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# Extension’s Agricultural Apps Put Management Tools in Producers’ Hands

**Tyler Williams**  
Extension Educator

Technology has become an integral part of agricultural production and mobile apps are an important component. It is evident smart phones are common for farmers and ranchers — no matter their age — and this valuable technology can do much more than check email and social media. Nebraska Extension continues to develop agricultural apps to help producers manage their operations from the field, tractor or easy chair. To access these apps and others, go to <http://ianr.unl.edu/mobile-apps> or search for the appropriate name in your mobile device’s app store.

## Aphid and Western Bean Cutworm Speed Scout Apps

Speed scouting is a new method for determining whether pest populations have reached the action threshold for treatment with an insecticide. These two apps, “Aphid Speed Scout” and “Western Bean Cutworm Speed Scout,” will reduce the amount of time needed for scouting in order to make treatment decisions. After inputting observations, the apps will recommend re-sampling in a



Konnie Robertson, Nebraska Extension in Lancaster County

few days, sample more plants or treatment is needed. The apps are free and are available for Apple, but Aphid Speed Scout is not available for Android devices.

## Nebraska On-Farm Research Network

The “Nebraska On-Farm Research Network” app helps producers participating in the Network design and manage their on-farm research. The app enables you to create treatment strips in your own field and develop a map of your research study. Once the field is created, you have the ability to enter periodic observations related to pests, irrigations or other key

observations, including photos. At the conclusion of the trial, you input harvest data and export to an excel file with all of the observations, yield data and plot layout. The app is free and is available for Apple and Android devices.

## Pesticide Recordkeeping

The “Pesticide Recordkeeping” or “PeRK” app was developed by the Pesticide Safety Education Program as an easy way to keep pesticide records on the go. The app provides an easy, step-by-step *see AGRICULTURAL APPS on page 4*

## New Climate and Weather App: AgriTools

“AgriTools” is a new app designed by Extension Educator Tyler Williams to provide location-specific climate and weather information to agricultural producers.

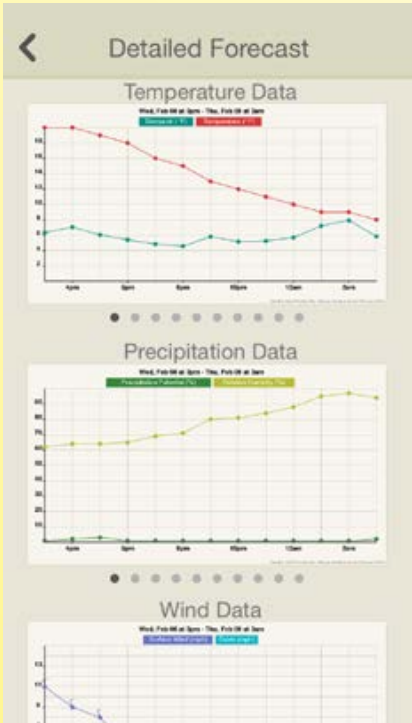
It features weather data from the National Weather Service, High Plains Regional Climate Center, Nebraska State Climate Office and Nebraska Mesonet weather stations located throughout the state. Forecasts and recent data are provided for any location selected on the map. Data includes yesterday’s temperature, wind, soil moisture, soil temperature, evapotranspiration, solar radiation, growing degree days (GDD) and seasonal GDD accumulation. This information allows the user to make more informed agricultural decisions.

The app gives easy access to a crop-water-use calculator which uses the interpolated evapotranspiration for the location and users can select

crop type and crop stage. Additional tools are expected to be developed in the future.

An additional feature lists University of Nebraska–Lincoln agricultural websites and mobile apps. Users can then access the resources with the push of a button.

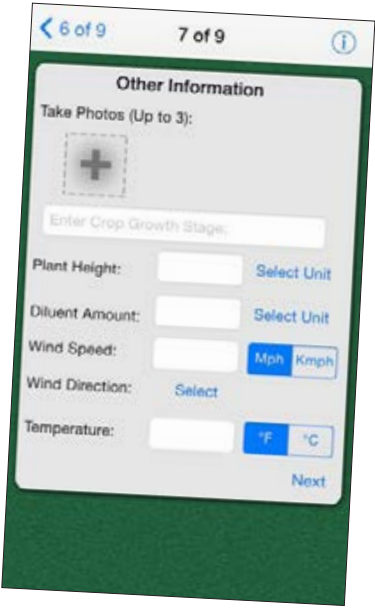
AgriTools is free and is currently available for Apple devices only.



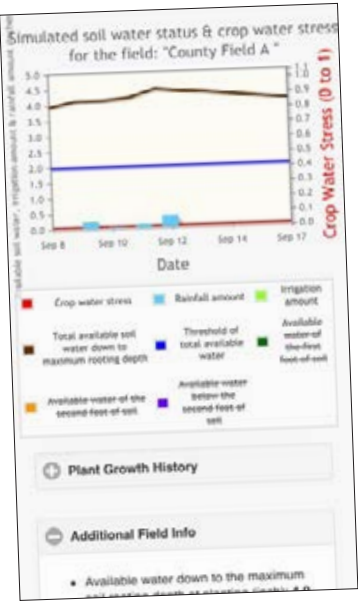
Aphid Speed Scout



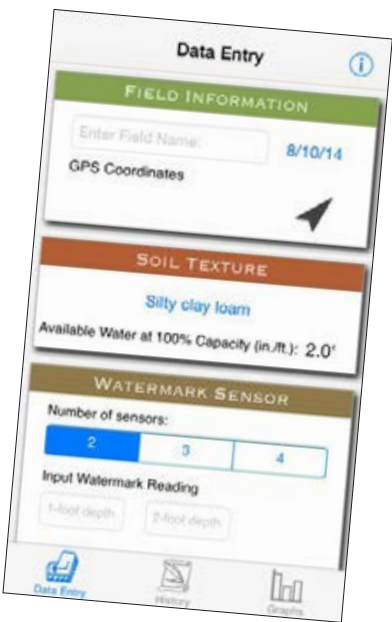
Nebraska On-Farm Research Network



Pesticide Recordkeeping (PeRK)



CornSoyWater



Crop Water

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Nebraska Extension in Lancaster County  
444 Cherrycreek Road, Ste. A, Lincoln, NE 68528  
**402-441-7180**  
***http://lancaster.unl.edu***  
Email: [lancaster@unl.edu](mailto:lancaster@unl.edu) • Fax: 402-441-7148

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Karen Wobig

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Jenny DeBuhr

#### EXTENSION EDUCATORS

Tracy Anderson, Sarah Browning, Jaci Foged, Emily Grattopp,  
Jody Green, Alyssa Havlovic, Alice Henneman, Jessica Meuleners,  
Meghan Sittler, Tyler Williams

#### EXTENSION ASSOCIATES

Soni Cochran, Mary Jane Frogge, Cole Meador,  
Dana Root-Willeford

#### EXTENSION ASSISTANTS

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Kristin Geisert, Meredith Hein, Teri Hlava, Vicki Jedlicka,  
Sam Perea, Brock Shuler, Jim Wies

#### BIOSOLIDS COORDINATOR

David Smith

#### SUPPORT STAFF

Pam Branson, Deanna Covault, Karen Evasco, Konnie Robertson,  
Chris Rosenthal, Karen Wedding

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# Sorting Food Facts and Myths: Do Foods Labeled as “Natural” Deliver on Your Expectations?

Alice Henneman, MS, RDN  
*Extension Educator*

Have you ever bought one brand of food instead of another because it was described as “natural?” Are you paying more for a food labeled as “natural?” What does “natural” mean to you?

The manufacturer may have a different meaning.

