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Harvesting Everlasting Flowers for Drying

Everlasting flowers are flowers that retain their color and form when dried. Many everlasting flowers are composed of colorful, papery petals called bracts, that are stiff and dry while still attached to the living plant.

Drying or preserving these flowers is a popular gardening activity. Dried materials are long lasting and can bring warmth and color to the home during the cold, gray winter months. The most important thing to know about everlasting flowers is when to harvest the flowers so they best retain their color and form. Picking them too early or too late causes them to become misshapen or darken as they dry. Each type has its own best time for picking which a gardener learns through experience.

The simplest way to preserve flowers is air drying. Gather these drying materials throughout the growing season when they are ready. The best time of day to cut is midmorning, after the dew has dried but well before any flowers wilt. Dampness can lead to mold and slows drying.

Take as much stem as possible, because you'll need long stems for bunching and for height in the arrangements. Once harvested, strip the foliage from the stems. Tie the stems into small bunches with rubber bands. Hang the loose bunches upside down in a warm, dry, well-ventilated place, such as a spare bedroom or large closet. Use a dehumidifier along with a low-speed fan to circulate air. The quicker the drying process, the better. (Harvested flowers are usually hung upside down to dry so that the stems dry straight.)

Dry the plant material until it is thoroughly dry, usually 2 to 3 weeks. When dried, the stems should snap. Dissect one or two flowers, and make sure they are thoroughly dry inside.

Collecting flowers at the proper growing stage is vital to insure high quality plant material. The proper times to harvest specific flowers are listed below.

Annuals

Cockscomb (*Celosia species*) - Both plumed and crested types can be dried. Harvest plumed celosia when the blooms are bright and nearly fully opened. Harvest crested celosia when the seeds begin to form just below the comb.

Strawflower (*Helichrysum bracteatum*) - Harvest only the flower, with little or no stem attached. Pick when only a row



Strawflower

or two of outside bracts are opened and before the center opens. Insert a #22 gauge wire up the bottom of the flower (where the stem was) and store wired flowers upright in styrofoam.



Statice

Statice (*Limonium sinuatum*) - Annual statice is the most used of all everlastings. Pick as buds begin to open because they open further while drying. Tie stems together and hang upside down.

Love-in-a-mist (*Nigella damascena*) - Harvest pods when mature. Air-dry in bunches upside down in a dry place. (Flowers are difficult to dry.)

Meadow Sage (*Salvia species*) - Pick the spikes when the florets are fully open and the calyx is bright blue. Tie stems



Love-in-a-mist

together and hang upside down to dry.

Star Flower (*Scabiosa stellata*) - The flower heads should be harvested when the last few lavender-pink flowers have fallen off, revealing the gray-green, cup-like calyxes.

Globe Amaranth (*Gomphrena globosa*) - Cut the stems when the flower heads are in the peak of color. Tie the stems together and hang upside down to dry.



Globe Amaranth

Immortelle (*Xeranthemum annuum*) - The blossoms and buds dry in the stage in which they are picked. Pick just as flowers are fully open. Tie stems together and hang upside down.

Perennials

Yarrow (*Achillea species*) - Cut the stems as soon as every umbel on the head is fully developed and firm to the touch. Dry upright or upside down.



Common Immortelle



Yarrow

Wormwood (*Artemisia species*) - Typically the taller species are best for drying. It is used as a filler in bouquets or as

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Wormwood

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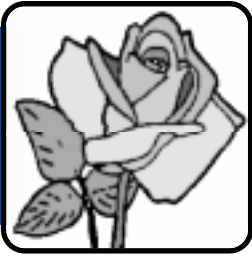


Community Focus
—page 10

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

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Horticulture

Scorch—curse of plants on the plains

Scorch is nothing new. It is reported each year on plants like maples, birch and mountain ash. Conditions that lead to moisture stress such as high temperatures on a windy day, low soil moisture and shade tolerant or understory plants exposed to full sun result in leaf tissue dieback. Symptoms first appear on the leaf edges and work their way inward.

Scorch also occurs in shrubs such as currants, gooseberries and azaleas. When these plants are exposed to direct sun or sun reflected off a building, scorch occurs.

Locate these plants where they receive mid-day shade. Also, select or modify sites so that plants are protected from wind and the soils have high organic matter. During the summer, mulch will keep the soil cooler and reduce water loss. (DJ)

Watering tips

We're deep in summer now, and whatever the weather has been up to now, the worst is likely yet to come for lawn grasses. Hot, dry weather calls for careful watering of lawns. How much they need depends on rainfall, of course, but also on the soil under your lawn.

Your lawn grass will use about a half-inch of water per day from the upper 12 inches of soil in your yard. In general, coarse and sandy soils may not hold much more than 1/2 to 1-1/2 inches of water in that upper foot. Heavy soils may hold up to 3 inches.

Translated to water needs, means lawns on sandy soil may need to be watered every other day during hot, dry weather. Lawns on heavy soils, however, may need watering only once a week.

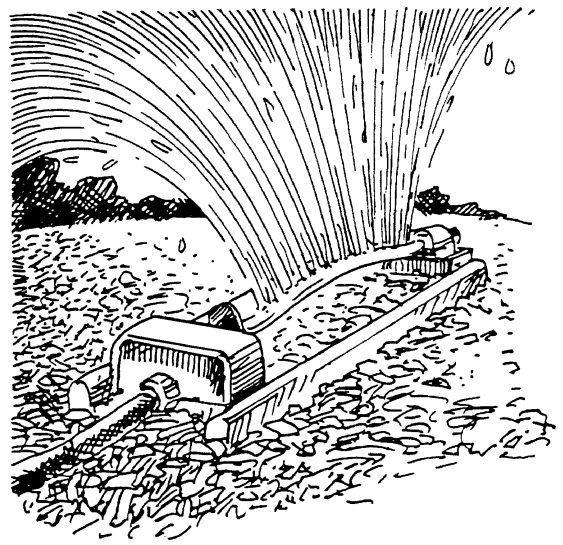
Watering should supply sufficient moisture to wet the soil to a depth of 6 to 8 inches to encourage normal root development. Light sprinkling—even if it's done more often—means most of the water is lost to

evaporation and little moisture gets down to the grass roots. As a result, the roots don't grow as deep nor develop as well and leaves the grass even more subject to drought stress.

It is difficult to get water to soak in to the 8-inch depth in one application on heavy soil. Water until runoff occurs, then switch to another area until water is soaked in; go back and water again until runoff.

Keep up the procedure until the required amount is put on, then back off until you observe the beginning of visual drought symptoms in the grass: gray-green color or foot-printing. Then repeat the cycle.

Use straight-sided cans to determine how much water is being applied in terms of the number of inches per hour.



Avoid watering in the late evening because of increasing the possibility of disease problems. The best time is in the morning (3 a.m. for automatic lawn sprinklers) until noon. Advantages are less demanding on the water system, reduction of disease probability, less evaporation and less wind, promoting more uniform coverage. (DJ)

New grass faces the big test

If any of the lawn grass around your home is new this year, keep a close eye on it through this summer. It may need special care.

Newly planted cool-season grasses will not have the hardiness of mature grass that has weathered a couple of growing seasons—that's why it calls for special attention.

Don't allow it to wilt excessively before watering. And when a choice has to be made in watering, favor the new grass over any established sod. Shallow, frequent watering is not good; give it a good soaking when you do water.

Mowing practices also are important to new grass. Mow frequently to prevent shock and sunscald caused by cutting off too much grass at one time. And keep the mower blade sharp to avoid bruising and tearing grass blades.

A further favor to the new grass is protecting it from heavy use this first year. Recreational activities and wear by fenced animals are especially hard on it.

Figure the new grass is facing its most severe test right now. New grasses often thin out or are invaded by weeds, or they may be lost completely because of summer heat stress. Good management is critical at this time. (DJ)

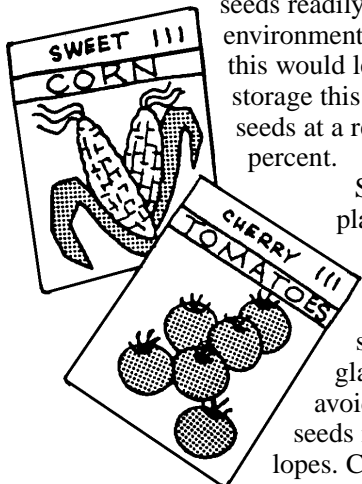
Storing extra seeds

Seeds can survive several years when given the proper environment. Although optimum storage life varies among species, most seeds will survive at least two years, with some lasting for centuries. Whether they are leftovers from the seed you purchased, or seeds you have gathered from your own plants, with a little care and thought, it is a simple task to save seeds for use in next year's garden. Unused seeds that keep for at least five years are broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, cucumber, kohlrabi, lettuce, pumpkin, radish and squash.

The most important storage factor is low moisture content. Most seeds readily absorb water if stored in a damp environment. In a proper planting environment, this would lead to germination and growth. In storage this leads to molding and rot. Store seeds at a relative humidity of less than 65 percent.

Seed life can be further extended by placing seeds in a sealed container.

