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Farmers: Use climate for planning, weather for doing

Tyler Williams
Extension Educator

Farmers use climate and weather information daily and often subconsciously. It is engrained into many farming practices and plays a role in nearly every decision that happens on your operation. When to schedule irrigation, when to start calving, the amount of money you spend on grain drying, the number of gloves you own, etc., are all influenced by our climate and weather.

As we march into the growing season, we can use climatology to plan practices, but, ultimately, there will need to be timely modifications based on the weather.

Planting

Planting conditions are heavily dependent on the weather. April 10 or 15 may often be a target for planting corn, since this is past the crop insurance date and the soil temperatures are typically warm enough for corn germination.

The average soil temperature at 4 inches under bare soil on April 15 in West Point, Neb. from 1988–2017 was 50°F, but ranged from 36–61°F. At North Platte, Neb., a similar pattern is evident where the average soil temperature on April 15 (1983–2017) was 49.3°F, but ranged from 39–63°F (data from <http://hprcc.unl.edu>).

On average (climate), the date looks good, but for any given year (weather), it may not

be a wise decision to plant.

The recent 30 year trend for April and May average temperatures is fairly steady; however, March has been increasing by about 1°F per decade in the east and up to 1.6°F per decade in the Panhandle. In 2018, the Panhandle and southwest Nebraska was 1–3°F above normal and north central and southeast Nebraska was just below normal.

Wet fields also limit planting dates. The climate normal (1981–2010) precipitation in Nebraska in April and May is about 4.5 inches in the Panhandle to about 7.5 inches in the southeast. The 30 year trend is for an increase of 0.6 inches per decade in the Panhandle and 0.9 inches per decade in the southeast. Finding that window before the rain hits and the soil temperature is adequate can be challenging. It looks like the corn belt may be on track for another wet spring season.

The data would tell you that planting on a calendar date may not be the best option, but the number of suitable fieldwork days is certainly limited. This year is an example of how “typical” target dates may not work. In a nutshell, don’t waste a good-weather-planting-day.

Visit <http://cropwatch.unl.edu> for up-to-date information on recommendations for current conditions.

Spray applications

Wind speed is a common limitation in the Great Plains for pesticide applications and wind climatology can help

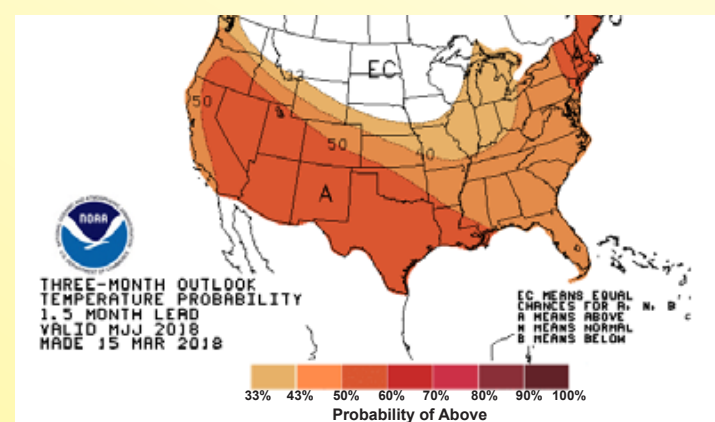
estimate potential “windows” for spraying.

Wind typically begins to pick up speed after sunrise and peaks from 3–5 p.m. (see chart below). The average wind speed will also tend to be stronger in May and begin to decrease in late June and into July. These cycles may be useful when determining workload and man-power for applications, but a forecast tool — such as the free AgriTools mobile app developed by Nebraska Extension — will provide hourly weather conditions to more accurately schedule applications.

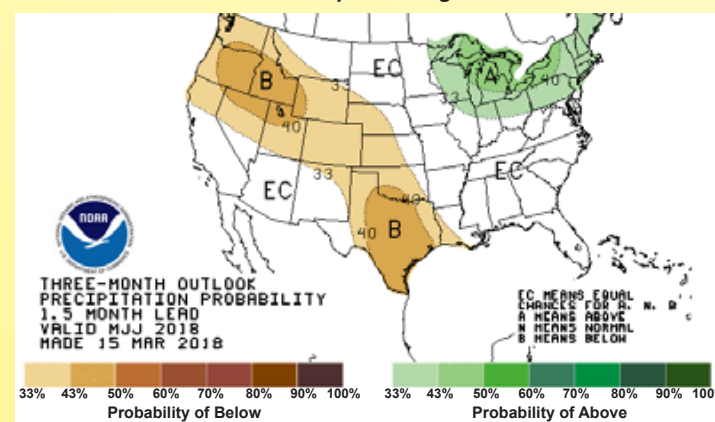
Climatology can also be used to help understand temperature inversions. Temperature inversions typically begin to form in the early evening — when incoming solar radiation rapidly decreases — and persist overnight. As the sun rises in the morning and solar radiation increases, the inversion will begin to erode.

Low-wind speeds are a key component for inversions and, as mentioned earlier, the wind speeds decrease overnight and later in the summer. This could increase the risk of an inversion setting in and lasting overnight. Clear skies, low wind speeds and dry air are key ingredients for a temperature inversion.

The weather, in addition to crop and pest growth stage, will determine the actual best date and time of pesticide applications, but climatology may help you think about target windows and potential spray hours available.



Three-month temperature (above) and precipitation (below) outlooks from the Climate Prediction Center at www.cpc.noea.gov.



Climate outlook

The outlooks from the Climate Prediction Center for May, June and July are showing increased odds for above normal temperatures for the southwestern half of Nebraska. Most of the U.S. is expected to have better chances for above normal temperatures through the growing season, but portions of the Central Plains, including Nebraska, are a coin flip as usual.

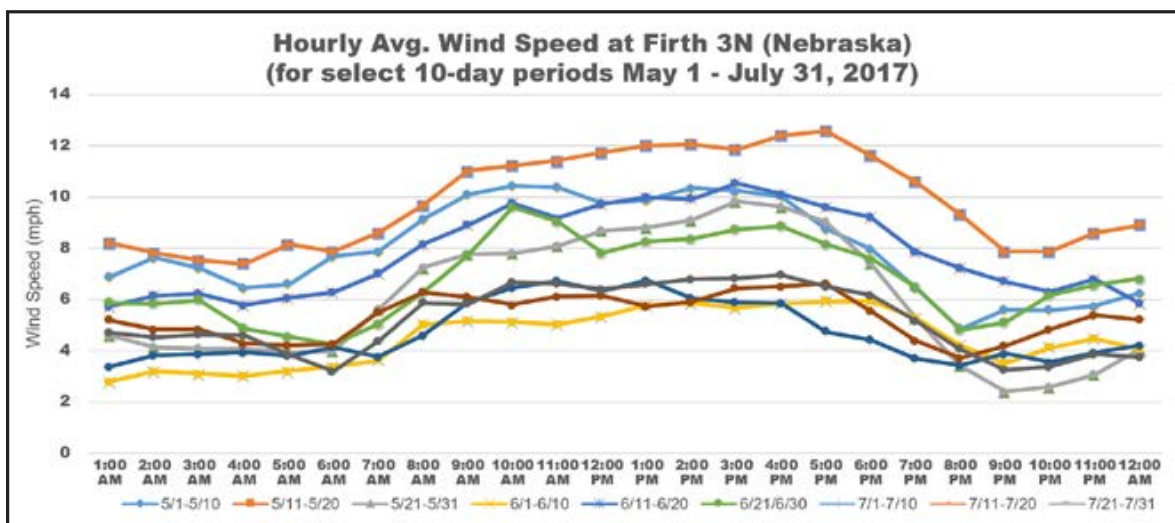
Our current pattern of below normal temperatures and increased soil moisture (relative to our neighbors) is likely playing a role in our summer temperature forecast. Our cool and wet soils take extra solar radiation to warm, thus reducing the temperature of the air above the surface.

The precipitation forecast is showing increased chances for below normal precipitation from southeastern Texas through Washington and Oregon for May, June and July. As the summer progresses, the target for the increased odds for

below normal precipitation is centered over Texas and Oklahoma, as well as the Pacific Northwest. This target was recently over Nebraska, but has since shifted south.

The dry conditions in the Southern Plains and lack of adequate snowpack in the southern Rockies are cause for concern for our summer drought risk. Although our current conditions are favorable, I would use a drought-ready mindset heading into the growing season. It definitely can’t hurt.

Looking to the end of the growing season, we have the potential for an El Niño (warm episode) to form in the Pacific Ocean by late-fall. This gives higher odds for a warmer winter for the northern plains (including Nebraska). The prediction for the spring and summer is for neutral conditions to prevail, which provides very little predictability from ENSO (El Niño Southern Oscillation). The ENSO cycle is a good long-term forecasting tool when conditions are met.



Hourly average wind speed for nine, ten-day periods from May 1 to July 31, 2017 at the Firth 3N Nebraska Mesonet weather station. Data from the High Plains Regional Climate Center at <http://hprcc.unl.edu>.