## What Consumers Think “Natural” Means

A 2015 “Consumer Reports” survey of a nationally-representative group of 1,005 adults found more than half of consumers usually look for products with a “natural” food label.

Many consumers thought a “natural” label on packaged/processed foods currently meant:

- No toxic pesticides were used (63%)
- No artificial materials or chemicals were used during processing (62%)
- No artificial ingredients or colors were used (61%)
- No GMOs [Genetically Modified Organisms] were used (60%).

An even greater percentage (about 80%) felt these characteristics were what the label SHOULD mean.

Consumers was asked if they believed a “natural” label needed to be verified or meet some type of standard, and they answered:

- Yes, (45%)
- No (51%)
- Unsure (4%)

A 2016 International Food Information Council (IFIC) Foundation Food & Health Survey (1,003 adults) found “healthfulness” was a top driver in food purchasing decisions. Consumers responding to a choice of definitions about healthy eating styles chose the following top three:

- “the right mix of foods” (51%)
- “limited or no artificial preservatives or ingredients” (41%)
- “natural” (37%)

When asked to describe what “natural” means, there were a range of responses in relation to food. These included: “no additives or preservatives,” made from “natural ingredients” and “straight from nature.”

## FDA’s Definition of “Natural”

In response to the uncertainty of the meaning of “natural,” in 2016 the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) asked for public comments on such questions as:

- “Whether it is appropriate to define the term ‘natural,’
- If so, how the agency should define ‘natural,’ and
- How the agency should determine appropriate use of the term on food labels.”



They are currently reviewing those comments. At present:

“The FDA has considered the term ‘natural’ to mean that nothing artificial or synthetic (including all color additives regardless of source) has been included in, or has been added to, a food that would not normally be expected to be in that food. However, this policy was not intended to address food production methods, such as the use of pesticides, nor did it explicitly address food processing or manufacturing methods, such as thermal technologies, pasteurization, or irradiation. The FDA also did not consider whether the term “natural” should describe any nutritional or other health benefit.”

## USDA’s Definition of “Natural” for Meat

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food Safety and Inspection Service, the term “natural” on a meat or poultry label means:

“A product containing no artificial ingredient or added color and is only minimally

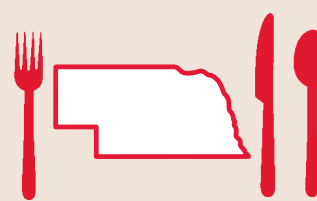
processed. Minimal processing means that the product was processed in a manner that does not fundamentally alter the product. The label must include a statement explaining the meaning of the term natural (such as ‘no artificial ingredients; minimally processed’).”

## The Bottom Line

Unless a standardized definition is developed for “natural,” this term means little more than no artificial ingredient or added color is present in the food. In addition, in the case of meat and poultry, it also should be minimally processed. If you are seeking a specific attribute in a “natural” product, don’t pay extra unless the label provides enough information ensuring you are getting what you are looking for.

#### References:

- Bock, Andrea. *Peeling Back the ‘Natural’ Food Label*, *Consumer Reports* at [www.consumerreports.org/food-safety/peeling-back-the-natural-food-label](http://www.consumerreports.org/food-safety/peeling-back-the-natural-food-label)
- *Consumer Reports National Research Center, Natural Food Labels Survey* [www.consumerreports.org/content/dam/cro/magazine-articles/2016/March/Consumer\\_Reports\\_Natural\\_Food\\_Labels\\_Survey\\_2015.pdf](http://www.consumerreports.org/content/dam/cro/magazine-articles/2016/March/Consumer_Reports_Natural_Food_Labels_Survey_2015.pdf)
- *International Food Information Council Foundation, 2016 Food & Health Survey: Consumer Attitudes toward Food Safety, Nutrition & Health* at [www.foodinsight.org/sites/default/files/2016\\_executivesummary\\_final\\_web.pdf](http://www.foodinsight.org/sites/default/files/2016_executivesummary_final_web.pdf)
- *United States Department of Agriculture / Food Safety & Inspection Service. Meat and Poultry Labeling Terms* at [www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/wcm/connect/e2853601-3edb-45d3-90dc-1bef17b7f277/Meat\\_and\\_Poultry\\_Labeling\\_Terms.pdf?MOD=AJPERES](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/wcm/connect/e2853601-3edb-45d3-90dc-1bef17b7f277/Meat_and_Poultry_Labeling_Terms.pdf?MOD=AJPERES)



## HEALTHY EATING

### ENJOY NEBRASKA FOODS!

Alice Henneman, MS, RDN, Extension Educator

### ST. PATTY’S PIZZA

For a quick and easy St. Patty’s Day treat, cut thin cross-wise slices from a green pepper. Remove any seeds. Bake on top of your pizza. Enjoy!



Alice Henneman



Termites Part 1: Know the Difference Between Termites and Ants





Editor's note: This is part 1 of a 2-part series. Part 2 in the next NEBLINE will focus on termite infestations, the damage caused and different treatment options.

Jody Green  
Extension Educator

Termites are eusocial insects, defined by having overlapping generations, cooperative care of young and a reproductive division of labor. They have a caste system where different castes fulfill a distinct role within the colony. The only termites found in Nebraska are subterranean termites. It costs homeowners billions of dollars annually to prevent, control and repair termite damage. Termites have a nonstop appetite for cellulose materials, which include wood products, trees, firewood, drywall paper, cardboard, paper and cotton fabric. Only mature colonies, those established and growing for years, produce swarming termites (winged reproductives). Homeowners typically discover a termite infestation in one of two ways:

- 1) During swarm season, when winged termites emerge from hidden locations.
- 2) When inaccessible areas of the structure are made accessible during home renovation or repair.

Termite swarms in Nebraska are seasonal, occurring in the spring from March to May. They

	Winged Reproductive	Antennae	Waist	Food Source	Galleries
TERMITE	4-wings of equal size and length.  Shown magnified. Actual size about 3/8" body length	Straight, bead-like antennae.	Broad waist with no distinction between thorax and abdomen.  Reproductive after their wings have fallen off	Cellulose material such as plant material, wood, cardboard, paper and cotton.	Galleries with the grain, the softer springwood eaten and packed with mud.
CARPENTER ANT	Pair of forewings larger than pair of hind wings.  Shown magnified. Actual size about 1/4–1/2" body length	Elbowed antennae	Slender waist with node or pedicel between thorax and abdomen.  Reproductive after they shed their wings	Diverse diet may consist of carbohydrates, protein and fats. They do not eat wood.	Galleries cut into wood grain, smooth and clear of mud. Coarse sawdust with insect parts kicked out of galleries.

typically occur on a warm day after significant rainfall. During a swarm, winged reproductive termites come out of the wood-work to find a mate, pair-off and disperse. Termite swarmers are not strong fliers; their wings and bodies are often found caught in cobwebs and along windowsills. Many of them do not survive. The reproductive caste does no damage to the structure; their function is to produce offspring and grow the population. To complicate matters, swarming ants may be mistaken for swarming termites as the timing of dispersal flights often overlap. It is important to identify the swarming insect

as either termite or ant because there is great variations between treatment options and protocols. When swarms occur, remain calm. Collect a few intact specimens in a container to have them identified before beginning any insecticide treatment program. Extension offers free pest diagnostic services Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m. at 444 Cherrycreek Road, Suite A, Lincoln. An extensive termite infestation will likely require a professional soil application by a pest control company, but ant infestations are not as labor-intensive, complex or expensive.

Habitat Modification May Help Reduce Wildlife Conflicts

Soni Cochran  
Extension Associate

Many of us enjoy watching wildlife in our neighborhoods, acreages, farms and ranches. However, there are times when wildlife can become a nuisance. Habitat modification is one of the keys to helping reduce wildlife conflicts.

