRUCTOR: Jhoni Kucera a.k.a. Matilda Belle, 4-H volunteer

Money, Money, Money
Learn the basics of banking and how to spend and save wisely.
WED, 10:15AM–12:15PM
AGES: 10 and up
FEE: None
INSTRUCTOR: TierOne Bank, Clocktower Branch

Ukrainian Easter Eggs
Learn the art of Easter egg making the Pysanky way. An old art using wax during the dyeing process to make beautiful designs. Full of meaning and beauty, the Pysanky eggs are an easy and fun art to learn.
WED, 12:45–2:45PM
AGES: 12 and up
FEE: \$4
INSTRUCTOR: Julie Lantis, 4-H volunteer

Fantastic Floral Fun
Did you ever want to learn how to make fantastic floral arrangements? Learn from a floral arrangement expert how to create a visual symphony of colors, textures and shapes. Take home your own fantastic floral arrangement.

WED, 3–5PM
AGES: 10 and up
FEE: \$12.50
INSTRUCTOR: Gary Tharnish, Burton Tyrrell’s Flowers

Fun in the Kitchen
It’s easier than it looks to shape speciality bread and rolls. Learn techniques through this hands-on workshop.
WED, 3–5PM
AGES: 11 and up
FEE: \$5
INSTRUCTOR: Lorene Bartos, Extension Educator

Getting Set for the Table Setting Contest
Come and learn everything you need to know to participate in the table setting contest. You’ll also make a homemade centerpiece.
THU, 10:15AM–12:15PM
AGES: 8 and up
FEE: \$5

Creating Chenille
Learn how to make beautiful chenille. Bring your sewing machine, white thread and 12" ruler. Also bring blunt ended shears if you have them.
THU, 3–5PM
AGES: 10 and up
FEE: \$4
INSTRUCTORS: Diane & Marie Spomer, 4-H volunteers

Style Revue
Style Revue will be here soon! Come to this workshop and learn new styling procedures and practice your modeling technique.
THU, 3–5PM
AGES: 8 and up
FEE: No charge

Burps and Slurps!
Do you burp and slurp at the table? Do you know which fork is for your salad? Can you properly introduce yourself to a stranger? If you would like to add a touch of class to your dining techniques, join us for food and fun!
THU, 3–5PM

AGES: 10 and up
FEE: \$5
INSTRUCTOR: Deanna Karmazin, Extension Associate & Julia French, Extension Intern

Back to School
Come and create an original book cover, a one of a kind pen with clay and a fun bookmark.
THU, 8–10AM
AGES: 8 and up
FEE: \$2.50
INSTRUCTOR: Geri Ripa, 4-H volunteer

Your Color Galleria
Learn how to look your best by wearing the right colors. Make your own color book in this interactive and fun workshop! Bring empty 4x6 photo album and fabric scissors.
FRI, 10:15AM–12:15PM
AGES: 8 and up
FEE: \$8
INSTRUCTOR: Jackie Zimmerman, Full Image Consultant

Serving Up Exceptional Service
Are you looking for ways to become more engaged in the community? Through interactive learning experiences participants will find out about National Days of Service and other community service opportunities, State Fair exhibits, resources and recognition.
FRI, 3–5PM
AGES: 8-16
FEE: \$5
INSTRUCTOR: Janet Fox, Extension 4-H Youth Development Specialist

Simply Stamping
Make a variety of cards and gifts using rubber stamps.
AGES: 8 and up
FRI, 3–5PM
FEE: \$5
INSTRUCTOR: Jan Wagner

CLOVER COLLEGE REGISTRATION FORM

To register, complete the registration form (one person per form) and return with payment (check or money order made payable to Lancaster County Extension). Registrations must be received by June 16. They will be handled on a “first come” basis and will only be accepted upon receipt of fees. Early registration is recommended. Telephone registration not accepted. **All fees are non-refundable unless a class is filled to capacity or canceled.**

Name _____Age _____

Parents Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____State _____Zip _____

Daytime Phone _____Evening Phone _____

Special Needs (allergies, etc.) _____

Workshops to attend: _____Fee _____

_____Fee _____

_____Fee _____

_____Fee _____

_____Fee _____

_____Fee _____

Total _____

I give permission to use my child’s name/photograph in publications, advertisements, news articles or Web sites pertaining to 4-H. ☐ yes ☐ no

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____Date: _____

Mailing or bring registration form and payment to:
UNL Lancaster County Extension, 444 Cherrycreek Rd., Ste. A, Lincoln, NE 68528



Community & Home Living

Clean Your Files Week

The week of April 21-25 is designated "Clean Your Files" week to help support Earth Day and encourage recycling of office paper. Whether at your business or at home this is a good time to clean files or boxes of unneeded, duplicated, non-recorded materials and records that have exceeded their legal retention. Generally, all paper items in old files can be recycled.