This reduces the oxygen content and creates a controlled atmosphere. The best containers for seed storage are zip lock plastic bags or glass jars with tight-fitting lids. To avoid identification problems, leave seeds in their original packets or envelopes. Containers may be kept in a refrigerator or in any cool, dark, dry place. (MJM)



August/September Garden Calendar

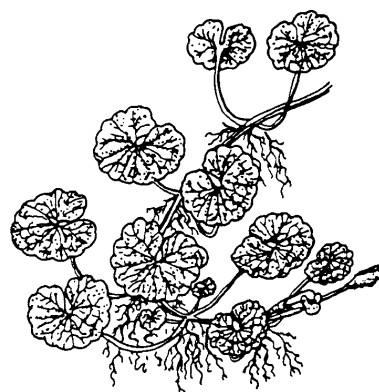
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Apply grub control
2	3 Keep garden watered	4	5	6 Pull weeds	7	8
9	10	11 Cut herbs to dry	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20 Stop fertilizing roses	21	22
23	24 Control yellow nutsedge	25	26 Overseed tall fescue	27 Divide peonies	28	29
30	31	1	2 Evaluate garden plants	3 Update garden journal	4	5
6	7	8	9 Power rake or aerify bluegrass	10	11 Overseed bluegrass	12 Festival of Color - Mead
13	14 Control perennial broadleaf weeds	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22 Divide lilly-of-the-valley	23 Save annual flower seeds, like marigolds	24	25 Check outdoor houseplants for insects	26
27	28 Bring outdoor houseplants inside before frost	29	30 Dig tender bulbs, tubers and corms before frost			

Many of us need reminders. That is the purpose of this calendar. Check the calendar each month and follow the recommendations if they are necessary in your landscape situation. (MJM)

Control of ground ivy in the lawn

A common weed found in many lawns is ground ivy. Ground ivy is a low growing, creeping perennial. It spreads by seed and by the stems which root at the nodes. The leaves of ground ivy are round or kidney shaped with scalloped margins. The stems are four sided. Flowers are small, bluish purple and funnel shaped. Ground ivy thrives in damp, shady areas, but also grows well in sunny locations. A member of the mint family, ground ivy is also known as Creeping Charlie.

Control of ground ivy in lawns is difficult. The control strategy depends upon the degree of infestation. Turfgrass areas that have become completely overrun with ground ivy



may need a major renovation. The small amount of grass is simply not worth saving. The ground ivy needs to be destroyed and the areas seeded in late summer. Glyphosate (Roundup, Kleenup) is a non-selective herbicide that can be used as a

spot treatment to control ground ivy. Non-selective herbicides kill nearly all plant material that they come in contact with. Efforts to eliminate ground ivy should begin in early August. This allows adequate time to kill the ground ivy and prepare the area for seeding in late August or September. Apply glyphosate to the ground ivy infested areas, wait 10 to 14 days and then treat the areas a second time if the ground ivy has not been completely killed. Once the ground ivy is effectively controlled, the areas can be seeded.

Turfgrass areas that contain some ground ivy, but are mainly grass, can be treated with selective herbicides. These

Audubon purchases 610-acre O'Brien Ranch

Audubon Nebraska Headquarters and Education Center to be located south of Denton

On June 24, Audubon Nebraska announced the purchase of the 610 acre O'Brien Ranch, 15 miles southwest of Lincoln, which will be known as the Audubon Spring Creek Prairie. The society has stepped in to protect the unique parcel, which includes one of the largest remnants of tallgrass prairie in the state and distinct ruts created by wagon traffic on the Oregon Trail. The site will be the headquarters of Audubon Nebraska and a state-of-the-art education center for the public.

Located just south of Denton, the Audubon Spring Creek Prairie includes some of the tallest hills in Lancaster County, making it a place of great scenic beauty, as well as, diverse habitat. In addition to hundreds of acres of rare tallgrass prairie, the site also includes wetlands, springs, ponds, creeks and woods, which provide homes for Nebraska's native wildlife and North America's migratory birds.

The land has important historical significance as well, since wagon ruts from the Nebraska City/Fort Kearney cut off to the Oregon Trail are still clearly visible. According to David Murphy, a senior re-



searcher with the Nebraska State Historical Society, "Ruts of this extent are extremely rare in Southeast Nebraska due to extensive agricultural development. The Spring Creek ruts are the finest found along this route to date." The Historical Society will be a partner in developing historical interpretation on the site.

Native American artifacts have also been found on the property, and for the past century, ranching has been an integral part of the site's history. "All of these factors contribute to a unique opportunity to connect our natural heritage to our historical heritage," said Dave Sands, Executive Director of Audubon Nebraska. "Kathie

O'Brien and her family were stewards of this land for nearly 100 years. She made it possible for Audubon to step in and protect it for future generations to enjoy."

Audubon Nebraska is a state office of the National Audubon Society. The mission of the National Audubon Society is to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds and other wildlife for the benefit of humanity and earth's biological diversity. There are 3,500 members and six chapters in Nebraska. To learn more about the Spring Creek Prairie and how you can take a role in the conservation of Nebraska's natural resources, call (402) 475-1177. (SE)

Dealing with unwanted guests

Have a lost bat flying around your living quarters? Bats that fly into human living quarters are usually lost youngsters whose primary goal is a safe escape. They often will leave on their own if a window or door to the outside is opened while others are closed. Bats are not aggressive, even if chased, but may bite, if grabbed. As with any wild animal, bats should not be handled with bare hands. An exit can be hastened by catching the bat in flight with a hand net (swung from behind), or when the bat lands, covering it with a coffee can and slipping a piece of cardboard over the opening, and then releasing it outside.

Excluding an entire colony from your house

Bats can be excluded from living quarters by covering chimneys and vents with half-

inch hardware cloth screens, by installing draft guards beneath doors, and by sealing any other possible access routes, especially around screen doors, windows and plumbing. Bats potentially can enter holes as small as 3/4" in diameter or 3/8" by 7/8". They do not chew insulation or otherwise make new holes. Their entries can be plugged with silicone caulking, steel wool or temporarily, even with tape.

If a large bat colony must be evicted from a wall or attic, careful observations should be made at dusk to find entry holes (also sometimes recognizable by stains around used holes or crevices or by droppings beneath). The bats must emerge each summer evening to feed. Once roost entrances have been located, the bats can be excluded, though this should not be

attempted when flightless young may be present (usually June or July). Starved young could create a serious odor problem, not to mention needless cruelty. Most bat species leave in winter, permitting exclusion in their absence. When this is not the case, or when one does not wish to wait for winter, there is a relatively simple exclusion technique using polypropylene bird netting. This inexpensive netting often is used to protect fruit trees from birds and can be obtained in quantity to cover areas of nearly any size. It can be hung during daylight hours above areas where bats emerge, using duct tape or staples. A strip of netting at least two feet wide, hung one to four inches in front of bat exit holes, and extending at least two feet below the lowest exit point (see

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How animals stay cool when it's hot!

Just like people, most animals have a comfortable range of temperatures that they prefer to live in. When temperatures are hot, they find ways to stay cool that are similar to many ways we stay cool. Here are just a few:

- Honeybees: When it's hot, worker bees bring water into the hive and cool it by fanning their wings to evaporate the water droplets. This evaporative

cooling keeps the hive at a comfortable temperature.

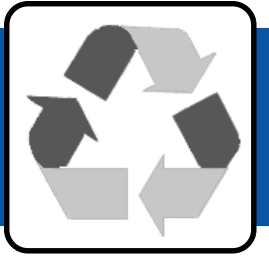
- Tree squirrels: When it is hot, squirrels sit in the shade of their tail. If you observe them closely, you will notice that squirrels aren't very active during the middle of the day.

- Snakes: During the heat of the day, many snakes (and other animals) stay in underground burrows where it is cool. They

are more active during the evening, nighttime or early morning when temperatures are cooler.

- Amphibians like frogs and salamanders burrow into the coolest, wettest mud and aestivate. Aestivation is a dormant condition similar to hibernation, only in the summertime. Snails also become dormant in the summer. (BPO)

Environmental Focus



Household hazardous waste collection

September 12 • 9 a.m to 3 p.m
Pfizer Animal Health, 601 West Cornhusker Highway

Bring household products containing mercury (thermometers), solvents (paints and varnishes), pesticides (weed killers and insecticides) and PCBs (ballasts from fluorescent fixtures). Leave products in their original containers and keep labels intact. For more specific information, contact the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department at 441-8040. (BPO)

Don't get stung!

Late summer is the season for maximum bee and wasp activity. Yellow jackets, hornets and paper wasps are sensitive to vibrations and can be highly defensive of their nests. People may inadvertently threaten a bee or wasp nest and be attacked. Wasp nests, made of paper, can be located underground in old rodent burrows or above ground hanging from trees or in protected areas. These nests should be avoided. In areas where people frequent, control of wasp nests may be needed.

Social bees, such as honey bees and bumble bees, can be defensive when their nest is threatened, but will not normally attack during normal foraging activities.

During outdoor activities, you may inadvertently threaten a bee or wasp nest. Being aware of flying insects, avoiding nests and remaining calm are your best strategies. To help avoid being stung, the following suggestions may be useful:

- When hiking, wear boots or proper footwear.
- Avoid wearing perfumes, aftershave, suntan lotion or other fragrances. Many bees are attracted to fragrances.
- Wear dull tan or white clothing which is not baggy.
- Standard repellants are not effective against stinging insects.
- When picnicking, keep all food covered except during mealtime. Pay special attention to open soft drink containers and glasses to be sure there are no insects on or in the vessel before you take a drink.
- Do not eat or rest near trash bins. In the late summer, food debris, especially sweet liquids are attractive to these insects.
- If an insect lands on you or your food, do not become alarmed. It is only investigating or foraging. Blow or gently brush the insect away. Swatting or hitting the insect will serve to make it defensive and more likely to sting.
- Scout out the area for nests before you choose that "perfect" spot to picnic or rest.

For information on controlling bees and wasp nests, refer to "Stinging Wasps and Bees", NebGuide 891, available at the Lancaster County Extension Office, 441-7180. (BPO)

Allergic to bee stings?

Bees and wasps are most active in late summer when their colonies have grown to maximum size and members are busily supplying their colony with food before cold temperatures arrive. We encounter these insects regularly—especially if we spend time outdoors.

Nobody likes to be stung by an insect, but less than 5% of the population is truly allergic to a bee sting. Unfortunately, about 90% of us experience some reaction to a bee sting. A person's reaction to stings can be classified into five groups.