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IN THIS ISSUE

Food & Health 2
Farm & Acreage 3
Pests & Wildlife 4
Horticulture 5
Early Childhood 5
4-H & Youth 6–7

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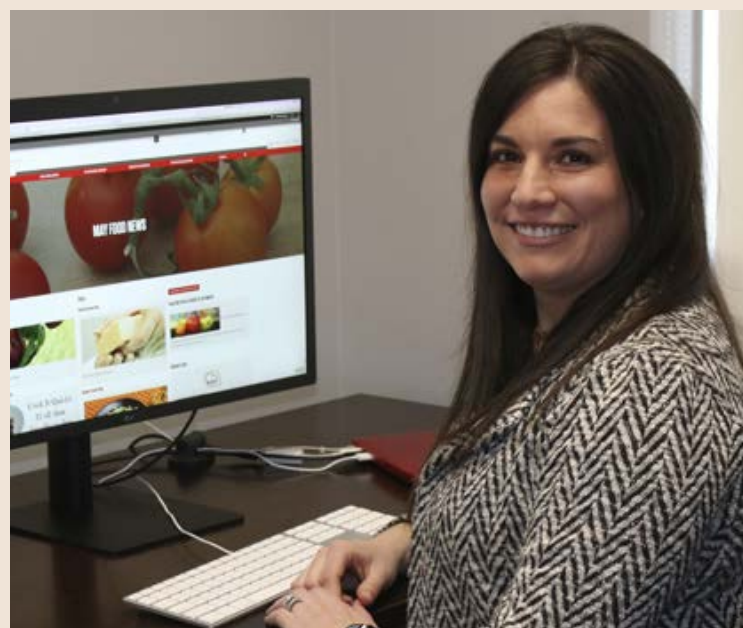
Kayla Colgrove is new food & health educator

In April, Kayla Colgrove
joined Nebraska Extension
in Lancaster County as a
Food, Nutrition and Health
Extension Educator. Her focus
will include:

- Delivering nutrition and physical activity programs for youth and adult audiences in Lancaster, Otoe and Cass Counties.
- Maintaining the statewide <http://food.unl.edu> website.
- Managing two National 4-H Council grants — 4-H Food Smart Families and 4-H Healthy Habits. These are both statewide grants with programs in Lancaster County.

Kayla has an extensive background in nutrition and exercise as a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN) and Certified Personal Trainer through the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM). She is currently the President of the Nebraska Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, a statewide association made up of more than 600 dietetic professionals including RDNs, Dietetic Technicians Registered (DTR) and Dietetic students.

Kayla participated in 4-H while growing up on the family farm in North Central Kansas and moved to Deshler, Neb. her junior year of high school. Through the years, she



participated in many sports and followed her dream of becoming a collegiate athlete when she accepted a scholarship to throw the javelin for the Nebraska Track and Field team. Kayla competed for the Huskers from 2003–2008 and became a two-time NCAA All-American, three-time Big 12 champion and two-time Olympic Trials qualifier.

She graduated from University of Nebraska–Lincoln with a Bachelor's degree in Nutritional Science and Dietetics and earned a Master's degree in Nutrition and Health Sciences with a specialization in nutrition and

exercise.

She has worked at Nebraska Extension in Gage County since August 2011.

In her free time, Kayla loves traveling with her husband, staying active with sports and physical activities, and supporting the Huskers in all sports. She enjoys playing volleyball in city recreation leagues and utilizing the bike trails in Lincoln.

Kayla is looking forward to serving Lancaster County, meeting new people, and inspiring others to live a healthier life through nutrition and exercise.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Kayla Colgrove, MS, RDN, ACSM-CPT, Extension Educator

Applesauce oatmeal muffins with blueberries

(Makes 12 muffins)

- 1/2 cup whole wheat flour**
- 1/2 cup all-purpose flour**
- 1 cup quick-cooking oatmeal**
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon**
- 1 teaspoon baking powder**
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda**
- 1/4 teaspoon salt**
- 1/3 cup vegetable oil**
- 1 cup applesauce, unsweetened**
- 1 large egg**
- 1/2 cup brown sugar, lightly packed**
- 1/2 cup blueberries, fresh or frozen (unsweetened)**

1. Preheat oven to 350°F. Line a muffin pan with 12 baking cups.
2. In large bowl, combine dry ingredients (flours, oatmeal, cinnamon, baking powder, baking soda and salt); mixing well.
3. In small bowl, mix together the oil, applesauce, egg and brown sugar.
4. Add wet ingredients to dry ingredients and stir just enough to moisten the ingredients. Batter should still be lumpy.
5. Gently stir in blueberries.
6. Divide the mixture between 12 muffin cups (about 1/4 cup of batter for each muffin cup).
7. Bake at 350°F for 25–30 minutes or until a toothpick/knife inserted near the center comes out clean.
8. Remove from oven and cool in pan for 5 minutes. Then place muffins on a wire rack to finish cooling.
9. Store muffins in a covered container or plastic storage bag to prevent them from drying out. Enjoy muffins within 3–4 days or freeze to eat at a later time.

KAYLA'S NOTES:

- *It is important to not overmix the batter. Only 10–15 strokes are needed to moisten the ingredients.*
- *When using frozen blueberries, do not thaw them. Keep blueberries frozen so they do not cause the batter to turn a bluish color. This is my favorite way to make them since I usually have frozen blueberries in my freezer.*
- *Try these variations. Enjoy the muffins plain by not adding blueberries or add dark chocolate chips instead of blueberries.*

Nutrition Information per Serving: Calories 159, Total Fat 7g, Saturated Fat 1g, Cholesterol 18mg, Sodium 152mg, Total Carbohydrate 22g, Dietary Fiber 2g, Sugars 9g, Protein 3g

Kayla Colgrove, Nebraska Extension in Lancaster County



2018 cash rent survey

Tyler Williams
Extension Educator

One of the most difficult tasks of renting ag land is determining a “fair” price for all parties involved, and the current economic challenges make that task even harder. The University of Nebraska–Lincoln Agricultural Economics Department conducts a yearly survey to help landowners know and understand the value and average rental rates of the land in their area.

About the survey

On March 18, 2018, the “2018 Trends in Nebraska Farmland Values and Rental Rates” report was released from Cornhusker Economics <http://agecon.unl.edu/cornhuskereconomics> and this article contains “preliminary” data from the 2018 Nebraska Farm Real Estate Market Survey. This survey was sent to professional farm and ranch managers, certified general appraisers and agricultural bankers earlier this winter asking about prices and values for the upcoming 2018 growing season. This report is considered “preliminary” because it is publicized once enough surveys are returned in order to have statistical significance. This allows users to see most of the data as early as possible to assist with rental rate negotiations, with the understanding the numbers may be a little different in the final report to be released in June. This March report is simply a “sneak-peak” to the

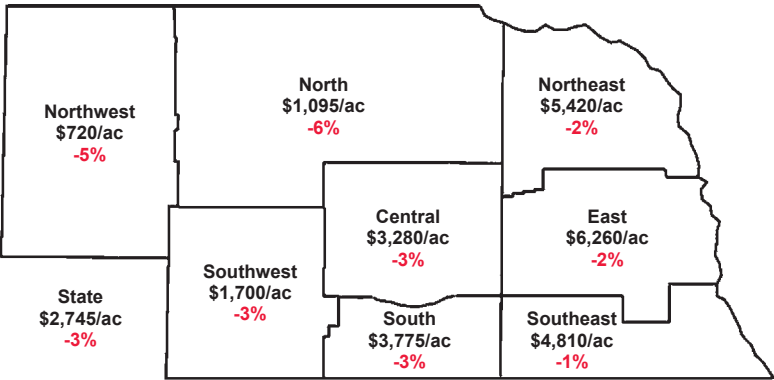


Table 1. Average reported value of Nebraska farmland for different land types by Agricultural Statistics District, Feb. 1, 2018^a

TYPE OF LAND	AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS DISTRICT		
	EAST	SOUTHEAST	STATE ^c
Dryland Cropland (No Irrigation Potential)	\$5,675/acre -2% change	\$4,225/acre -1% change	\$3,105/acre -1% change
Dryland Cropland (Irrigation Potential)	\$6,340/acre -2% change	\$5,355/acre -1% change	\$4,135/acre -2% change
Grazing Land (Tillable)	\$3,485/acre -7% change	\$2,825/acre 2% change	\$1,260/acre -6% change
Grazing Land (Nontillable)	\$2,325/acre -7% change	\$2,070/acre 3% change	\$880/acre -5% change
Hayland	\$3,290/acre 6% change	\$2,620/acre -2% change	\$1,720/acre -5% change
Gravity Irrigated Cropland	\$7,400/acre -3% change	\$6,110/acre -8% change	\$5,855/acre -4% change
Center Pivot Irrigated Cropland ^b	\$8,555/acre -2% change	\$7,720/acre -1% change	\$6,225/acre -1% change
All Land Average ^c	\$6,260/acre -2% change	\$4,810/acre -1% change	\$2,745/acre -3% change

^a Source: UNL Nebraska Farm Real Estate Market Surveys, 2017 and 2018.
^b Value of pivot not included in per acre value.
^c Weighted averages.

final report and should be used as such.