For identity fraud safety it is important to shred or tear up papers that have personal information, such as name, address, account numbers, social security numbers, etc.

Remove carbon paper, plastic binders and transparencies. For more information or to sign your office of business up for this week contact the Lincoln Recycling Office at 441-8215. Individuals are encouraged to participate. Paper can be recycled in the "residential mixed paper bins" at the recycling drop sites. (LB)

Design Your Future in Fashion and Textiles

A day specifically for high school sophomores and juniors which will provide you with an in-depth look at the exciting opportunities available in the UNL Department of Textiles, Clothing and Design.

April 24, 9:15 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Registration deadline: April 18.

Cost per person to attend is \$12. Lunch will be provided. Space is limited — registrations accepted on a first-come basis.

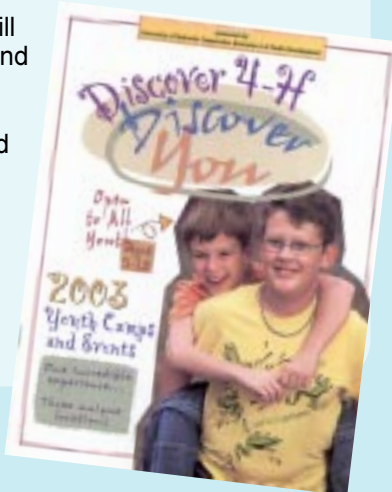
For more information or registration form, call 472-0711

4-H Camps

Open to all youth ages 5-19

Open House May 4

Families are invited to a free Open House at the Eastern Nebraska 4-H Center in Schramm Park near Gretna on Sunday, May 4 from 1-4 p.m. This is a terrific opportunity to tour the facilities and gain a taste of various fun-filled camp activities. In addition, a representative from the Raptor Recovery Center will give families an up-close and personal look at some of Nebraska's most majestic creatures. A raptor is a bird of prey, which includes eagles, owls, hawks and falcons. Reservations one week before the event are appreciated — contact Kelly Krambeck at (402) 332-4496.



The following camps are offered at the Eastern Nebraska 4-H Center:

June 3-5	Discovery Camp Ages 8-10
June 6-7	Take a Friend, Make a Friend Ages 8-10
June 8-12	Boldy Bound Ages 11-14
June 9-12	Biking Bound Ages 11-14
June 14	Kids-N-Critters Ages 5-7 w/chaperone
June 15-18	Niobrara Canoe Trip Ages 15-18
June 20-22	Junior Leader Weekend Ages 15-18
June 29-July 2	Discovery Camp Ages 11-14
July 7-9	Splash Bash Ages 8-10
July 10-13	Discovery Camp Ages 11-14
July 14-17	Outdoor Skills Ages 11-14
July 18	Kids-N-Water Ages 5-7
July 29-31	Dismal River Trip Ages 15-19

For camp descriptions, registration forms and more information, visit online at 4h.unl.edu or pick up a camp pamphlet at the Lancaster County Extension office.

Spotlight on a Neighborhood: South Salt Creek

William Freitas
Graduate Student

Note: This article is part of a series spotlighting the various Neighbors Working Together (NWT) neighborhoods. NWT creates a supportive network facilitating leadership and collaboration across 13 neighborhoods adjacent to both campuses of the University of Nebraska.

Much of South Salt Creek Neighborhood was included in the original plat of Lincoln set down in 1867, but because of the nearly annual flooding in the area, land value and development lagged far behind the rest of the city. From the 1880s through the 1910s, the neighborhood remained isolated even as Lincoln grew substantially. However, the inexpensive lots made the area more attractive to the Germans from Russia who came to live in Lincoln. In fact, by the 1920s, Germans from Russia made up a fifth of Lincoln's population, with 84 percent of them living on the flood plains west of 10 Street.

The Germans from Russia had a strong influence on the development and character of this neighborhood. They built their homes in the American styles but modified with Russian customs. A custom more prevalent in South Salt Creek was the use of a side door on the houses as the main point of entry.