- No Reaction. About 10% are immune to stings from birth and do not react to stings; more than 70% of us can develop immunity by repeated stings.
- Mild Reaction. There is pain for a few minutes at the sting site and swelling which subsides in a few hours, followed by itching and heat.
- Local Reaction. There may be an unusual amount of swelling around the sting which may persist for several days.
- Toxic Reaction. This occurs with multiple stings and reactions may include headache, fever, fatigue, diarrhea, vomiting, unconsciousness and convulsions.
- Generalized Allergic Reaction. Allergic reaction occurs to parts of the body other than where the person was stung. Reactions may range from slight to serious shock and may include wheez-

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Farm Views

Prescribed burning of CRP

A workshop on Prescribed Burning of Grasslands will be held at the Lancaster Extension Education Center on Wednesday, August 19, 1 to 4 p.m. Participants will be instructed on how to conduct a safe burn of their CRP acres. Representatives of the Lancaster County NRCS and FSA offices will be present to answer questions relating to the procedures and rules for converting to the new Conservation Reserve Program. A demonstration burn of a CRP brome grass field will be held the following morning, conditions permitting. There is no registration fee, but we request you call 441-7180 to register for workshop.

Some landowners and tenants who have CRP acres reentered into the program have found themselves facing a fairly complicated task. A lot of the CRP acres from the original program were seeded with bromegrass, orchard and/or other cool season grasses. However many participants have found it necessary to destroy the cool season grass and reseed to native grasses or some other option as specified by the new Conservation Reserve Program. Even though they have 12 months (24 months with NRCS approval) to get the new seeding established, a realistic conversion plan must be started now in order to meet the deadline. This must be in your conservation plan filed with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

The first challenge in the reseeding process is to destroy the existing stand of grass. Roundup has been an effective herbicide in killing perennial cool season grasses and experience has shown that fall is the most effective time to make the treatment. The problem is, how to get the chemical to growing plants so that the Roundup can be fully absorbed by the leaves and trans-located to the root system. Generally the residual plant material from several years of growth makes it extremely difficult to get the chemical down onto the growing plant surfaces. One method of removing this residual would be to destroy it with a controlled burn. If the open burning index is in the safe category and weather conditions are favorable, burning would eliminate the residual and allow a rapid fall regrowth of the cool season grass. This grass can then be destroyed by a chemical treatment later in the fall and be ready for reseeding the following spring. (WS)

Toxic plants

Have you ever wondered whether some of the plants and weeds in your pasture might be poisonous to your animals? For instance, did you know that Cocklebur and Pigweed are on the list of extremely toxic plants, sharing that dubious honor with such well known poisonous plants as Castorbean and Hemlock? Or, did you know that ingestion of three pounds of freshly fallen or wilted leaves of Red Maple is said to be fatal to a full sized horse?

The Lancaster County Extension Web Pages have links to five different toxic plant databases in the U.S. and Canada containing information on poisonous plant species. As an example of the information that can be obtained, Purdue University's Indiana Plants Poisonous to Livestock and Pets, can be searched by: alphabetical plant listing, toxicity rating, animal species affected, botanical type, or picture index.

The user can select any plant in the list to obtain the following information: A color photograph of the weed, the toxicity rating of the weed, animals affected, dangerous parts of plant, class of signs (stomach irritation, diarrhea, abdominal pain, etc.), plant description, safety in prepared feeds and measures that can be taken to avoid poisoning.

The web address of the Lancaster County Extension page where this information can be accessed is: www.ianr.unl.edu/ianr/lanco/ag/crops/weeds.htm. (TD)

Fruit, vegetables and freedom to farm

The 1996 USDA Farm Bill, commonly referred to as the "Freedom to Farm" bill, led producers of farm commodities to believe planting limitations were removed across the board for those receiving USDA benefits. To a large extent, this is true, but exceptions to the rule do exist. Planting of fruits and vegetables (FAV), do fall into this exception. Specific rules were written into the bill placing limitations on planting FAV on contract acres. Contract acres can basically be defined as the number of cropland acres of a farm on which farm program payments are calculated. Not all cropland acres on a farm are necessarily contract acres, but situations do exist where a farm's total cropland is totally under contract acreage. The latter is of particular concern when FAV are planted, but producers must be aware of contract acreage on any farm anytime FAV are planted. Producers are not precluded from planting FAV on non-contract acreage, but regulations exist requiring all producers planting FAV to report the FAV acreage to the Farm Service Agency (FSA) in a timely fashion.

Two conditions exist that may allow planting of FAV on

contract acres. The most unrestricted condition occurs when the specific farm has an FAS history of FAV being planted on that farm. Under this condition, any acreage of FAV may be planted on contract acres, but with a resulting acre for acre reduction in program payments.

To prevent violations, simply visit or call the local Farm Service Agency administrating your farm program benefits....

The second condition allows for planting a specific FAV on contract acreage when the producer has a history of planting that specific FAV. Under this second condition, the producer may plant up to his/her producer acreage history of the specific FAV on contract acreage, again with an acre to acre reduction in program payments.

At this time, 189 fruits and vegetables are listed as crops that must be reported and to which restrictions apply on contract acres. This list is available at the local Farm Service Agency and the County Extension Office.

Planting violations occur the moment FAV are planted on contract acres without either a farm or producer history. Very expensive payment reductions are applied based on the value of the crop. These payment reductions apply to every producer listed on the specific farm and all other farms the producer(s) have an interest in. A second type of violation occurs when producers fail to report the acreage of FAV planted.

It is possible to avoid violations of the "Freedom to Farm" bill regarding fruit and vegetable plantings. To prevent violations, simply visit or call the local Farm Service Agency administrating your farm program benefits and review intended plantings and the number of contract and non-contract acreage. Remember also to report FAV plantings prior to the reporting deadline.

It is always the goal of the Farm Service Agency to avoid problems for producers and to encourage diversification of producers' crops and livestock enterprises. If there are any questions, please contact the Farm Service Agency, Lincoln USDA Service Center at 402-423-9683. (WS)

What is LB1209 and does it affect you?

Nebraska has had legislation in place for a number of years which authorizes the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality, under Title 130, to administer the state's livestock waste control regulations. The Livestock Waste Management Act (LB1209) passed by the 1998 legislative session and signed into law on April 15 by Governor Nelson affects various aspects of the way DEQ administers and enforces provisions of Title 130.

Under LB1209, "livestock operations" are defined. All operations meeting the criteria to be classed as a livestock operation (see definition below) must request an inspection by the DEQ. The purpose of the inspection is to determine the potential for livestock wastes from that operation to pollute surface water or groundwater. Those found to have potential to pollute water resources will be required to obtain a livestock waste control facility permit.

Many of the state's livestock feeding operations are already operating under a livestock waste control permit. This legislation clarifies which operations need a permit and sets deadlines and specifies fines for those found in violation. (Violation of any requirement of LB1209, including failure to request an inspection by January 1, 2000, is subject to a fine of up

to in some cases \$10,000 per day of violation.)

Who needs to request a DEQ inspection?

Under LB1209, any "livestock operation", regardless of size, needs to request an inspection from the DEQ to determine if a livestock waste facility is required. Forms to request an inspection can be obtained at the extension office or from DEQ.

What defines a "livestock operation" under LB1209?

A "livestock operation" is defined as the feeding or holding of beef cattle, dairy cattle, horses, swine, sheep, poultry and other livestock in buildings, lots, or pens which normally are not used for the growing of crops or vegetation. If you raise livestock, you need to answer the following two questions to determine whether you need to request an inspection. First, are the livestock located in buildings, lots, or pens? (Calving facilities are excluded). If the answer is "no", you don't need to request a DEQ inspection. If the answer is "yes" you need to answer the next question.

The second question is, "Is the land where the animals are roaming normally used for growing crops or vegetation (e.g. grass or annual crops)?" If the answer is "yes" (e.g. grazing cattle in corn stalks or cattle on pasture), then no inspection is needed. If the answer is "no"

you need an inspection. Cattle feedlots and swine operations likely will need inspections (unless you are growing "free range" swine on pasture or creep feeding calves on pasture).

What does it cost to have an inspection done?

If the request for an inspection is made before January 1, 1999 there is no fee for an inspection. After January 1, 1999, an inspection fee will be charged. The fee varies according to the size of the operation, \$50 for small operations and \$500 for large operations. Call the DEQ (402-471-2186) to ask about the fee schedule.

If the inspection determines that a waste control facility permit is required, what additional steps need to be taken?

A permit application must be sent to the DEQ, along with a permit fee which varies with the size of the operation. The permit process is too complex to cover completely in this article but a few major items include: NRDs will be given notice of each application filed with DEQ and will have 20 days to comment on any condition they believe relevant to DEQ's evaluation of the application. There are "bad actor" provisions which can be used to deny granting of a permit to individuals with poor records in complying with environmental regulations in Nebraska or other states. County government

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How often to pump your septic tank

Your septic tank must be cleaned or "pumped" periodically to remove the solids that accumulate in the tank. How often you need to clean your septic tank depends on its size and how careful you are about using it.

In new homes, clean it prior to occupation. Clean it again, within six to twelve months, to make sure it is functioning properly. Wastewater from painting, varnishing and other construction activities can reduce bacterial activity in new systems.

Once a system is operating properly, the tank should be cleaned every one to two years. It is best not to go more than three years between cleanings.

Proper cleaning removes the scum and sludge. Liquid contents are pumped back and forth from the truck to the tank until all solids are liquefied and removed. If floating scum is left in the tank, solids may enter the drainfield. Cleaning leaves a black film on the sides of the tank and a small amount of

liquid on the bottom. These contain bacteria which allow the tank to begin working again. There is no need to add a starter after cleaning.

The contractor should inspect the tank to make sure baffles are in place and functioning properly. Contractors cleaning the tank through four or six "inspection pipes" often do not remove all solids and may damage baffles. Insist that your contractor clean the tank through

the manhole. Most tanks have one or two manholes that are often buried below the ground surface. A little digging may be necessary to find them.

Remember, a few dollars spent every one or two years on proper cleaning can save you big dollars on repairs, which can run an unexpected \$2,000 to \$10,000.

