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NEBLINE

NEBRASKA EXTENSION IN LANCASTER COUNTY

After-Harvest Care of Asparagus

Sarah Browning
Extension Educator

ASPARAGUS can grow and thrive in a vegetable garden for many years, if it receives good care following harvest.

Towards the end of June stop harvesting, allowing the asparagus fronds to grow throughout the remainder of the season.



This top growth manufactures carbohydrates and sugars that will be stored in the fleshy roots and crowns. The plant will draw upon this reserve for next year's crop. The size of next year's crop is directly related to the growth of this summer's foliage.

Fertilization

Each year after the final harvest, fertilize your asparagus planting. If your soil tests high in phosphorus, use a low phosphorus fertilizer such as 32-3-10 or 25-3-12 or a no-phosphorus fertilizer such as 30-0-10 or 24-0-15. The same is true for potassium. If your soil tests high, no additional potassium is needed.

Apply 50 lb Nitrogen per acre by sidedressing the rows and lightly tilling it in. The equivalent amount for smaller plantings is:

- 1.2 lb N/1,000 sq. ft.
- .12 lb N/100 sq. ft.

Well-rotted manure can be used in place of commercial fertilizer. Apply approximately 50 lb/100 sq. ft.

Watering

Good soil moisture throughout the summer is necessary for fern development and growth. Asparagus foliage seldom shows signs of drought stress, but a lack of water will reduce yields the following season. And remember that although asparagus is deep rooted, most water uptake occurs in the top 6–12 inches of the soil. If summer conditions turn dry,

don't rely on deeper soil moisture to provide adequate water for your plants.

If extended dry conditions occur, provide deep soaking irrigation to your plants at least twice a month or as needed to prevent soil cracking. Moisten the soil to a depth of at least 6 inches.

Weed Control

Controlling weeds in an asparagus planting can be difficult, but it is a necessary step toward maintaining a high-yielding planting.

Asparagus is a poor competitor with weeds, however, there are several techniques that can be used to control problem weeds.

If planted correctly, asparagus crowns are located approximately 6–8 inches deep in the soil, but plants grow each year enlarging in both width and height; meaning an asparagus crown can expand upward in the soil profile over time. It's important to keep this depth in mind as we discuss various methods of control.

Mechanical Control

In small plantings, hoe or hand pull weeds. In larger plantings very shallow tilling, about 3–4 inches deep, between rows helps minimize weeds.

Cultural Control

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

Herbicides

A preemergent herbicide should have been applied in late April to kill germinating seeds of summer annual weeds, like crabgrass, spurge and oxalis. In late June, apply a second preemergent herbicide to prevent germination of additional summer



The size of next year's asparagus crop is directly related to the growth of this summer's foliage.

annual weeds. Reapply every 4–6 weeks at labeled rates throughout the summer, but be careful not to apply it to areas where you will be planting additional seeded crops.

One product, which has the added benefit of being organic, is corn gluten meal and can be found in Preen Vegetable Garden Weed Preventer, as well as other products. Corn gluten meal is a by-product of corn processing and contains 10% nitrogen, along with its preemergent properties.

When using herbicide, always read and follow the label directions for personal protective equipment and application

rates. Pay special attention to the pre-harvest interval, or the amount of time you must wait after a pesticide application before harvesting again.

No Salt

Do not use salt! An old recommendation for asparagus weed control involved the application of salt, by pouring the salty water from an ice cream maker on the asparagus patch. This provided some weed control because asparagus is deep-rooted and has a higher sodium tolerance than some common weeds. However, salt quickly destroys soil structure, resulting in poor water

penetration in the soil.

High levels of salt will eventually kill the asparagus too, or move out into nearby sections of your vegetable garden and kill other less salt tolerant vegetables. So if you make homemade ice cream on July 4th, don't pour the salt water on your asparagus patch.

In Fall and Spring

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

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NEBLINE

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12 Tasty Salad Toppings

Alice Henneman, MS, RDN
Extension Educator

"You can put everything — and the more things the better — into a salad, as into a conversation; but everything depends on the skill of mixing." —Charles Dudley Warner

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

Begin with salad greens. Enhance the eye appeal and nutrition of a salad by adding colorful fruits and vegetables. Keep it light by limiting the amount of salad dressing to about 1 tablespoon per 1-1/2 to 2 cups of greens. Then make the flavor really POP by adding some of the following ingredients. You can either put them atop or mix them in with your salad.

While some of these salad additions are higher in fat than others, just small amounts (about 1 tablespoon) can give extra flavor without too many calories. Also, many provide a nutrition boost! Add from one to three of these flavor accents, depending on how many other ingredients are in your salad.

1. Artichoke Hearts: Marinated

Enjoy the tangy taste of sliced marinated artichoke hearts in your salad. It's as easy as opening a jar and adding as desired.

2. Cheese: Parmesan



Photos by Alice Henneman

If your experience with Parmesan cheese is limited to shaking it from a can, try using a vegetable peeler to shave about a tablespoon per serving from a block of cheese. Or, sprinkle freshly grated Parmesan on salads. As just a small amount kicks up the flavor, you may find you can afford trying some of the more expensive Parmesan cheeses. Add flavor and bone-building calcium, too!

3. Croutons



Add crunch, flavor and fiber with homemade whole grain croutons.

4. Dried Fruit: Cherries, Cranberries, Raisins

Add these dried fruits for their flavor. Benefit from their antioxidants that may help protect against cancer and heart disease.

5. Fresh Herbs: Basil, Chives, Dill, Parsley

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

6. Fresh Fruit: Apples and Pears

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

Some commonly available apples that may be especially tasty in salads include Braeburn, Fuji, Gala, Golden Delicious, Granny Smith, Jonathan, Red Delicious and Winesap.

The juicy sweetness of pear slices, skin included, also tastes great in salads. Pears continue to ripen after they're picked. To determine if a pear is ripe, gently press it at the stem end. Most types yield to pressure when ripe.

