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Regularly Test Private Well Drinking Water for Safety

By Don Janssen
UNL Extension Educator

There are many reasons to have your well water tested regularly — most important is your health.

Water that comes from a private well is often high quality. Because your water supply is private, not municipal, it means that you alone are responsible to ensure that it's safe to drink.

There is no single test to determine the safety of drinking water. As with public drinking water, many contaminants can present a health risk if present in sufficient concentrations. These include biological contaminants such as bacteria or viruses; inorganic chemicals such as lead, nitrate or sulfate; and organic chemicals such as insecticides, herbicides, fuel and solvents. Other contaminants, while not a health risk, can make water less desirable for domestic use. These are referred to as nuisance contaminants and include calcium, magnesium, iron, manganese and hydrogen sulfide. It would be costly, and in most cases unnecessary, to test private water supplies for the nearly 100 contaminants for which public water supplies are required to test.

Hard water is the most common problem associated with ground water. Hard water can occur when ground water comes in contact with certain rocks and minerals, like gypsum, limestone, calcium or magnesium that can be released into the water. Generally associated with an abundance of calcium and/or magnesium dissolved in the water, hard water hasn't been linked to health problems, but it can become an annoyance, causing soap curds and deposits to form on pipes and other plumbing fixtures. Over time it can reduce the diameter of the pipes.



Iron can cause a rusty or metallic taste to your water. Iron can also collect in the pipes and as a result stains clothing. Since iron is naturally occurring, most ground water has some amount of dissolved iron in it. There are several ways to treat iron problems, including installing a water softener, aeration, chlorination, and feeding ozone or hydrogen peroxide (which is removed by filtration).

Generally, private water supplies should be tested annually for nitrate and bacterial contamination. These tests should be considered after flooding or when any noticeable change in taste, color or smell is detected. These changes may also indicate the need for other

tests. Testing for bacterial contamination should occur any time users of the water supply experience recurring bouts of intestinal illness or when an infant, person with a compromised immune system or elderly person becomes a water user. In addition, testing for bacterial contamination should occur when repairs or alterations are made to the well or water system, when activating a well or water system that has not been used for an

extended period of time and following shock chlorination. Testing for nitrate should occur any time a pregnant woman, woman anticipating pregnancy or infant under 6 months old becomes a water user.

Coliform bacteria is most likely to be found during periods of wet weather when the soil is warm. Runoff and excess soil moisture carry contaminants into shallow groundwater sources or through well defects. To assess the year-round safety of drinking water, test for bacteria in the late spring or early summer during wet weather.

The best location to collect a water sample is at the tap used most frequently for drinking and cooking. If contaminants are found, inspect the water system for defects and, if necessary, collect additional samples at other locations to determine if the impurities are entering at the well or through defects in the plumbing system.

Take care when sampling for bacterial contaminants. Because bacteria are commonly carried on dust and dirt particles, avoid drawing a sample in extremely dirty locations where dust could accidentally enter the sterile sample container. Clean, indoor locations are best. If an outdoor sampling location must be used, avoid drawing samples from frost-proof hydrants. The buried valve allowing them to drain and avoid freezing can allow bacterially contaminated water to be drawn into the riser pipe leading to the hydrant. Follow directions carefully from the testing laboratory.

Nitrogen finds its way into ground



Photo by Rita Shelley

water usually just from the atmosphere, meaning that nitrogen unused by plants is released into the soil. Nitrogen compounds can also find their way into ground water through fertilizers and manure. Treating nitrogen and its many forms (ammonia, nitrate and nitrite) can be done through reverse osmosis systems with water softeners, but it is most important to identify the source of contamination and create a safe zone around your well head, making sure that it is free from any possible source of nitrogen.

Sulfur is the “rotten egg” smell that indicates the presence of hydrogen sulfide gas. Sulfur not only creates an unpleasant odor and taste, but also causes corrosion to plumbing and can darken water. It can be treated by aeration, ozone, hydrogen peroxide and chlorine followed by filtration.

Other typical additional tests are those for iron, manganese, water hardness, sulfides and other water constituents that cause problems with plumbing, staining, water appearance and odor. Changes in these constituents may indicate changes in your well or local ground water. Additional tests may be recommended if water appears cloudy or oily, if bacterial growth is visible on fixtures or water treatment devices are not working as they should. Check with your water well contractor or local health department for information on local water quality issues.

The National Ground Water Association recommends that owners of private water wells get their water tested annually for the presence of coliform bacteria, nitrates and anything else of local concern as part of an annual well maintenance checkup.

A concise, clear, written report should be delivered to you following the checkup that explains results and recommendations and includes all laboratory and other test results.

Your well should be disinfected with a chlorine solution any time work is done on the well or pump. Directions for shock chlorinating your well are available from your University of Nebraska–Lincoln Extension office.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

UNL Extension has numerous publications on drinking water quality available at the extension office or online at <http://www.ianrpubs.unl.edu/sendIt/water>

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Approved Water Testing Laboratories

The Nebraska Health and Human Services System Department of Regulation and Licensure approves (certifies) laboratories in Nebraska to test drinking water samples. As of January 2006, there are three government-operated and four commercial-operated approved laboratories. Only one is located in Lancaster County: Nebraska Health and Human Services Regulation and Licensure Laboratory, 3701 S. 14th St., Lincoln, NE 68502; 471-2122; <http://www.hhs.state.ne.us/lab> — contact for fees, sample containers and proper sampling procedures.

Source: UNL Extension NebGuide G1614
“Drinking Water: Approved Water Testing Laboratories in Nebraska”



Giant puffball

What are They? Puffballs!

Many homeowners have noticed large, white fungal spheres emerging from the ground in their lawn or landscape. These puffballs are the fruiting structure of a fungus and come in a variety of sizes.

Perhaps the most common species of puffball is the giant puffball, *Langermannia giganteum*. This puffball can grow up to a foot or more in diameter, appearing as a large, white ball. At first it has the texture of a marshmallow, but as the puffball matures it turns olive-brown, and the interior becomes spongy and filled with spores.

Another common puffball is the hard puffball, *Scleroderma* sp., also called an earth

ball. Hard puffballs are round, about the size of a tennis ball or slightly larger. Unlike giant puffballs, hard puffballs develop just underneath the surface of the soil. When they mature, they open up revealing spores inside and this develops depressions in the soil surface, causing the lawn to be bumpy.

Puffballs are not harmful to people, pets, or plants, but can be a nuisance in well-maintained lawns. There is no feasible management for them other than removing the fruiting bodies as they appear.

Source: Christine Engelbrecht, Iowa State University Department of Plant Pathology.

Nebraska Forest Service Expert Discovers Pine Wilt Treatment

A new treatment for pine wilt is available thanks to some creative thinking by a Nebraska Forest Service forest health expert.

Mark Harrell, Nebraska Forest Service forest health program leader, initiated a project to determine whether a trunk injection aimed at controlling the pine-wood nematode that causes pine wilt would be effective in preventing the spread of pine wilt.

"In 2001, I tested abamectin, an insecticide that is known to have some effect against nematodes and found that it could kill the pinewood nematode at a concentration that was feasible to use in trees," Harrell said. "I began testing it in trees later that year."

Arbor Systems, an Omaha-based company that specializes in tree injections, provided the product and the injection equipment. The company added Greyhound, abamectin's trade name, to its product line in the mid-1990s. It commonly is used to control elm leaf beetles, lace bugs, leaf miners and mites.

Greyhound is injected into the tree's trunk near the ground. Trees are given a series of injections at four-inch intervals around the tree.

Research trials were con-

ducted in several windbreaks in southeast Nebraska in 2001 and 2002. These windbreaks were evaluated for one year. In 2003, a three-year trial was begun at Horning State Farm near Plattsmouth.

The results of the Plattsmouth test showed that Grey-

product more efficiently, so a slightly lower rate may be just as effective using the newer equipment. This could bring the cost down."

Additional lower cost products and methods for controlling pine wilt are being pursued, Harrell said. This

could enable people to treat windbreaks and other pine plantings.

"Since the current cost of the treatment will likely lead to it being used only on high-value trees, people should remove dead trees as quickly as possible and destroy them by either burning, burying or chipping," Harrell said.

Pine wilt has killed an estimated 5,000 pines in Nebraska since entering the state eight

years ago. The disease is most common in southeast Nebraska, but also has been found around Fremont, Grand Island, North Platte and Valentine, Harrell said.

The microscopic pine-wood nematode disrupts the flow of sap, causing the tree to turn brown and die.

For more information about these injections or where to obtain one, contact the Nebraska Forest Service at 472-2944. More information about pine wilt can be found on the Nebraska Forest Service Web site at <http://www.nfs.unl.edu/>.

"Since the current cost of the treatment will likely lead to it being used only on high-value trees, people should remove dead trees as quickly as possible and destroy them by either burning, burying or chipping,"

—Mark Harrell, Nebraska Forest Service

hound, applied at six times the recommended label rate, provided approximately 70 percent protection from pine wilt for three years. Greyhound only is effective if no symptoms of pine wilt are present in the tree, Harrell said.

Due to its high application rate, Greyhound treatments are expensive, he said. The product must be applied by a trained arborist.

"Treating a tree with a trunk diameter of 10 inches could cost approximately \$300," Harrell said. "However, Arbor Systems now has equipment that can apply the

Easier Gardening

Scan the gardening section at the local bookstore and you will find numerous titles that include the terms low-maintenance, carefree and easy. Gardeners, of course, wish that were true, looking for that secret formula to having a beautiful garden with no work. The fact is, gardens need tending. Here are some tips to make gardening easier.

Get some wheels. There are a wide variety of wheeled contraptions available, from wheelbarrows to carts to wagons. It is amazing how much easier it is to move bags of fertilizer, flats of flowers and baskets of squash when they are riding on a wheeled platform.