- **Remove artificial food sources.** Feed pets indoors. If you feed your pets outside, be sure to bring in all food and bowls at night. Clean up any spilled food promptly.
- **Secure the lids on trash cans and dumpsters.** Clean garbage cans and dumpsters often. Many trash-raiding animals are nocturnal. If you are having problems with wildlife getting into your trash at night, put it out right before it is to be picked up by the collection company.
- **Maintain your compost piles properly.** Do not compost meat or cooked foods.
- **Use sturdy poles for bird feeders and keep the area under the feeders clean.** Incorporate natural landscaping to provide bird habitat into your landscape.
- **Clean up any spills of food, bird seed, grain or garbage immediately.**
- **Store food, bird seed, pet food and grain in strong, rodent-proof containers**



Pet food left outside, especially overnight, can attract wildlife such as raccoons and skunks.

- with tight lids.** Keep stored items off the floor and away from walls.
- **Rake up and remove fruits and nuts from trees near buildings.**
- **Keep livestock feeding and grain storage areas clean and secure.**
- **Remove dog, cat and even horse droppings daily.** Some wildlife eat feces.
- **Eliminate standing water.**
- **If nuisance wildlife feed on your landscape plants, use fencing to exclude your plants from the animals.** Add plants to your landscape less desirable to the animal.
- **Reduce shelter.** Keep foundation plantings, if any, well-trimmed. Don't stack anything against the foundation.
- **Remove brush piles,**

- junk piles and clutter.** Keep woodpiles away from buildings. Mow your lawn as recommended and keep shrubs trimmed. If birds are roosting in trees, trim or thin out the branches. Contact a certified arborist for help with this task, if needed.
- **Cut trees that brush up against the building** and trim back limbs hanging over the roof.
- **Use exclusion techniques to keep animals out of buildings, gardens and livestock areas.**

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
For detailed resources on managing raccoons, opossums, birds, rabbits and more, go to <http://lancaster.unl.edu/pest>

NEBLINE READER SURVEY

We Want Your Feedback  
Chance to Win \$20 Gift Card\*

The NEBLINE newsletter is published monthly (except December) by Nebraska Extension in Lancaster County. The NEBLINE started in December 1989, replacing four individual newsletters. Currently, the print edition is mailed to nearly 11,000 subscribers, primarily in Lancaster County. The NEBLINE is also posted online in PDF format at <http://lancaster.unl.edu/nebline>, and nearly 350 people have signed up to receive email alerts when issues are posted online.

Please help us assess how helpful the NEBLINE is to you! We appreciate your feedback. Surveys submitted by April 20, 2017 will be eligible for a random drawing. Five people will receive a \$20 gift card\* — choice of Runza, Valentino's or Visa.

THREE WAYS TO RESPOND  
(only one response per person)

- 1) Mail or drop off this form to:  
Nebraska Extension in Lancaster County,  
444 Cherrycreek Road, Suite A, Lincoln NE 68528
- 2) Online survey at: [lancaster.unl.edu/nebline/survey](http://lancaster.unl.edu/nebline/survey)
- 3) Call and give your replies: 402-441-7180  
Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

\*Not funded by tax dollars

First name and phone (for prize notification only — optional)

Which NEBLINE version(s) do you read? (check all that apply)  
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What section(s) do you usually read? (check all that apply)  
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☐ Farm ☐ Early Childhood  
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☐ Acreage ☐ 4-H & Youth

Are you involved with 4-H?  
☐ Yes ☐ No

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If the NEBLINE was posted online only (no print version), would you still read the NEBLINE?  
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What age group are you in?  
☐ Under 17 ☐ 18–29 ☐ 65+  
☐ 30–49 ☐ 50–64

Where do you live?  
☐ City, town or village ☐ Farm or acreage

Comments



## “Successful Farmer Series” Final Workshop, March 3

The final workshop for the Nebraska Extension in Lancaster County’s “Successful Farmer Series” will be Friday, March 3, 9–11:30 a.m. at the Lancaster Extension Education Center, 444 Cherrycreek Road, Lincoln. The topic is corn and will be presented by three speakers from the University of Nebraska–Lincoln. This workshop will cover corn diseases, irrigation and water management, insect management and more. We will have multiple corn production experts in the audience to answer your questions.

The cost to attend is \$5. Pre-registration is appreciated at least two days before the workshop by contacting Karen Wedding at 402-441-7180 or [kwedding2@unl.edu](mailto:kwedding2@unl.edu), or by registering online at <http://go.unl.edu/farm-erseriesregistration>. Pay at the door, check or cash. Refreshments will be provided.

## Agricultural Apps

*continued from page 1*

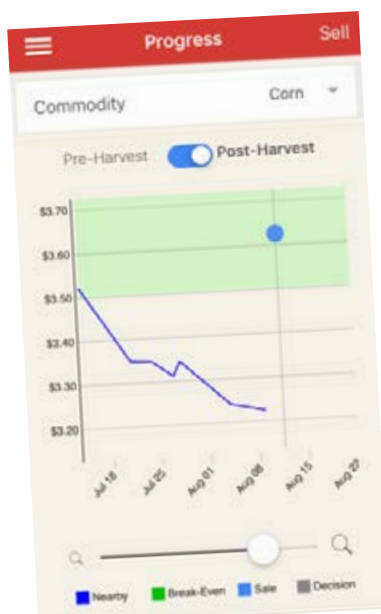
data entry process to enter pesticide application data and meets all Nebraska record-keeping laws for private and commercial/non-commercial pesticide applicators. Records are saved within the app and can be exported via email. The app is free and is available for Apple and Android devices.

### CornSoyWater

“CornSoyWater” is an irrigation-advising tool for growing corn and soybeans. It takes in soil statistics and weather information to project the water stress of a corn or soybean crop and advises you on irrigation practices. You can create and manage over fifty corn and soybean fields and it automatically sends you a notification when a field is experiencing water stress. The app is free and is available on Apple and Android devices.

### Crop Water

The “Crop Water” app provides an easy way to estimate soil water status based on Watermark sensors. With these sensor readings, the Crop Water app will estimate the water used as well as what is still available for Nebraska Soils. You can also see historic sensor readings and graph. The app is free and is available for Apple and Android devices.



Grain Marketing Plan

### Grain Marketing Plan

The “Grain Marketing Plan” app allows you to create grain marketing plans for corn, soybeans and winter wheat. The application updates you daily with new information allowing you to modify your plans based on current market conditions. Most importantly, this application helps you implement your plan by notifying you when it’s time to market your grain. The app is available for Apple devices and is free if you can use the code LINE17 to access protected features of the app.

### GrassSnap

The “GrassSnap” app was developed to photo-monitor

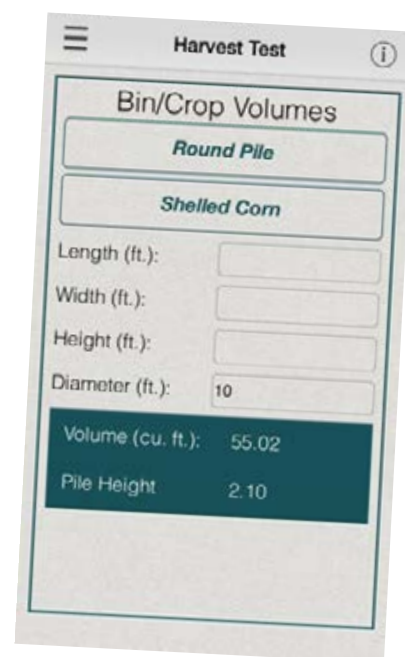


Grass Snap

rangeland. You can quickly grab repeatable photo-monitoring data, save it to your device and download to a computer. The app applies your pasture name, GPS location and date on all images, as well as the ability to tie written comments to the image. A ghost image allows you to effortlessly replicate the landscape view each year. This app is a go-to tool for those enrolled in the Nebraska NRCS CSP grazing management enhancement. The app is free and is available for Apple and Android devices.