Also of historical significance is one of the oldest Lutheran churches in the city, Friedens Evangelical Lutheran

Church, located on the corner of 6 and D Streets. The church was built by Jacob Rohrig in 1907 to serve a small congregation of Germans from Russia. The church had no architect, but instead was based on a photograph of a church that some of the members had attended in their village of Frank.

The neighborhood is also home to the museum of the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia, 631 D Street.

Today, the neighborhood features a widely diverse area of single family homes, light industrial development along the rail lines in the north section and multifamily dwellings scattered throughout the neighborhood.

The William Tyler House at 8th & D Streets is an impressive stone and brick example of the Richardsonian Romanesque style. It was built in 1890-91 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Cooper Park, founded in 1867, is Lincoln's oldest park. Other parks include Sawyer Snell, Schwartzkopf and Standing Bear Grounds.

Neighborhood skaters can enjoy Holiday Skate World and baseball players can run the bases at Sherman Field or Cooper Park. Soccer players can kick in comfort at Park Middle School or at the indoor soccer field at 606 Hill. Tennis enthusiasts can practice their serves at a tennis court at 606 Hill or in Cooper Park.

The South Salt Creek Community Organization is an active voice for neighborhood improvement. It sponsors an

annual cleanup day and picnic, a potluck dinner, an Easter egg hunt and a quarterly newsletter. The "Unlimited Potential Program" creates basketball teams of kids age 6-19. In exchange for basketball uniforms, etc., participants are expected to perform community service.

One recent neighborhood accomplishment was the installation of a Dorothy/Toto statue — complete with an engraved yellow brick road — in Cooper Park at 8th & E Streets. The neighborhood chose the characters of the Wizard of Oz because the story is an allegory for the populist movement led by the Linconite William Jennings Bryan in 1896. Mr. and Mrs. Bryan were major contributors to Cooper Park in 1900.

The statue is a four-foot bronze statue sculpted by artist Sondra Jonson from Cambridge, Nebraska. The neighborhood raised funds for the statue, dug the footings for the base and collected the bricks. Several neighborhoods contributed with yellow bricks for the yellow brick road.

Future projects in the neighborhood is a bench and historic marker to go with the Dorothy/Toto statue, and the construction of a bridge over the 3rd Street railroad tracks which will help meet the long-term goal of improving access through the neighborhood.

The threat of flooding in the neighborhood is still a concern. However, some neighbors have found out an environmental friendly solution to reduce storm water runoff (see related article below).

Turf Blocks, Rain Gardens Reduce Threat of Flooding

"There are some important things we can do to reduce the threat of flooding in our communities," said Steve Larrick, District #5 representative to the Lower Platte South Natural Resource District.

"Turf blocks, mono-slabs and other pervious driving surfaces help storm water percolate into the ground rather than running into storm sewer systems that can lead to flooding and erosion downstream," he added.

Larrick is concerned as the city of Lincoln grows, more and more farmlands are being replaced with impervious surfaces — rooftops, driveways, roads and parking lots. Our traditional storm water tributaries like Salt Creek and Antelope Creek can't handle the increasing storm water runoff. Neighborhoods like South Salt Creek and the North Bottoms have gone from being safely outside the 100-year flood plain to being in the 40-year flood plain.

Concern about potential flooding led Larrick and his wife, Janine Copple, to replace their 100-foot concrete driveway with a two-path drive. One path is patterned paving bricks. The other is concrete turf block that allows rain to percolate through and plants to grow. A 100-foot



Steve Larrick (right) and his wife, Janine Copple (left), point out their concrete turf block which is one half of their driveway.

strip of grass grows between the two lanes. "Paving bricks are better to walk or bike on," said Copple, "but turf blocks allow plants to grow through them. This helps retain more rain and reduces the amount of heat given off by a concrete driveway in the summer." One improvement they are considering is to plant buffalo grass or other more drought-resistant ground covers within the turf block system. In the summer, turf blocks tend to heat up and dry out grasses growing through them.