Garden close to home. The long-term dream for your landscape may include a secret hideaway in the back corner of your lot. The only problem is, the less frequently you visit, the less you will maintain it. Put a flower bed somewhere between your front door and your driveway and you will pass by it twice a day. That flower bed will be carefully tended, weed-free and immaculately deadheaded. The further the bed is from air-conditioning and lemonade, the more weeds it will have.

Where's the water? Nothing is more time-con-

suming and frustrating than dragging hose. It gets caught, kinked and is never where you need it. An irrigation system makes the job much easier, but may be prohibitively expensive and requires monitoring and maintenance. At the very least, consider installing a satellite spigot in a central location in your landscape.

Get a good mower. This may seem counterintuitive, since many gardeners want less lawn, not more. Nonetheless, a significant portion of your yard-maintenance time will be spent walking behind a mower. A mower that is reliable, powerful, well-maintained and easy-to-start will make time away from tending flowers less painful.

Train, do not prune. Training plants is the art of directing the growth where you want it, rather than removing it from where you don't. Corrective pruning — the kind that leaves you with large piles of clippings — is done in late winter. But training and light shaping can be done in early-to mid-summer. It is easy enough to tell if a branch is going to grow in the wrong direction. Take it out when it's small, before it has a chance to do so.

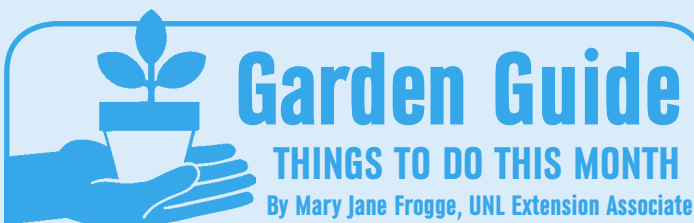
Keep tools sharp. Two people chop wood. One takes

frequent breaks. The other works non-stop. At the end of the day the one who rested has a larger pile of wood. "How did you manage that?" asks the other. "During breaks," she replies, "I was sharpening my axe."

Do lots of planning and research. A plant in the wrong spot is a waste of your time and efforts. It will either die young, fail to reach its potential or require constant maintenance. A poorly planned garden will be a source of frustration. The best gardeners have extensive libraries and journals full of sketches and notes. Don't know where to start? Consult your local extension office Web site for a start. The Lancaster County Web site is at <http://Lanaster.unl.edu>.

Do a little each day. Even if it is only five minutes, make some time in your life each day for a bit of gardening. Instead of watching the news with your morning coffee, carry your mug out to the garden. Yes, you will miss the crime blotter, but you will catch the weed seedlings before they set seed and pinch off the aphid-infested leaves before they spread.

Source: Paul McKenzie, Horticulture Extension, Durham, North Carolina.



Snapdragons should be pinched back after blooming to promote a second flush of growth.

Cut back and fertilize delphinium and phlox to encourage a second flowering.

Many plants are easily propagated by layering. Verbenas, euonymus, English ivy and climbing roses are a few plants that will root if the stems are fastened down and covered with soil.

Cutting flowers is best done with sharp shears or a knife which will help avoid injury to the growing plant. A slanting cut will expose a larger absorbing surface to water and will prevent the base of the stem from resting on the bottom of the vase. It is best to carry a bucket of water to the garden for collecting flowers, rather than a cutting basket.

Divide and transplant bearded iris using the vigorous ends of the rhizomes. Discard the old center portion. Cut the leaves back to about six inches.

Tall flowers should be staked to prevent damage by wind. Use stakes which are large enough to support the plant but are not too conspicuous. Use soft twine or twist ties to secure.

A brown or grayish cast over a lawn can be caused by a dull or improperly adjusted mower blades that shred grass rather than cut it.

Store pesticides in a safe place in their original containers, away from children and pets. Use pesticides carefully in your garden. Read the labels and follow the directions. The warnings and precautions are for your protection.

Certain pesticides have a waiting period of several days between the time of the last spray and harvest. Read and follow directions on all labels before applying to your vegetable crops. Wash all produce thoroughly before use.

Control mosquitoes by eliminating all sources of stagnant water.

A garden needs one inch of rain or water each week. Early morning is the best time to water. Evening watering is less desirable because plant leaves that remain wet through the night are more susceptible to fungus diseases. Mulch plants to reduce water losses and improve yields.

For fall harvest of lettuce, radish, carrots, beets, turnips, kale and spinach, sow seeds in late July to early August.

Continue to make successive plantings of crops like beans and sweet corn to provide a continuous harvest until fall. A small garden will produce a large quantity of vegetables if replanting is done throughout the summer.

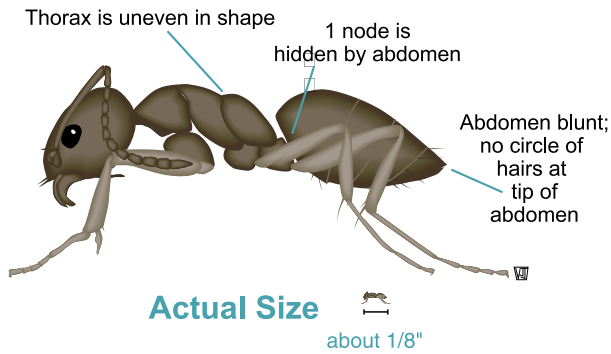
Check the soil moisture of container grown vegetables and flowers daily. As the temperature rises, some plants may need water twice a day.

Continue attracting insect eating birds to the garden area by providing them with a fresh water source.

Odorous House Ant

Tapinoma sessile

Has rotten coconut-like odor when crushed.



Yicki Jedlicha, UNL Extension in Lancaster County

Ants in the Lawn

Barb Ogg

UNL Extension Educator

Many people dislike ants that nest in the soil around their house. Some ant species construct mounds in the lawn; others produce unsightly hills between sidewalk cracks or patio blocks. But, most ant species are beneficial. Some are predators of other insects; others are scavengers and clean up the landscape. Ants aerate the soil through their activities, which is a benefit to healthy lawns.

Some ant species feed on honeydew (sticky sugary substance) excreted by aphids, mealybugs and soft scales. These ants sometimes come into homes foraging for sweets. Predatory ant species prefer grease and meat products.

The secret to controlling an ant infestation is to locate and destroy the nest, including the queen and her young. Try to follow the ant trail from the food source to the nest location.

The most direct method of controlling ant colonies in the lawn is to use a "drench" treatment. Carefully soak each mound with diluted insecticide labeled to treat ant hills.

A safer choice is to use a bait. Sweet-loving ants, like odorous house ants, feed readily on sweet liquid baits, like Terro®. The boric acid in the bait acts slowly, which allows the ants to take it back to the colony where it is transferred to other ants. It probably kills ants by interfering with energy metabolism and transport. Depending on the size of the colony or colonies, it can take a few days to a week, or even longer, for ants to disappear inside the home. Baits must be placed where ants are foraging. Not all ant species will eat baits: if they don't eat the bait, you'll need to try a different control tactic. If you use a bait, don't

use insecticides which might kill ants and prevent them from returning to the colony—bait effectiveness depends on transferring the boric acid to other colony members.

Another alternative which may prevent ants from invading your home is to apply a barrier treatment with a registered formulation of an insecticide. A study conducted at Purdue found a spray treatment (three feet out from and two feet up walls) using non-repellent insecticides, fipronil and imidacloprid, worked much better than repellent insecticides, which include most of the over-the-counter products. Fipronil, the active ingredient in Termidor®, was the most effective, but this product is sold for professional use only. Imidacloprid is found in some lawn care products and is more readily available to homeowners. One ready-to-use product is called Bayer Advanced Lawn Complete Insect Killer for Soil & Turf. Imidacloprid is off patent so other products containing imidacloprid may also be available. Be sure to only use products labeled to treat building foundations, lawns and ground covers for ants.

In another study, a Georgia researcher found bifenthrin granules applied in a six-foot band around the home provided reasonably good control of ants for six weeks. Bifenthrin is the active ingredient in a number of products available at garden, hardware and discount stores. Follow label directions carefully.

Don't expect all ant colonies to disappear with treatment. Researchers conducting the Purdue study noticed a significant increase in odorous house ant colonies, compared with other ant species in treated zones as the insecticides lost their potency. This highly invasive species may be increasing as a result of insecticide treatments.

Chiggers Not a Health Concern, But Can Make Outdoor Activities Uncomfortable

Soni Cochran

UNL Extension Associate

Chiggers are the larvae of the harvest mite, *Trombicula alfreddugesi*. Adults and most immature stages are completely harmless, but the tiny chigger is parasitic on many animals including humans.

Chiggers become active in June, but outdoor activities and warm days around the Fourth of July result in increased complaints about chiggers.

Chiggers move quickly on the ground and crawl onto feet or legs. Once on its host, the chigger finds an area that is somewhat confined, such as around ankles, under socks or behind knees. When people sit on the ground in chigger-infested areas, they may get severe chigger bites around the waistline or in the crotch area, especially under belts and elastic bands of underwear. Chiggers may also move to the upper parts of the body and attack the armpits.

When chiggers bite, they do not burrow into the skin. The chigger pierces the skin and injects a fluid to prevent blood from clotting. This fluid causes the tissues to be inflamed and results in the severe itching we experience with the bites.