### Harvest Test Weight Converter

The “Harvest Test Weight Converter” app can assist you in determining crop-shrink volume of grain, in-field estimation of crop yields for corn, soybeans and wheat and



Harvest Test Weight Converter

volume of grain bins and grain piles. The app is free and is available for Apple and Android devices.

## Emerald Ash Borer Seminars

**Tuesday, April 4, 6:30–8:30 p.m.**

**Saturday, May 6, 9–11 a.m.**

**Lancaster Extension Education Center  
444 Cherrycreek Road, Lincoln**

**Registration is required by  
calling 402-441-7180 at least  
three days prior to each seminar.**

**Cost is \$15 per person/couple for one set  
of educational materials. Pay at the door,  
making checks payable to Nebraska  
Extension in Lancaster County.**

In 2016, Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) was confirmed in Omaha and Greenwood. All ash tree species will be at risk of attack by this insect as EAB spreads. Insecticide treatments against EAB are available, but can cause cumulative damage to trees. Treatments are NOT recommended until EAB has been confirmed within 15 miles of your location. Northeast Lincoln is within 15 miles of Greenwood.

At this seminar, property owners will:

- Learn how to identify ash trees. If you are unsure if a tree in your landscape is an ash, bring small branch samples or pictures for identification.
- Learn how to determine which of your ash trees are the best candidates for treatment. Many owners will decide to let some trees die — particularly low-vigor trees, those in poor locations or with existing problems.
- Find out about the available treatment methods, their advantages and disadvantages, and when they should be applied.
- Learn about good replacement trees. Diversity is key!

#### Presenters:

**Sarah Browning, Nebraska Extension Horticulture Educator**  
**Jody Green, Nebraska Extension Entomology Educator**  
**Laurie Stepanek, Nebraska Forest Service – Forest Health Specialist**



Emerald ash borer — fully developed adult before emergence (shown approximate size)



Ash trees have compound leaves with 5–11 leaflets.

## Choosing a Site for Your Orchard

*This is the first article of a 2-part series about orchards. See the April NEBLINE for the second article.*

**Sarah Browning**  
*Extension Educator*

Are you thinking about planting some fruit trees next spring, so you can harvest your own fruit in a couple years? Don’t be fooled by the beautiful pictures in mail order catalogs — growing blemish-free fruits is a lot of work and a goal most home orchardists never achieve. Fruits are one of the most difficult types of plants to grow well.

There are important considerations you should explore about home orchards before starting, beginning with the amount of work the orchard will require. Carefully consider how much time you are willing to devote to maintaining your plantings. Then if you decide to move forward, realize serious planning, careful plant selection, and a lot of work will be needed to get your plants established and producing tasty fruit.

### Site Selection

Growing vigorous trees starts with several important considerations prior to buying and planting your fruit trees. If site and environmental conditions are not ideal for establishing and growing fruits, plants will be stressed resulting in greater susceptibility to pest and disease problems. Additionally, fruit quality will likely be poor when plants begin producing.

First, choose a good site. Fruits require full sunlight, at least 6 hours of direct sun each day, and moist but well-drained soil, having a pH of 6.0–6.5. Avoid low spots in the landscape, where



cold air collects and frost occurs most frequently.

North facing slopes, due to the cooling effects of cold north winds and their reduced sun exposure caused by the low sun angle in winter and spring, help to delay spring flower development — which is actually a good thing. This minimizes the effects of late spring frosts on flower buds, so north facing slopes are a good option for early spring blooming cultivars and frost sensitive fruits like peaches.

South facing slopes have the opposite effect, allowing plants to warm and begin growing earlier in spring. They are a good planting site for late spring blooming cultivars. East and west facing slopes have intermediate effects.

### Irrigation

Nebraska is prone to droughts, both short 4–5 week dry periods in summer or year-long scorchers. Be sure your new plantings are located near a water source to make irrigation easier when supplemental watering is needed.

If drought conditions are projected to be severe in the year you plan to plant, consider waiting to establish your orchard in a future year after dry conditions have passed.



## 2017 All-America Vegetable Award Winners

### Pepper – ‘Mad Hatter’



This interesting pepper has a very unique shape. The plant's vigor, earliness, high yields, large size and great taste all contribute to its high score among All-America Selections (AAS) judges. 'Mad Hatter' is a member of the *Capsicum baccatum* pepper species from South America. The taste has a refreshing, citrusy floral flavor that remains sweet, only occasionally expressing mild heat near the seeds. Be prepared for vigorous and robust plants that are easy to grow because they were bred for North America's many growing conditions.

### Winter Squash – ‘Honeybaby’

'Honeybaby' is a very productive variety of winter squash producing numerous fruits on a compact plant. These shorter vines grow 2–3 feet in a semi-bush habit showing great



garden vigor. The squash's short, wide fruits are slightly larger, sweet and meatier than similar comparison varieties.

### Tomato – ‘Chef's Choice Yellow’



'Chef's Choice Yellow' produces hearty beefsteak type tomatoes in a beautiful yellow color. Tomato lovers and culinary gardeners will fall for this large meaty delicacy that has a sweet, citrus-like flavor with just the right amount of acid

and the perfect tomato texture. AAS judges raved about the quantity of the 10-ounce fruits that each 5-foot indeterminate vines produced. You will enjoy harvesting 30 or more fruits throughout the season from this disease-resistant (*Fusarium* wilt, *Verticillium* wilt, tomato mosaic virus and scab) plant.

### Okra – ‘Candle Fire’



A unique red okra with pods that are round, not ribbed, and a brighter red color than the reddish burgundy okras currently available. This high-performing AAS winner received high marks for productivity, taste, texture and tenderness as well as the ornamental value of red pods on red stems. One judge noted that 'Candle Fire' okra was quite maintenance free to grow, except for the frequent harvesting, which is a good thing!

Source: All-America Selections

## Is My Child Ready For Kindergarten?

Jaci Foged

Extension Educator

Is my child ready for kindergarten? As a childcare director, parents often asked me this question. Early childhood is an awesome time for learning. Did you know 90 percent of a child's brain will be developed by the age of five? Did you also know young children ages 0–8 do not learn the same way as you and I?

So, how can we best help our children be prepared, while still honoring their needs as children? Here are my top five ways to help your child (and yourself) be ready for kindergarten.

**5) Call your school district to ensure they know your child's birthdate and your address.** This will put your child on their list to contact when they send out kindergarten information. This is especially important if your child was not born in the town you now live in. The Nebraska Department of Education has a "Ready for Success" booklet at [www.education.ne.gov/oec/ready\\_for\\_success.html](http://www.education.ne.gov/oec/ready_for_success.html). This booklet will help families know about starting school in Nebraska.

**4) Be responsive to all areas of your child's development.** Healthy development in all areas including physical, social, emotional, language and cognitive (thinking) skills will help prepare them for school.

**3) Encourage your child's independence.**

Skills such as dressing themselves, using the restroom and handwashing without constant reminders from an adult are helpful for a successful start in kindergarten. Your child may have spent the first years at home, or in a childcare setting — either way the number of adults per child is about to decrease.

**2) Read aloud to your child, everyday!** Not only will this encourage language and literacy skills, but it is a great way to spend time with your child. Visit libraries, read a variety of print materials including: books, comics, poems and captions on pictures from the newspaper. Just read!