To speed the ripening of pears, put them in a ripening bowl or in a loosely closed brown paper bag at room temperature. Or, just set them in a pretty bowl on your counter and enjoy their appearance as they ripen. Plastic bags don't work for ripening. Refrigerate pears when ripe in an open or a perforated plastic bag in your refrigerator crisper drawer. (If you don't have access to commercial perforated bags, use a sharp object to make several small holes in a regular plastic bag.)

7. Olives: Black or Green

Add extra oomph with olives. For ease of eating and to distribute their flavor throughout the salad, pit and slice olives before placing them in your salad.

According to the USDA National Nutrient Database, one tablespoon of olives provides about 10 calories.

Experiment with different types for different flavors. For example, many people enjoy the rich flavor of kalamata olives, a black olive frequently found in Greek salad, pasta and pizza recipes. (By the way, did you know olives are a FRUIT?)

8. Nuts: Toasted Almonds and Walnuts

Though almonds are a source of fat and calories, they contain mostly unsaturated fat that may help protect against heart disease. They also provide vitamin E, a nutrient that may be good for your heart. Almonds have about 7 calories apiece.

Likewise, the fat in walnuts is mostly unsaturated. Walnuts also provide heart-healthy omega-3 fatty acids. A tablespoon or two of walnuts adds just 50 to 100 calories to a meal.

Toast nuts to crisp their texture and bring out their rich aroma and taste.

9. Onions: Red

Slip thin slices of sweet red onions into salads.

10. Oranges

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

11. Sunflower Seeds: Toasted

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

12. Radishes



Thinly slice radishes and sprinkle into salads for their crisp texture and peppery flavor.

If the leafy radish tops are attached, remove them before storing. Radishes don't keep as well if their tops are left on. Store unwashed radishes in an open or perforated plastic bag in a refrigerator crisper drawer that is separate from the one in which you store fruits. Wash radishes and trim their roots just before using.

The Importance of Play in Early Childhood Development

Ruth Vonderohe
Extension Educator

Have you ever laughed until your sides ached? Well, if it has been awhile take time to play with your children. Give yourself permission to have a wonderful experience listening and laughing with each child.

In today's world of trying to balance work and home schedules, parents find it hard to spend quality time with their children. It is essential for parents to make the best use of the time they have with their children. Your child needs time to be with you to relax and play.

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

Lots of playing with children builds lasting bonds. Playing allows parents to appreciate the uniqueness of each child. Playing with your children can be a stress reducer. Laughing and relaxing are important to your own well-being as well as your children.

Keep in mind parents are their children's first and favorite playmates. From the very beginning of your child's life, she is engaging in play with you, whether following your face as you move it slowly from one side to the other or listening to your voice as you sing to her during a diaper change. Children love it when you are "silly" with them in play, and learn social skills by modeling your behavior. Over

the years your children may have lots of fun toys to play with, but they don't compare to you.

Play allows children to develop their imagination, dexterity, and physical, cognitive and emotional strength. Play is important to healthy brain development. It is through play children at a very early age engage and interact with the world around them. Play allows them to explore new things at their own pace, master physical agility, learn new skills and figure things out in their own way. During play with others, children learn leadership skills by directing the action or by following a leader.

Children do not do this all at once. Each child's behavior in play develops in stages:

• Onlooker Behavior:

Watching what other children are doing, but not joining in the play

• Solitary Play: Playing alone without regard for others; being involved in independent activities like playing with blocks or other materials

• Parallel Activity: Playing near others but not interacting, even using the same play materials

• Associative Play: Playing in small groups with no definite rules or assigned roles

• Cooperative Play: Deciding to work together to complete a building project or pretend play with assigned roles for all of the members of the group

Safety is of the utmost importance.

Toys should be:

- Well made with no sharp parts, splinters or broken pieces
- Strong enough to hold the

child's weight

- Non-toxic and lead-free
- Shatterproof and easily cleaned
- Non-electric
- Checked frequently for safety
- Out of children's reach if they have small parts
- Properly supervised by adults

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

Parental involvement in a child's world of play is not only beneficial for the child but is extremely beneficial to the parent. Playing with children establishes and strengthens bonds that will last forever. Parent-child play opens doors for the sharing of values, increases communication, allows for teachable moments and assists in problem solving. Finally, it allows the parent to view the world through the eyes of a child once again.

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ASK LORENE

FAMILY LIVING TIPS

Lorene Bartos, Extension Educator

Question: Why is mold growing in my home? How should I remove it?

Answer: Mold can cause health problems. Inhaling or touching mold can cause allergic reactions to some people. Allergic reactions to mold can cause symptoms such as sneezing, runny nose, skin rash (dermatitis) and red eyes.

Mold spores are everywhere. It is part of the natural environment.

The key to mold control is moisture control. Mold or mildew will usually not appear unless there is excess moisture. The excess moisture may be from too much humidity, a leak or other water sources.

If mold is a problem, fix the water problem and clean up the mold immediately.

It is important to dry water-damaged areas and items within 24–48 hours to prevent mold growth.

Generally you can clean areas of mold less than 10 square feet on hard surfaces. To clean hard surfaces scrub the mold off with detergent and water. This removes the mold and food source. To disinfect and remove stains keep surface wet for a few minutes with a solution of 1/4 cup chlorine bleach to one quart water.

Absorbent or porous materials, such as carpets and ceiling tiles may have to be disposed of as it is hard to completely remove the mold.

To prevent mold keep surfaces dry, run exhaust fans in the kitchen and bathroom or open a window. Also lower humidity levels — it is recommended to keep the humidity in a home between 30–50 percent.

For more information visit www.epa.gov/mold.

"Ask Lorene" by mail: Attn. Lorene Bartos, Nebraska Extension in Lancaster County, 444 Cherrycreek Road, Suite A, Lincoln, NE 68528; email lbartos1@unl.edu; or phone 402-441-7180.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events

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

SOME ITEMS YOU CAN BRING FOR DISPOSAL: Thermometers, thermostats containing mercury, bleach cleaners, glues, oil-based paint, paint thinner, furniture stripper, oil-based stains, old gasoline, transmission fluid, pesticides, small propane cylinders. You can dispose of compact fluorescent light bulbs at these waste collections.