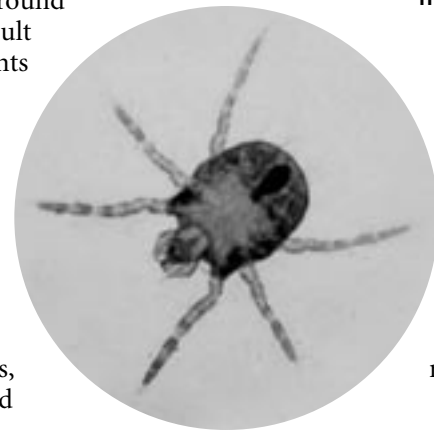
What Can You Do?

1. If you plan to be outdoors, be prepared. Avoid wearing shorts, sleeveless shirts and sandals when going into areas where there may be chiggers. Tuck your pant legs into boots. Use an insect repellent containing "deet" (*diethyltoluamide*). Apply the repellents to shoes, socks, pant cuffs, ankles, legs and around the waist. Before using any insecticide on your child, read the label directions carefully or visit with your physician.

2. It takes several hours for a chigger to settle down on your body to feed. If you are in an area where it is possible to come in contact with



Adult form of harvest mite (highly magnified).



The larvae form of harvest mites are called chiggers (highly magnified).

chiggers, bathing or showering soon after exposure may help wash away some of the chiggers and prevent them from biting. Your clothing should also be washed to prevent reinfestation.

Relief from the Itch

1. Using clear nail polish on the bites to destroy the chigger is not effective. By the time your body reacts to the bite, and the bite itches, the chigger has already dropped off your body.

2. Even with treatment, redness and intense itching can last for several weeks. Try not to scratch the wounds. Over-the-counter lotions and ointments may help relieve the itch. If you have an unusual allergic reaction, fever or infection, contact your physician.

Control Outdoors

Breeding sites for these mites is among weeds and thick vegetation where there is plenty of shade and moisture. Good weed control, mowing and elimination of excess shade will help reduce chigger populations. This is the most effective means of control.

In areas where chiggers are a problem, you can use an insecticide labeled for chigger control, but effectiveness is limited. Spray the grass, ground litter, soil and shrubbery. Be sure to read and follow label directions carefully.

Primary Source: "Itchy Chiggers!" by Barbara Ogg, UNL Extension Educator. This resource is available from the extension office and at <http://lancaster.unl.edu/pest/>

UNL Department of Entomology
Hansell F. Cross, Georgia State University, www.insectimages.org

Bats Under Porches, Patios!

Bats are active at night and feed on moths, mosquitoes and other flying insects. After feeding for awhile, they roost in secluded areas under covered porches and patios. They leave droppings in these areas which homeowners find in the morning. Even when droppings are cleaned up, new ones appear each morning. Bat droppings (at right) are black or brown, dry, slightly shiny and larger than mouse droppings. To discourage bats from roosting, try covering the area with bird netting or use metal flashing to keep them from roosting.



Bat guano is found below where bats roost.

Barb Ogg, UNL Extension in Lancaster County

School of Natural Resources



"The students I've met in the School are a diverse group I really like being around. The professors here do a wonderful job. They're accessible and easy to get along with. They give really good lectures and challenge you to think. They're so good at what they do, I think they're underpaid."

Michael Gillon,
rangeland ecosystems major

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Pesticide Container Recycling Program

Tom Dorn

UNL Extension Educator

Every year, close to a million plastic agricultural pesticide containers are used in Nebraska. This amounts to about three-quarters of a million pounds of plastic that must be disposed of. Plastic lasts for centuries when buried in a landfill, shortening the life of the landfills and wasting the resources used to manufacture the containers in the first place.



University of Nebraska–Lincoln Extension in Lancaster County has been coordinating a recycling program for the past 13 years.

Containers may be brought to the UNL Extension in Lancaster County office, 444 Cherrycreek Road, Lincoln, during business hours 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday–Friday, EXCEPT for the weeks of July 3, July 24 and July 31. Please call ahead at 441-7180 to ensure someone will be available to inspect and accept the containers before you come.

Two remote collection dates have been arranged in cooperation with Farmers Cooperative Company. **Our semi-trailer will be manned 9 a.m. until noon at the east elevator on 148th Street, Waverly on Friday, July 7 and at the Bennet Co-op headquarters on Friday, Aug. 4.** All containers must be inspected to make sure that they have been properly rinsed, with the caps and labels removed before they can be placed in our trailer. (Paper labels one layer thick may remain on the containers.) We will accept all sizes of agricultural pesticide containers, including 30 gallon plastic drums. Yard and garden pesticide containers are brown and cannot be recycled with the white and yellow containers. Other containers, (bleach, antifreeze, oil etc.) will not be accepted in this program which is paid for by the Agricultural Chemical Manufacturing Association, but domestic plastic containers can be recycled at the recycling centers in several locations around Lincoln.

After inspection, the containers are stored in our semi trailer until sufficient quantities have been gathered to justify bringing in a chipper. The containers are inspected a second time by the company employees and then are processed into small chips which greatly reduces the volume and makes it feasible to transport the material long distances. Chips are taken to plants that melt the plastic material and mold it into new products. Recycled pesticide containers do not enter the general plastics industry. The material is currently being recycled into plastic posts, industrial pallets, field drain tiles, speed bumps, railroad ties and parking lot tire stops.

Prepare to Plant Alfalfa in August

Tom Dorn

UNL Extension Educator

Alfalfa can be seeded either in the spring or fall in eastern Nebraska. Whether it is best to plant alfalfa in the spring or fall depends on two factors, predominant weed species and soil moisture. If the predominant weed species are summer annuals such as foxtail and pigweed, it may be best to plant alfalfa in the fall—provided the soil profile has adequate moisture for growth. This allows the alfalfa to get established with less weed competition and since it greens up in early spring, it will get a head start on the annual weeds next year, that must come from seed, when the soil temperature is right for germination.

If the predominant weed species are winter annuals such as pennycress or downy brome, spring planting may be best. The weeds can be killed with tillage or herbicides in early spring and then the alfalfa planted into a clean seed bed. Penny-cress, downy brome and other winter annual weeds are more dominant in former wheat ground since they have the same growth habit as winter wheat.

The best time for fall seeding alfalfa in eastern Nebraska is during the month of August, provided adequate soil moisture is available. Farmers sometimes wait until mid- or late-September to plant alfalfa. This is most often too late because the plants do not have a chance to become established before the first killing frost. The latest alfalfa should



Kansas State University Research & Extension

be seeded in the fall is Sept. 10 in Lancaster County. If planting cannot be completed by then, it is best to wait for another season.

Alfalfa seed needs to be planted 1/4 to 1/2 inch deep in fine textured soils and 3/4-inch deep in sandy soils for best germination. Regardless of seeding time, it is critical alfalfa be planted into a firm seed bed. Alfalfa seeds must have close contact with soil particles and soil moisture to insure rapid emergence. A firm seedbed also helps prevent seed from being planted too deep. Leave just enough loose soil to cover seed after planting.

Dr. Bruce Anderson, extension forage specialist, says if you can't bounce a basketball on the seedbed prior to planting alfalfa, the seed bed is too loose. Don't have a basketball? Walk across the seedbed with hard

soled shoes, if your heel sinks in more than 1/2-inch, it is too loose. A good rain after tillage will firm the seedbed. Harrowing with the spikes set flat or rolling with a packer will firm seedbeds provided there is some moisture in the soil.

Complete tillage (disking) following row crops is okay if the soil is firmed up by either rain, sprinkler irrigation or packer-seeders. If the untilled soil surface is already smooth, no-till planters have been very successful. In fact, no-till seeding of alfalfa following small grain crops has become the trend among successful alfalfa producers.

Before seeding alfalfa, whether you plant in spring or fall, do a complete soil test. Apply and incorporate lime and phosphorus fertilizer, if needed, and be sure to inoculate the seed.

Apply Manure Before Seeding Alfalfa

Tom Dorn

UNL Extension Educator

What crops benefit most from manure application? One good choice is a field about to be seeded to alfalfa.

Applying manure before seeding alfalfa may seem counter productive since alfalfa is not likely to benefit from the nitrogen in the manure. But manure also is rich in phosphorus, potassium, sulfur and many micronutrients that alfalfa needs in large quantities.

Research studies show applying

as much as 12,000 gallons of manure slurry or 50 tons of dry manure per acre before planting alfalfa can boost alfalfa yield more than commercial fertilizers at the same nutrient levels. And, yield increases occur on both low- and high-fertility soils with manure while only low-fertility soils responded to commercial fertilizer. Other factors like improved soil tilth, increased soil microbial activity, micronutrients and early nitrogen availability may be the reason manure-increased alfalfa yield so well.

Use a soil test and a manure test to determine how much manure to apply. And, only apply manure prior

to alfalfa seeding if you plant only alfalfa or if you will cut the companion crop early for hay. Oats left for grain can lodge and smother alfalfa.

Mix manure well into the soil using tillage, making sure to prepare a firm seedbed so new alfalfa seedlings will emerge rapidly and vigorously. Also, plan your weed control program carefully because manure can stimulate weed seedlings. Proper timing of seeding, firm seedbeds and herbicides or clipping can control weed pressure.

Looking for a place to spread manure? A heavy dose before planting alfalfa can pay big dividends.

UNL Researcher Needs Alfalfa Fields With Pocket Gophers

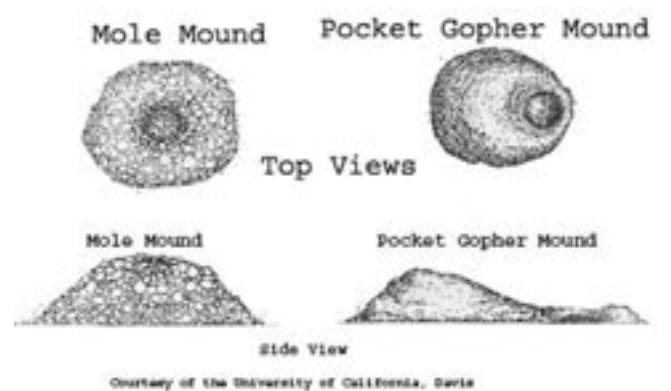
Pocket gophers are rodents that live in the soil. In our area, they prefer alfalfa fields.