Another storm water

retention idea attracting interest across the country is the rain garden," said Larrick. Rain gardens are specially designed areas in yards that capture rain from rooftops and driveways. Rain gardens basically serve as mini-wetlands in yards. "When properly designed with a sandy base and aquatic plants, rain gardens can reduce the threat of downstream flooding and soil erosion," said Larrick. "Rain gardens are designed to allow water to percolate into the ground within a few days, since mosquitoes reach maturity after 10 days." (WF)

DIAGNOSIS

continued from page 1

kitchen pantry, the homeowner solved the mystery. His wife enjoyed arts and crafts, including doll-making. One of her projects included making beanbag-type dolls using sunflower seeds to stuff the bodies of the dolls. The dolls were stored in the bedroom in a cardboard box. This was the source for the moth infestation. The homeowner was able to solve the moth problem by removing the infestation source.

We have also identified animal droppings:

- In the summer, a homeowner noticed that animal droppings were appearing each morning in the same location of her covered patio. She was puzzled because she had never seen any animal, but the small, fibrous, slightly shiny droppings continued to show up. When she brought the droppings to the extension office, we told her to stop looking on the ground for the culprit, but to examine the ceiling for a roosting site. These were bat droppings.

- A pest control professional who serviced a supermarket was stumped by the appearance of large animal droppings in the store. After bringing these

droppings (in a plastic bag) to the Extension office for identification, the technician learned they were opossum droppings. This knowledge made it easier to lure the animal into a live trap and remove from the store. (BPO)



WAR

continued from page 7

most Muslim people are peace-loving and friendly.

Reassure children without ignoring the horrors of war. Talk about what you and others will do to keep the child safe. Talk about how far away the military actions probably will be. But do not ignore the terrible things that will happen in the war. Studies show children care about people in other countries in addition to those in their own country. Support their caring attitudes.

Teach children about what can be done instead of war. Talk about alternatives. Explain what governments and people can do to make war less likely.

For more information, visit lancaster.unl.edu.

Adapted from When War Is in the News, Purdue Extension. February 2003. (LB)

PLANTING A TREE

continued from page 2

Do not place mulch directly against the stem of the plant.

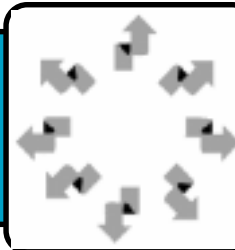
Proper mulching provides a well-groomed appearance and designates an area where grass or weeds are eliminated, which results in lower damage rates from mowers and weed trimmers. Mechanical damage is one of the leading causes of injury and death of landscape plants.

Desirable mulching materials include wood chips, wood shavings, bark, or equivalent materials. Organic mulch is preferred because it helps aerate the soil and replenish soil nutrients as it decomposes.

Fertilizer

Most soils contain sufficient levels of available nutrients to supply the requirements of newly planted landscape plants except where construction has either altered the soil or changed its composition. Fertilizer should not be applied during the first several growing seasons while the new roots are establishing themselves. After this period, determination of additional nutrient needs should be based upon the condition and vitality of the plants and analysis of soil samples. (MJF)

Miscellaneous



GET A★ "NU" LIFE

Youth won't want to miss Nebraska 4-H's **Get a "NU" Life** career exploration camps to be held this summer at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln! Participants will have opportunities to get to know faculty and youth from throughout the state, explore the UNL campus, check out a particular career field, have fun and much more!

CAMP	DATES	AGE
Biotechnology	June 4–6	10–12
Culinology™	June 16–20	9–12
Golf Course Management	June 16–20	9–12
Foreign Languages	June 18–20	7–10
Movie-Making	July 13–19	10–12
Music	June 15–21	9–12
Paper-Making	June 16–20	9–12
Textile Design	June 18–20	9–12
Theatre	July 13–19	9–12
Unicameral Youth	June 22–25	8–11

Final registration deadline is May 1. For more detailed camp descriptions, registration form or more information, visit online at <http://4h.unl.edu> or pick up a brochure at the extension office.

Grantsmanship Training Scheduled May 5–9

The Grantsmanship Training Program will again be offered to the Lincoln community May 5–9. The intensive, "hands-on" workshop covers all aspects of researching grants, writing proposals and negotiating with funding sources.

Designed for both novice and advanced grant seekers, the program participants are given follow-up services, including expert grant proposal reviews for a full year following training. To maximize personal attention, the group size for the workshop is limited.

Since 1997, UNL Cooperative Extension in Lancaster County has hosted the Grantsmanship Training Program.



Approximately 100 individuals representing various Lincoln and area agencies have participated to date.