**1) Research shows the**

**best thing we can do to get children ready for school is to develop and keep positive relationships with them.** Help your child develop confidence in their learning and they will be ready to take on the world.

### FOR MORE INFO

Related Nebraska Extension NebGuides include:

- "Early Literacy Checklist — In the Home," <http://extensionpublications.unl.edu/assets/pdf/g1991.pdf>
- "CAR — A Strategy for Learning," <http://extensionpublications.unl.edu/assets/pdf/g1988.pdf>
- "Brain Development and Learning in the Primary Years," <http://extensionpublications.unl.edu/assets/pdf/g2198.pdf>

### Upcoming Learning Child Trainings

Nebraska Extension teaches several early childhood development classes for childcare providers. Listed are upcoming classes held at the Lancaster Extension Education Center, 444 Cherrycreek Road (unless location otherwise noted). For additional information, to sign up, contact Jaci Foged at [jfoged2@unl.edu](mailto:jfoged2@unl.edu) or 402-441-7180. Some registration forms are at <http://lanaster.unl.edu/family>

**Look Who's Hatching: Exploring Oviparous Animals with Young Children** — Tuesday, March 7, 6:30–8:30 p.m. Cost \$10. Hatching out chicks is a wonderful experience for young children. During this session, we will review the new curriculum from Nebraska Extension, "Look Who's Hatching," and learn how to implement the curriculum in your program. Participants will have the opportunity to hatch chicks in their own program for an additional cost.

**Science Early Learning Guidelines (ELG)** — Friday, April 28, 9 a.m.–3 p.m. Cost \$25. Register by Tuesday, April 25.

**Environmental Awareness Workshop for Child Care Providers & After-School Staff** — Wednesday, May 3, 10 a.m.–12 p.m. Cost \$5. Register by Monday, April 17.

## GARDEN GUIDE

### THINGS TO DO THIS MONTH

Mary Jane Frogge, Extension Associate

March is a good time to start transplants indoors of tomatoes, peppers and eggplant.

Turn the compost pile.

Complete the pruning of shrubs, ornamental trees before growth starts, except for spring flowering shrubs. Prune those which bloom in spring as soon as they finish flowering.

Buy a notebook and use it to keep all your gardening information. List what you plant in the garden. Include the name of seed companies, plant name, variety, planting date and harvest date. During the growing season keep notes on how well the plant does. If the variety is susceptible to disease, record what was used to treat any problems. All this information will be helpful in planning future gardens.

If you have not done it already, check stored tools and outdoor furniture for signs of rust. Remove any surface rust with steel wool and paint with rust preventing paint.

Do not plow your garden when the soil is wet. It will form clods which are difficult to break up and interfere with cultivation during the summer.

Pick a permanent spot for herbs in the garden.

Place birdhouses built this winter outdoors this month. Birds will begin looking for nesting sites soon.

Rake the lawn to remove leaves and twigs.

Some annuals, such as verbenas, snapdragons and petunias, take 70 to 90 days to bloom. They should be started indoors in early spring.

Buy some new perennials for your flower border. Spring is a good time to renew and add variety to your landscape.

How are your houseplants doing? Check all five growing factors if your house plants are not growing well. Light, temperature, nutrients, moisture and humidity must be favorable to provide good growth.

## 2017 LINCOLN EARLY CHILDHOOD CONFERENCE

SATURDAY, APRIL

1

Doors Open & Registration Begins at 8:15 a.m.  
Presentation: 8:45 a.m.–3 p.m.

LANCASTER EXTENSION EDUCATION CENTER  
444 Cherrycreek Road, Lincoln NE

Cost: \$25. A light breakfast and lunch provided.

For more information or questions contact  
Cara Small at [carasmall@esu86.org](mailto:carasmall@esu86.org) or (402) 761-3341

Register and pay online at [www.esu6.org](http://www.esu6.org) by March 29.  
Inservice hours will be given for this conference.



### DEFENDER of PLAY BOOT CAMP

Keynote presenter: Denita Dinger

Designed specifically for the early childhood professional who is ready to embrace and defend the value of play. This all-day training includes tough discussions, documentation drills, brainstorming sessions and a "GO PLAY" obstacle course (aka: HANDS ON STATIONS).

This conference is approved through the Nebraska Department of Education and sponsored by the Southeast Early Learning Connection.





## HEART OF 4-H VOLUNTEER AWARD

### Nickie Casburn

Lancaster County 4-H is proud to announce Nickie Casburn as winner of March's "Heart of 4-H Award" in recognition of outstanding volunteer service.

Nickie has volunteered with 4-H for over 25 years, starting with being a teen tour guide for child care groups during Fair Fun Day. Since then, she has helped in the 4-H Food & Nutrition area at the Lancaster County Fair during static exhibit entry, judging and release days. In addition, Nickie is one of the superintendents of the 4-H Bicycle Safety Contest.

"I like being a 4-H volunteer because it is the heart of our youth," says Nickie. "I can't imagine not having 4-H in my youth! It provided my childhood with so many amazing opportunities and still continues, too. My favorite experience as a 4-H volunteer is meeting with new 4-H members at their first fair and discussing their project and seeing the pride of accomplishment in their entry! It is so heartwarming to see their excitement."

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

**Learn more about 4-H volunteer opportunities by going to <http://lancaster.unl.edu/4h> or calling 402-441-7180.**



### 4-H Clover Chase: A Nebraska 150 Event Starts March 1

Nebraska 4-H, in partnership with the Nebraska 4-H Foundation, is celebrating the Nebraska Statehood 150 with a 4-H Clover Chase. This photo scavenger hunt runs March 1–Aug. 15. Participants use an app to complete challenges and submit photo entries on social media using #NE4HChase. After submitting photos and earning 150 points, participants will be eligible to receive a commemorative water bottle and entered in a drawing for a drone with video capability. Complete details are at <http://4h.unl.edu/clover-chase>.

### 4-H/FFA Fair Books Will be Mailed in March

The Lancaster County 4-H & FFA Fair Book contains entry information for 4-H & FFA members exhibiting in 4-H/FFA. Fair Books are scheduled to be mailed on March 15 to all 4-H & FFA families who have enrolled through <https://ne.4honline.com>. The Fair Book will also available at the Extension office and at <http://lancaster.unl.edu/4h/Fair>.

The Lancaster County Super Fair will be Thursday, Aug. 3–Saturday, Aug. 12 (4-H/FFA Exhibits & Events Aug. 3–6; 4-H Horse Show July 31–Aug. 6).

### 4-H Companion Animal Challenge Entries Due March 6

The third 4-H Companion Animal Challenge will be held on Saturday, April 1 at the Animal Science Complex on UNL East Campus (same date as 4-H Horse Stampede). It provides youth a chance to participate in a variety of contests that do not require animals, but allow youth to learn more about their dog, cat, rabbit or other companion animals. Contests include:

- Demonstrations (a presentation where youth demonstrate how to complete a task or related to the care of their companion animal)
- Photography and art contests

(open to all companion animal projects)

- Dog quiz bowl
- Dog skill-a-thon

Lancaster County 4-H Council will pay the contest entry fees for Lancaster County 4-Hers. Entry forms are due to the Extension office no later than March 6. T-shirts may be pre-ordered for \$5. Box lunches will be available for \$8 and must be pre-ordered. More information is available at <http://animalscience.unl.edu/ansc-4-h-companion-animal-challenge>

## 4-H MEMBERS AND LEADERS — PLEASE RE-ENROLL BY MARCH 1

4-H members and volunteers must re-enroll every year! Current 4-H members and volunteers who have not re-enrolled on the 4-H enrollment website 4HOnline since Oct. 1 are no longer officially enrolled members. **You are strongly encouraged to re-enroll by March 1 or you may miss out on communications such as NEBLINE, email reminders, etc.!** New members and fair projects may be updated through June 15.