UNL wildlife project coordinator Stephen Vantassel is conducting a research project to determine the most efficient trapping method for controlling pocket gophers.

He is looking for area farmers willing to give him permission to trap pocket gophers on their alfalfa fields. He is looking for non-irrigated alfalfa fields — 5 acres or more — within a one-hour drive of Lincoln. To be included in the study, fields must have

lots of pocket gophers present and have had no pocket gopher control measures for at least one year (including no trapping, no poison and no asphyxiation). This research will only take a few days.

If you would be willing to help Stephen with this study, please contact him at 472-8961.



Courtesy of the University of California, Davis

Planting Vegetables for Fall

Though often overlooked by the acreage gardener, planting vegetables in July and August for fall production is an excellent practice. Late plantings of cool- and warm-season vegetables can extend the harvest long after spring-planted crops have ceased production. Most cool-season vegetables grow as well as or better than those planted in the spring as they mature during shorter, cooler days.

Flavors of vegetables maturing in the cool, crisp days of autumn are

often sweeter and milder than those grown during hot summer weather. This is especially true for cole crops such as broccoli, brussels sprouts, cauliflower and kale. Plants such as lettuce and spinach which tend to bolt (develop flower stalks) in late spring, stay productive due to the shorter day lengths.

For those who love to garden, extending the harvest as long as possible helps ward off the dreariness of cloudy autumn days.

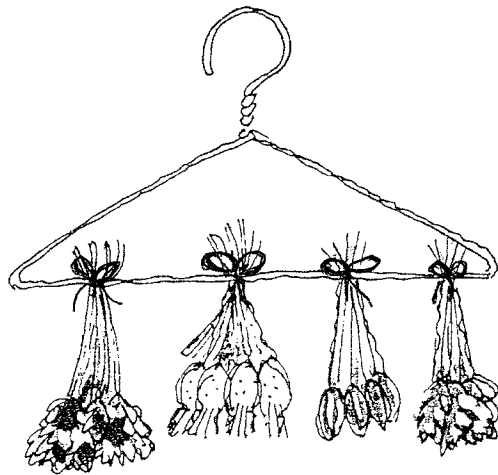
- **Semi-hardy vegetables (can stand light frost, 30–32 degrees F)** — Beets, Mustard, Chinese Cabbage, Radishes, Collards, Spinach, Potatoes, Swiss Chard, Bibb Lettuce, Green Onions, Leaf Lettuce
- **Hardy vegetables (can stand several frosts, but are killed when temperatures drop near 20 degrees F)** — Cabbage, Carrots, Broccoli, Turnips, Cauliflower, Rutabagas, Brussels Sprouts, Kale

Methods of Drying Flowers

Four methods commonly used for drying plants are air-drying, plant pressing, using a drying agent such as sand or silica gel and preserving with glycerine. The easiest methods to start with are air-drying and plant pressing.

Most people start preserving plants by putting a flower or leaf in a large book. This will work most of the time but you risk ruining the book if mold develops. A better method is to place the plants between several layers of newspaper and weigh it down with a heavy object such as a large book. You will need to check the plants periodically to make sure they are not starting to mold. With plants that have a lot of moisture, you may need to replace the newspaper if it becomes damp.

Air drying is also fairly easy. One of the simplest methods of air



drying plants is to hang them upside down and let the water evaporate. To prevent the growth of molds and other decay organisms, it is helpful to increase air movement around the plants. This can be done by using a

small fan or by opening a window. Warm, dry moving air is necessary for successful air drying.

To prevent colors from fading, dry them in the dark. Plants should be hung where they are out of the sunlight, or they can be covered with a cloth or black plastic with a few holes cut into the top and sides. Remember to provide good air circulation. Hanging covered plants over a heat vent or a fan can do this. Air circulation is even more important when the plants are covered.

If you would like information on using drying agents or glycerin, libraries have several good references available. Hobby and craft stores are good sources of information, as well as, for any supplies you may want to use in addition to the plants you dry yourself.

Caring for Animals When Gone

Livestock are a very serious responsibility. They are dependent upon you for their care. When you are gone for any extended period of time, they must still be cared for on a regular basis. Your animals should be looked in on daily to insure they are in good health. Automatic feeders and waterers can break. Daily proper nutrition is very important to the overall health of the animal.

Therefore, when you are away, get a reliable person you can trust to serve as relief chore person. Find a

person who is familiar with the care of livestock. This ensures your animals are getting the proper nutrition they require and are in good health. It also enables you to relax and not worry while you are gone.

Provide your relief chore person with phone numbers (i.e., police, fire and local veterinarian) in case of an emergency. Include a detailed description of what animals need, specific feed and other chores to be done.

There is much automation involved in many livestock buildings to-

day. It would be wise to have at least a minimal inventory of common repair parts. Add information on how to get help for any repair items needed while you are away. It's also a good idea to give your relief chore person the number where you can be reached.

Remember, your animals are dependent on you for food, shelter and health care even though you are away. Providing them with a reliable person helps ensure they will be healthy when you return.

Measuring Distance

A few hundred years ago, the French desired to establish a worldwide standard for all measurements. The purpose was to facilitate trade and price. One such measurement was for distance, the meter, on which the metric system was based. The meter was defined as one ten-millionth (1/10,000,000) the distance from the North Pole to the Equator as measured in Europe. Even though Napoleon later rejected this system, it finally became the standard for much of the world. Thomas Jefferson wanted to use it for the American standard as well; but this idea failed, primarily because the English standard had already become established among most all the people of the "New World."

Some of the origins and history about distance measures are quite interesting:

- A cubit is the distance from the fingertips to the elbow. Noah's Ark was 300 cubits long.
- A rod or pole, used to drive oxen, was about 16 feet long and was handy for measuring land since it was the longest, usable tool commonly available to a farmer. The length later became an official 16 1/2 feet when the British Empire decreed it to be the combined lengths of the left feet of the first 13 men exiting a certain English church on a designated day.
- A foot was the length derived from the end of the toe to the rear of the heel of the foot. It probably fell to kings or tribal leaders to declare the standards.
- The mile originated from having Roman soldiers march with a step of 2 1/2 feet. One mile was declared to be 1,000 paces (2 steps/pace) or 5,000 feet.
- The furlong was defined as the length of one side of a square ten-acre field, or 660 feet. In the 17th century, Queen Elizabeth decreed one mile equal to eight furlongs or 5280 feet or 320 poles. Regardless of the units of measurement—be they English, Metric or other—all distance measurements associated with travel and area determinations must be made on a horizontal plane.

(Source: *Alabama's Treasured Forests, Summer 2003*)

Spider Mites Common Problem on Trees, Other Plants

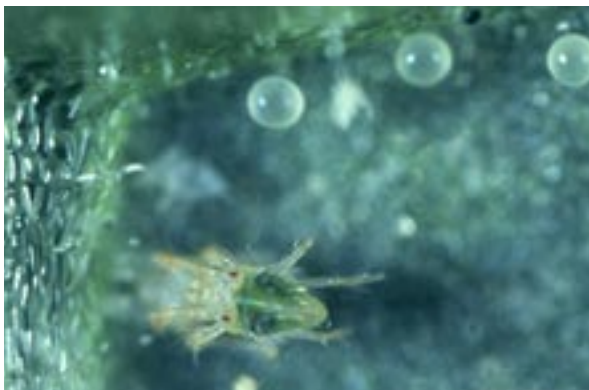
Spider mites are not insects, but are more closely related to ticks and spiders. These tiny pests are less than one millimeter long and vary in color from yellow to red to green. They are a common problem on both deciduous and evergreen trees and shrubs including spruce, pine, juniper, honeylocust, linden, elm and many others. In fact, under the right conditions, spider mites can attack almost every plant in the landscape including flowers, vegetables and grass.

They overwinter as eggs on the effected plants and produce many generations each year. Mites feed by sucking sap from the plant's leaves and stems and generally occur in the highest numbers on the undersides of leaves.

Heavily infested leaves

may be covered with very fine, irregular webs in which mites, eggs and shed skins are suspended. Overall, it gives the impression of heavy dust particles on the plant. Except in the most severe cases, these webs are very small and do not stretch from leaf to leaf. Rather, they are almost invisible but can be seen only under very close inspection stringing across the leaf's midrib or underside of the leaf.

Warm, dry weather tends to favor rapid mite development and reproduction, enabling them to complete a generation in as little as five to seven days. Infestations are usually most severe in late



Adult twospotted spider mite with eggs nearby.

summer and early fall. However, the spruce spider mite, or "cool-season" mite is most active during the cooler weather of early spring and late fall.

Damage symptoms progress from stippling to yellowing, wilting, browning, and eventually to death of the leaves or whole plant. In addition to crawling, spider

mites can be spread by wind currents and by people or animals moving through the landscape. To check for spider mites, place a white piece of paper beneath the branch or leaves and tap several times. The mites will appear as very small, bits of dust crawling across the page!

Controlling spider mites is difficult because they reproduce so rapidly. One method to try involves spraying the plant with a strong jet of water once or twice a day to dislodge some of the insects and to create an environment that is cooler, more humid and less favorable for spider mite reproduction. Several days or even weeks of this treatment will be required

to make a noticeable difference in spider mite populations.