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

For more information or if you have questions how to recycle or dispose of items not accepted, call the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department at 402-441-8021 or go to www.lincoln.ne.gov (keyword: household).

Saturday, May 30 • 9 a.m.–1 p.m.

Zoetis: 601 W. Cornhusker Hwy.

Friday, June 19 • 9 a.m.–1 p.m.

Union College: S. 52nd & Cooper Ave.

Saturday, Aug. 22 • 9 a.m.–1 p.m.

Veyance Technologies: 4021 N. 56th St.

Saturday, Sept. 26 • 9 a.m.–1 p.m.

Lincoln Industries: 600 W. E St.

Saturday, Oct. 24 • 9 a.m.–1 p.m.

Woods Park: S. 31st & J St.

Friday, Nov. 13

Appointment Only: Call 402-441-8021 to schedule

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

<http://child.unl.edu>

Expanded With More Resources

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



Parent Power



Learn & Play / Clover Kids



Healthy Kids



Online Classes & Events



Military Families



Co-Parenting for Successful Kids



Guardianship



Learning Child Blog



Cultural Diversity

Severe Weather Impacts on Crops

Tyler Williams
Extension Educator

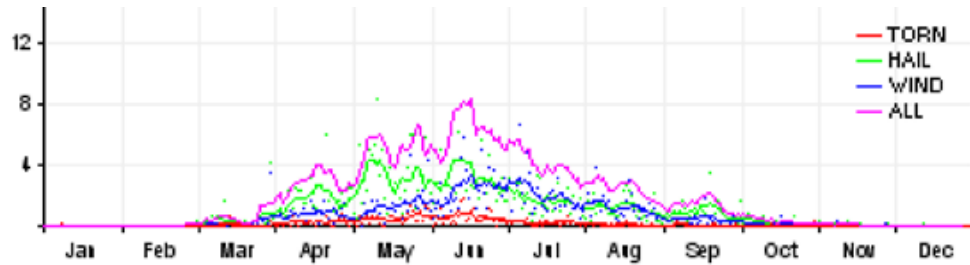
June is the peak month for severe weather and 2014 was a year for the record books for severe weather. Strong tornadoes and large hail destroyed crops and structures all across Nebraska. In 2014, there were 87 tornado reports, which were more than any state in the U.S., except Mississippi, which had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

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

In 2014 there were a number of resources put together from Nebraska Extension faculty to assist in the recovery of these events, and these resources can be useful in 2015. The resources are online at *CropWatch* "2014 Storm

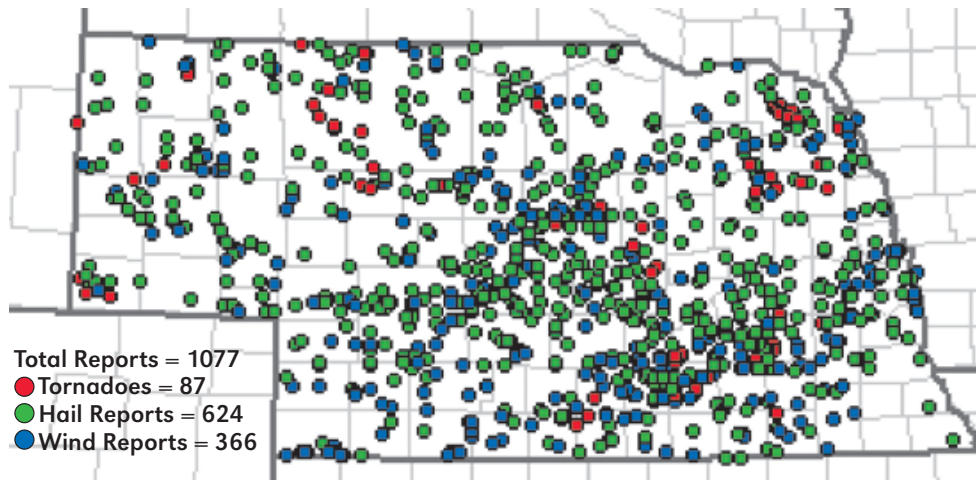
Average daily severe weather occurrences (1980–2006), Omaha radar coverage area

Source: NOAA's National Weather Service Storm Prediction Center



Nebraska annual severe weather reports summary - 2014

Source: NOAA's National Weather Service Storm Prediction Center



Recovery Information" Web page, <http://cropwatch.unl.edu/2014-storm-recovery>. The common questions associated with storm-damaged crops tend to concentrate around, "Is there a potential for the crop to recover and at what level?" or "What do I do with the field if I destroy the crop?" That question may be determined by the crop insurance adjuster, but this

Web page addresses how to assess the current damage of the crop, potential crop diseases after damage and options for replanting.

Cover Crops for Storm Damaged Fields

Cover crops are one option for fields totally damaged by severe weather. Cover

crops may provide rescue soil cover to protect the surface, but may also take up excess nutrients and add carbon to the soil. The surface cover may protect the soil from raindrop impact that can cause erosion and crusting, or to reduce soil water evaporation. If nitrogen was already applied for corn production, cover crops can be an effective way to take up nitrogen and put it into a biological form, rather than lose it to leaching.

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

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

Source: Nebraska Extension's Crop Watch article "Cover Crops for Storm-Damaged Fields" by Paul Jasa, Nebraska Extension Engineer, online at http://cropwatch.unl.edu/archive/-/asset_publisher/VHeSpfv0Agju/content/cover-crops-for-storm-damaged-fields.

Control of Perennial Weedy Grasses

Sarah Browning
Extension Educator

Perennial grasses, such as nimblewill, quackgrass, and windmill grass are some of the most difficult weeds to control in an acreage lawn. Whenever lawns are thinned, openings are created allowing weedy grasses to take hold.