Report findings

The report provides data based on the eight Agricultural Statistics Districts in Nebraska (see map above). Lancaster County is located in the East District; however, much of the agricultural land will have similarities to the Southeast District. There are two data sets provided: Average Value of Farmland and Reported Cash Rental Rates. The Farmland Values in Table 1 (above) is split into Dryland Cropland (with or without irrigation potential), Grazing

Land (tillable or non-tillable), Hayland and Irrigated Cropland (with gravity or center pivot). The table also shows the percent change from 2018 and it is not surprising that nearly all locations saw a decrease in land values. Overall, the All Land Average in the East and Southeast Districts decreased by two percent and one percent, respectively; however, grazing land decreased the most in the East and gravity irrigated cropland decreased the most in the Southeast. The most popular data from the survey is the Reported Cash Rental Rates found in Table 2

Table 2. Reported cash rental rates for various types of Nebraska farmland and pasture: 2018 averages, percent change from 2017 and quality ranges by Agricultural Statistics District^a

TYPE OF LAND		AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS DISTRICT	
		EAST	SOUTHEAST
Dryland Cropland	Average	\$190/acre -3% change	\$160/acre 3% change
	High Third Quality	\$230/acre	\$205/acre
	Low Third Quality	\$155/acre	\$125/acre
Gravity Irrigated Cropland	Average	\$255/acre -2% change	\$225/acre -4% change
	High Third Quality	\$300/acre	\$265/acre
	Low Third Quality	\$220/acre	\$210/acre
Center Pivot Irrigated Cropland ^b	Average	\$280/acre -3% change	\$260/acre -2% change
	High Third Quality	\$320/acre	\$310/acre
	Low Third Quality	\$245/acre	\$215/acre
Pasture	Average	\$49/acre -7% change	\$47/acre -4% change
	High Third Quality	\$75/acre	\$66/acre
	Low Third Quality	\$37/acre	\$38/acre
Cow-Calf Pair Rates ^c	Average	\$48.15/pair -6% change	\$47.50/pair -2% change
	High Third Quality	\$65.65/pair	\$57.15/pair
	Low Third Quality	\$40.85/pair	\$38.70/pair

^a Source: Reporters’ estimated cash rental rates (both averages and ranges) from the UNL Nebraska Farm Real Estate Market Survey, 2017 and 2018.
^b Cash rents on center pivot land, assumes landowners own total irrigation system.
^c A cow-calf pair is typically considered to be 1.25 to 1.30 animal units (animal unit being 1,000 lb. animal) for a five-month grazing season. However, this can vary depending on weight of cow and age of calf.

(above). This table provides cash rent data on dryland cropland, gravity and center-pivot irrigated cropland, pasture and cow-calf pair rates. The overall cash rental rates have primarily decreased as well, when compared to 2017. This was the third year in a row for decreases in rental rates, except for dryland cropland in the Southeast district. The East and Southeast districts had the largest decrease in pasture rental rates after another year of significant decreases in livestock and feed prices. When using this data, it is very important to remember

the report produces values for a region and doesn’t take into account the local “supply vs. demand” that may alter these values for your land. The report also provides a range based on the quality of the ground, which can be highly subjective. Communication with your tenant or landlord is critical for understanding the needs of both parties as this report does not include the multitude of factors unique to your farm. These numbers should simply serve as a starting point for the communication on rental rates.

Midwest’s biggest plant sale, April 28

Spring Affair, the Midwest’s largest plant sale and gardening event, will be Saturday, April 28 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Lancaster Event Center in Lincoln. More than 700 different varieties of perennials, herbs, grasses, trees, shrubs and other plants will be available. They are selected for regional suitability, uniqueness, popular demand and provided by Bluebird Nursery, Inc. of Clarkson, Neb. It is sponsored by the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum as an educational tool, fundraising event and to promote regional plants.

- Half hour plant talks will be offered at:
- 10 a.m. — “Nebraska Native Plants for Birds” by Jason St. Sauver, Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center
 - 11 a.m. — “Gardening 101: I’ve got my plants, now what?” by Justin Evertson, Green Infrastructure Coordinator for the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum
 - 12 p.m. — “The Guilt-free



Garden” by Mark Canney, Park Planner & Designer for Lincoln Parks & Recreation Admission to the sale is free. The plant sale, presentations, educational booths and vendors of garden-related items are all in Pavilion I of the Lancaster Event Center with plenty of free parking. For best plant choices, the Spring Affair Preview Party is

Friday, April 27 from 6–9 p.m. This ticketed event gives plant lovers an opportunity to meet friends, enjoy a sit-down meal, live music and first selection of plants before the Saturday sale. Tickets range from \$32–\$42. Register for the Preview Party a online. For more information about Spring Affair, go to <https://plant-nebraska.org/spring-affair>.

Composting demonstrations



Learn how to be successful with composting by attending a free composting demonstration sponsored by Nebraska Extension in Lancaster County and the City of Lincoln Recycling Office. Demonstrations are presented by Extension Master Gardeners. You will see three types of composting bins and how to use them. At each composting program, two lucky participants will win either a composting thermometer or a composting bin. Composting Demonstrations are presented at the Pioneers Park Nature Center’s backyard composting demonstration area across the street from the Nature Center (look for the Extension banner). Demonstrations will be held at 10 a.m. on the following Saturdays: May 19, June 16, Sept. 15 and Oct. 13.

5th graders learn about environment, wildlife at Earth Wellness Festival

Over 3,300 Lancaster County fifth graders from 51 schools attended the 24th annual Earth Wellness Festival (EWF) on March 20 and 21 at Southeast Community College. Students rotated among 25-minute sessions and then attended a culminating activity with featured presenters, World Bird Sanctuary from St. Louis.

The festival is organized by seven local agencies, including Nebraska Extension in Lancaster County. Classrooms attending the festival received pre-festival learning kits in October. Students discover and explore the relationships and interdependency of land, water, air and living resources through hands-on activities.

More photos are online at <http://lancaster.unl.edu/ewf>.



A hooded vulture was one of the birds of prey 5th graders learned about during the culminating activity, "The Raptors," presented by World Bird Sanctuary of St. Louis.

Photos: Vicki Jedlicka, Nebraska Extension in Lancaster County



Extension Associate Kate Pulec presented a session about "Scat" in which 5th graders learned what wildlife eat and how this affects their scat (feces). Students also recreated animal scat using edible foods.



Students learned how insects and earthworms contribute to nature's decay process in "Do the Rot Thing" presented by Nebraska Extension Master Gardener volunteers.



"Wetlands 2 Wetlands" presented by Lower Platte South Natural Resources District focused on wetlands as wildlife habitat.



Youth got a hands-on experience with wildlife pelts and skulls in "Dozen Chances" presented by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission.

Nature's carpenters: Wood destroying ants

Jody Green

Extension Educator

Carpenter ants are the most notorious ants for Nebraska homeowners, often called out as the "big black ants." They are feared because they excavate their nests in wood, which cause damage to building materials of our homes. Carpenter ants, unlike termites, do NOT eat wood. As their name implies, these ants are carpenters. They carve tunnels into wood with chewing mouthparts, creating smooth, sandpapered-like galleries. The wood is kicked out as small piles of sawdust.

Signs of carpenter ants

- Coarse sawdust with insect parts
- Damaged wood with smooth galleries (no mud or soil)
- Foraging worker(s)
- A large number of winged ants
- Crinkling noises in the walls

Identification

The structure between the thorax and abdomen (called a gaster in ants) is the petiole, and ants are grouped based on whether their petiole has one node or two. Carpenter ants have one node and range in color from black to brown, red and even yellow. The key characteristic of all carpenter ants is the evenly-rounded profile. Workers range from 1/4-inch to 1/2-inch long.



Side profile of carpenter ant (magnified).



(L-R) Minor and major carpenter ant workers (magnified).

Growth of a colony

All ants are social, which means they live in large colonies with overlapping generations, have a distinct division of labor and collectively care for the young. The formation of a colony starts with a single fertilized queen. The queen lays eggs and raises daughter worker ants, which help grow the colony and feed, raise and protect the larvae and pupae.

Carpenter ants are polymorphic, which means they have workers of different sizes, called major and minor workers. Carpenter ant colonies can be a few thousand individuals to 15,000. After several years, the queen produces males and winged reproductives (called alates or swarmers) to disperse in a nuptial flight and start new colonies. This is a seasonal and/or annual event, which are triggered by environmental conditions like temperature and rainfall.

Food and foraging

Carpenter ants forage for solid and liquid food, carbohydrates and protein. They feed on a variety of food sources including sugary honeydew secretions produced by plant pests like aphids and mealy bugs, plant exudates and other insects. They also scavenge on carcasses.



Carpenter ant frass looks like coarse saw dust with insect parts.

Workers can only ingest liquid food sources, but larvae can convert solids into liquid food. Foraging ants will feed the immobile, legless larvae solids and the larvae will regurgitate it back to the workers and allow it to be fed to the queen.