Horticultural and dormant oils are also useful on plants with a history of spider mite problems. Horticultural oils can be sprayed on landscape plants during the summer, although some leaf discoloration or phytotoxicity may occur on some plants. Make sure your plant is listed on the label before spraying to prevent damaging the plant and follow the label directions for use of the product. Dormant oil is used during the winter or very early spring prior to bud break. It is useful in killing overwintering mite eggs and can help suppress mites populations.

In cases of very severe infestations, use of a chemical miticide may be necessary.

2006

LANCASTER COUNTY FAIR

AUGUST 2-6

Free!

More events than ever!

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SCHEDULE & MAP

FREE admission!
FREE entertainment!
FREE parking!

Does not include check-in and release times



Anyone ages 6 and up is invited to enter an exhibit or participate in a contest!



Watch chainsaw artist Nick Jensen of Papa Bear Carvings on Wednesday through Saturday!

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 2

Kids Ag Discovery Zone (Pavilion 1 - North Side) 8 a.m.–9 p.m.
FREE! Features hands-on activities and exhibits to help youth see, touch and smell agriculture. Kids can "milk" a wood cow, climb a kid-sized tractor and much more.
PRESENTED LANCASTER COUNTY 4-H AND WAVERLY FFA; SPONSORED BY GRANDPA JOHN'S AND ROCA BERRY FARM

4-H English Horse Jumper Show (Multipurpose Arena) 8:30 a.m.
In the Jumper classes, exhibitors ride a course with jumps of various types. English Horse Show uses hunter-type horses. English attire and tack are used.

Open Class & 4-H/FFA Static Exhibits (Lincoln Room) . 9 a.m.–9 p.m.
Come see the very best Lancaster County and its surrounding areas have to offer in Fine Arts, Home Products, Farm Products and Textiles! 4-H youth enter exhibits in more than 100 4-H project areas. FFA youth exhibit projects in FFA Ag Mechanics.
OPEN CLASS STATIC EXHIBITS SPONSORED BY THE CALICO HOUSE, CAMPBELL'S NURSERIES & GARDEN CENTERS INC., EARL MAY NURSERY & GARDEN CENTER, HANCOCK FABRICS, LINCOLN NEEDLEWORKERS' GUILD, LINCOLN POULTRY, ROCA BERRY FARMS, RUNZA RESTAURANTS, SEW CREATIVE, AND SHERWIN-WILLIAMS CO.

Open Class Poultry Show (Pavilion 1 - Walkway) 10 a.m.
Exhibitors of all ages show their large fowl, bantams, feathered-legged, ducks, bantam ducks, geese, turkeys and guinea fowl to compete for championship honors.

4-H Household Pets Show/Quiz Bowl (Pavilion 3 - Exhibit Hall) Noon
4-H members exhibit a wide variety of household pets, including guinea pigs, hamsters and caged birds. Judges interview exhibitors on overall care of and knowledge of their little critters. Quiz bowl follows.

4-H English Horse Show—Hunt Seat/Saddle Seat Showmanship/English Pleasure/English Equitation (Multipurpose Arena) 1 hour after 4-H English Horse Jumping Show
These classes showcase horse manners, movement & attitude and exhibitor's horsemanship (skill at riding horses). English Horse Show uses hunter-type horses. English attire and tack are used.

4-H Poultry Show (Pavilion 1 - Walkway) 1:30 p.m.
4-H'ers show their poultry projects in the categories of: Large Fowl, Bantams, Ducks, Geese, Turkeys, Guinea Fowl and Pet Class.

Racing Pigs (Between Pavilion 1 and 2) Afternoon–Evening
A long-time favorite with fair-goers is Daryl's Racing Pigs. Audience members guess which pig will finish first. Fun, FREE event to watch!
SPONSORED BY STEWART'S & SONS' GRAVEL AND SAND

Papa Bear Carvings (North of Pavilion 1) Afternoon–Evening
Watch chainsaw artist Nick Jensen of Papa Bear Carvings carve logs into unique pieces of art in front of your eyes! Bears, eagles and pheasants are just a few of his creations. Fair-goers have the opportunity to purchase Jensen's carvings at auctions Friday and Saturday.
SPONSORED BY ERICKSON & SEDERSTROM AND SAM'S CLUB

Carnival (Southwest of Buildings) 5 p.m.–Midnight
This year's carnival is — yet again — bigger and better than ever with nearly 27 rides, games and concessions! New this year are The Zipper and Red Baron rides. Other rides include Bumper Cars, Tilt-a-Whirl, Berry Go Round, Crazy Kars, Sooper Jet, Ferris Wheel, The Raiders (an obstacle/adventure course), a variety of kiddie rides and much more!
Unlimited rides for \$18 during wristband session from 5–11 p.m.
PRESENTED BY BLUES AMUSEMENT CARNIVAL AND LANCASTER COUNTY FAIR BOARD

Dunk Tank (Courtyard) Evening
Test your aim while helping raise funds for landscaping at the Lancaster Event Center.
PRESENTED BY 4-H RABBITS R US CLUB

Archery Range/BB Gun Shooting Range (Covered Walkway) Evening
Try your hand at the BB gun shooting range. New this year is an archery range! No cost. Open to everybody, this is an opportunity to learn about 4-H Shooting Sports.
PRESENTED BY THE LANCASTER COUNTY 4-H SHOOTING SPORTS CLUB

4-H Horse Show—Horsemanship Pairs/Freestyle Drill Teams (Multipurpose Arena) 6 p.m.
In Horsemanship Pairs, two riders must ride a pattern in synch. In the freestyle drill teams, three to 25 riders perform a show set to music and choreographed by the youth. Horses and riders are often in costume.

4-H/FFA Cattle Fitting Contest (Pavilion 1 - East Arena) 6 p.m.
New this year! Teams of two 4-H/FFA members have one hour to blow, groom and prepare their beef animal for show. One member of the team will participate in the showmanship phase.

4-H Rabbit Breed ID Contest/Quiz Bowl (Pavilion 1 - Walkway) 6:30 p.m.
In the Breed Identification contest, exhibitors must correctly identify ten breeds, including variety and color. 4-H members test their rabbit knowledge.

4-H Style Revue (Pavilion 3 - Exhibit Hall) 7 p.m.
4-H'ers model their clothing projects with pride and style. Judges look for selection, fit, creativity and accessories.

Figure-8-Races (East of Amy Countryman Arena) 7 p.m.
New this year! Who doesn't enjoy a race? And better yet—a race with lots of crashes! Figure 8 is a demolition derby and a race! As these vehicles circle the track (which is shaped like an 8), there's sure to be plenty of banging around at the intersection. Drivers need to out-think and out-maneuver their competitors in order to win. Gates open at 6 p.m. Admission is \$5, kids 5 and under are free. Pit passes available for \$35. Concessions and beer available.
PRESENTED BY LANCASTER COUNTY FAIR BOARD; SPONSORED BY HAGUE QUALITY WATER



NEW THIS YEAR!

Come along for the ride! Figure-8-Races on Wednesday, August 2 at 7 p.m. and Demolition Derby on Thursday, August 3 at 7 p.m.

PRE-FAIR SCHEDULE

Saturday, July 22 — Open Class Horse Dressage Show (Multipurpose Arena) 8:30 a.m.
New this year! Exhibitors of all ages compete in Open Dressage Schooling. This show is a recognized Nebraska Dressage Association schooling show.
SPONSORED BY SCHWISOW CONSTRUCTION INC AND WOLFE BROTHERS

Friday, July 28 — Open Class Horse Show—Rail Classes (Multipurpose Arena) 4 p.m.
Exhibitors of all ages compete in English Equitation, English Pleasure, Walk Trot, Reining, Western Pleasure, Western Horsemanship and Jackpot Western Pleasure.
SPONSORED BY SCHWISOW CONSTRUCTION INC AND WOLFE BROTHERS

Saturday, July 29 — Open Class Horse Show—Games (Multipurpose Arena) 8 a.m.
Exhibitors of all ages compete in Poles, Stake Race, Keyhole, Flag Drop Race, Barrels, Trail and Jackpot Barrels.
SPONSORED BY SCHWISOW CONSTRUCTION INC AND WOLFE BROTHERS

Monday, July 31 — 4-H Shooting Sports Contest (Pavilion 3) 2 p.m.
4-H members compete in BB Gun/Pellet Rifle and Pellet Pistol.

Open Class & 4-H/FFA Static Exhibit Check-in (Lincoln Room) 4–8 p.m.
Open Class categories are open to anyone. For complete information on how to enter exhibits in the Lancaster County Fair, pick up a 2006 Lancaster County Fair Open Class, 4-H & FFA Fair Book. Fair Books are available at the Lancaster Event Center or online at <http://www.lancastereventcenter.com/fair.html>

Tuesday, Aug. 1 — 4-H Horse Show—Dressage (Multipurpose Arena) 10 a.m.
Dressage is the performance of a specific pattern of movements — horse and rider are judged on presentation, accuracy and obedience of the horse. English attire and tack are used.

4-H Horse Show—Hunter Hack Jumper (Multipurpose Arena) 1 hour after 4-H Horse Dressage Show
Hunter Hack classes showcase a combination of skills — jumping, horse movement & attitude, and exhibitor horsemanship (skill at riding horses). Uses hunter-type horses. English attire and tack are used.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 3

Exhibitors Breakfast (Fair Tent) 6:30–8:30 a.m.

All county fair exhibitors, superintendents and volunteers are invited to a free breakfast. PRESENTED BY COUNTRYSIDE COOPERATIVE, NEBRASKA TIRE & ENERGY, NORRIS FFA ALUMNI, AND SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS CHURCH; SPONSORED BY COUNTRYSIDE COOPERATIVE

Kids Ag Discovery Zone (Pavilion 1 - North Side) 8 a.m.–9 p.m.