Nimblewill, *Muhlenbergia schreberi*, is a native, warm season, weedy grass that is a frequent turf invader. Nimblewill is a thin, wiry, pale green grass. The leaf blades are short and emerge at 45 degree angles from the stems, which are slender, smooth and tend to lie flat on the ground. It spreads by short stolons, or above ground stems, that root at the nodes. Nimblewill forms circular patches as a result of its stoloniferous growth pattern, which grow larger each year.

It grows best during the warmest summer months and can often be found in damp, shady areas or in areas that receive only a partial day of full sun. It is objectionable in cool season lawns like Kentucky bluegrass and tall fescue because of its delayed green up in the spring and early fall dormancy. Many homeowners also dislike the fine-bladed texture of nimblewill and its habit to lie very flat on the ground, making it difficult to mow.

Quackgrass, *Elymus repens*, is a European native, cool-season grass that has become naturalized throughout



Nimblewill when brown

Nebraska. It prefers to grow in moist areas of the lawn, but can survive well in dry areas once established, becoming a serious invasive weed. It spreads through an aggressive rhizomatous root system, choking out more desirable grasses. The leaf blades are flat and thin, with few hairs, and no noticeable ridges or folds.

Windmill grass, *Chloris verticillata*, is a native, warm-season bunchgrass. It is found throughout Nebraska, but is most common in eastern and southern parts of the state. It grows in all types of soil, and is common in lawns. As a warm-season grass it begins growth late in spring, but grows and seeds quickly during the summer from May through September. As a bunchgrass, it spreads primarily through seeds. Plants have coarse, light green leaves and produce seedheads at a short height, becoming unsightly in a mowed lawn. The seedheads consist of 6–20 spike-like



Quackgrass

branches attached to a central axis, which resemble small tumbleweeds and can roll across the lawn in fall dispersing seeds.

Control

Nimblewill and windmill grass can be controlled selectively with the herbicide Tenacity (mesotrione). Several applications, usually at least 3, should be made on 3–4 week intervals for the best control. Susceptible grasses will turn white following the application, as chlorophyll in their leaves breaks down. Tenacity is labeled for use on Kentucky bluegrass, tall fescue, fine fescue, perennial ryegrass and buffalograss. It should not be used on zoysiagrass unless damage or grass death can be tolerated. Tenacity can be applied by commercial pesticide applicators or purchased online by homeowners.

Quackgrass is more difficult to control since there are no

herbicides to selectively kill it without damaging the lawn. Also, pulling or digging is often unsuccessful since only a small portion of rhizome remaining in the soil is needed to generate a new plant. So the best way to control quackgrass, is to spot treat the weed-infested areas with glyphosate (Roundup, Kleenup, etc.).

Glyphosate is a systemic, non-selective herbicide. Glyphosate is absorbed through the foliage and is then translocated to all plant parts. It kills nearly all plants that are directly sprayed. Visible symptoms usually develop in 7–10 days of the application. Death occurs in 2–4 weeks.

Always read and follow all label directions when using any pesticide.

Efforts to control undesirable perennial grasses in the lawn should begin in mid-summer. This allows adequate time to kill the weedy grasses, then

prepare the areas for seeding or sodding in late summer. Complete destruction of the weeds is necessary to prevent their reappearance. If the treated areas are not dead in 2–4 weeks, a second application is necessary. Areas treated with glyphosate can be seeded or sodded 7 days after application.

If you plan to sow seed, it's not necessary to dig up the destroyed areas. Vigorously rake these areas with a stiff tined garden rake to remove some of the dead debris and to break the soil surface. After seeding, work the seed into the soil by lightly raking the area and keep the soil moist with frequent, light applications of water. The best time to seed bare spots is mid-August through September. If you plan to sod, remove the dead debris before laying the sod.

The establishment of a thick, healthy lawn and its proper maintenance will help prevent future weed infestations.

Aaron J. Patton, Purdue Plant & Pest Diagnostic Laboratory

Randall G. Probst, University of Massachusetts

Emmet J. Juzdziewicz, Robert W. Freckmann Herbarium, University of Wisconsin (http://wisplants.uwsp.edu)

Fragrance in the Perennial Garden

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

—Mary Jane Frogge, UNL Extension Associate

Common Name	Scientific Name	Fragrance Source	Height	Location	Other Information
Iris, Bearded	<i>Iris germanica</i>	Flowers	8–36"	Full sun	Many colors
Lemon Balm	<i>Melissa officinalis</i>	Foliage	24–36"	Full sun	Spreads easily
Lavender, English	<i>Lavandula angustifolia</i>	Flowers & Foliage	12–16"	Full sun	
Lily-of-the-Valley	<i>Convallaria majalis</i>	Flowers	8–12"	Part shade	Spreads easily
Oregano	<i>Origanum vulgare</i>	Foliage	12–18"	Full sun	
Peony	<i>Paeonia lactiflora</i>	Flower	24–36"	Full sun	
Rosemary	<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>	Foliage	24–36"	Full sun	Not hardy
Sage, common	<i>Salvia officinalis</i>	Foliage	18–36"	Full sun	
Spearmint	<i>Mentha spicata</i>	Foliage	12–24"	Full sun	Spreads easily
Thyme, common	<i>Thymus vulgaris</i>	Foliage	8–12"	Full sun	



Iris, Bearded



Lemon Balm



Lavender, English



Lily-of-the-Valley



Rosemary



Sage, Common



Spearmint



Thyme, Common

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act Protects All Native Birds

Soni Cochran
Extension Associate

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

There are some birds considered non-native and non-protected exotics. These birds are not covered by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Common birds found in our area not covered include the House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*), European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), Domestic Pigeon or Rock Dove (*Columba livia*).

Game birds fall under another category and are managed by individual states. In Nebraska, you would contact Nebraska Game and Parks Commission at 402-471-0641 for information on game birds.