The website to enroll is <https://ne.4honline.com>. The process is easy and only takes a few minutes per member or volunteer. 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 and/or volunteers in the household will be added. There is no fee to enroll in 4-H in Lancaster County.

More details and step-by-step instruction guides with pictures are at <http://lancaster.unl.edu/4h/club>. If you have questions about the process or need access to a computer, call Karen Evasco at 402-441-7180.

**INDEPENDENT MEMBERS:** 4-H members enrolling as independent need to select "Lancaster Independent" under "club."

**FFA MEMBERS:** FFA members need to select Crete FFA, Norris FFA, Raymond Central FFA or Waverly FFA under "club."

**VOLUNTEERS:** 4-H leaders need to re-enroll. **4-H club organizational leaders are now able to view their 4-H club's roster online, but must be enrolled for the current year and must contact Karen Evasco to set up a password.**

**NOTE: Health information is optional. You DO NOT need to complete this portion of the online form.**

### 4-H Jammie Workshop, March 4

4-H youth ages 8 and older are invited to practice their basic sewing skills and make pajama or lounge wear pants at the "Jammie Jamboree" sewing workshop on Saturday, March 4, 9 a.m. at the Lancaster Extension Education Center, 444 Cherrycreek Road. No cost to attend. Adults are encouraged to attend to help 4-Hers. Bring your sewing machine, basic sewing equipment (scissors, pins, measuring tape, etc.), simple pull-on pajama bottom pattern, pre-washed flannel or 100% cotton fabric — see yardage requirement on pattern envelope — (no one-way design fabrics or plaids), elastic as recommended by pattern, matching thread and spray starch. Do not cut out the pants before class. Register by Wednesday, March 1 by calling 402-441-7180.

### Paws-On Dog Workshop, March 18

Nebraska 4-H will present a statewide 4-H Paws-On Dog Workshop on Saturday, March 18, 9 a.m.–3 p.m. at the Greater Lincoln Obedience Club, 5740 Johanna Rd., Lincoln. Any 4-H member who wants to work with their dog can participate. Workshop covers obedience, agility, grooming, showmanship, and many other skills that will enhance your dog knowledge and training techniques. Cost is \$15 and includes lunch. Register by March 3. For more information and registration form, go to <http://4h.unl.edu/companion-animal>.

### 4-H Furniture Painting Workshop, March 25

4-H youth ages 8 and up are invited to participate in a furniture painting workshop on Saturday, March 25, 9 a.m. at the Lancaster Extension Education Center, 444 Cherrycreek Road. No cost to attend. Adults are welcome to attend to help youth. Bring a small piece of unpainted furniture, such as a shelf, stool or chair. These items can be found around your house, at craft stores, garage sales and thrift stores. Learn how to prepare new and used wood furniture by sanding, sealing, painting and finishing. All paints and finishes are provided. Register by Wednesday, March 22 by calling 402-441-7180.



## HORSE BITS State 4-H Horse Stampede Entries Due March 10

The annual 4-H Horse Stampede will be held Saturday, April 1 at the Animal Science Building on UNL East Campus. Stampede includes the 4-H state horse-related competitions which do not require a horse: Horse Bowl, Public Speaking, Demonstration and Art and Photography Contest. Open to 4-Hers ages 10–14 enrolled in the 4-H horse project (with the exception of the Art and Photography Contest).

Lancaster County 4-H Council will pay the contest entry fees for Lancaster County 4-Hers. Entry forms are due to the Extension office no later than March 10. Additional information on the individual competitions and entry forms are online at <http://4h.unl.edu/horse/stampede>. Stampede T-shirts will be available to participants for \$5 if pre-ordered. There will be no concession stand on-site. Box lunches will be available for \$8 and must be pre-ordered. If you have questions, contact the Extension office at 402-441-7180.

### Dressage Schooling Show, March 26

The Lancaster County Horse VIPS committee is presenting a Spring Fling Dressage Schooling Show on Sunday, March 26, 8 a.m.–4 p.m. at the Lancaster Event Center – Pavilion 3. Open to all ages to benefit the 4-H horse program. Entries are due March 17. Show flyer and registration form is at <http://lancaster.unl.edu/4h/horsenews.shtml>.

### Nebraska Extension Horse Events

This spring, Nebraska Extension is presenting three events at the Animal Science Building on UNL East Campus which will allow youth and adults the opportunity to expand their horse knowledge and skills.

**Horsemen's Update** — Wednesday, March 1, 9 a.m.–4 p.m. Several local equine experts will cover current industry issues, practices and technologies.

**Come Ride With Me Clinic** — Saturday, March 4, two sessions, 9 a.m.–12 p.m. and 1–3:30 p.m. Learn horsemanship skills by riding with or watching former K-State Equestrian Head Coach Casie Maxwell.

**Horse Judging School** — Saturday, April 22, 9:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m. For horse show judges, aspiring judges, judging team coaches and youth!

For more information or to register online, go to <http://animalscience.unl.edu/horse> or contact Kathy Anderson at [kanderson1@unl.edu](mailto:kanderson1@unl.edu).





## 4-H Entomology Workshop, April 8

4-H bug lovers ages 8 and older are invited to learn about insect collecting and identification. Each participant will practice mounting an insect into a miniature bug box in addition to other fun 'buggy' activities at the 4-H Entomology Workshop on Saturday, April 8, 9 a.m. at the Lancaster Extension Education Center, 444 Cherrycreek Road. Workshop is geared to prepare 4-H'ers to submit an exhibit for "My Favorite Insect" (class H800910) at the Super Fair. If weather is good, bring/wear clothes appropriate for outdoor collecting such as socks, closed toe shoes or boots, coat and sunscreen. In the event of inclement weather, activities will be held inside. No cost to attend. Adults are welcome and requested to stay and help younger 4-H'ers. All supplies will be provided. Register by April 3 by calling 402-441-7180.

## Pick-A-Pig Club Accepting New Members

The Pick-A-Pig 4-H club is accepting new members for anyone who wants to learn about pork production and show a pig at the Lancaster County Super Fair. The club is open to all city and rural youth ages 8–18. If you are interested, contact Harry Muhlbach at 402-430-7304 by March 15. The first meeting will be Sunday, March 19.

## 4-H Camp Scholarships

4-H Council will award full scholarships for a select number of Lancaster County 4-H members to attend a summer camp at either Nebraska 4-H Camp location: Gretna or Halsey! Applicants must be age 8 or older and currently enrolled in 4-H. Preference given to applications submitted by March 1, will accept through July 31. Application is online at <http://go.unl.edu/campsch>

## 4-H Camps 10% Discount by April 15

2017 4-H Summer Camp brochures are now available at the Extension office and online at <http://4h.unl.edu/camp-centers>. With locations at Gretna and Halsey, there are over 45 camps ranging from half day to five days/four nights. Open to all youth ages 5–18. Early bird discount of 10% by April 15.

## Rabbit Show, March 25

The 4-H Spring Rabbit Show will be held Saturday, March 25, 9 a.m. at the Lancaster Event Center – Exhibit Hall. Registration will be 7:30–8:30 a.m. Open to all youth ages 8–18. This is an opportunity to learn and practice your showmanship. Show flyer is at <http://lancaster.unl.edu/4h/animalnews.shtml>. For more information, call Bob at 402-525-8263 or the Extension office at 402-441-7180.

## New Premises ID Requirement for Market Animals

All 4-H/FFA market animals carrying an EID tag are required to have a Premises ID (this includes any that may show at only the county level as well). In order to show at the Nebraska State Fair, a Premises ID must be on file for a market animal exhibitor.