FREE! Features hands-on activities and exhibits to help youth see, touch and smell agriculture. Kids can "milk" a wood cow, climb a kid-sized tractor and much more. PRESENTED LANCASTER COUNTY 4-H AND WAVERLY FFA; SPONSORED BY GRANDPA JOHN'S AND ROCA BERRY FARM

4-H Goat Show (Pavilion 1 - West Arena) 8 a.m.

4-H'ers show their dairy goats, angora/cashgora goats (raised for their fleece) and miniature goats. Afterwards is a "Best Dressed Kids" costume contest, quiz bowl and dairy goat milking contest.

Open Class & 4-H/FFA Static Exhibits (Lincoln Room) 9 a.m.–9 p.m.

Come see the very best Lancaster County and its surrounding areas have to offer in Fine Arts, Home Products, Farm Products and Textiles! 4-H youth enter exhibits in more than 100 4-H project areas. FFA youth exhibit projects in FFA Ag Mechanics. OPEN CLASS STATIC EXHIBITS SPONSORED BY THE CALICO HOUSE, CAMPBELL'S NURSERIES & GARDEN CENTERS INC., EARL MAY NURSERY & GARDEN CENTER, HANCOCK FABRICS, LINCOLN NEEDLEWORKERS' GUILD, LINCOLN POULTRY, ROCA BERRY FARMS, RUNZA RESTAURANTS, SEW CREATIVE, AND SHERWIN-WILLIAMS CO.

4-H Western Horse Show—Western Showmanship/ Groom and Care/Halter (Multipurpose Arena) 9 a.m.

Western Horse Show uses stock-type horses. Western attire and tack are used. Showmanship is an in-hand class which demonstrate the ground manners of the horse. Groom & Care classes are for first-year exhibitors. In Halter, the confirmation (build, breeding and movement) of the horse is judged.

4-H/FFA Sheep Show (Pavilion 1 - West Arena) Noon

4-H and FFA members show their sheep in breeding classes (raised for their wool) and market classes. In the Sheep Lead Show, youth wear an outfit with one article made from at least 50 percent wool and lead a ewe by halter.

Carnival (Southwest of Buildings) 1 p.m.–Midnight

This year's carnival is — yet again — bigger and better than ever with nearly 27 rides, games and concessions! New this year are The Zipper and Red Baron rides. Other rides include Bumper Cars, Tilt-a-Whirl, Berry Go Round, Crazy Kars, Sooper Jet, Ferris Wheel, The Raiders (an obstacle/adventure course), a variety of kiddie rides and much more! PRESENTED BY BLUES AMUSEMENT CARNIVAL AND LANCASTER COUNTY FAIR BOARD

Shriner Clowns (Strolling Act) Afternoon/Evening

What's a fair without a little clowning around? SPONSORED BY ENGINE HOUSE CAFE AND NEBRASKA NURSERY & COLOR GARDENS

Racing Pigs (Between Pavilion 1 and 2) Afternoon–Evening

A long-time favorite with fair-goers is Daryl's Racing Pigs. Audience members guess which pig will finish first. Fun, FREE event to watch! SPONSORED BY STEWART'S & SONS' GRAVEL AND SAND

Papa Bear Carvings (North of Pavilion 1) Late Morning–Evening

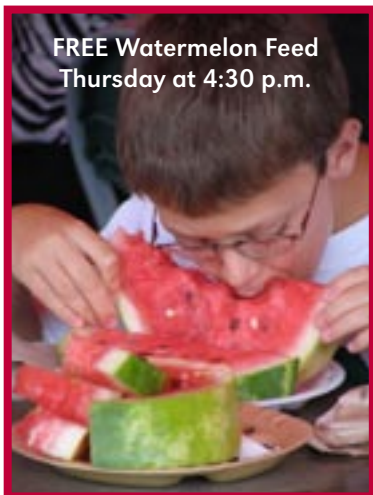
Watch chainsaw artist Nick Jensen of Papa Bear Carvings carve logs into unique pieces of art in front of your eyes! Bears, eagles and pheasants are just a few of his creations. Fair-goers have the opportunity to purchase Jensen's carvings at auctions Friday and Saturday. SPONSORED BY ERICKSON & SEDERSTROM AND SAM'S CLUB

Dunk Tank (Courtyard) Afternoon/Evening

Test your aim while helping raise funds for landscaping at the Lancaster Event Center. PRESENTED BY 4-H RABBITS R US CLUB

Watermelon Feed (Fair Tent) 4:30 p.m.

All the FREE watermelon you can eat! This annual event draws large crowds. PRESENTED BY FAIR BOARD AND LANCASTER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS; SPONSORED BY COLIN ELECTRIC MOTOR SERVICE, ORSCHELN FARM AND HOME, TRACY'S BODY SHOP



4-H Horse Trail Show (Multipurpose Arena) 5 p.m.

4-H'ers ride their horses through a course with six to ten obstacles which would naturally speak a horse.

4-H Table Setting Contest (Pavilion 3 - Exhibit Hall) 5 p.m.

4-H'ers set up theme tables in either formal, casual, picnic or birthday style—accompanied by a planned menu.

Spudfest (Pavilion 3 - Room 2) 5:30 p.m.

A potato bar and refreshments for \$5/ticket. This is a fundraiser to help support 4-H programs and activities. PRESENTED BY LANCASTER COUNTY 4-H COUNCIL

4-H Rabbit Judging Contest/Breeder's Choice (Pavilion 1 - Walkway) 5:30 p.m.

In the Judging Contest, 4-H members try their hand at judging rabbits—this event emphasizes how much youth know about rabbits. In the Breeder's Choice Show, each exhibitor shows a rabbit and one of its parents to showcase choices made in their breeding program.

Archery Range/BB Gun Shooting Range (Covered Walkway) Evening

Try your hand at the BB gun shooting range. New this year is an archery range! Open to everybody, this is an opportunity to learn more about 4-H Shooting Sports. No cost. PRESENTED BY THE LANCASTER COUNTY 4-H SHOOTING SPORTS CLUB

Face Painting (Courtyard) Evening

FREE to all youth! Choose from a selection of artwork and colors! PRESENTED BY FAIR BOARD AND LANCASTER COUNTY CITIZEN WASHINGTON FOCUS 4-H'ERS

Kids Ag Discovery Zone Meet & Greet (Pavilion 1 - North Side) 6–9 p.m.

New this year! Members of Waverly FFA will have livestock available for a meet and greet. The public can touch the animals, try leading the animals and ask owners questions. FREE! PRESENTED WAVERLY FFA AND LANCASTER COUNTY 4-H; SPONSORED BY PAT & BETSY EGAN

4-H Llama Show/Costume Contest/Quiz Bowl (Pavilion 1 - East Arena) 6 p.m.

Lancaster County 4-H is one of the only Nebraska counties with a county fair Llama Show. The obstacle course is the most challenging and tests how well exhibitors and llama work together. Costume contest is a must see! Followed by a quiz bowl.

Demolition Derby (East of Amy Countryman Arena) 7 p.m.

New this year! Demolition Derby is a smash'em crash'em endurance run! Last car able to move is the winner! Gates open at 6 p.m. Admission is \$5, kids 5 and under are free. Pit passes available for \$35. Concessions and beer available. PRESENTED BY LANCASTER COUNTY FAIR BOARD; SPONSORED BY JOHNS AND SONS REFUSE SERVICE AND MIDWEST SOUND AND LIGHTING

4-H Rabbit Pet Class (Pavilion 1 - Walkway) 7 p.m.

Pet Class rabbits are judged on their acceptability as pets and exhibitors are asked about the care of their rabbits.

Town Hall Meeting (Pavilion 3 - Room 1) 7–9 p.m.

The Lancaster delegation of State Senators will once again hold a "Town Hall" meeting at the Lancaster County Fair. The meeting will offer residents a chance to hear about prospects for the state's future and there will be time to share views with senators. SPONSORED BY AWARDS UNLIMITED INC.

Live Entertainment — Cactus Hill Band (Fair Tent) 9 p.m.

FREE entertainment! Considered by many as the most entertaining ensemble around, Cactus Hill is performing at the Lancaster County Fair for the second year in a row. They recently released their debut CD, "A Long Long Way." Based in Lincoln, Cactus Hill has played aside Nashville notables such as Lonestar, Brad Paisley, Rascal Flatts, Montgomery Gentry, Gary Allan, Phil Vassar, Joe Nichols, Chris Ledoux, Mark Wills, Darryl Worley and Blake Shelton, just to name a few. SPONSORED BY DESIGN ASSOCIATES



Enjoy a FREE concert on Thursday, August 3 at 9 p.m. featuring Lincoln's own Cactus Hill, which has been voted #1 country group in the Midwest!

FRIDAY, AUGUST 4

Exhibitors Breakfast (Courtyard) 6:30–8:30 a.m.

All County Fair exhibitors, superintendents and volunteers are invited to a free breakfast. PRESENTED BY COUNTRYSIDE COOPERATIVE, NEBRASKA TIRE & ENERGY, NORRIS FFA ALUMNI, AND SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS CHURCH; SPONSORED BY COUNTRYSIDE COOPERATIVE

Kids Ag Discovery Zone (Pavilion 1 - North Side) 8 a.m.–9 p.m.

FREE! Features hands-on activities and exhibits to help youth see, touch and smell agriculture. Kids can "milk" a wood cow, climb a kid-sized tractor and much more. PRESENTED LANCASTER COUNTY 4-H AND WAVERLY FFA; SPONSORED BY GRANDPA JOHN'S AND ROCA BERRY FARM

4-H/FFA Swine Show (Pavilion 1 - West Arena) 8 a.m.

4-H and FFA members compete for championship honors with their market hogs. The people choice award is judged by the public and audience members have a chance to win a free ham. All youth are invited to try their shot at showing a hog in the pee wee showmanship contest—hogs will be provided (ask at judges table for information).