Estimated septic tank pumping frequencies in years (for year-round occupancy).(DJ)

Tank size (gal)	Household size (number of people)				
	1	2	3	4	5
750	9	4	3	2	1
1000	12	6	4	3	2
1250	16	8	5	3	3
1500	19	9	6	4	3
1750	22	11	7	5	4

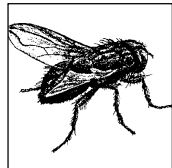
Note: More frequent pumping needed if garbage disposal is used.

Flies

Most species of flies have a general type of life cycle that includes: egg, larva, pupa and adult, with the latter being the animal parasitic stage. A few, such as bots, are specialized parasites, with the larva being the parasitic stage.

Stable and house flies are the most common insect pests of all livestock, including horses. Animal waste management is vital to any successful fly control program. Both species of flies lay their eggs and develop as larvae in decaying organic matter such as spilled hay or bedding straw mixed with urine and manure. Wet, decomposing organic matter creates ideal breeding conditions for both fly species.

on the front legs, and feeds on blood. The fly bites inflict pain to the animal which responds by foot stamping and tail switching in an effort to dislodge the fly.



House fly

House flies have a sponging type mouthpart and feed only on secretions of the animal around

the eyes, nostrils and anal openings. They are annoying to the animal even though they don't bite.

Control of the house and stable fly can be achieved by several methods, but the first step is to remove or reduce fly breeding areas. Bedding and manure should be removed at least weekly.

This waste material can be spread on fields or in pens, but must be spread thin enough to dry quickly. If it is stored for future spreading, it must be packed in steep-sloped piles that do not allow penetration of moisture, or covered with black plastic that creates enough heat to kill developing fly larvae.

Insecticides may be applied as residual or area sprays, or as animal treatments. The residual

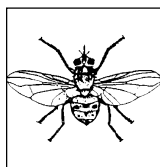
sprays are applied to fly resting areas.

Stable flies rest in shady areas such as fences, bunks, and the sides of buildings. House flies rest ("roost") at night inside of buildings on the ceiling, walls, or under eaves. Residual sprays should remain effective for seven to ten days if not washed off by rain or exposed to direct sunlight.

Caution

Use only insecticides that are USDA approved and EPA registered for use on horses. Wettable powder (WP) formulations are generally preferred over emulsifiable-concentrates (EC) because horses are sensitive to skin burns from solvent carriers in some EC formulations.

Always read and follow the label directions and observe treatment restrictions, such as minimum age of animal to be treated, or warnings concerning treatment of sick animals, or treatment in conjunction with other medications. Lists of approved insecticides for use on horses are provided in EC 1550, Nebraska Management Guide for Control of Arthropod Pests of Livestock and Horses. (DJ)



Stable fly

The house fly and stable fly are similar in size, appearance, and life cycle, except the house fly completes its life cycle in about

two weeks in the summer, as opposed to three weeks for the stable fly.

The stable fly has piercing, sucking mouthparts with which it penetrates the skin, primarily

Acreage Insights



Caring for animals when gone

Livestock are a very serious responsibility. They are dependent upon you for their care. When you are gone for any extended period of time they must still be cared for on a regular basis. Even in the age of automatic feeders and waterers your animals should be looked in on daily to insure that they are in good health. Feeders and waterers can break and daily proper nutrition is very important to the overall health of the animal. When you are away, you should get a reliable person that you can trust and who is familiar with the care of livestock to look in on your animals. This will not only ensure that your animals are getting the proper nutrition they require and are in good health, but it will also enable you to relax and not worry while you are gone.

You should also provide your "animal sitter" with the proper numbers (i.e. police, fire, local veterinarian) in case of an emergency along with a detailed description of what needs to be fed and other chores to be done, if necessary. It would be a good idea to give your sitter the number where you can be reached, if you need to be notified. Remember, that your animals are still dependent on you for food, shelter and health care even though you are away. Providing them with a reliable sitter will ensure they will be just as healthy when you return as when you left them. (DJ)

Field Day features high-value crops

If you own a small farm or acreage, or if you dream of owning one someday, then don't miss the third annual Specialty Crops Field Day. Featuring tours of nearby farms and acreages, this popular event will highlight the production and marketing of high-value specialty crops and livestock which can be successfully raised on a few acres, and even in your own backyard.

Scheduled for Saturday, August 15, this field day will begin at the Haymarket Farmer's Market at noon with a brief overview of the market. Maps and information will be available at the market manager's booth all morning. Come to the Farmer's Market early to shop and enjoy the music of the Plain Label String Band.

The tour group will meet at the Lancaster County Extension Office, 444 Cherrycreek Road, at 12:30 for lunch and a presentation on community gardening. A delicious array of locally-grown salads, fruit, sweet corn and home-baked bread will be served. Please bring your own sandwiches and drinks.

The Specialty Crops Field Day is co-sponsored by the Nebraska Sustainable Agriculture Society, the Haymarket Farmer's Market, Lancaster County Cooperative Extension, the UNL Center for Sustainable Agriculture Systems, the Organic Crop Improvement Association Nebraska Chapter #3 and County Edge. (DJ)

Buildings

Selecting a building that is right for your farm livestock should include meeting all your personal needs in addition to your livestock's needs. This should all be done at a minimal cost to the farm enterprise. Providing adequate housing for your animals, including proper ventilation and space, is essential and will ensure that they are getting the housing they need to remain healthy and productive.

There are several factors you must consider when choosing the building that is right for you. First, you must consider what you intend to use the building for, whether it be a farrowing barn or a stable to keep a few horses. The animal species will greatly affect the number of animals you can house in the facility. Each animal should have an adequate amount of resting space to make sure it is comfortable, an adequate amount of feed access, and free access to clean, fresh water. Ventilation and air quality are critical when planning livestock housing. Many facilities may require ventilation fans to move an adequate amount of air within the facility. It is very critical that you do not overlook the ventilation factor as animals residing in a poorly ventilated area will be at greater risk of sickness and disease.

Special architectural requirements for the building, such as wider doors to get large equipment through, should also be considered for your livestock building. Determine how you will clean livestock waste from the facility before it is built. Finally, when you are selecting a building, you must decide where you want to locate it and if you are planning any major farm site renovations in the next few years. This could make a big impact on any future projects you have planned. (DJ)



Festival of Color

On September 12, join many other acreage owners at the Festival of Color at the ARDC Horticulture area near Mead, NE. This has been a popular educational festival for home gardeners for several years. Emphasis this year is on water conservation and quality through lawn and garden practices. Educational talks, demonstrations plus commercial exhibitors will highlight the '98 festival. (DJ)



Focus on Food



Alice Henneman, RD, LMNT, Extension Educator

Q: I've heard there's a quick way to remove the skin from tomatoes with hot water. Can you tell me more?

A: Wash tomatoes. Dip in boiling water for 30 to 60 seconds or until skins split. Then dip in cold water, slip off skins.

Q: What is the correct way to "blanch" a vegetable before freezing it?

A: Blanching is a must for almost all vegetables to be frozen. Blanching slows or stops enzyme action which can cause loss of flavor, color and texture. Use at least one gallon of boiling water for each pound of prepared vegetables. Put the vegetables in a wire basket and lower into the boiling water. Put a lid on the kettle and start counting the time immediately. Keep the heat high for the time specified for the vegetable you are freezing. The length of time will vary according to the thickness of the stem or piece.

After the vegetables are blanched, cool them quickly and thoroughly to stop the cooking. Plunge them immediately into a large quantity of cold water. Change water frequently; use cold running water or iced water. Cool the vegetables about the same amount of time used to blanch them. When the vegetables are cool, remove them from water and drain. For a chart of blanching times for a variety of vegetables, call and ask for in-house fact sheet #108-94. (AH)

Handwashing program for youth & adults

Have fun using "glo-germ" to teach handwashing as part of the "Clean Hands Campaign!" Call Extension Educator Alice Henneman (441-7180) for more information. (AH)

Offer a food safety program for your group

Teach basic home food safety by playing the award-winning "Don't Get Bugged by a Foodborne Illness" bingo-type game with your group. Call Extension Educator Alice Henneman (441-7180) for information and to schedule a program. (AH)



Alice Henneman, RD, LMNT, Extension Educator

Now that you've read our main article on handling fruits and vegetables safely, here is a pasta salad recipe to enjoy on a hot summer day. Complete with veggies, use this as the main dish for your meal! This recipe is from the Nebraska 4-H "Sharing Our Best" cookbook. If you're interested in ordering this cookbook, call the extension office (441-7180) or ask to see a copy the next time you're at our office.

Pasta Chicken Salad (makes 4 servings)

- 8 ounces medium shell pasta
- 1 (6-ounce) can white chunk chicken, drained
- 2 cups fresh bite-size broccoli florets
- 1 medium red bell pepper, chopped
- 1/2 cup chopped celery
- 2 tablespoons chopped green onions
- 2 teaspoons prepared mustard
- 1/2 teaspoon dried dillweed
- 1 (8-ounce) bottle Italian salad dressing

Prepare the pasta using package directions; drain. Combine the chicken, broccoli, red pepper, celery, green onions and cooled pasta in a bowl; mix gently. Stir in the mustard, dillweed and Italian dressing; toss to coat. Cover and chill, in the refrigerator. Stir just before serving. May double the recipe. (AH)

Fresh, fabulous and safe—fruits and vegetables!

Alice Henneman
Extension Educator

Red, yellow, green, white, purple, orange . . . select from nature's palette of fruits and vegetables to add color and nutrition to daily meals.

The supply of fruits and veggies is especially bountiful during the summer. Gardens, grocery stores and farmers' markets abound with fresh produce.

Recently, fresh fruits and vegetables have been linked with various incidents of food-borne illness. Though these problems are not common, it's important that we, as consumers, handle fresh produce safely.

Following are some general handling tips for fruits and vegetables, including food safety recommendations from the Produce Marketing Association (PMA), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Food & Drug Administration (FDA).

For further information and updates on safe handling of fruits and vegetables, check the Fight BAC! Web site <fightbac.org/>.