Carpenter ants are nocturnal insects and can be found foraging at night between the hours of 10 p.m. and 2 a.m. They follow structural and physical guidelines such as tree branches, electrical wires, clothes lines and edges of items. They lay down trail pheromone by dragging their gaster along the substrate, to communicate to nestmates the location of food. They can forage long distances, up to 100 yards (300 feet) from the nest.

Inspections for nests

Carpenter ants are known for having large, decentralized colonies called satellite colonies. Often the main or parent colony is located outdoors in moist, rotten or decayed wood, and the satellite colonies can be found in higher, drier areas inside or outdoors. Nests can be found in the following locations: Tree limbs, tree holes, stumps, firewood, logs, landscape timbers, living trees, dead trees, deck posts, porches, fence posts, structural members, foam insulation, hot

tubs, crawlspaces, attic, roof overhangs, hollow doors, bay windows, bath traps and chimneys.

Carpenter ants do not kill live trees. Older trees may have a significant amount of decay due to excessive moisture, which ants take advantage of to easily excavate galleries. Ants are a sign of dead wood, not the cause of tree death. Carpenter ant nests may extend into sound wood over time. Cutting down trees or filling cavities is not advised, although some arborists may choose to treat the trunk.

Control methods for homeowners

- Remove food sources (this may mean reducing sap-feeding insects that produce honey dew).
- Reduce sources of moisture (roofs, leaky windows or skylights, poor grading, full or faulty gutters and downspouts, condensation, malfunctioning appliances).
- Eliminate wood to soil contact.
- Remove vegetative cover from foundation.
- Prune trees and shrubs so there is no contact with the structure.
- Seal cracks and holes like utility entrances and wires.
- Provide adequate ventilation in crawlspaces, basements and attics.
- Locate the nest and treat with labeled insecticide.
- Only use bait labeled for carpenter ants. This can be liquid, gel or solid granular, but must be attractive, palatable and slow-acting. Sugar-bait alone will not eliminate the colony due to the wide range of nutritional requirements.
- Consider contacting a professional pest management company.

Annuals flowers for sunny locations

Mary Jane Frogge
Extension Associate

Annual flowers make a colorful addition to any landscape. The term annual means the flowers complete their life cycle in one growing season. Their versatility makes them useful in gardens since they are available in a wide range of colors and sizes. Take advantage of all the qualities annuals have to offer and present a beautiful landscape that will bloom from spring until fall. Many of these annual flowers also benefit pollinators.

Alyssum, Sweet (*Lobularia maritima*)
Flowers: many small florets in a rounded head; flowers literally cover the branched, low-spreading plants; pure white is the most popular but deep lavender, pink and mixtures are available. Benefit pollinators.
Height: 4–8 inches

Cockscomb (*Celosia* var. *cristata*)
Flowers: striking, enlarged, flattened, rounded or crested flower heads, 2–10 inches wide; yellow, gold, orange, red, purple-red, pink, salmon.
Height: 8–14 inches

Cosmos (*Cosmos bipinnatus*)
Flowers: single or semi-double, daisy-like, 3–4 inches in diameter; wide serrated petals around prominent yellow center; shades of pink, rose, red, plus white and several variegated patterns and bicolors; excellent for cutting.



Sweet Alyssum

Leaves: delicate and feathery; fresh light green color. Benefit pollinators.
Height: 1–3 feet

Globe Amaranth (*Gomphrena globosa*)
Flowers: 3/4 to 1 inch, rounded, clover-like with papery feel; purple-red, white, pink, orange-red. Benefit pollinators.
Height: 10–24 inches

Spider Flower, Cleome (*Cleome hasslerana*)
Flowers: large rounded heads 6–7 inches in diameter; each flower has long spidery stamens; white, pink, light rose, rosy lavender, cerise and mixtures; followed by long-stalked seed capsules.
Height: 2–5 feet

Marigold, Dwarf French (*Tagetes patula*)
Flowers: mostly double flowers, 1–2 inches in diameter but some single types; many shades of yellow, gold, orange, mahogany-red or combinations of these colors.
Height: 6–14 inches




Blue Salvia

Portulaca, Rose Moss (*Portulaca grandiflora*)
Flowers: 1–2 inches in diameter, rose-like; single, semi-double, or double shades of rose, salmon, pink, scarlet, orchid, yellow, orange, white and some striped; newer cultivars have large, double flowers. Benefit pollinators.
Height: 2–5 inches

Blue Salvia (*Salvia farinacea*)
Flowers: on slender spikes; individual flowers small, lipped; colors range from white through deep blue-lavender. Benefit pollinators.
Height: 10–16 inches

Zinnia (*Zinnia elegans*)
Flowers: size ranges from 1–3 inches in diameter; wide range of colors from white, cream, yellow, orange, red, pink, rose, violet, white and even green; also multicolored and striped cultivars; usually fully double; petals usually flat but sometimes curled, quilled, or twisted. Benefit pollinators.
Height: 6 inches–2 feet

Photos: Mary Jane Frogge, Nebraska Extension in Lancaster County



GARDEN GUIDE

THINGS TO DO THIS MONTH

Mary Jane Frogge, Extension Associate

In May, have successive plantings of beans and sweet corn to extend the harvest season in the vegetable garden.

To grow annuals in containers on the patio, use a light weight soil mixture. Keep the plants well watered, because the soil dries out fast. Apply a water soluble fertilizer according to package directions every two weeks.

Lawns maintained at the correct height are less likely to have disease and weed infestation. Kentucky bluegrass and tall fescue should be mowed at approximately three inches in height. Mow frequently, removing no more than one third of the blade at each cutting.

Watering roses with soaker hoses or drip irrigation will reduce the spread of black spot disease.

Plant ground covers under shade trees that do not allow enough sunlight to grow grass. Vinca minor or English ivy are ground cover plants that grow well in shade.

Plan a landscaping project on paper first. Do not over plant. Be sure you know the mature size of each plant and allow for growth.

Harvest rhubarb by cutting or by grasping the stalk and pulling up and gently to one side.

Grass clippings can be used as a mulch in flower beds and vegetable gardens if allowed to dry well before use. Never use clippings from a lawn that has been treated with a herbicide.

Mulch around newly planted trees and shrubs. This practice reduces weeds, controls fluctuations in soil temperature, retains moisture, prevents damage from lawn mowers and looks attractive.

When you visit botanical gardens and arboretums, take your camera and notepad with you. Plan now for changes you will make in your landscape.

Cabbage loopers and imported cabbage worms are green worms. They eat large holes in the leaves of plants in the cabbage family. For control, caterpillars can be picked off by hand or sprayed with *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt), a natural, non-toxic preparation available by various trade names.

Applying developmentally appropriate practices: Book club reflections

Linda Reddish
Extension Educator

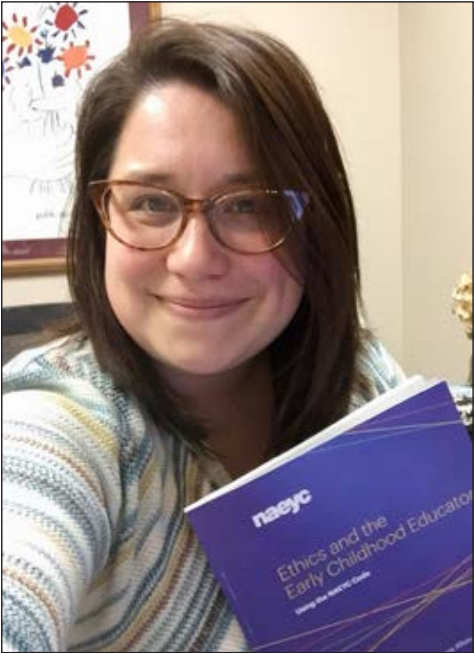
For the past several months, I have been participating in a book club with other colleagues reading “Developmentally Appropriate Practice (DAP) in Early Childhood Programs Serving Children Ages Birth through Age 8” (2008) by authors Carol Copple and Sue Ed. Bredekamp.

Each week we have explored a chapter and asked ourselves the following questions:

- What does the author(s) tell us about this particular period of development?
- How do we see that period of development in action with young children?
- What can we do in our role as adult educators to support those who are working directly with young children and families regarding DAP?
- How do we lift up the work others are doing in order to spotlight educators in the field using developmentally appropriate practices?

We recently finished the book reviewing some of the Frequently Asked Questions when the following question bubbled up during our discussion: “How do you support an individual, particularly an early care and education teacher who finds themselves grappling with the implementation of developmentally appropriate practices with children?”

Our team had a long pause, longer than usual. Then we began sharing examples we did when we first started teaching. I shared that when I was teaching mobile infants and toddlers, I would try and make them sit during a circle time activity which involved reading long books. I could not figure



Extension Educator
Linda Reddish

out why they would not sit and listen to the story. As I continued taking additional coursework and specialized in infant-toddler development, I realized that mobile infants and toddlers developmentally needed to manipulate materials using all of their senses and have the freedom to move about their environment.