4-H Rabbit Market/Breed/Fur Show (Pavilion 1 - Walkway) 8 a.m.

Market class includes purebred or crossbred commercial rabbits. Breed class is for purebred rabbits only (including fancy breeds). Rabbits in the fur show are judged for the condition and quality of their coats.

4-H/FFA Dairy Cattle Show (Pavilion 1 - East Arena) 8 a.m.

4-H and FFA members compete for championship honors in the dairy breeding classes. The 4-H Dairy Production Record and top producing cow award are based on milking records kept for 305 days.

4-H Horse Show—Roping/Working Ranch (Amy Countryman Arena) 8 a.m.

These classes emphasize skills used by ranchers. Cattle are brought in. In roping, beginning ropers use dummies and the more advanced youth rope calves. In Working Ranch, 4-H'ers are assigned a cow to work through an obstacle course.

Open Class & 4-H/FFA Static Exhibits (Lincoln Room) 9 a.m.–9 p.m.

Come see the very best Lancaster County and its surrounding areas have to offer in Fine Arts, Home Products, Farm Products and Textiles! 4-H youth enter exhibits in more than 100 4-H project areas. FFA youth exhibit projects in FFA Ag Mechanics. OPEN CLASS STATIC EXHIBITS SPONSORED BY THE CALICO HOUSE, CAMPBELL'S NURSERIES & GARDEN CENTERS INC., EARL MAY NURSERY & GARDEN CENTER, HANCOCK FABRICS, LINCOLN NEEDLEWORKERS' GUILD, LINCOLN POULTRY, ROCA BERRY FARMS, RUNZA RESTAURANTS, SEW CREATIVE, AND SHERWIN-WILLIAMS CO.

4-H Dog Obedience/Showmanship/Costume Contest Show (Pavilion 3 - Exhibit Hall) 9 a.m.

In obediences, dogs and exhibitors are judged on their training. For a howling good time, come see the dog costume contest!

4-H Western Horse Show—Bareback Equitation/Western Pleasure/ Western Horsemanship (Multipurpose Arena) 9 a.m.

Bareback riding is without a saddle—for more advanced riders. In Western Pleasure, horses are judged based on manners, movement and attitude. In Western Horsemanship, riders are judged on their horsemanship (skill at riding horses).

4-H Rabbit Showmanship Show (Pavilion 1 - Walkway) 10 a.m.

In Showmanship, 4-H'ers are judged on ability to handle and present their animal.

Open Class Dairy Cattle Show (Pavilion 1 - East Arena) 11 a.m.

Exhibitors of all ages show their dairy cattle and compete for championship honors. See if you can identify the breeds: Jerseys, Holsteins, Guernseys, Ayrshires, Brown Swiss and Milking Shorthorns.

Papa Bear Carvings (North of Pavilion 1) Late Morning–Evening

Watch chainsaw artist Nick Jensen of Papa Bear Carvings carve logs into unique pieces of art in front of your eyes! Bears, eagles and pheasants are just a few of his creations. Fair-goers have the opportunity to purchase Jensen's carvings at auctions Friday and Saturday. SPONSORED BY ERICKSON & SEDERSTROM AND SAM'S CLUB

Carnival (Southwest of Buildings) 1 p.m.–Midnight

This year's carnival is — yet again — bigger and better than ever with nearly 27 rides, games and concessions! New this year are The Zipper and Red Baron rides. Other rides include Bumper Cars, Tilt-a-Whirl, Berry Go Round, Crazy Kars, Sooper Jet, Ferris Wheel, The Raiders (an obstacle/adventure course), a variety of kiddie rides and much more! PRESENTED BY BLUES AMUSEMENT CARNIVAL AND LANCASTER COUNTY FAIR BOARD

Shriner Clowns (Strolling Act) Afternoon/Evening

What's a fair without a little clowning around? SPONSORED BY ENGINE HOUSE CAFE AND NEBRASKA NURSERY & COLOR GARDENS

Racing Pigs (Between Pavilion 1 and 2) Afternoon–Evening

A long-time favorite with fair-goers is Daryl's Racing Pigs. Audience members guess which pig will finish first. Fun, FREE event to watch! SPONSORED BY STEWART'S & SONS' GRAVEL AND SAND

Dunk Tank (Courtyard) Afternoon/Evening

Test your aim while helping raise funds for landscaping at the Lancaster Event Center. PRESENTED BY 4-H RABBITS R US CLUB

4-H Dog Agility Show (Pavilion 3 - Exhibit Hall) 1 p.m.

This is what you see on TV with dogs maneuvering through obstacles, jumps and tunnels.

4-H Horse Judging Contest (Pavilion 2 - Warm-up Arena) 1/2 hour after 4-H Western Horse show

4-H'ers try their hand at judging horses—this event emphasizes how much youth know about horses.

Family Barbeque (Fair Tent) 5:30 p.m.

A perennial community favorite! Enjoy a very reasonably-priced meal (barbecued pork sandwiches, barbecued beans, chips and a drink) at \$4 per ticket. PRESENTED BY FAIR BOARD WITH THE HELP OF LINCOLN CENTER KIWANIS; SPONSORED BY AGP COOPERATIVE, CAR QUEST, COUNTRY INNS & SUITES, HILLYARD, MODERN METHODS, PANAMA LOCKER, STATE FARM INSURANCE, WAVERLY COOPERATIVE

Ice Cream Social (Fair Tent) 5:30 p.m.

Follow the Family Barbecue with ice cream at \$1 a cup. This is a fundraiser to help support 4-H Teen Council programs and activities. PRESENTED BY LANCASTER COUNTY 4-H TEEN COUNCIL



Nearly 800 Lancaster County 4-H members will showcase their projects (including animal science) at this year's County Fair.



The Shriner Clowns are always the center of much attention.



Youth compete for longest pull in the Pedal Tractor Pull Contest on Saturday, August 5 at 3 p.m. Open to all ages 4 and up!

Cookie Eating Contest (Fair Tent) 5:30 p.m.

Contest is open to all youth up to age 19. Pre-register at 4-H Information Booth, which opens Wednesday, Aug. 2 at 9 a.m. (number of participants is limited so sign up early). No entry fee. Fun, FREE event to watch!

PRESENTED BY LANCASTER COUNTY 4-H TEEN COUNCIL

Archery Range/BB Gun Shooting Range (Covered Walkway) Evening

Try your hand at the BB gun shooting range. New this year is an archery range! Open to everybody, this is an opportunity to learn more about 4-H Shooting Sports. No cost.

PRESENTED BY THE LANCASTER COUNTY 4-H SHOOTING SPORTS CLUB

Face Painting (Courtyard) Evening

FREE to all youth! Choose from a selection of artwork and colors!

PRESENTED BY FAIR BOARD AND LANCASTER COUNTY CITIZEN WASHINGTON FOCUS 4-H'ERS

Kids Ag Discovery Zone Meet & Greet (Pavilion 1 - North Side) 6-9 p.m.

New this year! Members of Waverly FFA will have livestock available for a meet and greet. The public can touch the animals, try leading the animals and ask owners questions. FREE!

PRESENTED WAVERLY FFA AND LANCASTER COUNTY 4-H; SPONSORED BY PAT & BETSY EGAN

4-H Rabbit Specialty Show—Best Matched Pair/Pee Wee/Costume Contest/Tricks (Pavilion 1 - West Arena) 6 p.m.

Judged by local celebrities. In the Best Matched Pair, two 4-H exhibitors with rabbits most alike display their pair. The costume contest and tricks are fun, must-see events! In the pee wee class, anyone age 7 and under can participate—please ask a 4-H rabbit member, parent or leader to assist.

Backseat Driver Contest (East of Amy Countryman Arena) 6:30 p.m.

Contest is open to any team of two members — driver must have a valid drivers license. Objective is to drive a golf cart through a designated obstacle course. Driver will be blind-folded and relies on verbal directions from the passenger. Best time wins. Golf carts will be provided. Register just prior to event—no entry fee (number of participants is limited). Fun, FREE event to watch! (Note: the Backseat Driver Contest has been moved from Wednesday as was published in the Fair Book.)

PRESENTED BY LANCASTER COUNTY FAIR BOARD; SPONSORED BY NEBRASKA GOLF & TURF

Chainsaw Wood Carvings Auction (Multipurpose Arena) 6:30 p.m.

Fairgoers can purchase the unique artwork which chainsaw artist Nick Jensen of Papa Bear Carvings has been carving throughout the fair. Bears, eagles and pheasants are just a few of his creations. Proceeds go towards County Fair funds.

Nebraska Pioneer Farm Awards (Multipurpose Arena) 6:45 p.m.

The Nebraska Pioneer Farm awards program honors farm families in Nebraska whose land has been owned by members of the same family for 100 years or more. This year's Lancaster County honoree is Ronald and Ardith TeKolste (TeKolste Farm) of Firth.

PRESENTED BY KNIGHTS OF AK-SAR-BEN FOUNDATION AND THE NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF FAIR MANAGERS

Hay Hauling Contest (Multipurpose Arena) 7 p.m.

Contest is open to any team of three members, ages 14 and up. Fun, FREE event to watch! Objective is to load 42 bales of hay on a pick-up truck, drive through a designated obstacle course, unload and stack the hay. Best time wins. Pick-up truck is furnished. Register just prior to event. No entry fee.

PRESENTED BY RAYMOND CENTRAL FFA ALUMNI; SPONSORED BY MONSANTO AND RAYMOND CENTRAL FFA ALUMNI

Youth Rodeo (Amy Countryman Arena) 1 p.m.