A Premises ID number can be obtained through the Nebraska Department of Agriculture by calling 1-800-572-2437. Only one Premises ID is necessary for a family with multiple exhibitors (provided livestock are housed at the same location). Only one Premises ID is necessary for an exhibitor that shows multiple species (provided livestock are housed at the same location). The Premises ID number should correlate to the location in which livestock are kept/housed permanently.

Any exhibitor who has completed Pork Quality Assurance (PQA) should have a Premises ID. You can call the Nebraska Department of Agriculture to verify.

Since breeding animals do not carry EID tags, this is not a requirement for those exhibitors at this time. The Premises ID number will be reported to county Extension staff for input into 4-H Online.

## Changes to Quality Assurance Training for 4-H Market Animals

As in the past, 4-H youth ages 8–18 planning to show market beef, market sheep, market swine, meat or dairy goats, dairy cattle, poultry and/or rabbits at the county fair, state fair and/or AKSARBEN 4-H shows are required to complete quality assurance training by June 15. On March 1, Nebraska 4-H will transition from using the Nebraska Livestock Quality Assurance (LQA) online course to a new national Youth for the Quality Care of Animals online program (YQCA). **For 2017, Nebraska 4-H will accept the "old" LQA training as well as the new YQCA training.**

The LQA course at <http://4h.unl.edu/quality-assurance> is still available for 4-H'ers to access up until March 1. The fee is \$5 to enroll. LQA will not accept new participants after March 1, but youth who start prior to March will be able to continue their work until June 15 by going through 4HOnline at <https://ne.4honline.com>. As in the past, youth completing the LQA online course will need to complete three new modules with an 80% or better. Upon completion of modules, youth must print the completion certificates and bring to their local Extension office.

The new YQCA course will be available March 1 and accessed through 4HOnline at <https://ne.4honline.com>. Youth will need to be officially enrolled for the current 4-H year. There will be a new fee structure of \$12. Youth will need to complete three modules and pass a test at the end of each module. Youth will not need to bring completion certificates to their Extension office but will have the option to print.

Lancaster County 4-H will offer a free Quality Assurance face-to-face training this summer. Details will be published in an upcoming NEBLINE.

## Lancaster County 4-H'er Showcases Doll Clothing Business at ESI Capitol Contest

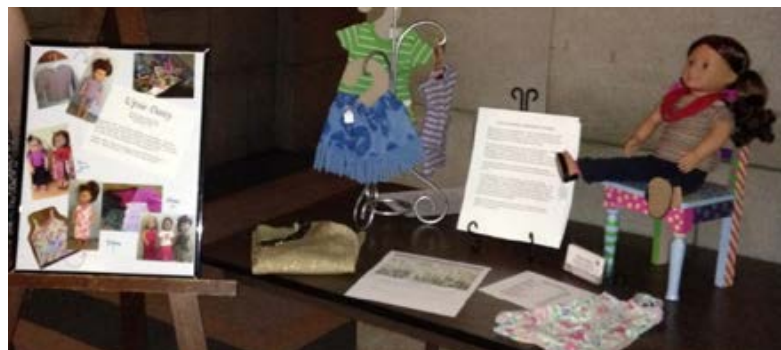
Nebraska 4-H held its first ever ESI Capitol Contest in January. EntrepreneurShip Investigation is a Nebraska 4-H curriculum project for youth ages 10–19 to help develop the skills and tools to start their own business. Twelve 4-H youth from across the state participated in the Capitol Contest, including Lilly Riedel of Lincoln. The youth shared overviews of their businesses with state legislators, the governor and others visiting the capitol. Projects included hand-painted signs, tie-dyeing, wooden trivets and coasters, and business security testing.

Lilly said, "The best thing about the contest was there were other entrepreneurs my age. I also thought it was cool that there were so many different types of businesses thought of by middle schoolers. Something else that made it a great experience was to take a tour of the capitol and learn about Nebraska and how it started with entrepreneurs."

Her business is upcycling people clothes into doll clothes and accessories. Lilly alters clothing using existing hems, ruffles and buttons and sews the rest. She creates her own pattern designs or finds patterns on Pinterest. Lilly can turn one pair of boy's shorts into two sporty skirts for dolls. Or she can turn



12 4-H'ers participated in the first ESI Capitol Contest in January.



Lilly Riedel shared information about her doll clothing business.

a girl's ruffle skirt into 1–4 doll skirts or dresses depending on the amount of fabric. Lilly then sells her products at local craft or art fairs.

"My business is different from other doll clothes makers because I upcycle lots," Lilly said. "Caring for the environment and recycling means a lot to me."

Lilly started making doll clothes to sell over a year ago. Since then, she has gone through

the ESI: *Discover the E-Scene* 4-H curriculum.

"The ESI books have enhanced my knowledge of business in many ways," she said. "Now I know how to take risks, set goals for myself, keep confidence, and be aware of community trends. This book helped me realize I am already doing some things right in my business."

## Providing Carnival-Type Games at Kiwanis Karnival is Fun Community Service Opportunity for 4-H Clubs

The annual Kiwanis Karnival, a FREE family event, is sponsored by the Lincoln Center Kiwanis. This year, it will be held Friday, April 7, 5:30–7:30 p.m. at Elliott Elementary School, 225 S. 25th St., Lincoln. The Karnival features carnival type games for the kids, bingo for adults, prizes, snacks, fun and fellowship. Lincoln Center Kiwanis has sponsored this event for over 50 years — providing prizes and snacks. 4-H clubs are needed to provide carnival-type booths. This is a great community service and leadership activity for clubs. If your 4-H club or family would like to have a booth or for more information, call Lorene at 402-423-7541 or 402-310-3481, or email [lbartos1@unl.edu](mailto:lbartos1@unl.edu). Come join the fun!

## 4-H Speech & PSA

4-H Speech & PSA 4-H Speech & PSA Contests are open to all 4-H'ers — need not be enrolled in a specific project. Youth may choose to participate in either or both the Speech and PSA contests. For rules, helpful resources and examples, go to <http://lancaster.unl.edu/4h/Contest/speech.shtml>. If you have questions, contact Kate Pulec at [kpulec3@unl.edu](mailto:kpulec3@unl.edu) or 402-441-7180.

### PSA Contest, Due March 13

In the Public Service Announcement (PSA) Contest, 4-H'ers submit a 60 second "radio commercial" promoting 4-H. Submit a PSA as a .wav or .mp3 file electronically to [kpulec3@unl.edu](mailto:kpulec3@unl.edu) or on a CD to the Extension office by Monday, March 13. If you do not have the capabilities to record a PSA, contact Kate to set up a recording time. Results and comment sheets will be handed out at the 4-H Speech Contest. The 2017 PSA theme is "4-H Grown."

### Speech Contest, March 19

The 4-H Speech Contest will be held Sunday, March 19 at the Lancaster Extension Education Center. Check-in between 1–1:30 p.m., contest begins at 1:30 p.m. Register by March 13 by calling 402-441-7180 or emailing [kpulec3@unl.edu](mailto:kpulec3@unl.edu) with your name, speech title and age division.





# EXTENSION CALENDAR

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

## February

- 23 Commercial Recertification Training ..... 9 a.m.  
23 Go Nutrition and Physical Activity Self-Assessment for Child Care (Go NAP SACC) ..... 5:30–8:30 p.m.  
28 Initial Commercial Certification Training and Testing Session. 8:30 a.m.