As their caregiver and educator, it was my responsibility to respect their need to play. It was my responsibility to have appropriate and reasonable expectations for what they could do and be patient when they asserted their independence.

During those early years of teaching, I learned the art of balancing, like a mobile hanging above a crib, staying sturdy at the center as the children spun around

me. Sometimes I turned the dial to set the pace, other times they bounced around to their own tune, and every once in a while, the batteries just ran out and the mobile stopped. It was during those times I learned how to be patient and use those moments as opportunities to take a step back and observe the situation for what it was, with no judgment.

Patience. Accountability. Reasonable Expectations. Our discussion seemed back at the first part of the question. What do you do? During our call, we agreed to go back to the position statement which first and foremost, states no harm to children.

From there, the rest of the document and principles serve as a foundation early childhood professionals can use to brainstorm and create strategies on how to begin the conversation around developmentally appropriate practices.

There are several resources, but there is one document I tend to utilize to when reflection and guidance are needed. It was one of the first items I received during orientation when I became an early care and education teacher.

The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) has several position statements that offer early childhood educators guidelines for “behavior and common ground for resolving the principal ethical dilemmas encountered in early childhood care and education” (2011, p.1).

Personally, as an adult educator, I found the supplemental document “Code of Ethical Conduct for Early Childhood Adult Educators” helpful. It provides guidelines adult educators can use with early childhood teachers who work directly with children to think more critically about their role with children.

Below, I share three insights that left an impression on me since first reading the position. I hope these takeaways resonant with you as they did with me.

- 1) Adopt an attitude of continual learning and growth.
- 2) It is important that when sharing information or teaching strategies to remember to check your sources. Check that your sources are based on present and accurate research and are both developmentally and culturally responsive practices as an adult educator.
- 3) When early childhood educators present information that is contrary to your own beliefs and knowledge, acknowledge the different perspectives and if appropriate explore your own biases.

I invite you to review each of the position statements suitable for your particular role. There are statements for educators, administrators and adult educators. I hope that you find these as beneficial as I did and can utilize them to address any issues you may potentially experience in your work with children, families and adult learners.

If you are an early childhood educator and have questions regarding Nebraska’s mandatory reporting laws, please call 1-800-652-1999.

References:

- Copple, C., & Bredekamp, S. (2008). “Developmentally Appropriate Practice in Early Childhood Programs Serving Children from Birth Through Age 8.” Washington D.C., Washington: National Association for the Education of Young Children. www.naeyc.org/resources/topics/dap
- National Association for the Education of Young Children. (2011). National Association for the Education of Young Children Code of Ethical Conduct. Retrieved from: www.naeyc.org/resources/position-statements/ethical-conduct



HEART OF 4-H VOLUNTEER AWARD

Mary Brooks

Lancaster County 4-H is proud to announce Mary Brooks of Lincoln as winner of the May “Heart of 4-H Award” in recognition of outstanding volunteer service.

Mary has been one of the superintendents of the 4-H general areas at the Lancaster County Super Fair for six years. General areas includes posters, entrepreneurship, Quilt Quest and animal static exhibits. She has also volunteered at the 4-H food stand at Super Fair.

“I like to give back to an organization that meant so much to me in my youth,” Mary says. “My leadership skills, which I have used in various organizations over the years, come from lessons learned in my 4-H club. I enjoy all aspects of what I do at the county fair. I think the day the kids turn in their projects is my favorite time. I like meeting them and getting the opportunity to praise them on the work they have done. Of course, I must mention the 4-H members who help with all the paperwork and the ribbons after our judges are finished — they are some of the best examples of what 4-H does for the youth of our county.”

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



4-H clothing level 1 workshop, May 6

Clothing Superintendent Kath Conroy will teach a 4-H Clothing Level 1 Workshop, “What You Need to Know,” on Sunday, May 6, 1:30–3 p.m. at the JOANN Fabrics and Crafts store, East Park Plaza, 220 N. 66th St., Lincoln. There are so many decisions to make. Learn which patterns are acceptable, how to select the right size, buy appropriate fabric and learn what the fair judges look for. Learn about sewing tools and how to use them. This free workshop is designed to answer all questions and provide a great start. No registration required.

4-H/FFA sheep & meat goat weigh-in and tag day, May 15

4-H/FFA market sheep or market meat goat exhibitors planning to participate in the performance class based on rate of gain at the Lancaster County Super Fair must have their lambs and goats weighed on Tuesday, May 15, 6–7 p.m. at the Lancaster Event Center – Pavilion 1.

All lambs and goats will utilize USDA scrapie tags as the 4-H identification. No official 4-H/FFA tags will be utilized. Bring your scrapie tags and we can help tag. Breeding ewes and does are welcome as well if you need help putting scrapie tags in. The breeder must supply scrapie tags or you must order your own tags. If you need to order tags, call 866-USDA-TAG (873-2824).

For more information, call Cole at 402-441-7180.

4-H leader training, May 15

New leaders, experienced leaders, 4-H members and parents are invited to a free 4-H Leaders Training and Update on Tuesday, May 15, 9 a.m. or 6:30 p.m. (you choose which time to attend) at the Lancaster Extension Education Center, 444 Cherrycreek Road. Meeting will focus on “easy to do” parliamentary procedure, new 4-H curriculum, static exhibits, opportunities for 4-H members and more. MUST register by Friday, May 11 by calling 402-441-7180.

4-H 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. For more information, contact Kristin at kristin.geisert@unl.edu or 402-441-7180.

• **County-level Junior (for ages 8–11) AND Senior Life Challenge (for ages 12 and up)** will be held on Saturday, June 2, 8:45 a.m.

at the Lancaster Extension Education Center. Preregister by May 30 by calling 402-441-7180 (there is no entry form). Contact Kristin for a study packet.

• **Statewide Life Challenge (for ages 12 and up)** will be held June 25–26 on UNL East Campus. To participate, contact Kristin by June 4. Information will be online at <http://4h.unl.edu/life-challenge>.

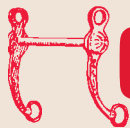
Quality Care of Animals face-to-face trainings

In 2018, 4-H/FFA youth enrolled in any of the following animal projects will need to complete Youth for the Quality Care of Animals training (formerly called Quality Assurance): beef (bucket calf, feeder calf, breeding beef, market beef), dairy cattle, goat (breeding meat goat, dairy goat, meat goat), poultry, rabbit, sheep (breeding sheep, market sheep) or swine (breeding swine, market swine).

Lancaster County 4-H/FFA youth may attend a face-to-face training on Thursday, May 31 or Thursday, June 7, 6–7 p.m. at the Lancaster Extension Education Center, 444 Cherrycreek Rd., Lincoln. To sign up for face-to-face trainings, you must go to <https://learnrow.io> before the training. The training will cost \$3 payable by credit or debit card on the website. We cannot take payments in person, all families must register and pay online. You must sign in as proof of attendance — certificates will be available online.

4-H garden project

4-H families are invited to participate in a special garden project, growing the flower ‘Delft Blue’ Nigella. Seed packets are available April 30, on a first-come, first-served basis. The cost is \$.50 for one seed packet per family. Please stop by the Extension office front desk to register, pay for and pick up your seeds. Office hours are Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m. We are unable to take orders over the phone or reserve seeds in advance.



HORSE BITS

For more information about the Lancaster County 4-H Horse program, contact Kate at kpulec3@unl.edu or 402-441-7180.

4-H district/state entries due May 11

4-H’ers competing in 4-H district and state horse shows must be 10 years of age by Jan. 1 and have at least a horse-manship advancement level II. All Lancaster County 4-H’ers participating in district/state horse shows must submit entries, horse identifications and completed horsemanship levels to the Nebraska Extension in Lancaster County office by Friday, May 11. No late entries will be accepted! Entry forms, entry guidelines, entry procedures and the 2 & 3 year old western pleasure affidavits are available at the Extension office and online at <http://4h.unl.edu/horse>.

4-H horse identifications due June 1

Each horse which will be shown at Super Fair must be identified on form “4-H Horse Identification Certificate” and submitted to Nebraska Extension in Lancaster County office by June 1. Form is available at the office as a carbon copy form. If you use the online form at <http://go.unl.edu/uwg4>, make a copy for yourself.

4-H horse judging contest, June 1

The Lancaster County Super Fair 4-H horse judging contest will be held on Friday, June 1 at the Lancaster Event Center – Pavilion 3. This is a county fair premium event. Ribbon placings will be awarded. The top ten contestants in all three age groups will be recognized at Horse Awards Night. The champion in each age group must participate in both judging and oral reasons to receive a belt buckle. Registration is 5:30–6:30 p.m. Start time 6:30 p.m.

4-H pre-district clinic/show, June 2

The Lancaster County 4-H Horse VIPS Committee, Boot ’N’ Hooves 4-H club and Prairie Star 4-H club are sponsoring a 4-H pre-district format clinic/show/fundraiser on Saturday, June 2, 8:30 a.m. at the Lancaster Event Center – Pavilion 3. Show flyer at <https://go.unl.edu/predistrict>.