For more information and to

register, as early as possible, contact The Grantsmanship Center directly at (800) 421-9512 or visit online at www.tgci.com. (GB)

Backyard Farmer — 50 Years and Still Growing Strong on Nebraska ETV

"Backyard Farmer," the nation's longest-running locally produced series, celebrates its 50-year anniversary this year. The popular Nebraska-based yard and garden advice series airs live on Nebraska ETV Thursdays at 7 p.m. The program is rebroadcast on NETV2 Fridays at 9 a.m. and 2 p.m..

A new addition to the series, "Backyard Farmer Extra," will debut this year on Saturdays at 8 a.m. on Nebraska ETV, repeating Sundays at 9:30 a.m. on NETV2. "Backyard Farmer Extra" will focus specifically on viewers' e-mailed questions.

"Backyard Farmer's" yard and garden experts answer questions about everything from trees to tomatoes and bugs to blossoms, guiding both rural and urban gardeners from seedtime



to harvest and winterizing.

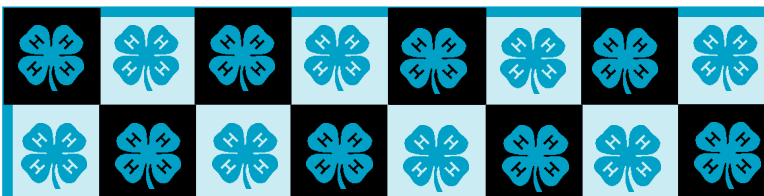
A panel of Nebraska-based lawn and garden experts, led by "Backyard Farmer" host John Fech, University of Nebraska (NU) Extension educator for horticulture in Douglas/Sarpy County, also focuses on a new theme each month. April will feature seed and bulb selection; early season garden preparation and landscape design; researching active ingredients in pesticides; identifying and controlling "Pine Wilt," a relatively new disease of pines; looking at mechanical spreaders; and

planting annuals in containers.

The program is video streamed on the "Backyard Farmer" Web site at byf.unl.edu — the same site viewers should visit to e-mail their lawn and garden questions. The Web site also features gardening tips and a searchable video database where viewers can search for topics discussed on archived "Backyard Farmer" programs.

This year, the "Backyard Farmer" season will be extended through the end of September, rather than ending in August.

"Backyard Farmer" and "Backyard Farmer Extra" are productions of University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension and the Nebraska ETV Network. The series is underwritten, in part, by Earl May Nursery and Garden Centers.



4-H Chess Tournament

Saturday, May 3

Lancaster Extension Education Center
444 Cherrycreek Road, Lincoln

8:30–9:30 a.m.	On-site registration*
9:00–9:30 a.m.	Check in
9:45 a.m.	Opening announcements
10:00 a.m.	1st round
11:30 a.m.	2nd round
12:30 p.m.	Lunch
1:30 p.m.	3rd round
3:00 p.m.	4th round
4:15 p.m.	Awards

*A \$1 late registration fee will be added on May 3

The Lancaster County Checkmates 4-H chess club invites all Nebraska 4-H'ers to a chess tournament! The Checkmates Tournament is also open to 4-H friends age 18 and under. It is nonrated, so no United States Chess Federation membership is required. This is a four-round, Swiss system chess tournament. Players who notate their games will be eligible for special drawings.

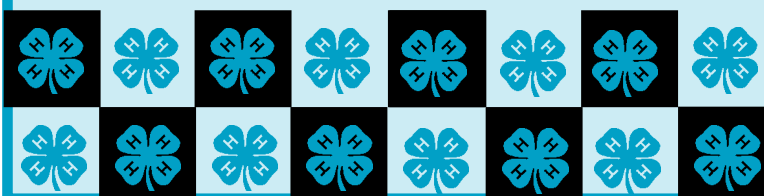
Note: Supervision of youth will not be provided.

Registration Information

Due to limited space, preregistration is encouraged. Preregistration deadline is April 25. Entry fees: 4-H members: \$2/Non-4-H members: \$3. Payment should be made at time of check in. On-site registration will depend upon availability of space. On-site entry fees for those not preregistered: 4-H members: \$3/Non-4-H members: \$4.

For more information, contact James Walla, Checkmates leader, at 476-2094 or e-mail jgwbohemia@yahoo.com.

Registration form and rules are available at the extension office or online lancaster.unl.edu/4-H.