Here are some general tips on everything from purchasing fruits and vegetables through serving and handling them safely.

Purchasing

- Purchase fruits and vegetables that look and smell fresh.

- The Produce Marketing Association recommends you buy only the amount you'll use in a few days for most fruits and vegetables, rather than "stocking-up." With the exception of some items such as apples, citrus fruits and potatoes, most other items don't store well for long period of time.

- Handle produce gently to avoid bruising.

Storing

- Put produce away promptly. Most WHOLE produce keeps best in perforated plastic bags in your refrigerator's crisper drawer where the humidity is highest. Make sure your refrigerator is clean and cold (40 degrees F or lower).

- Potatoes and tomatoes are two common exceptions to vegetables that should be refrigerated. Tomatoes taste best if they're stored at room temperature and potatoes are tastiest if kept in a cool, dry, dark place.

- Certain fruits may be ripened further at room temperature before refrigeration. These include: apricots, bananas,



cantaloupe, kiwi, nectarines, peaches, pears and plums. (Note: While refrigeration turns the skin on a banana black, the flesh will maintain good color and quality for at least a few more days.)

- Follow label instructions on fresh produce, such as refrigeration and "use by"

continued on page 11

Potato pointers

Potatoes are the fourth most important food crop in the world. There are 5000 varieties and are the most popular vegetable in the United States. The average American eats about 130 pounds of potatoes each year.

Potatoes are a nutritious vegetable, especially when eaten with the peel. They are loaded with more potassium than a large banana and have more vitamin C than a tomato. They contain more thiamin, riboflavin, niacin and iron than spinach. If you are looking for fiber in your diet, again, the potato is a winner. It has more fiber than a slice of 100% whole wheat bread.

(Reference: *Bowes and Church's Food Values of Portions Commonly Used, 17th edition.*)

Potatoes have different textures because of the amount of starch and water they contain. Those with less starch and more water (Round Reds) keep their

shape during cooking and are good for boiling or roasting. Potatoes with more starch and less water (Russets) loosen up during cooking which make them great for baking.

New potatoes are prematurely harvested and recently picked. They have a high water and sugar content and have a very thin skin. They have a waxy texture because they have not been given enough time to convert sugar to starch. This makes them good for boiling and using in salads.

Choose potatoes that are firm and have not sprouted. They should be stored in a dark, dry and cool (45-50 degrees) place. Do not store potatoes in the refrigerator because their starch turns to sugar and produces an undesirable taste. Do not store potatoes with onions. Onions produce a natural gas that causes potatoes to decay.

Nutrition Education Program

Mary Abbott
Extension Assistant

Keep potatoes in containers that allow good air circulation. Perforated plastic, brown paper or burlap bags are good examples.

Potatoes are very economical. Try adding them to pizza, soups and stews. Add onion, garlic or herbs when boiling potatoes. Mix potatoes with other vegetables like green beans or asparagus. Include potatoes for a healthy diet. (MA)

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- 306 Making Jam and Jelly from Frozen Fruit
- 307 Remedies for Jam and Jelly that Doesn't Set
- 310 Making Freezer Jam

and many more...

Nutrition and Food Safety Web Site

Visit our internet web site at: <http://ianrwww.unl.edu/ianr/lanco/family/safety.htm>

FREE monthly FoodTalk e-mail newsletter

To be added to the mailing list, e-mail Alice Henneman at cnty5028@unlvm.unl.edu

Diabetes Study Course

Call Alice Henneman (441-7180) for more information.

Jean's Journal

Jean Wheelock
FCE Council Chair



Golly where does the time go? Already the end of July and so many projects still to complete.

A wonderful evening was enjoyed for those who attended our Sizzling Summer Sampler. The food was delicious catered, by Carlene Sullivan and many, many thanks to our presenters. Sharon Davis gave us some wonderful baking tips. When baking cookies, for example, pay attention to the margarine. If it says spread or is in a tub, it won't work. A good combination would be half shortening, half butter for the amount called for in the cookie recipe. Butter is

80% fat, shortening 100%, margarine 70% and lite margarine or spread is around 53%.

Another helpful hint: You can use one package or 2-1/2 teaspoons of yeast to 6 to 8 cups of flour in a bread recipe and the results are still good.

The trip down memory lane with Alice Doane's teapots and cups was very interesting. She has traveled to many places in our world and has quite a beautiful collection. I'm a fancier of cups and saucers and she had many pretty ones.

Cindy Boss presented a very good program on preserving family photos and the many interesting ways to include facts and/or highlights of the particular event. Plus, all the items one can purchase to really have a fun

and memorable family picture album. I was enthused and hope I can finish my albums one day soon. Having had one wedding and I'm off for the other daughter's wedding, there will be lots more memories to add.

Congratulations to our creative writing winners from Waverly schools, Justin Davison and Amber Haas. Thanks, you did a great job.

Congratulations to our scholarship winners Corrine Jarecke and Yolanda Castellenos. Good luck to both of you in your careers.

County fair time is over. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped with Health Awareness Day sponsored by the FCE Clubs.

Family Living



by Lorene Bartos, Extension Educator

A fabric is colorfast if its dye does not run or bleed. To test for the colorfastness of a garment, apply a small amount of liquid laundry detergent or a mixture of powder laundry detergent and water on an inconspicuous area. If the color runs, the garment is not colorfast and you should wash it separately. (LB)

FCE News

September FCE Council meeting

The September council meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 28, 7 p.m. Rollie Schneider will present the program "History of Medical Emergency Services & Communications, 1960-1985". The business meeting will follow the program. (LB)

FCE leader training

The FCE leader training lesson, "Holistic Wellness" is scheduled for Tuesday, September 22, 1 or 7 p.m. and will be presented by Lorene Bartos, extension educator. We will address areas of wellness—physical, emotional, social, intellectual and spiritual. Participants will gain insight into their own wellness and knowledge for obtaining more "balance" in their lives.

Anyone interested may attend. Non-FCE members should call 441-7180, so packets can be prepared. (LB)

FCE reorganizational packets

Family and Community Education (FCE) Club reorganizational packets will be ready for club presidents to pick up about August 17 at the extension office. It will include the dues information for club treasurers. Information in the packet has October due dates. It is time to look forward and plan an exciting and educational year for FCE. If you have questions, call Lorene or Pam at 441-7180. (LB)

Make It Yourself with Wool Contest

Entries for the Make It Yourself with Wool Competition are due October 3. The district contest for Lancaster County participants will be held at Nebraska City, Calvary Community Church on October 17. Call the extension office for a registration form. (LB)

Character Counts! on the move

Sharing M & M's, making flags, taking trust walks and playacting respect are just a few of the things young people in Lancaster County have been doing this summer. Youth in Firth, Hickman, Denton, and Bennet have learned what the "Six Pillars" are and know the do's and don'ts associated with them. They've listened to community citizens tell about the importance of character in the jobs they do and they've shared materials with parents after the camps.

Teens have been spotted at Lincoln Parks and Recreation sites making character mobiles and teaching about responsibility and fairness to younger kids. They have made visits to work sites to shadow workers, observe traits of character exemplified in the workplace and volunteered.

Teens in this project have been trained to teach the Character Counts! curriculum and will volunteer hours at the fair and at other training and events. A culminating activity for them will be development of a portfolio and other skills needed to enter the workforce.

Both of the above activities were sponsored in part by School-to-Career of Lancaster and Saunders Counties since character traits are vital for our future workforce and civic leaders.

Six Lincoln Public Schools will use Character Counts! in their schools this year as will Bennet Elementary and North American Martyrs. Please contact LaDeane at 441-7180 if you would like additional information about Character Counts! workshops or other activities. (LJ)



We would like to thank the Keeping Families First Advisory Committee, sponsors and entertainers who helped make the *Celebrating Families: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow* event at the Lancaster County Fair successful.

Advisory Committee

- Family Service
- Homestead Girl Scout Council
- Region IV FYI
- Saint Elizabeth's Regional Medical Center
- Cedars Youth Services
- Health & Human Services
- Catholic Social Service
- Lincoln City Libraries
- Community Alternatives of Nebraska
- Respite Network—YWCA
- Lincoln Council on Alcoholism and Drugs
- Northeast Family Center
- Strengthening Neighborhoods Partnership

We would also like to thank the organizations who hosted a booth and family activity, as well as, the volunteers that helped out during the day. Check the September NEBLINE for highlights from this year's Keeping Families First event. (KW)

Thank you!



Sponsors

- Goodwill Industries
- Lutheran Brotherhood
- Humanities Council
- Fair Board

Entertainment

- Marna Schulte
- David Marsh
- Keeran Kamble
- Beth Cross

Adolescents still need supervision

Not surprisingly, being alone for many hours is not a good situation for most 12 and 13 year old kids. In a large survey of eighth graders across ethnic and socioeconomic lines, researchers from UCLA and the University of Illinois found that 12 and 13 year olds who were home alone after school for more than 11 hours a week were more likely to use alcohol, smoke cigarettes or try marijuana. Of course, each home situation is unique, and other factors—such as the quality of parent-child interactions—also have an influence.

However, during the early teen years, when kids are likely to assert their independence, having too much time alone gives them more opportunities to engage in risk-taking behavior.

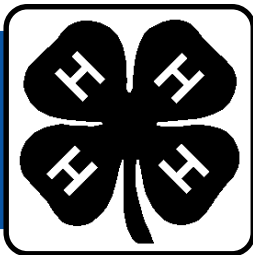
How much time kids spend alone apparently makes a big difference. Researchers have found that children alone for one to four hours per week were only at a slightly greater risk than kids who were never alone. The risk factor increased according to the number of hours children were unsupervised.

This is a challenge for working parents. Good after-school activities for older children are clearly needed. Children of this age may resist organized activities, but the research shows the importance of making a special effort to find programs for pre-teens and early teens that support the development of their skills in the arts and sports, enrich their academic studies and provide opportunities for community service.