CLOVER COLLEGE REGISTRATION FORM

Registration opens May 2 at 8 a.m. for currently enrolled 4-H members.

Registration opens May 9 at 8 a.m. for non-4-H members.

FOR CURRENT CLASS AVAILABILITY AND PRINTABLE REGISTRATION FORM WITH MORE BLANKS, go to <http://lancaster.unl.edu/clovercollege>

Classes fill up quickly!

To register, complete the registration form (one person per form) and submit with payment — registrations without payment will not be accepted. **EARLY REGISTRATION NOT ACCEPTED!** No telephone or online registration. Mailed registration forms received prior to registration opening days will be held and processed in the afternoon of registration opening days. After registration opening days, registrations are handled on a “first-come” basis.

Confirmation letters and schedules will not be sent. Assume your registration is confirmed unless we contact you about filled or alternate classes. No refunds unless class is already filled or canceled.

Photocopy completed form for your reference.

Is youth currently enrolled in 4-H? ☐ yes ☐ no

Name _____ Age _____

Parents Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Daytime Phone _____ Email _____

Special Needs (allergies, etc.) _____

PREFERRED WORKSHOP
Use additional sheet of paper if needed or print form at <http://lancaster.unl.edu/clovercollege>

ALTERNATE WORKSHOP IF PREFERRED IS FULL
(MUST BE SAME DATE AND TIME)

_____ Title _____ Fee _____

_____ Title _____

_____ Title _____ Fee _____

_____ Title _____

_____ Title _____ Fee _____

_____ Title _____

_____ Title _____ Fee _____

_____ Title _____

TOTAL _____

☐ yes ☐ no I give permission to use my child’s image in photographs taken at Clover College in publications, news articles, advertisements or websites pertaining to 4-H.

☐ yes ☐ no I give permission for my child to complete workshop evaluations to assess educational impact and life skill development. All information is obtained and reported as aggregated data.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Mail or bring registration form and payment (make check payable to Lancaster County Extension) to: Nebraska Extension in Lancaster County, 444 Cherrycreek Rd., Ste. A, Lincoln, NE 68528

Debit/credit card payment available for an additional fee. ☐ Check if you want to pay with a card and we will call for your card information (daytime phone must be listed above).

Clover College

June 19–22, 2018

Lancaster Extension Education Center, 444 Cherrycreek Road

Open to youth ages 6 & up. Four days of “hands-on” workshops full of fun and a sense of belonging. Learning session topics include STEAM concepts of science, technology, engineering, art and math which spark career interests. Youth may attend as many workshops as they wish. All supplies will be provided unless otherwise noted. Youth attending workshops that overlap the lunch period should bring a sack lunch. Food will not be available (unless otherwise stated in the workshop description). If you have questions, contact Kristin Geisert at 402-441-7180.



WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

4–Day Workshops

1 Clover Kids Day Camp

Clover Kids will participate in hands-on activities while learning about animals, food fun, science, the outdoors and more. Refreshments provided for this workshop.
TUE–FRI, JUNE 19–22;
8AM–12:15PM
AGES 6 & 7 • FEE \$40

2 Rocketry

Build your own rocket and launch it. Receive a rocket kit and one engine. Only for youth who have not previously taken this class.
TUE–FRI, JUNE 19–22; 8–10AM
AGES 8–12 • FEE \$20
Ron Suing, 4-H Volunteer

3 Kickstart Chess!

Want to become a grand-master? Learn basic rules to game winning strategies. This progressive program is for beginners and those beyond. Lessons are supplemented by practice and play.
TUE–FRI, JUNE 19–22;
10:15AM–12:15PM
AGES 8 & up • FEE \$10
James Walla, 4-H Volunteer

2–Day Workshop

4 Monster Mania

Make a plush monster with light up eyes using circuits of conductive thread.
TUE, JUNE 19; 12:45–2:45PM
WED, JUNE 20; 12:45–2:45PM
AGES 10 & up • FEE \$8
Jayde Hessler, Extension Intern

1–Day (4 Hour) Workshop

5 Gone Fishing!

Bring your fishing pole, line, hook and bobber for fishing fun at a nearby lake. Extra tackle is optional. Bait provided. Wear closed-toe shoes and sun protection. Only for youth who have not previously taken this class.
THU, JUN 21; 8AM–12:15PM
AGES 9 and up • FEE \$5
David Smith, Biosolids Coordinator, City of Lincoln

1–Day (2 Hour) Workshops

6 Tunnel Adventure

Head outside and check out an earthworm tunnel, learn about composting and discover the benefits of healthy soil.
TUE, June 19; 8–10AM
All Ages • FEE \$3
Aaron Hird, NRCS Soil Health Specialist

7 Horse Course – A

An introduction to grooming, tacking and safety around a horse. A horse will help teach. Must wear closed-toed shoes.
TUE, JUNE 19; 8–10AM
AGES 8 & up • FEE \$5
Kate Pulec, Extension Assistant

8 Cake Decorating

Learn decorating techniques and create your own designs.
TUE, JUNE 19; 8–10AM
AGES 8 & up • FEE \$5
Lorene Bartos, Extension Educator Emeritus

9 Horse Course – B

Same class as Horse Course – A. An introduction to grooming, tacking and safety around a horse. A horse will help teach. Must wear closed-toed shoes.
TUE, JUNE 19;
10:15AM–12:15PM
AGES 8 & up • FEE \$5
Kate Pulec, Extension Assistant

10 Rabbits, Rabbits!

Interact with live rabbits and learn about rabbit care & showmanship tips.
TUE, JUNE 19; 10:15AM–12:15PM
AGES 8 & up • FEE \$3
Cindy & Alyssa Zimmer, 4-H Volunteers

11 Outdoor Cooking

Join us for cooking in the great outdoors. Only for youth who have not taken this class previously. Wear closed toe shoes. No sack lunch needed.
TUE, JUNE 19; 10:15AM–12:15PM
AGES 10 & up • FEE \$8
Soni Cochran, Extension Associate

12 Fantastic Felting

Use wool and the dry felting method to create fun shapes and designs.
TUE, JUNE 19; 12:45–2:45PM
AGES 8 & up • \$10
Cindy Zimmer, 4-H Volunteer

13 Create, Share, Impact!

Participate in this community service project and make a difference for local people in need!
TUE, JUNE 19; 12:45–2:45PM
AGES 8 & up • FEE \$5
Jen Smith, 4-H Volunteer

14 Gifts from the Kitchen

Using jars, create food mixes all tied up to be homemade gifts.
TUE, JUNE 19; 12:45–2:45PM
AGES 8 & up • FEE \$5
Abby Babcock, Extension Intern

15 Busy Bees

Construct & paint a solitary bee hotel and view live bees!
TUE, JUNE 19; 12:45–2:45PM
AGES 10 & up • FEE \$7
Dr. Judy Wu-Smart & UNL Bee Lab

16 Crazy for Crochet

Must have beginning knowledge. May bring an in-process project to continue (i.e.: started washcloth from 4-H Crochet Workshop).
TUE, JUNE 19; 3–5PM
AGES 10 & up • FEE \$3
Cathy & Ellie Babcock, 4-H Volunteers

17 Make Your Business Pop!

Be a successful entrepreneur by using and tasting popcorn.
TUE, JUNE 19; 3–5PM
AGES 8 & up • FEE \$3
Dena Noe, V.P. Marketing, UNL Federal Credit Union

18 Pizza Party

Create your own unique pizza and make homemade ice cream!
TUE, JUNE 19; 3–5PM
AGES 8 & up • FEE \$5
Sheridan Swotek, Extension Intern

19 Fluid Painting

Pour paint onto a canvas & manipulate for unique designs. Wear old clothes appropriate for painting.
TUE, JUNE 19; 3–5PM
AGES 8 & up • FEE \$10
Karen Wedding, Extension Staff

20 Real World GPS & GIS

Discover the amazing world of Global Positioning Systems and Geographical Information Systems!
WED, JUNE 20; 8–10AM
AGES 8 & up • FEE \$5
Lancaster Co. Engineers

21 Lleaping Llama 101

Learn basic camelid behavior and handling, then walk llamas and/or alpacas through an obstacle course.
WED, JUNE 20; 8–10AM
AGES 8 & up • FEE \$5
Danetta Jensen, Star City Llama & Alpaca 4-H Club leader

22 Bottles, Bottles

Make decorated vases using a variety of techniques and embellishments.
WED, JUNE 20; 8–10AM
AGES 8 & up • FEE \$10
Anna Sump, 4-H Volunteer