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

Basically, the law says you may not pursue, hunt, take, capture, kill or possess at any time any migratory bird or any part, nest or egg. While a feather may be beautiful or a nest might look nice on a display shelf, this



It is illegal to possess any bird feather, eggs, shells, nests or other parts of native birds, which includes the majority of birds in Nebraska. Pictured is a blue jay feather which are native.

law prohibits the possession of all feathers, eggs, shells, nests or other parts related to protected birds. Federal salvage permits are required to possess any bird.

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

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

There are situations where birds are a nuisance or cause damage and control is necessary.

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

If you find an injured or orphaned bird, contact Wildlife Rescue Team at 402-473-1951 or visit their website at www.wildliferescueteamincne.org. If you find an injured hawk or owl, contact Raptor Recovery at 402-994-2009 or 402-488-7586 or visit their website at www.fontenelleforest.org/raptor-recovery.

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

GARDEN GUIDE

THINGS TO DO THIS MONTH

Mary Jane Frogge, Extension Associate

Celebrate Pollinator Week, June 15–21, by planting native perennial plants and placing a bee house in your landscape.

Spring flowering shrubs such as spirea, viburnum, lilac and forsythia should be pruned as soon as they are done blooming.

Mid to late June is an excellent time to take softwood cuttings of shrubs to start new plants. Some shrubs which can be propagated in this way are spirea, lilac and viburnum.

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

Remove old flower heads from annual bedding plants to keep them blooming.

Remove foliage from spring bulbs after it turns yellow and begins to dry.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Start a gardening notebook.

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

Tick Check!

Soni Cochran
Extension Associate

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

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

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

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

Use an insect repellent containing the active ingredient diethyl toluamide (DEET). Apply to clothing and areas of exposed skin such as hands, wrists, ankles and neck. Be sure



An American dog tick "questing" with front legs extended to find a host.

to read and follow label directions.

Conduct a body check when returning from potentially tick-infested areas. Promptly remove any attached ticks you find using the following procedure:

1. Use fine-tipped tweezers.
2. Grasp the tick as close to the

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

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

4. After removing the tick, thoroughly disinfect the bite site and wash your hands with soap and water. If you have spent time in tick-infested areas and have flu-like symptoms later or the bite area appears infected, contact your physician.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Nebraska Extension in Lancaster County has several resources about ticks at <http://lancaster.unl.edu/pest>.



HEART OF 4-H VOLUNTEER AWARD

Jill Hattan

Lancaster County 4-H is proud to announce Jill Hattan as winner of June's "Heart of 4-H Award" in recognition of outstanding volunteer service.

Jill has helped with the 4-H home environment areas at the Lancaster County Super Fair for eight years — five years as a superintendent. She has also helped with furniture

painting workshops and 4-H Clover College tie dye classes.

"Being a 4-H volunteer gives me a chance to share with kids things that I love to do," says Jill. "I have always enjoyed arts and crafts and working with kids. My favorite experience as a 4-H volunteer is working one-on-one at the furniture painting workshops, teaching the kids a new painting technique and then watching them perfect it. I love how proud the kids are of their finished project and excited to have something to take to the fair. I have enjoyed teaching and watching these kids grow over the years."

Lancaster County 4-H thanks Jill for donating her time and talents. Volunteers like her are indeed the heart of 4-H!



JUNE 15 DEADLINE

4-H Member Online Enrollment

Nebraska 4-H has introduced a new online enrollment system, called "4-H Online." Paper enrollment is no longer an option. The website to enroll is <https://ne.4honline.com>. The process is easy and only takes a few minutes per member. **The health information is optional!**

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

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

4-H Projects Updated

4-H members' projects must be updated by June 15 using "4-H Online" (see enrollment information above). These are project area(s) each member plans to enter at the Super Fair (specific classes within each project area not needed). NOTE: only 4-H members or their parents/guardians may update projects.

4-H Volunteer Enrollment Forms

For now, volunteers and leaders must still enroll using the form at <http://lancaster.unl.edu/4h/club/4henrollformleader.pdf> by June 15. Mail or bring to the Extension office.

4-H/FFA Animal Ownership Affidavits

All 4-H/FFA sheep, goats, swine, breeding beef, bucket calves, feeder calves, dairy cattle, llamas/alpacas and rabbits which will be exhibited at Super Fair, State Fair and/or Ak-Sar-Ben 4-H Stock Show must have Identification/Ownership Affidavits submitted by June 15. Paper forms (the forms that have been used previously) must be submitted for each animal. Paper forms are available online at <http://lancaster.unl.edu/4h/fair> and the Extension office.

In addition, all animals which will be exhibited at the 2015 Nebraska State Fair and/or Ak-Sar-Ben Stock Show (except Dairy and Horse) must be entered via the online "Ownership affidavit" form at <http://livestockaffidavit.unl.edu>. If you plan on showing market swine, market sheep, market goats or feeder calves at State Fair or Ak-Sar-Ben, you will need to have DNA collected by this deadline also. If you have any questions, contact Cole at 402-441-7180.

Market Animal Quality Assurance Training

4-H/FFA members showing market beef, market sheep, market swine, meat and dairy goats, dairy cattle, poultry and rabbits at the Lancaster County Super Fair, State Fair and/or Ak-Sar-Ben must complete Quality Assurance training by June 15. **NOTE: this is a correction from an earlier NEBLINE which said Quality Assurance training is not required for the Super Fair.** Livestock exhibitors showing only breeding animals and horse exhibitors do not have to complete it. Quality Assurance certification for State Fair and Ak-Sar-Ben must be done online — this year, there is a \$5 per youth charge. Instructions are online at <http://4h.unl.edu/qualityassurance>. If you have any questions, contact Cole at cmeador2@unl.edu or 402-441-7180.

HORSE BITS

4-H Horse Identifications Due June 1

Each horse which will be showed at Super Fair must be identified on form "4-H Horse Identification Certificate" and submitted to Extension by June 1. Form is available at the Extension office as a carbon copy form. If you use the online form at <http://go.unl.edu/jm3d>, make a copy for yourself.