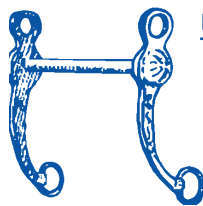
Source: Work and Family Life, Volume 9, Number 10, October, 1995. (LJ)

Diversity facts

Students who are African-American, American Indian, Alaska Native, Latino and/or female together comprise 65 percent of our national student population. Despite their large population, these four groups continue to be under represented in math, science, technology, and engineering, even though we have made significant efforts to recruit, train, and retain these students. (LJ)



4-H & Youth



HORSE BITS

1998 State 4-H Horse Exposition

The 1998 State 4-H Horse Expo was held at Fonner Park in Grand Island, July 12-16. There were a total of 687 exhibitors with 1139 horses and 2164 entries from across the state. Lancaster County was represented by 45 exhibitors with 120 entries. Congratulations to all who made it to state and participated in the show.

Following are the results of the show. Purple ribbons were awarded to: Rachel Braunsroth (Reserve Champion, Elementary Dressage), Liz Judds (Showmanship), Sara Messick (English Pleasure and Trail Horse), Megan Miller (Western Horsemanship), Teresa Perrin (Elementary Dressage), Danae Peterson (Western Pleasure), Amy Ryan (Western Horseman-

ship, 1st Place), Kyle Ryan (Western Pleasure and Western Horsemanship, ranked 10th), Katie Salstrand (Western Horsemanship, ranked 8th), Lindsay Schoneweis (Western Pleasure and Barrel Racing, top ranked), Andrea Winner (Western Pleasure), Jason Wise (Showmanship, Western Pleasure, Trail Horse and Halter, Reserve Champion) and Kim Zalewski (Showmanship and English Horsemanship).

Blue ribbons were given to: Josh Blum (Western Pleasure, Western Horsemanship and Barrel Racing), Rachel Braunsroth (Trail Horse and Halter), Kevin Hajek (Western Pleasure), Liz Judds (English Pleasure, Western Horsemanship), Chelsea Leatherwood

(Barrel Racing), Sara Messick (Western Horsemanship and Halter), Megan Miller (Showmanship and Western Pleasure), Sara Morrissey (Reining), Ashley Murray (Showmanship and English Horsemanship), Lindsay Schoneweis (Western Horsemanship), Nicole Steinhauer (Western Pleasure), Andrea Winner and Brandi Wynegar (Western Horsemanship) and Kim Zalewski (English Pleasure).

Lancaster County had Horse Bowl, Horse Judging and Senior Hippology teams coached by Brenda Messick. Blue ribbons were won by the teams in each of these contests.

It was a great show. (EK)

4-H Bulletin Board

- ✓ Teen Council will meet Sunday, September 13, from 3-5 p.m. All teens are welcome to join the fun. (TK)
- ✓ Open meeting to all 4-H families involved in the livestock areas to discuss fair changes for 1999, Monday, September 15 at 7 p.m. (DK)
- ✓ Ak-Sar-Ben 1998 Livestock Exposition runs September 22-28 at Ak-Sar-Ben in Omaha. (DK)
- ✓ Project record books for Chris Clover Awards should be turned into your 4-H club leader by October 1. (LB)
- ✓ 4-H leaders—Herdsmanship award packets will be in your club mailbox for you to pick up. (DK)
- ✓ Club community service award information is due in the extension office by October 1. (LB)
- ✓ National 4-H Week—October 4-10. Plan a special activity to promote 4-H.
- ✓ Booster club October 6, 7:30 p.m.
- ✓ CWF—October 12, 7 p.m.

Awards

4-H awards books are due in the extension office October 1. The awards competition will remain as it has in the past for county and district competition. All 4-H members 12 years old and older are eligible to submit books for county awards. If you have questions, call Lorene at 441-7180. (LB)

1999 CWF members wanted

The Lancaster County Citizen Washington Focus group has three open seats for their journey to Washington D.C., in June of 1999. CWF is a leadership program for high school youth from across the country. Every summer thousands of youth stay at the National 4-H Center, near Washington, D.C., to participate in this week-long program. We are planning to leave June 13 and return June 28. We are taking a charter bus so we can sight see all the way there and all the way back. For more information or for seat reservations, please give Deanna a call at 441-7180. (DK)

4-H Open House

Monday,
September 14
6:30-8:00 p.m.

Lancaster
Extension
Education Center
444 Cherrycreek
Road



For Adults &
Children (5 years
and older)

Learn more
about the 4-H
program!



Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Kenneth R. Bolen, Director of Cooperative Extension, University of Nebraska, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources. University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension educational programs abide with the nondiscrimination policies of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the United States Department of Agriculture.



I'm interested in 4-H!

Return to University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension in Lancaster County, 444 Cherrycreek Road, Lincoln, NE 68528-1507. A 4-H representative will contact you. Please call 441-7180 for more information.

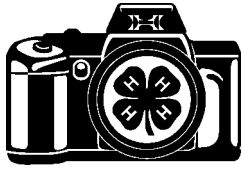
Name _____ Female Male Birthdate _____
 Address _____ Zip _____
 Telephone _____ Grade in school _____ School _____
 Parent(s) name _____

Check project area of interest:

- | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|---|--|--|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dogs | <input type="checkbox"/> Rabbits | <input type="checkbox"/> Home Environment | <input type="checkbox"/> Child Care | <input type="checkbox"/> Foods | <input type="checkbox"/> Clothing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cats | <input type="checkbox"/> Other Household Pets | <input type="checkbox"/> Woodworking | <input type="checkbox"/> Model Rockets | <input type="checkbox"/> Flowers/Gardening | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Livestock | <input type="checkbox"/> Horses | <input type="checkbox"/> Safety | <input type="checkbox"/> Shooting Sports | <input type="checkbox"/> Photography | |

Are you interested in becoming a 4-H volunteer? Check your interest:

- Club Leader Project Assistant



Clover College snapshots

Extension Educator Lorene Bartos demonstrates how to shape different kinds of bread.

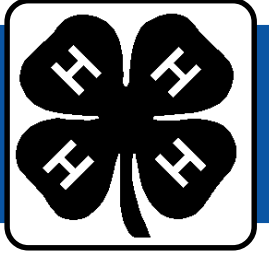


Volunteer Deb Gokie showing the finer points of table setting to 4-H'ers.



Tina Brown, Americorps VISTA volunteer, explains a S.E.R.I.E.S. experiment to 4-H'ers.

4-H & Youth



Ak-Sar-Ben

The 1998 Ak-Sar-Ben 4-H Youth Livestock Exposition will be September 23-28. For more information, call Deanna at 441-7180. (DK)

Award nominations

Nominations are needed for the following awards by October 1. Application forms are available at the Extension office.

4-H Meritorious Service—presented to individuals or organizations which have exhibited consistent and strong support of the 4-H program. 4-H members are not eligible.

Outstanding 4-H Member—presented to an individual who has excelled in their involvement with the 4-H program and are 14 years of age or older. The basis for selection appraises the variety and depth of 4-H activities.

I Dare You Youth Leadership Award—presented to junior or senior 4-H members who have demonstrated personal integrity, lead well-rounded lives and possess a willingness to assume responsibility. They do not need to hold leadership positions currently but should be recognized by their peers and adults who work with them as emerging leaders. One young woman and one young man will be selected from Lancaster County. (LB)

Fair's over; now what?

A meeting for leaders and parents will be Monday, September 21, 9:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. to discuss finishing up the 4-H year and getting ready for next year.

Awards, project completion/selection, and club reorganization will be covered. Mark your calendar and plan to attend. (TK/LB)

County fair was a success!

Thanks to all the fair volunteers, parents, 4-H leaders, 4-H members, 4-H Ambassadors and Teen Council members for a job well done. We couldn't have a fair without you. A special thanks goes to the Fair Board and 4-H Council members for their support of the 4-H program. Also thanks to Gerri Ault and crew for keeping the Rock Cafe and Snack Shack running. Thanks again! (LB)

State Fair livestock schedule

Saturday, August 29

- 7:30 a.m. Dog Show—Bob Devaney Center
- 8 a.m. Dog Judging Contest—Bob Devaney Sports Center
- 1 p.m. Dairy goat check-in until 2 p.m.

Sunday, August 30

- 8 a.m. Dairy Goat Show—Showmanship first, open class swine, sheep, goat barn

Friday, September 4

- Noon Beef, sheep, swine, dairy stalls available
- 5:30 p.m. Weigh market lambs until 7:30 p.m.
- 6:30 p.m. Check breeding beef/weigh & tag market beef

Saturday, September 5

- 7:30 a.m. Check breeding beef/weigh & tag market beef
- 8 a.m. Weigh market lambs by counties, order to be announced by superintendent
- 8 a.m. Deadline for arrival of market lambs and breeding sheep
- 10 a.m. No sheep will be weighed or checked in after this time
- 10 a.m. Beef and swine exhibits must be in place
- 10:30 a.m. No beef cattle will be checked, weighed or tagged after this time
- 11 a.m. Dairy cattle must be in place
- 11:30 a.m. Livestock judging contest, Animal Science Complex, East Campus
- 1 p.m. Check-in of dairy cattle
- 5 p.m. Breeding sheep show, Youth Complex Area

Sunday, September 6

- 8 a.m. Judging all 4-H market steers and market heifers
- 8 a.m. Judging market lambs and sheep showmanship, Youth Complex Area
- 8 a.m. Weigh and tattoo market hogs

Monday, September 7

- 8 a.m. 4-H Dairy Show judging in Open Class Beef Arena
- 8 a.m. Judging breeding heifers as time permits before the selection of grand champion market animal, new arena
- 8 a.m. Judging market gilts—followed by market burrows and showmanship, swine arena
- 2 p.m. All dairy cattle will be released
- 5 p.m. All beef and sheep from Southeast District not consigned for slaughter will be released

Tuesday, September 8

- 6 a.m. Ship market beef for slaughter
- 7 a.m. Deadline for removal of sheep and beef not sent to slaughter
- 11 a.m. Exhibits released until 3 p.m. (DK)

NatureLink, an outdoor education weekend for families

NatureLink, a family oriented outdoor education program will be held at the Nebraska State 4-H Camp at Halsey September 25-27.