	TUE, JUNE 19	WED, JUNE 20	THU, JUNE 21	FRI, JUNE 22
8:00–10:00	1 CLOVER KIDS 2 ROCKETRY 6 TUNNEL ADVENTURE 7 HORSE COURSE A 8 CAKE DECORATING	1 CLOVER KIDS 2 ROCKETRY 20 REAL WORLD GPS/GIS 21 LLEAPING LLAMA 101 22 BOTTLES, BOTTLES	1 CLOVER KIDS 2 ROCKETRY 5 GONE FISHING! 38 CLUCK, CLUCK, QUACK 39 STRING ART	1 CLOVER KIDS 2 ROCKETRY 51 PAPER CRAFTING 52 MAGAZINE ART
10:15–12:15	1 CLOVER KIDS 3 KICKSTART CHESS 9 HORSE COURSE B 10 RABBITS, RABBITS! 11 OUTDOOR COOKING	1 CLOVER KIDS 3 KICKSTART CHESS 23 BRIDGES & ROADS 24 BUILD A BUDDY 25 CONTROL THE FLOW 26 H ₂ O ADVENTURE	1 CLOVER KIDS 3 KICKSTART CHESS 5 GONE FISHING! 40 BABYSITTING KIT 41 ELECTRONICS 42 VEGGIE GARDEN	1 CLOVER KIDS 3 KICKSTART CHESS 53 GIDDY GOATS 54 CSI DISCOVERY 55 COMPUTER CODING
12:45–2:45	12 FANTASTIC FELTING 4 MONSTER MANIA 13 CREATE, SHARE, IMPACT 14 GIFTS FROM KITCHEN 15 BUSY BEES	27 INSECT INVESTIGATORS 28 UNL ANIMAL SCIENCE 29 BIG POWER MACHINES 30 SHOPPING IN STYLE 4 MONSTER MANIA 31 MOVE & GROOVE 32 WILD WEATHER	43 CONTAINER GARDEN 44 WOOD U LIKE 2 BUILD? 45 COOL & UPCYCLED 46 GAME ON!	56 MAGIC PILLOWCASE 57 TABLE SETTING 58 FANCY FOOD & FITNESS 59 3-D MODELING
3:00–5:00	16 CRAZY FOR CROCHET 17 MAKE BUSINESS POP! 18 PIZZA PARTY 19 FLUID PAINTING	33 CLOTHING MODELING 34 DISCOVER KUMIHIMO 35 ENGINEERING 1 36 DOUGH FUN 37 CREATIVE CRAFTS	47 SMELL THE ROSES 48 ENGINEERING 2 49 LET’S COOK 50 FLY WITH MONARCHS	NO CLASSES

23 Bridges & Roads

Create fantastic bridges, chocolate asphalt and more.
WED, JUNE 20; 10:15AM–12:15PM
AGES 8 & up • FEE \$5
Lancaster County Engineers

24 Build a Buddy

Find your voice and make communicating fun while building a stuffed animal!
WED, JUNE 20; 10:15AM–12:15PM
AGES 8 & up • FEE \$3
Paula Peterson, 4-H Volunteer

25 Control the Flow

Explore the “Magic of Electricity” by creating a light switch!
WED, JUNE 20; 10:15AM–12:15PM
AGES 8 & up • FEE \$5
Jim Wies, Extension Technologist

26 H₂O Adventure

It’s all about water-ground & surface! Have fun testing water quality.
WED, JUNE 20; 10:15AM–12:15PM
AGES 8 & up • FEE \$3
Meghan Sittler, Extension Educator

27 Insect Investigators

Enjoy the thrill of a bug hunt, catch & learn about insects in our ecosystem.
WED, JUNE 20; 12:45–2:45PM
AGES 8 & up • \$5
Jody Green, Extension Educator

28 UNL Animal Science Experience

Learn about nutrition, animal biology and all the cool things in animal science during this tour of the UNL Animal Science Building. Enjoy a tasty stop at the UNL dairy store.
WED, JUNE 20; 12:45–2:45PM
AGES 8 & up • FEE \$3
Cole Meador, Extension Associate

29 Big Power Machines

Get a “behind the scenes” tour of how mechanics create specialized equipment and make repairs.
WED, JUNE 20; 12:45–2:45PM
AGES 8 & up • FEE \$5
Lancaster County Engineers

30 Shopping in Style

Learn savvy shopping tips while exploring the Shopping in Style fair project.
WED, JUNE 20; 12:45–2:45PM
AGES 8 & up • FEE \$5
Sheridan Swotek, Extension Intern

31 Move & Groove

Play, jump, skip, hop, move and eat for energy!
WED, JUNE 20; 12:45–2:45PM
AGES 8 & up • FEE \$5
Dustin Stegen, Extension Nutrition Intern

32 Wild Weather

Explore the amazing & wild weather of Nebraska.
WED, JUNE 20; 12:45–2:45PM
AGES 10 & up • FEE \$3
Tyler Williams, Extension Educator

33 Clothing Modeling Tips

Be a styling diva, learn the ins and outs of modeling to prepare for fair judging. Wear secure shoes. No flip flops!
WED, JUNE 20; 3–5PM
AGES 8 & up • FEE \$3
Kali Burnham, 4-H Volunteer

34 Discover Kumihimo

Girls and boys! Explore the Japanese art of cord braiding.
WED, JUNE 20; 3–5PM
AGES 8 & up • FEE \$5
Cathy Babcock, 4-H Volunteer

35 Amazing Engineering 1

Design and build amazing engineering projects. Projects will differ from Amazing Engineering 2.
WED, JUNE 20; 3–5PM
AGES 8 & up • FEE \$3
UNL College of Engineering

36 Dough Fun

It’s easier than it looks to mix and shape bread and rolls. Learn techniques and take samples home.
WED, JUNE 20; 3–5PM
AGES 10 & up • FEE \$5
Lorene Bartos, Extension Educator Emeritus

37 Creative Crafts

Show your creativity while making fun crafts.
WED, JUNE 20; 3–5PM
AGES 8 & up • FEE \$5
Tammy Riedel, 4-H Volunteer

38 Cluck, Cluck, Quack!!

Enjoy the fun of backyard poultry as we learn about chickens, ducks, etc.
THU, JUNE 21; 8–10AM
AGES: 8 & up • FEE: \$5
Cole Meador, Extension Associate

39 String Art

Create a work of art with nails and string.
THU, JUNE 21; 8–10AM
AGES 8 & up • FEE \$8
Caitlyn Schmidt, 4-H Volunteer

40 Babysitting Kit

Create a bag of tricks to care for a toddler.
THU, JUNE 21; 10:15AM–12:15PM
AGES 8 & up • FEE \$8
Jaci Foged, Extension Educator

41 Excellent Electronics

Create different sounds and lights with an electronic circuit board.
THU, JUNE 21; 10:15AM–12:15PM
AGES 8 & up • FEE \$3
Jim Wies, Extension Technologist

42 Veggie Garden Mania

Play games, make garden row markers & create a veggie athletes poster.
THU, JUNE 21; 10:15AM–12:15PM
AGES 8 & up • FEE \$5
Sarah Browning, Extension Educator & Master Gardeners

43 Container Gardening

Create a planting, learn how to care for it and watch it grow!
THU, JUNE 21; 12:45–2:45PM
AGES 8 & up • FEE \$5
Abby Babcock, Extension Intern

44 Wood U Like 2 Build?

Build a decorative wall hanging to enter in the Super Fair.
THU, JUNE 21; 12:45–2:45PM
AGES 8 & up • FEE \$10
John & David Swotek, 4-H Volunteers

45 Cool & Upcycled

Engineer unique new items by using common objects or materials in creative ways.
THU, JUNE 21; 12:45–2:45PM
AGES 8 & up • FEE \$5
Tammy Sheldon, 4-H Volunteer

46 Game On!

Play modern board games like never before by using special reasoning and critical thinking.
THU, JUNE 21; 12:45–2:45PM
AGES 8 & up • FEE \$3
GameSchool Project Volunteers

47 Smell the Roses!

Make a fragrant spa body scrub with rose petals and explore the sweet smelling world of roses.
THU, JUNE 21; 3–5PM
AGES 10 & up • FEE \$5
Lincoln Rose Society Members

48 Amazing Engineering 2

Design and build amazing engineering projects. Projects will differ from Amazing Engineering 1.
THU, JUNE 21; 3–5PM
AGES 8 & up • FEE \$3
UNL College of Engineering

49 Let’s Cook

Cooking healthy food is fun and tasty!
THU, JUNE 21; 3–5PM
AGES 8 & up • FEE \$5
Dustin Stegen, Extension Nutrition Intern

50 Fly With Monarchs

Enter the butterfly world of color and symmetry while being arty and making fruit pizza.
THU, JUNE 21; 3–5PM
AGES 8 & up • FEE \$5
Valerie & Nathan Gabel, 4-H Volunteers

51 Paper Crafting

Be creative by making a simple relief print and personalized mini book. Wear old clothes appropriate for painting.
FRI, JUNE 22; 8–10AM
AGES 8 & up • FEE \$5
Jordan Geisert, Graphic Designer, Nonprofit Hub

52 Magazine Art

Create unique art using magazine pages.
FRI, JUNE 22; 8–10AM
AGES 8 & up • FEE \$5
Caitlyn Schmidt, 4-H Volunteer

53 Giddy Goats

Goats will be present to help you find out all about them!
FRI, JUNE 22; 10:15AM–12:15PM
AGES 8 & up • FEE \$4
Cole Meador, Extension Associate & Sheridan Swotek, Extension Intern