## March

- 1 Preference Given to 4-H Council Camp Scholarship Applications Submitted to Extension by this Date  
2 Management Training Program for Childcare Directors ... 9 a.m.–3:30 p.m.  
3 Deadline for Nebraska 4-H Foundation Scholarships  
3 Deadline for Governor's Agricultural Excellence Awards  
3 Successful Farmer Workshop Series..... 9–11:30 a.m.  
4 4-H Jammie Jamboree Sewing Workshop ..... 9 a.m.  
6 Pesticide Applicator NDA Walk-in "Testing Only" Session . 9 a.m.–2 p.m.  
7 Extension Board Meeting, State Capitol, 1445 K St., Room 1023 ..... 9 a.m.  
7 4-H Council Meeting ..... 6 p.m.  
7 Look Who's Hatching Training Session for Childcare Providers ..... 6:30–8:30 p.m.  
6 Lancaster County Deadline for 4-H Companion Animal Challenge Entries  
9 Co-Parenting for Successful Kids Class ..... 9 a.m.–12:30 p.m.  
10 Lancaster County Deadline for 4-H Horse Stampede Entries  
12 4-H Teen Council Meeting ..... 3 p.m.  
13 4-H Public Service Announcement (PSA) Contest Entries Due/ Preregister for Speech Contest  
14 Private Pesticide Applicator Training ..... 6–8:30 p.m.  
16 Private Pesticide Applicator Training ..... 1–3:30 p.m.  
18 4-H Paws-On Dog Workshop, Greater Lincoln Obedience Club, 5740 Johanna Rd., Lincoln ..... 9 a.m.–3 p.m.  
19 4-H Speech Contest ..... 1 p.m. registration/1:30 p.m. contest  
21–22 Earth Wellness Festival (for 5th Grade), Southeast Community College  
23 Pesticide Applicator NDA Walk-in "Testing Only" Session . 9 a.m.–2 p.m.  
23 Management Training Program for Childcare Directors ... 9 a.m.–3:30 p.m.  
25 4-H Spring Rabbit Show, Lancaster Event Center – Exhibit Hall..... 9 a.m.  
25 4-H Furniture Painting Workshop ..... 9 a.m.  
26 4-H Spring Fling Horse Dressage Show, Lancaster Event Center - Pav. 3 ..... 8 a.m.–4 p.m.  
30 Commercial Recertification Training ..... 9 a.m.

## Super Fair VIP Award Nominations

The 2017 Lancaster County Super Fair will be held Aug. 3–12 at the Lancaster Event Center, 84th & Havelock in Lincoln. Nominations are now being accepted for the following awards, which will be recognized at the VIP Luncheon on Thursday, Aug. 3. All forms can be found at <http://SuperFair.org/GetInvolved>

### Ag Society Hall of Fame

At the 2010 Super Fair, the Lancaster County Agricultural Society unveiled a new Ag Society Hall of Fame located in the Lancaster Event Center – Business Center. This wall formally recognizes those individuals who have dedicated time and effort to the Ag Society beyond the normal volunteer hours and have made significant contributions to the establishment, development, advancement or improvement of the Super Fair.

Inductees to date include: Lorene Bartos, Gary C. Bergman, Gordon Chapelle, Ted & Alice Doane, Rod Hollman, Larry Hudkins, Franklyn Manning, Harry Muhlbach and Charlie Willnerd. Nomination forms are due by May 1.

### Pioneer & Heritage Farm Awards

For over a half century, AKSARBEN Foundation has teamed up with Nebraska Farm Bureau and the Nebraska Association of Fair Managers

to present the Pioneer Farm Award, recognizing Nebraska farm families who have consecutively held ownership of land in the same family for 100 years or more.

More recently, AKSARBEN Foundation and Nebraska Farm Bureau have announced the Heritage Farm Award, which recognizes Nebraska farm families who have consecutively held ownership of land within the same family for 150 years.

To date, more than 9,000 families in all 93 counties have been honored. Recipients are presented a plaque and gatepost marker during the annual county fair in which the land is owned. Nomination forms are due by April 21.

### Good Neighbor Award

Since 1943, the AKSARBEN Foundation Good Neighbor Award has been recognizing unselfish acts of kindness across the Heartland. The award pays tribute to the neighbors and friends who go above and beyond to make the Heartland a better place. Recipients will also be recognized in a special feature of the *Omaha World-Herald* Sunday newspaper. Nominations are invited from community groups or individuals and should cover an outstanding deed or service performed during the past year. Nomination forms are due by May 1.

## EXTENSION NEWS

### 2017 Extension Board



Back row L–R: Jim Bauman, Patricia Heather, Marty Minchow, Mitch Sump, Paula Peterson, Jenny DeBuhr (Extension Administrative Aide), Karen Wobig (Extension Unit Leader); Front row L–R: Sharlyn Sieck, Jim Pinkerton, Allen Blezek and Larry Williams. Not pictured: L. Ronald Fleecs

The Lancaster County Extension Board serves as an advocate for Nebraska Extension in Lancaster County. Members of the board are appointed by the Lancaster County Board of Commissioners. The Extension Board provides guidance to Extension staff in establishing and accomplishing Extension education program goals and objectives. Annually, it assists in developing an operating budget and local educational priorities. The board meets monthly (usually the second Friday at 8 a.m.).

The following members were recently appointed: Allen Blezek

and Paula Peterson, re-appointed to serve their second 3-year terms, and Larry Williams for his first 3-year term.

Extension board members for 2017 are:

- Jim Bauman, *President*
- L. Ronald Fleecs, *Vice President*
- Sharlyn Sieck, *Secretary/Treasurer*
- Mitch Sump, *4-H Council ex officio member*
- Allen Blezek
- Patricia Heather
- Marty Minchow
- Paula Peterson
- Jim Pinkerton
- Larry Williams

### Paula Peterson Receives Statewide Extension Board Volunteer Award

At the Nebraska Association of County Extension Boards (NACEB) annual meeting in January, Paula Peterson received the organization's statewide Outstanding Volunteer award for significant contributions to Nebraska Extension. Paula was nominated by Karen Wobig, extension educator and unit leader of Nebraska Extension in Lancaster County, for her many years of service to the Lancaster County 4-H program, Lancaster County Super Fair, Extension Board and overall advocacy of Extension.

Paula previously volunteered with 4-H for over 20 years in many roles: leader of the Rock Creek Ranchers club, member of 4-H Council, superintendent of the bucket calf and photography 4-H areas at the Lancaster County Super Fair, instructor at 4-H Clover College, and organizer of several Speech and Public Service Announcement workshops.

Paula has brought farm animals to 4-H events, Extension Agricultural Literacy Festivals, FFA petting zoos and the Super



Paula Peterson (right) with Dave Varner, Associate Dean/Associate Director of Nebraska Extension and NACEB Advisor.

Fair. The past couple of years, Paula organized the "Fun at the Farm" interactive learning exhibit at the Super Fair.

She was appointed to the Lancaster County Extension Board in 2014 and is currently serving her second 3-year term.

### Jenny DeBuhr Earns Award of Excellence

Jenny DeBuhr received the Lancaster County Board of Commissioners' Award of Excellence for December 2016 in the category of productivity. Jenny has been Administrative Aide for Nebraska Extension in Lancaster County since 2012, and a county employee since 2001.

She was nominated for the award by Publication & Media Assistant Vicki Jedlicka, who said, "She is the go-to person in our office and puts in extra time and effort to support the rest of the staff and keep the office running smoothly. During the past two years, Jennifer has been instrumental in two major upgrades to Extension's facility. A new audio/visual system was installed in the



Jenny DeBuhr (center), pictured with Publication & Media Assistant Vicki Jedlicka (left) and Unit Leader Karen Wobig (right).

conference rooms and a cubicle renovation was necessary for staff expansion."