The focus of the NatureLink weekend will be on learning about the outdoors. Participants will attend learnshops on outdoor skills, canoeing, forest/pond/river studies and nature awareness. Previous experience or knowledge in these areas is **not** required—the sponsors welcome novices who want to learn and have fun in the process.

NatureLink offers a tremendous opportunity for a family to get out to the Nebraska National Forest and learn about a variety of outdoor topics. Your family will receive hands-on experience, gain a large amount of knowledge and learn some valuable ideas on how we can conserve and enjoy the earth's natural resources.

Registration deadline is September 1. Program fee is \$80 per person and children 7 and under are free. Fee includes program materials, lodging, meals.

To register, or for more information, contact Lorene at 441-7180. (LB)

For more 4-H articles, please turn to page 12.



Community Focus

Mark your calendars for National Pollution Prevention (P2) Week September 21-27, 1998



Pollution Prevention Week (P2 Week) began in 1992 in California at the local grass roots level. The third week of September was designated as Pollution Prevention Week by local government officials and organization heads throughout California to promote and highlight pollution prevention (P2) efforts. Since then, celebration of this week has spread throughout the country. In 1995, the event moved to the national level and has continued to grow.

P2 Week has become a valuable opportunity for government agencies, business groups, and community organizations to work together to highlight the importance of pollution prevention. The week provides a chance to publicize year-long P2 efforts.

P2 Week is also a time when businesses, government, environmental groups and citizens can join forces for a common cause. By sharing information about P2, businesses can become more competitive, business and government can realize cost savings and environmental quality can be enhanced.

So...just what is pollution prevention?

Pollution is the contamination of air, soil, and/or water by the discharge of harmful substances. Pollution prevention is the reduction/elimination of pollution at the source, instead of at the end-of-the-pipe or stack. Pollution prevention occurs when raw materials, water, energy and other resources are utilized more efficiently. For example less harmful substances are substituted for hazardous ones, and toxic substances are eliminated from the production process. By reducing the use and production of hazardous substances, and by operating more efficiently, we protect human health, strengthen our economic well-being, and preserve the environment.

Source reduction allows for the greatest and quickest improvements in environmental protection by avoiding the generation of waste and harmful emissions. It makes the regulatory system more efficient by reducing the need for end-of-the-pipe environmental control by government.

Adopting pollution prevention practices and techniques often benefits industry by lowering a company's operational and environmental compliance costs. By preventing the generation of waste, P2 also can reduce or eliminate long-term liabilities and clean-up costs.

Furthermore, disposal costs are reduced when the volume of waste is decreased. This also can lead to a reduction in workplace exposures to hazardous materials which can affect workers' health and hence, their productivity. If less waste is produced, there will be a diminished need for on-site storage space. By preventing pollution, there will be a greater likelihood that a company may be in compliance with local, state, and federal compliance statutes.

Finally, businesses shoulder an important responsibility for protecting the environment and natural resources for their own good and that of society.

So, as P2 Week rolls around, plan an event that will show off your organization's activities.

Ideas for businesses and industry might include:

- Distribute promotional materials of your current activities.
- Distribute industry-specific P2 fact sheets.
- Organize a "clean shop" tour.
- Host a brown bag lunch or breakfast seminar on P2.
- Organize a contest to reward employees for developing P2 ideas.
- Tell other businesses about your P2 activities.
- Evaluate existing waste practices and P2 options.
- Watch for group activities in which you can participate.

For more information, contact Phil Rooney, Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department at 441-8644. (Resource: National Pollution Prevention Roundtable) (ALH)

Prevent crime the pro-active way: organize a Neighborhood Watch Program

Neighborhood watch is a program to help residents protect themselves and their property. It is not a program of vigilante actions nor does it use citizens to actually enforce the laws. It is about establishing a network of eyes and ears for the Lancaster County Sheriff's Department. Through a system of training and organizing neighborhoods, citizens become alert to suspicious activity and take an active role in reducing crime.

Organizing a Neighborhood Watch

1. Visit with friends and neighbors to determine their interest and support for a Neighborhood Watch Program.
2. Contact the Crime Prevention Division of the Lancaster County Sheriff's Department (Deputy Emanuel Bartek, 441-7727) to organize a meeting (main non-emergency phone number 441-6500).
3. Determine an organizational meeting date and time. Usually these meetings are held at the home of the organizer.
4. During the meeting, the Lancaster County Sheriff's

Department will provide:

- A deputy to explain the Neighborhood Watch Program and answer questions.
- Assistance in selecting a coordinator for your area—usually the person who organizes the meeting.

(A color TV should be available for use during the meeting.)

5. If an easily defined area exists for a Neighborhood Watch Program to operate, the Sheriff's Department will post Neighborhood Watch signs. An area map of people from the neighborhood should be supplied.

The services of a Neighborhood Watch

1. During the organizational meeting, the Lancaster County Sheriff's Department will compile a list of participants and distribute additional information to all members in the watch area.
2. Once all guidelines are met, Neighborhood Watch signs will be posted.
3. When the Lancaster County Sheriff's Department has information pertinent to your neighborhood watch area, the



coordinator will be notified. The coordinator will forward the information on to neighborhood watch members. (i.e., a certain car or person to watch for, etc.)

4. If a neighborhood watch member has something to report, they are to phone the Sheriff's Department directly.

5. Newsletters from the Sheriff's Department are distributed through the neighborhood watch coordinator to the members.

6. Neighborhood Watch groups can organize various networks of communication between members as deemed necessary. (GB)

Identifying suspicious activity

Not every stranger who comes into your neighborhood is a criminal by any means. There are many door-to-door salesmen, repairmen, and servicemen moving around our neighborhoods all the time, but criminals *do* take advantage of this by pretending to be legitimate workmen. The Sheriff's Office would rather investigate than be called when it is too late. Your call could save a life, prevent an injury, or stop a criminal act. **Be alert. Be concerned and call.**

Suspicious Activity Concerning Persons	
Circumstances	Possible Crime
Going door to door in a residential area especially if one or more persons goes to the rear of the residence.	Possible burglary suspects or trespassers.
Waiting or loitering in front of a house or business, if the business is closed or house unoccupied.	Possible burglary suspects.
Forcing entrance, or entering your neighbor's house, when it is unoccupied.	Possible burglary, theft or trespassing.
Property carried by persons on foot, especially suspicious at an unusual place or hour. Very questionable if person is running or property is unwrapped.	Possible property just stolen in burglary or robbery.
Much human traffic to and from a certain residence, if it occurs on a daily or regular basis.	Possible vice, fence or narcotics operation.
Person screaming.	Possible rape or assault.
Person loitering around cars or going car to car peering into them, especially in parking lot or on the streets.	Possible car thief or a theft from automobile.
Persons loitering around schools, parks or secluded areas.	Possible sex offenders or drug activity.
Persons offering items for sale at a very low price.	Possibly trying to sell stolen property.
Strangers loitering or driving through a neighborhood several times.	Possible burglary or larceny suspects.
"Delivery Man" with the wrong address, or one who asks if someone else lives there.	Possible burglary suspect.
Vehicle moving slowly, without lights or driving in an aimless manner. This is suspicious in any location, including residential streets, schools and playgrounds.	Possible burglar, drug pusher or sex offender.
Parked or occupied vehicles containing one or more persons, especially if observed at an unusual hour.	Possible lookouts for a burglary or robbery.
Vehicles being loaded with valuables if parked by a business or unoccupied residence.	Possible burglary or theft in progress.
Abandoned vehicle parked on your block.	Possible stolen car.
Vehicle containing weapons.	Owner may be engaged in criminal activity.
Vehicle where someone is being forced into it, especially females or juveniles.	Possible kidnapping, assault or attempted rape.
Vehicle where a business transaction is being conducted around schools or parks.	Possibly selling stolen items or drugs.
Persons detaching mechanical parts or accessories from a vehicle.	Possible theft or vandalism.



Harvesting everlasting flowers for drying

continued from front page

the base of wreaths. Harvest the stems when the pebbly seed head is fully developed.

Feverfew (*Chrysanthemum parthenium*) - Stocky green stems with sprays of puffy globe-shaped flowers. Cut entire stem before terminal flowers peak. Air-dry mini bunches upside down.



Feverfew

Globe Thistle (*Echinops ritro*) - Pick as soon as the central globes are grey-blue and before the tiny flowers appear. Dry upside down.



Globe Thistle

Baby's Breath (*Gypsophila paniculata*) - Pick when about half the florets are open on a flowering stem. Hang upside down to dry.



Baby's Breath

Lavender (*Lavandula angustifolia*) - Pick stems when the florets on spike are opening. Hang upside down to dry.



Lavender

Blazing Star (*Liatris spicata*) - Pick when 1/2 to 2/3 of the flowers are open. Hang upside down to dry.

Money Plant (*Lunaria annua*) - This biennial has lavender or white flowers and creates its unique seed pods the second year. Pick when the plant dies back. When dry, the pod covers come off easily to reveal the translucent discs. (DJ)



Money Plant

What is LB1209 and does it affect you?

continued from page 4

will be notified and given an opportunity to comment on the application. Public notice will also be given on large (Class III and Class IV) operations presumably so people can make their concerns known to appropriate authorities.

Permit requirements include the design (by a licensed professional engineer, in most cases) of the actual livestock waste control facility, initial and annual inspection by appropriate agencies, and the development of a plan, approved by the NRD, for the disposal of the livestock waste which may include testing the soil for phosphorus content before application of waste and ground water monitoring in some cases. Reviewed by David Aiken, Extension Water Law Specialist, UNL. (TD)

Control of ground ivy...

continued from page 2

materials will selectively kill the ground ivy, but not harm the turfgrass. Products which contain 2,4-D are effective on ground ivy. To achieve control, make two or three applications in the fall. Fall applications are generally more effective than spring applications. Also, there is lower risk of injury to desirable garden plants from herbicide drift with fall applications. The first application can be made in mid September, a second in early October. When using pesticides, read and follow label directions carefully.