54 CSI Discovery

Learn how evidence leads to answering questions and solving cases.
FRI, JUNE 22; 10:15AM–12:15PM
AGES 8 & up • FEE \$5
Jayde Hessler, Extension Intern

55 Computer Coding

Interested in coding? If you can read, you can code in this game environment!
FRI, JUNE 22; 10:15AM–12:15PM
AGES 8 & up • FEE \$6
Gavin Nielson, Extension Intern

56 Magic Pillowcase

Sew your own pillowcase. Bring 3/4 yd. of a fun cotton fabric along with 1/4 yd. each of two coordinating fabrics (no stripes or matching plaids), matching thread, basic sewing supplies and sewing machine. Must have basic sewing skills. A few machines available upon request.
FRI, JUNE 22; 12:45–2:45PM
AGES 8 & up • FEE \$3
Ellie Babcock, 4-H Volunteer

57 Terrific Table Setting

Create an awesome centerpiece and learn how to participate in the 4-H Table Setting contest at the Super Fair.
FRI, JUNE 22; 12:45–2:45PM
AGES 8 & up • FEE \$5
Abby Babcock, Extension Intern

58 Fancy Food & Fitness Fun

Design a fun food art snack and enjoy exciting fitness activities.
FRI, JUNE 22; 12:45–2:45PM
AGES 8 & up • FEE \$6
Dustin Stegen, Extension Nutrition Intern

59 3-D Modeling

Learn how a 3-D printer works & modify your own 3-D print design. 3-D prints available for pick up from the Extension Office at a later date.
FRI, JUNE 22; 12:45–2:45PM
AGES 8 & up • FEE \$6
Gavin Nielson, Extension Intern

For current class availability, go to <http://lanaster.unl.edu/4h/programs/clovercollege>

To register, use form on previous page.



EXTENSION CALENDAR

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

April

25 Magic of Electricity Workshop for Before and After School
Providers 10 a.m.–12 p.m. and 6:30–8:30 p.m.

May

2 Environmental Awareness Workshop for Before and After School
Providers 10 a.m.–12 p.m. and 6:30–8:30 p.m.

3 Pesticide Applicator NDA Walk-in “Testing Only” Session.. 9 a.m.–2 p.m.

3 4-H Council Meeting (note change from a Tuesday)6 p.m.

5 Spring Fling 4-H Horse Dressage Schooling Show,
Lancaster Event Center - Pav. 3

6 4-H Horse Dressage “Ride-A-Test” Clinic, Lancaster Event Center - Pav. 3

6 4-H Clothing Level 1 Workshop, JOANN Fabrics and Crafts,
East Park Plaza, 220 N. 66th St. 1:30–3 p.m.

8 4-H Horsemanship Level Testing, Lancaster Event Center - Pav. 4,
Amy Countryman Arena 5:30 p.m.

10 Co-Parenting for Successful Kids Class9 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

11 Extension Board Meeting8 a.m.

11 Lancaster County 4-H Deadline for District/State Horse Show Entries, ID, Level Tests

15 4-H/FFA Sheep & Meat Goat Weigh-In & Tag Day, Lancaster Event Center - Pav. 1 6–7 p.m.

15 4-H Leader Trainings..... 9 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.

17 Pesticide Applicator NDA Walk-in “Testing Only” Session.. 9 a.m.–2 p.m.

19 Composting Demonstration, Pioneers Park Nature Center’s backyard
composting demonstration area across from Nature Center..... 10 a.m.

22 4-H Horsemanship Level Testing, Lancaster Event Center – Pav. 4,
Amy Countryman Arena 5:30 p.m.

28 Memorial Day — Office Closed

31 Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (Quality Assurance) Face-to-Face
Training for 4-H/FFA Livestock Animal Exhibitors.....6–7 p.m.

Abby Babcock participated in National 4-H Congress

Lancaster County 4-H member Abby Babcock was part of a 23-member Nebraska delegation attending National 4-H Congress last Nov. 24–28. National 4-H Congress is a five-day educational eExperience held in Atlanta, Ga. and is the premiere nation-wide event for 4-H’ers to network with others from around the country, Canada and Puerto Rico. While at Congress, 4-H’ers engage in leadership, citizenship, global awareness and inclusion.

Youth are selected based

upon the achievements outlined in the 4-H Career Portfolio. The Nebraska 4-H Career Portfolio is the annual record-keeping system used by Nebraska 4-H youth. It is a composite of all 4-H and non 4-H projects/activities throughout the individual’s 4-H career. Abby’s 4-H Career Portfolio was selected in the area of Family and Consumer Science.

Abby had the opportunity to listen to several student speakers as well as Sonny Perdue, the current U.S. Secretary of

Agriculture. As a part of one of the community service opportunities, she taught a class of elementary students about the poultry industry.

Abby says, “National 4-H Congress was a wonderful opportunity for me! By meeting a lot of 4-H’ers from across the country, I got to see just how diverse 4-H can be! If you ever have the chance to go, I highly recommend that you take this amazing opportunity!”

Lancaster County 4-H’ers on the runway at Omaha Fashion Week

Omaha Fashion Week kicked off with Student Night on Feb. 27 at the Omaha Design Center in downtown Omaha. The runway show included collections from top 4-H members from across the state, FCCLA, Joslyn’s Kent Bellows Mentoring Program, Omaha’s Central High School and South High School. 4-H members who exhibited their garments at the 2017 Nebraska State Fair qualified to apply to be part of the 4-H collection. In order for consideration, garments had to be fashion forward, runway appropriate and displayed high quality construction.

Two Lancaster County 4-H members were selected to model their sewn dresses during the High School Student Night Show. Kali Burnham hit the runway in her stylish charcoal gray knit knee-length dress topped with a sassy large brimmed hat. Ellie Babcock graced the stage with her elegant silver and pink brocade prom gown.

The following night, during



Ellie Babcock

the UNL Showcase, Lancaster County 4-H’er Emily Pillard featured her original collection of 10 models in party and prom wear under her label of Em’s Trends. Emily is a UNL freshman



Kali Burnham

Fashion Design student. Emily has also showcased her collection at other regional Fashion Weeks in Des Moines and Kansas City this year.

EXTENSION NEWS

New support staff



(L–R) Heather Odoski and Shannon Boyer

In March, Nebraska Extension in Lancaster County hired two county Clerk Typist II staff to replace outgoing staff. They will help support Extension’s local programs.

Heather Odoski will support the 4-H youth development program and assist in receptionist duties. She was a 4-H member in Saline County and showed poultry and cattle, as well as exhibited artwork in static exhibits. Heather graduated from Nebraska Wesleyan University in 2016.

Shannon Boyer will support The Learning Child and Food, Nutrition & Heath programs. She will also assist with general office duties. Shannon is married to Brandon and they have a daughter, Kimber.

Chorus 70th anniversary

The Lancaster County Chorus, originally called the Lancaster Home Extension Chorus, is celebrating its 70th anniversary on Sunday, April 29 at Eastmont Towers in the main lounge, 6315 O St., Lincoln. An open house will be 1–3 p.m. and program at 2 p.m. Everyone is welcome. Wanda Mandigo directs the chorus. The Lancaster Home Extension Chorus was affiliated with the former Home Extension clubs.

4-H animal entries must be submitted online

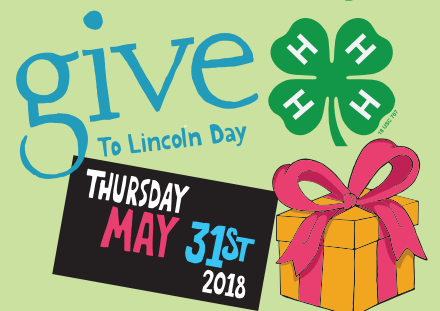
New in 2018, all 4-H/FFA animal entries for the Lancaster County Super Fair must be entered online at <http://lancaster.fairmanager.com>. This includes stall requests and livestock/poultry exhibitor T-shirt sizes. No paper forms will be accepted! Youth must be enrolled and animal project(s) selected online at <https://ne.4honline.com> by June 15.

Animal entries **may be submitted online starting on June 17. Deadline is Sunday, July 1, 11:59 p.m.** No late entries will be accepted! Beef, dairy cattle, bucket calf and llama/alpaca bedding fees, and Horse Roping/Working Ranch Show livestock fees will have online worksheets to fill out, print and submit to the Extension office with payment (cash or check) by Friday, July 6.

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

Support local 4-H youth during Give to Lincoln Day

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 on May 31 is increased by a proportional share of a \$400,000 challenge match fund!



Here are a few ways your support will help youth:

- Help pay for curriculum or workshop costs for a 4-H member with limited resources.
- Provide hands-on learning opportunities to more youth through after-school 4-H programs.
- Help send a Lancaster County youth to a 4-H summer camp through a scholarship.
- Make a BIG difference helping local youth grow into true leaders!

For more information or to make a tax-deductible donation, go to <http://go.unl.edu/giveto4hcouncil>