The NEBLINE

Nebraska Cooperative Extension Newsletter
Lancaster County



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University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension in Lancaster County

Main Office

444 Cherrycreek Road, Suite A, Lincoln, NE, 68528-1507

Satellite Office

Lancaster Event Center

4100 N. 84th St. (84th & Havelock Ave.), Lincoln, NE 68529

Phone: 441-7180

Web site: lancaster.unl.edu

Fax: 441-7148 • TDD: 441-7180

NUFACTS Information Center: 441-7188

Composting Hotline: 441-7139

All programs and events listed in this newsletter will be held
(unless noted otherwise) at:

Lancaster Extension Education Center

444 Cherrycreek Rd. (event rooms posted), Lincoln
Lobby Phone: 441-7170

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University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension in Lancaster County
444 Cherrycreek Road, Suite A • Lincoln, Nebraska 68528-1507

Extension Calendar

All programs and events will be held at the Lancaster Extension Education Center unless otherwise noted.

APRIL

- 13 Dine Out for 4-H CWF, *Don & Millie's, 5200 S. 56th Street* 11 a.m.—4 p.m.
- 13 4-H Teen Council Meeting 3 p.m.
- 14 4-H Horse VIPS Committee Meeting, *Lancaster Event Center* 7 p.m.
- 15 4-H Leader Training 9:30 a.m. & 7 p.m.
- 15 Composting Workshop, *Belmont Recreation Center, 1234 Judson St.* 7–8 p.m.
- 17 Composting Workshop, *Calvert Recreation Center, 4500 Stockwell St.* 7–8 p.m.
- 22 Composting Workshop, *Easterday Recreation Center, 6130 Adams St.* 7–8 p.m.
- 24 Composting Workshop, *Irving Recreation Center, 2010 Van Dorn St.* 7–8 p.m.
- 26 Child Care Providers Conference 8 a.m.—4 p.m.

MAY

- 3 4-H Chess Tournament 8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m.
- 4 4-H Camp Open House, *Eastern Nebraska 4-H Center near Gretna* 1–4 p.m.
- 5–9 Grantsmanship Training Program
- 6 4-H Council Meeting 7 p.m.
- 9 Lancaster Extension Board Meeting 8 a.m.
- 11 Dine Out for 4-H CWF, *Don & Millie's, 5200 S. 56th Street* 11 a.m.—4 p.m.
- 12 4-H Horse VIPS Committee Meeting, *Lancaster Event Center* 7 p.m.
- 15 4-H Rabbit VIPS Committee Meeting, *Lancaster Event Center* 7 p.m.
- 16 Deadline for 4-H District/State Horse Show Entries — I.D.'s & Level Tests
- 16 Household Hazardous Waste Collection, *Hickman, 2nd & Main St.* 3–6 p.m.
- 17 Household Hazardous Waste Collection, *Pfizer Inc, 601 W. Cornhusker Hwy* 9 a.m. —3 p.m.
- 17 Composting Demonstration, *City Yard Waste Composting Demonstration Site, 50th & Colby* 8:30 a.m.
- 20 4-H Leader Training 9:30 a.m. & 7 p.m.
- 22 Everything Homeowners Need to Know about Termites & Termite Control . 6:30–9:30 p.m.
- 24 Walk for Birds, *Pioneers Park Nature Center* 8 a.m.

ewf Teaches Fifth Graders About Land, Water, Air and Living Resources

Nearly 3,000 Lancaster County fifth graders from 47 schools attended the ninth annual **earth wellness festival** on March 21 at Southeast Community College, Lincoln. Students discovered and explored the relationships and interdependency of land, water, air and living resources through hands-on activities. Classrooms attending the festival received pre-festival learning kits in October. New this year were several classroom sessions.

Hundreds of volunteers, area educators, environmentalists, government representatives, as well as donations from local businesses, make this educational experience possible. The **earth wellness festival** steering committee is comprised of ten local educational resource agencies, including University of Cooperative Extension in Lancaster County.



In "Whale of a Tale," students discovered first hand the insulating effects of whale blubber by covering one hand in lard to simulate whale blubber and then dipping both hands in cold water.



Students got a close look at various animals that can help break down decaying material in "Decomposers!"



Estella Wolfe from the Folsom Children's Zoo brought in live animals for the students to see and feel in "Furs, Feathers and Scales!"



In "Trees to the Rescue!" staff from the USDA National Agroforestry Center demonstrated the benefits of windbreaks, including their effect on soil temperature.



In 4-H Fiber Fun, students turned pulp from used office paper into a new piece of paper they took home.



Students tried to separate oil from water in "Making Drinking Water," a new session by Olsson Associates.