Home owners that have Kentucky bluegrass have another option. They can use a mixture of three teaspoons of Borax and one gallon of warm water. Two or three applications may be needed. This mixture should be applied to bluegrass lawns only.

Once the ground ivy has been effectively controlled, the homeowner needs to use good mowing, fertilization, watering and cultivation practices to obtain a dense, healthy, competitive stand of turfgrass which should help prevent future weed infestations. (MJM)



Dealing with unwanted guests

continued from page 3

illustration), will allow the bats to emerge, but later they will fail to find their way back. Thus, the netting acts as a simple one-way excluder until repairs can make the exclusion permanent. During cool periods in the fall or spring, allow at least a week.

This information is reprinted with permission from Bat Conservation International (BCI).

For more information about bats, BATS magazine, or membership in BCI, please visit the BCI web site at www.batcon.org or write or call: Bat Conservation International, P.O. Box 162603, Austin, Texas 78716, 512-327-9721. Basic membership, which includes a one-year subscription to BATS magazine, is \$30 (U.S. funds only). (SE)



Allergic to bee stings?

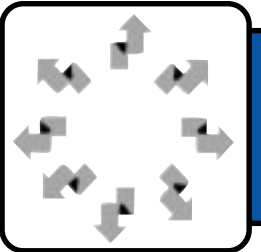
continued from page 3

ing, rapid pulse, drop in blood pressure, skin rash or hives, dizziness, confusion and loss of consciousness. Persons who have an allergic reaction to bee stings should seek immediate medical help. Adrenaline, given intravenously and as soon as possible, is the best drug in the treatment of acute symptoms after a bee sting.

Approximately 2% of the population are hypersensitive and develop an increasingly serious reaction to repeated stings.

To minimize your reaction, remove the stinger by scraping across the skin with a nail file, knife, credit card or fingernail. This removes the stinger without injecting more venom into the body. (BPO)

Miscellaneous



New employee at Lancaster County Extension



McKenzie Barry
Clerk Typist II/Receptionist



Fresh, fabulous and safe—fruits and vegetables!

continued from page 6

information. This is most frequently found on pre-cut items.

- Throw away fruits or vegetables that have been stored too long and smell bad, are moldy or slimy.

For more specific information on how long to store produce, check with the produce manager at your favorite grocery store or call the cooperative extension office.

Washing

Rinse whole produce thoroughly under clean running tap water **just before you use it**—not when you store the item or items. Rub as needed to help remove surface contamination. Before washing, discard the outer leaves of leafy vegetables such as lettuce and cabbage.

Wash fruits and vegetables (such as oranges and melons) even if you don't eat the rind or skin. When you cut into a fruit or vegetable, any bacteria that is on the outer surface can be transferred to the inner flesh.

Do not wash fruits and vegetables with detergent. Fruits and vegetables can absorb the detergent. Detergent is not intended for use on foods and can make you sick.

Handling Cut Produce

Store all **cut** fruits and vegetables covered, in containers, in the refrigerator. Once produce is cut, any microorganisms that get on the cut surface can start to grow.

Store fresh-cut produce above raw meat, poultry and fish and below cooked items. Generally, quality is best if you use cut produce within a day.

Note: The flesh of some fruits—such as apples, bananas, nectarines and peaches—turns brown when the fruits are peeled or cut and exposed to air. To prevent this darkening, coat their surface with a citrus juice such as lemon, orange, grapefruit or lime juice.

The PMA recommends you discard cut produce that has been out of the refrigerator for more than four hours. These four hours include preparation, transport and serving time.

Preparing

Use clean hands, utensils and a cutting board when working with fresh produce. Especially avoid touching raw meat, poultry and seafood before handling fresh fruits and vegetables.

Before working with fresh produce, wet your hands with warm water, apply soap and rub your hands together for 20 seconds. Rinse thoroughly and dry them with a clean towel.

Use a plastic or other non-porous cutting board; keep it clean by running it through the dishwasher after each use or by washing it with hot soapy water, followed by rinsing with hot water and air drying.

At events such as buffets where food is set out for guests, avoid adding fresh fruits and vegetables to foods that have been setting out. Instead, serve smaller trays of food and set out fresh food trays as needed. Keep cut produce in the refrigerator until just before serving; follow the storage recommendations given earlier.

Remember the guideline for discarding cut produce that has been out of the refrigerator more than four hours (and remember—the four hours includes your TOTAL preparation, transport and serving time).

Source: This article was originally printed in Alice Henneman's FoodTalk monthly e-mail newsletter. If you'd like to receive this newsletter, e-mail Alice at cnty5028@unlvm.unl.edu. Past issues of FoodTalk are archived on the Internet at <http://www.ianr.unl.edu/ianr/lanco/family/archives.htm>

The NEBLINE

Nebraska Cooperative Extension Newsletter
Lancaster County

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Gary C. Bergman, Extension Educator—Unit Leader

NOTICE: All programs and events listed in this newsletter will be held at the Lancaster Extension Education Center unless noted otherwise. Use of commercial and trade names does not imply approval or constitute endorsement by the University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension in Lancaster County.

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- Marilyn Waldron, Nutrition Advisor
- Jim Wies, Extension Assistant
- Barb Yllescas, Extension Assistant



Extension Calendar

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

- August 19**
Growing Wheat Well 7-9 p.m.
- August 25**
Pesticide Container Recycling—*Otte Oil & Propane, Wahoo* 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
- August 28**
Pesticide Container Recycling
—*Southeast Nebraska Co-op, Beatrice & Virginia* 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
- September 10**
Pork Quality Assurance Satellite Training 10 a.m.

4-H School Enrichment in the classroom

Making recycled paper—hatching baby chicks! Or learning about space and water quality! Your youngster may be taking part in 4-H School Enrichment. Yearly, approximately 12,000 students in Lancaster County classrooms participate in this exciting, science-based program. Through creative, hands-on activities, youth learn exciting things about the world around them.

Garbology, a solid waste management program encourages second graders to reduce, reuse and recycle. Sorting garbage, discovering types of packaging and making recycled paper are just a few of the

activities in this unit.

The miracle of life unfolds in Embryology as third graders study life cycles. Students and teachers are responsible for the care of fertile eggs throughout the 21 day incubation period, then...baby chicks are hatched right in the classroom.

Blue Sky Below My Feet relates science and space technology to daily living for fourth graders. By using features from the space shuttle program as working models, students learn how forces, fibers and food affect their lives on earth and astronauts while in space.

With an emphasis on quantity and quality, 4-H Water

Riches looks at the complexities of one of our most precious natural resources—water. Fifth grade students determine ways to manage our water supply and commit to the conservation of this natural resource.

So—you may see your student taking part in a 4-H project, becoming a 4-H member and choosing a variety of other activities, because 4-H brings opportunities and resources your way! Watch for your youngster's participation in the 4-H School Enrichment program in your school! It is an educational experience for the whole family! (ALH)

Phone numbers:

- Office (leave message after hours) 441-7180
- After hours 441-7170
- FAX 441-7148
- COMPOSTING HOTLINE 441-7139
- NUFACTS INFORMATION CENTER 441-7188
- OFFICE HOURS: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday

4-H Celebration



The 4-H Celebration recognized those who achieved special awards at county fair and 4-H members, leaders and volunteers for their service in 4-H. Pins were awarded to 2, 5, 10, 15 and 20 year leaders, 4-H members who are completing their third year in 4-H and 1998 high school graduates. If you were to receive a pin but were unable to attend, you may pick it up at the extension office.

4-H leaders completing 5, 10, 15 and 20 years of service are Jayme Agena, Joyce Agena, Susan Bulling, Donna Bundy, Lynn Bush, Bill Dutton, Kathy Hoebelheinrich, Leon Jensen, Melody Jensen, Carol Johnson, Nadine Link, Dick Marshall, Marsha Marshall, Brenda Messick, Connie Schoneweis, Ken Staley (5 years), Gregg Nisley, Jackie Colton (10 years), David Doeschot, Renee Schnieder, Karleen Stutzman (15 years) and Jolene Weart (20 years). (LB)

Recycling facts

The Steel Recycling Institute (SRI) reports that the steel can recycling rate reached 60.7 percent for 1997, with more than 1.7 million tons of packaging recycled. That's the equivalent of about 633 cans recycled per second for an entire year.

More than 46 million appliances were recovered and nearly 13 million cars were recycled in 1997. Comparing the number of automobiles taken off the road to the number of new cars produced shows an automobile recycling rate of 97.6.

With the growing awareness of recycling steel from construction and demolition sites, the rates have continued to grow. In 1997, it is estimated that more than 40 percent of the rebar and more than 90 percent of the steel plates, bars and structural products were collected for recycling. *Source:* SRI Update (ALH)

Cans can

Collect old cans; don't throw them out.
That's what recycling's all about.
Cans just clutter up our land, So recycle them and take a stand.
Find them, scrunch them, give a mash,
Then turn them in, and you'll get cash.
And even if you don't get wealthy,
Recycling keeps our earth more healthy. (ALH)

Calling All Artists!

1999 White House Easter Egg Artistry Contest

The 1999 White House Easter Egg Artistry Contest is underway! The American Egg Board (AEB), in conjunction with the Poultry & Egg Division of the Nebraska Department of Agriculture, is again sponsoring this state-wide contest.

The winning egg chosen from the state of Nebraska will be sent to the American Egg Board for inclusion in the 1999 Easter Egg Display at the White House in Washington D.C. The deadline is September 3, 1998. For contest criteria or further information, contact Mary Reiners by E-mail: mreiners@unlinfo.unl.edu or call 402-472-0752.



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Story Idea(s) _____

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