4-H Riding Skills Level Testings

A 4-H horsemanship level group testing will be held on Tuesday, June 2, 5:30 p.m. at the Lancaster Event Center — Amy Countryman Arena. Anyone wishing to test must sign up by May 26 by contacting Marty at 402-441-7180 or mrcruickshank2@unl.edu. All of the written horsemanship level requirements must be completed and submitted to Marty before the riding portion of the levels can be conducted. A final testing will be held on Tuesday, June 30, 5:30 p.m. at the same location. Anyone wishing to test must sign-up with Marty by June 23.

4-H Horse Judging Contest, June 5

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

Pre-District 4-H Horse Show, June 6

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

State Hippology and Judging Entries

Hippology and judging entry forms for the State 4-H Horse Expo at Fonner Park are due to the Extension office Monday, June 15. All entry fees will be paid by the Lancaster County 4-H Council. Contest entry forms and information can be found at <http://animalscience.unl.edu/ANSCState4HHorseShowInformation>. For more information or if you have questions, contact Marty at 402-441-7180.

Life Challenge Contests

4-H Life Challenge judging contests help youth learn more about issues related to family and consumer science and entrepreneurship. Contests are open to all 4-H'ers, need not be enrolled in a specific project. Contact Tracy at 402-441-7180 for more information.

- **County-level Junior (for ages 8–11) AND Senior Life Challenge** (for ages 12 and up) will be held Saturday, May 30, 9 a.m. at the Lancaster Extension Education Center. Preregister by May 28 by calling 402-441-7180 (there is no entry form). Contact Tracy for a study packet for the Junior Life Challenge.
- **Statewide Life Challenge** (for ages 12 and up) will be held June 29–30 on UNL East Campus. To participate, contact Tracy at 402-441-7180 by June 1. Information will be online at <http://pase.unl.edu>.

New 4-H Entomology Exhibits

Two new 4-H entomology classes should have been in the Super Fair Book: "Insect Habitats" and "Macro-photography." "Special Interest Display" has slightly different rules. Descriptions are available at <http://lancaster.unl.edu/4h/fair> and the Extension office.

Livestock Clinic, May 28

Lancaster County 4-H and Purina have teamed up to present a free 4-H/FFA Beef, Sheep, Swine and Meat Goat Nutrition and Fitting Clinic on Thursday, May 28 at the Lancaster Event Center — Pavilion 1. Registration starts at 5:30 p.m., dinner at 6 p.m. and clinic at 6:30 p.m. RSVP to Tiffany Dziuban at 402-310-8849 or tbdziuban@landolakes.com. More information is at <http://lancaster.unl.edu/4h/documents/fittingclinic2015.pdf>.

4-H Plant Science Contests, June 10

Three Plant Science Contests will be held Wednesday, June 10, 10 a.m.–Noon at the Lancaster Extension Education Center. Open to all 4-H'ers ages 8–18. Preregistration is not required — enter the day of contest. Youth choose which portions of the contest to participate in:

- tree identification
- grass-weed identification
- horticulture contest

Study materials are online at <http://lancaster.unl.edu/hort/youth/fair.shtml>.

Nebraska 4-H is offering an online Horticulture Judging Contest at <http://go.unl.edu/mfh2>. The quiz will be available June 12–22. The password is Nebraska.

4-H Bicycle Contest, June 13

The 4-H Bicycle Safety Contest will be held Saturday, June 13, 9 a.m. at the Lancaster Extension Education Center, 444 Cherrycreek Road. The contest is open to all 4-H'ers ages 8 and up. Participants must provide their own bicycle and must wear a helmet. Register by June 8 by calling 402-441-7180 (there is no entry form). There are two parts of the contest. In the bicycle skills events, 4-H'ers maneuver through several designated courses to test their riding skills and safety. 4-H'ers also take a multiple choice quiz. A bicycle inspection reinforces the importance of bicycle maintenance and safety features.

Premier Animal Science Events, June 29–30

The statewide Premier Animal Science Events (PASE) will be held June 29–30 on UNL East Campus. Open to 4-H'ers ages 12 and up, PASE consists of a variety of different contests:

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

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

STEAM Clothing 1 Workshop, June 13

A "Tips and Tricks for STEAM Clothing 1" workshop will be held at Hancock Fabrics, 6800 P St., Lincoln, on Saturday, June 13, 10–11 a.m. The workshop is open to anyone but will focus on 4-H Clothing 1 skills. No cost and no preregistration. Learn what types of patterns to choose and what to watch for when you select your fabric. We will also cover techniques you should use that might not be mentioned in the pattern and what the judge is looking for. Did you know you can choose from four different waistband styles for STEAM Clothing 1? For more information, contact Kath Conroy at 402-421-7111.

Donated Sewing Machine To Go To a 4-H'er

This is the seventh year Kath Conroy, a 4-H clothing super-intendent, and her husband, Mike, are graciously donating a brand new sewing machine to one Lancaster County 4-H youth. All interested 4-H youth should submit a paper describing the clothing projects they have done in the past and plan to do in the future. Also explain why they should be the youth to receive it. Send papers by Monday, July 6 to Nebraska Extension in Lancaster County, 444 Cherrycreek Road, Ste. A, Lincoln, NE 68528.

4-H'ers Qualify for Regional Speech & PSA Contest

The Lancaster County 4-H Speech and Public Service Announcement (PSA) contest was held March 22. Nineteen Lancaster County 4-H youth competed in this year's communication events. The following top winners will represent Lancaster County at the Regional Speech & PSA contest on May 21 at University of Nebraska–Lincoln East Campus.

Congratulations to all participants!

Speech contest:

- Junior (8–10 years): Livia Swanson, Sarah Lange, Aleyna Cuttlers

- Senior (13–18 years): Peter Greff, Sheridan Swotek

Public Service Announcement contest:

- Junior (8–10 years): Riley Peterson
- Intermediate (11–12 years): Ella Hendricksen, David Swotek, John Boesen
- Senior (13–18 years): Sheridan Swotek

Discover, Learn and Grow at 4-H Summer Camps



4-H Summer Camps, offered June 6–Aug. 6, are open to all youth ages 5–18 (need not be in 4-H). With locations at Gretna and Halsey, there are nearly 50 camps ranging from half day to seven days/six nights! More information is online at <http://4h.unl.edu/camp> and the Extension office.



Clover College

Tue., June 16–Fri., June 19

Lancaster Extension Education Center, 444 Cherrycreek Road

Four days of "hands-on" workshops full of fun and learning! All supplies will be provided unless otherwise noted. If you have questions, contact Tracy at 402-441-7180.

WORKSHOPS WITH OPENINGS AS OF MAY 14

4-Day Workshops

3 Electronic Textiles
Use special thread and miniature computers to create electronic fabrics such as a bracelet, bookmark and other items. Sewing machines will not be used.
TUE–FRI, JUNE 16–19; 8–10AM
AGES 8 & up • FEE \$8

3-Day Workshops

4 Clover Chess Tourney
Play in a unique chess tournament. Children play 2 rounds per day for three days, alternating colors. Time controls Game/20, Swiss system. Boards, sets and clocks provided.
TUE–THU, JUNE 16–18; 10:15AM–12:15PM
AGES 8 & up • FEE \$10

1-Day Workshops

6 Fox Walking & Stalking
Learn how to fox walk and the stalking steps needed for quiet, undetectable movement in the wilderness. Dress for the weather and bring a blindfold.
TUE, JUNE 16; 8–10AM
AGES 8 & up • FEE \$3

7 Beginning Knitting
Learn the basic techniques to knit your first project. The finished item can be entered in the fair.
TUE, JUNE 16; 10:15AM–12:15PM
AGES 10 & up • FEE \$7

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

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

12 Awesome Science
Have fun learning the science behind several crazy experiments.
TUE, JUNE 16; 12:45–2:45PM
AGES 8 & up • FEE \$3

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

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

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

18 Control the Flow
Explore the "Magic of Electricity" by creating a light switch you can enter in the fair!
TUE, JUNE 16; 3–5PM
AGES 8 & up • FEE \$5

20 Happily Helping Others
Help others by participating in a fun hands-on community service project.
WED, JUNE 17; 8–10AM
AGES 8 & up • FEE \$5

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

22 Wonderful Wildlife
Birds, snakes, turtles, oh, my! Come and explore wildlife and nature.
WED, JUNE 17; 10:15–12:15AM
AGES 8 & up • FEE \$2

23 Terrific Table Setting
Create an awesome centerpiece and learn all you need to know to participate in the 4-H Table Setting contest at the fair.
WED, JUNE 17; 10:15AM–12:15PM
AGES 8 & up • FEE \$5

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

26 Hammer! Nail! Build!
Build and decorate a hanging plant holder to display outside.
WED, JUNE 17; 12:45–2:45PM
AGES 8 & up • FEE \$8

27 YUM, Is it Real?
Create an amazingly deceiving "meal."
WED, JUNE 17; 12:45–2:45PM
AGES 8 & up • FEE \$10

28 Excellent Electronics
You'll be astounded when you create different sounds and lights with an electronic circuit board.
WED, JUNE 17; 12:45–2:45PM
AGES 8 & up • FEE \$3

29 Fantastic Felting
Use wool and the dry felting method to create fun shapes and designs.
WED, JUNE 17; 3–5PM
AGES 8 & up • \$10

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

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

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

34 Great Goats
Goats will be present to help you find out why they are GREAT!
THU, JUNE 18; 8–10AM
AGES 8 & up • FEE \$4

36 America's Rose
Learn how to plant, care, grow and show roses.
THU, JUNE 18; 10:15AM–12:15PM
AGES 10 & up • FEE \$5

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

38 Babysitting Basics
Learn the basic skills needed to be a responsible and creative babysitter. Focus is on activities, making snacks and toys.
THU, JUNE 18; 12:45–2:45PM
AGES 11 & up • FEE \$5

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

41 Wired for Wind
Build a wind turbine that generates electricity! Experiment with turbine designs. Take it home and experiment more!
THU, JUNE 18; 12:45–2:45PM
AGES 8 & up • FEE \$10

42 Nail News
Create your own nail polish. Learn how to blend colors. Come with clean finger and toe nails.
THU, JUNE 18; 3–5PM
AGES 9 & up • FEE \$10

43 The Art of Zen Doodle
Explore this method of creating fun designs while also creating a relaxed mood.
THU, JUNE 18; 3–5PM
AGES 9 & up • FEE \$3

44 Upcycled T-Shirt
Bring old adult XL T-shirt to make a pair of capris. Bring sewing machine, matching thread and scissors.
THU, JUNE 18; 3–5PM
AGES 10 & up • FEE \$3

45 Science in Your Kitchen
Explore food science with this hands-on experience. Taste what you've learned!
THU, JUNE 18; 3–5PM
AGES 10 & up • FEE \$3

46 Rabbits, Rabbits!
Rabbits will help you learn how care for them. Receive showmanship tips.
THU, JUNE 18; 3–5PM
AGES 8 & up • FEE \$3

49 Decoupage Details
Decorate your own storage container. Bring your imagination!
FRI, JUNE 19; 10:15AM–12:15PM
AGES 8 & up • FEE \$5

50 Habitat Discovery
Learn about pollinators, make a nature field journal & explore the new pollinator habitat. Wear closed toe shoes & sun protection.
FRI, JUNE 19; 10:15AM–12:15PM
AGES 10 & up • Fee \$5

51 Bottles, Bottles
Make unique decorated vases. Very cool!
FRI, JUNE 19; 10:15AM–12:15PM
AGES 8 & up • FEE \$10

53 Candyland Cottage
Assemble a gingerbread house and adorn it with candy. Bring leftover candy to add to the supplies.
FRI, JUNE 19; 12:45–2:45PM
AGE 8 & up • FEE \$4

54 Delicious, Nutritious
Make a delicious, nutritious meal for yourself.
FRI, JUNE 19; 12:45–2:45PM
AGES 8 & up • FEE \$5

For registration form and current class availability, go to <http://lancaster.unl.edu/4h/programs/clovercollege>



EXTENSION CALENDAR

All events will be held at the Lancaster Extension Education Center, 444 Cherrycreek Road, Lincoln, unless otherwise noted.

May

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

June

- 1 4-H Super Fair Horse ID's Due to Extension
- 2 4-H Horsemanship Level Testing, Lancaster Event Center - Amy Countryman Arena 5:30 p.m.
- 2 4-H Council Meeting 7 p.m.
- 4-5 Tractor Safety Course for Youth, Lancaster Event Center
- 5 4-H Horse Judging Contest Lancaster Event Center - Pav. 3 5 p.m.
- 6 4-H Horse Pre-District Clinic/Show/Fundraiser and Tack Swap, Lancaster Event Center - Pav. 3 9 a.m.
- 10-18 4-H Horse District Shows, Bridgeport, Valentine, McCook, Ord, Wayne, Seward
- 10 4-H Plant Science Contests: Horticulture/Tree ID/ Grass-Weed ID 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
- 12 Extension Board Meeting 8 a.m.
- 13 4-H Bicycle Contest 9 a.m.
- 15 Deadline to Enroll New 4-H Members and for All Members to List Project Area(s) Planning to Enter at Super Fair. Must Use "4-H Online" at <https://ne.4honline.com>.
- 15 Deadline for 4-H Volunteers to Enroll. Must Use Form at <http://lancaster.unl.edu/4h/club/4henrollformleader.pdf>
- 15 Deadline for 4-H & FFA Sheep/Goats/Swine/Breeding Beef/Bucket Calves/Dairy Cattle/Llamas & Alpacas/Rabbits Identification Forms (and DNA for State Fair or Ak-Sar-Ben)
- 15 Deadline for 4-H & FFA Livestock Market Animal Exhibitors Showing at State Fair or Ak-Sar-Ben to Complete Quality Assurance Training
- 16-19 4-H Clover College
- 20 Composting Demonstration, Pioneers Park Nature Center's backyard composting demonstration area 10 a.m.
- 23 Guardian/Conservator Training 1:30-4:30 p.m.
- 25 Co-Parenting for Successful Kids Class 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
- 29-30 4-H Premiere Animal Science Events (PASE)/FCS Life Challenge, UNL East Campus
- 30 4-H Horsemanship Level Testing, Lancaster Event Center - Amy Countryman Arena 5:30 p.m.
- 30 4-H Horse Incentive Program Ends

4th Graders Gain Understanding of Agriculture at Ag Literacy Festival

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

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

More photos are online at www.flickr.com/photos/unlxtlanco/collections.



The final session of each day was "Ask a Farmer," when fourth graders asked two Lancaster County farmers questions. The farmers were 4-H volunteer Linda Meyer (left) and Extension board member Paula Peterson (holding microphone). Pictured second from left is Extension Assistant Cole Meador, who organizes the festival.



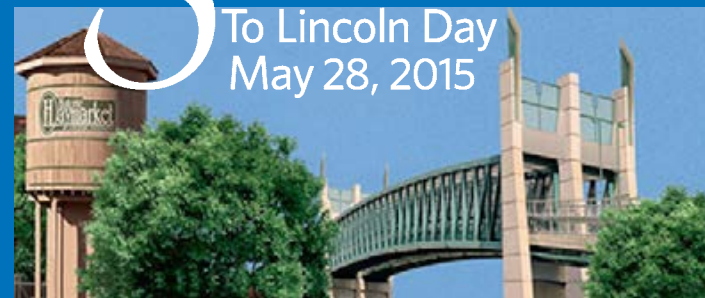
Extension Educator Tyler Williams helped present the Corn & Soybeans session. He is pictured with a 1 square foot piece of paper as part of teaching students 1 acre = 43,560 square feet.

Lancaster County 4-H Council is part of



give

To Lincoln Day
May 28, 2015



Lancaster County 4-H Council is one of the nonprofits the community can give donations to during "Give to Lincoln Day" hosted by Lincoln Community Foundation. Your donation, made any time from now until May 28, 11:59 p.m., is increased by a proportional share of a \$300,000 challenge match pool!

Here are a few ways your support will help local youth:

- Pay for state 4-H contest fees for eligible Lancaster 4-H youth
- Pay for 4-H project manuals for income-eligible 4-H families
- Offset costs for Lancaster 4-H youth to attend a national 4-H event
- Pay for local youth to attend a 4-H Summer Camp

For more information or to make an online donation, go to <http://givetolincoln.razoo.com/story/Lancastercounty4-Hcouncil>.

Lancaster Event Center Help Wanted

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

Tractor Safety Courses for Youth 14-15

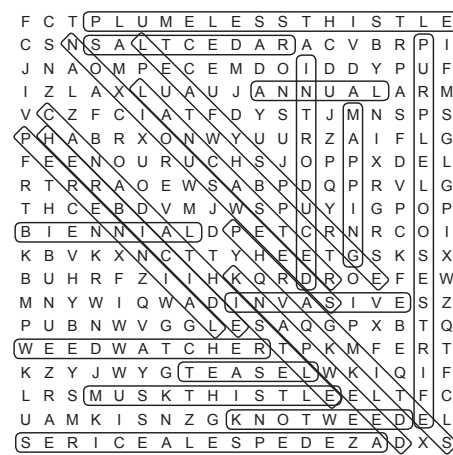
All youth 14 or 15 years of age who work on a farm or ranch other than his/her parents is required to be certified through a tractor safety course.

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

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

Weed Awareness Hidden Word Find Solution

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



Photos by Vicki Jeddica