Contest open to youth ages 8-18. Fun, FREE event to watch! Events include: Girls—break away, goat tying, poles, barrels and steer stopping; Junior Boys (ages 8-13)—break away, goat tying, calf roping, flag race; Senior Boys (ages 14-18)—chute dogging, steer wrestling, calf roping; Open Team Roping (all youth—teams of 2). \$15 fee per event. Cash prizes. To register, call Shelly Shafer at 402-673-4465 during week of fair (best time is Aug. 2 between 5-10 p.m.) or register online at <http://www.sbarsarena.com>

PRESENTED BY LANCASTER COUNTY FAIR BOARD AND MAVERICK RODEOS; SPONSORED BY DUTEAU CHEVROLET SUBARU AND MIDWEST FARMERS COOPERATIVE

Teen Dance (Pavilion 3 - Exhibit Hall) 8-11 p.m.

For ages 13 and up. DJ'd by Complete Music. Admission is \$1.

PRESENTED BY LANCASTER COUNTY 4-H TEEN COUNCIL

Team Penning (Amy Countryman Arena) 9 a.m.

Fun, FREE event to watch! This fast paced, exciting event gives a team of three riders 90 seconds to separate three specifically numbered cattle from a herd of 21. After the necessary cattle have been separated they must be driven into a small pen located at the opposite end of the arena.

4-H Cat Show/Quiz Bowl (Pavilion 3 - Exhibit Hall, North End) 9 a.m.

Cats and their 4-H owners are judged in this show—proper care of the cat is emphasized. It is always interesting to see which cat will win the judge's "Most Spirited" special award! Quiz bowl follows.

Open Class Pigeon Show (Pavilion 1 - Walkway) 9 a.m.

Exhibitors of all ages show their pigeons in three breed classifications: Utility (raised for commercial uses—also known as squabs), Performing (known for their tumbling, rolling, spinning and diving ability) and Fancy (valued for their unusual appearance).

4-H Bicycle Contest (South Parking Lot) 10 a.m.

In the bicycle skills events, 4-H'ers maneuver through several designated courses to test their riding skills and safety. A bicycle inspection reinforces the importance of bicycle maintenance and safety features.

4-H Western Horse Show—Working Pleasure/Western Riding/Reining (Multipurpose Arena) 1/2 hour after 4-H Miniature Horse show

Western Horse Show uses stock-type horses. Western attire and tack are used. These classes are all patterns which require a higher level of horsemanship.

Papa Bear Carvings (North of Pavilion 1) Late Morning-Evening

Watch chainsaw artist Nick Jensen of Papa Bear Carvings carve logs into unique pieces of art in front of your eyes! Bears, eagles and pheasants are just a few of his creations. Fairgoers have the opportunity to purchase Jensen's carvings at auctions Friday and Saturday.

SPONSORED BY ERICKSON & SEDERSTROM AND SAM'S CLUB

Big Wheel Race (Pavilion 3 - Exhibit Hall) 1 p.m.

Contest open to all youth ages 3-6! Fun, FREE event to watch! Objective is to race on short, designated course. Best times in each age class wins. Big wheel vehicles will be provided. Register on-site at Noon. No entry fee.

PRESENTED AND SPONSORED BY LANCASTER COUNTY FARM BUREAU

4-H Clover Kids—Show and Tell (Lincoln Room) 1 p.m.

Clover Kids are 4-H'ers ages 5-7. In this delightful event, members are invited to show and tell a static exhibit they have entered or a small animal. Clubs may show a group project or perform a short skit or song.

Carnival (Southwest of Buildings) 1 p.m.—Midnight

This year's carnival is — yet again — bigger and better than ever with nearly 27 rides, games and concessions! New this year are The Zipper and Red Baron rides. Other rides include Bumper Cars, Tilt-a-Whirl, Berry Go Round, Crazy Kars, Sooper Jet, Ferris Wheel, The Raiders (an obstacle/adventure course), a variety of kiddie rides and much more!

PRESENTED BY BLUES AMUSEMENT CARNIVAL AND LANCASTER COUNTY FAIR BOARD

Shriner Clowns (Strolling Act) Afternoon/Evening

What's a fair without a little clowning around?

PRESENTED BY ENGINE HOUSE CAFE AND NEBRASKA NURSERY & COLOR GARDENS

Racing Pigs (Between Pavilion 1 and 2) Afternoon-Evening

A long-time favorite with fair-goers is Daryl's Racing Pigs. Audience members guess which pig will finish first. Fun, FREE event to watch!

SPONSORED BY STEWART'S & SONS' GRAVEL AND SAND

Dunk Tank (Courtyard) Afternoon/Evening

Test your aim while helping raise funds for landscaping at the Lancaster Event Center.

PRESENTED BY 4-H RABBITS R US CLUB

Pedal Tractor Pull Contest (Pavilion 3 - Exhibit Hall) 3 p.m.

Contest open to all ages 4 and up. Fun, FREE event to watch! Objective is pedal mini-tractors hitched to a special weight transfer sled—sled has a weight box and weights are added for the different age classes. Longest pull in each age class wins. Mini-tractors will be provided. Register on-site at 2:30 p.m. No entry fee.

PRESENTED AND SPONSORED BY LANCASTER COUNTY FARM BUREAU

4-H Horse Games Show—Keyhole Race/Pole Bending/Figure 8 Stake Race/Barrel Race (Multipurpose Arena) 4 p.m.

Great to watch—bring the entire family! These are speed events using buckets, poles and barrels to define a pattern. Everyone has fun—rider, horse and audience!

4-H/FFA Bucket Calf Show (Pavilion 1 - East Arena) 5 p.m.

These are orphaned baby calves that were bottle fed by the 4-H/FFA exhibitors.

Kids Ag Discovery Zone Meet & Greet (Pavilion 1 - North Side) 5-9 p.m.

New this year! Members of Waverly FFA will have livestock available for a meet and greet. The public can touch the animals, try leading the animals and ask owners questions. FREE!

PRESENTED WAVERLY FFA AND LANCASTER COUNTY 4-H; SPONSORED BY PAT & BETSY EGAN

Archery Range/BB Gun Shooting Range (Covered Walkway) Evening

Try your hand at the BB gun shooting range. New this year is an archery range! Open to everybody, this is an opportunity to learn more about 4-H Shooting Sports. No cost.

PRESENTED BY THE LANCASTER COUNTY 4-H SHOOTING SPORTS CLUB

Face Painting (Courtyard) Evening

FREE to all youth! Choose from a selection of artwork and colors!

PRESENTED BY FAIR BOARD AND LANCASTER COUNTY CITIZEN WASHINGTON FOCUS 4-H'ERS

Chain-Saw Wood Carving Auction (Amy Countryman Arena) 5:45 p.m.

Fairgoers can purchase the unique artwork which chainsaw artist Nick Jensen of Papa Bear Carvings has been carving throughout the fair. Bears, eagles and pheasants are just a few of his creations. Proceeds go towards County Fair funds.

Working Ranch Rodeo (Amy Countryman Arena) 6-10:30 p.m.

Open competition for the public and a fun, FREE event to watch! Teams of four perform various ranch duties such as trailer penning, steer doctoring, steer mugging and wild cow milking. The wild cow milking is by far the most exciting, but the other events lots of fun too! Anyone (no age limit) with a horse may participate. May register prior to event. Fee to enter. For more information or to register, contact Rich Wolf at 402-416-9312 or Kevin Petrozilka at 402-545-2050.

SPONSORED BY BRYNE FARM SUPPLY, COPPLE INSURANCE AGENCY INC. AND TRAVELODGE

SATURDAY, AUGUST 5

Kids Ag Discovery Zone (Pavilion 1 - North Side) 8 a.m.-9 p.m.

FREE! Features hands-on activities and exhibits to help youth see, touch and smell agriculture. Kids can "milk" a wood cow, climb a kid-sized tractor and much more.

PRESENTED LANCASTER COUNTY 4-H AND WAVERLY FFA; SPONSORED BY GRANDPA JOHN'S AND ROCA BERRY FARM

Open Class Dairy Goat Show (Pavilion 1 - West Arena) 8 a.m.

This show is sanctioned by the American Dairy Goat Association (ADGA). Exhibitors of all ages show their dairy goats and compete for championship honors.

Open Class Rabbit Show (Pavilion 3 - Exhibit Hall, South End) 8 a.m.

This official American Rabbit Breeders Association, Inc (ARBA) sanctioned show draws a large number of rabbit breeders from all over the region. There are 22 sanctioned breeds—here's your chance to see types of rabbits you've never knew existed!

4-H/FFA Beef Show (Pavilion 1 - East Arena) 8 a.m.

4-H and FFA members compete for championship honors in the breeding, market and feeder calf classes.

4-H Miniature Horse Show (Multipurpose Arena) 8 a.m.

Miniature Horse events include jumping, pleasure driving and roadster driving (in the driving events, horses pull drivers in two-wheel carts).

4-H Presentations Contest (Pavilion 3 - Room 2) 8 a.m.

Formerly called Demonstrations, Presentations now includes usage of the latest multimedia technologies. 4-H'ers give presentations individually or in teams of two.

Open Class & 4-H/FFA Static Exhibits (Lincoln Room) 9 a.m.-9 p.m.

Come see the very best Lancaster County and its surrounding areas have to offer in Fine Arts, Home Products, Farm Products and Textiles! 4-H youth enter exhibits in more than 100 4-H project areas. FFA youth exhibit projects in FFA Ag Mechanics.

OPEN CLASS STATIC EXHIBITS SPONSORED BY THE CALICO HOUSE, CAMPBELL'S NURSERIES & GARDEN CENTERS INC., EARL MAY NURSERY & GARDEN CENTER, HANCOCK FABRICS, LINCOLN NEEDLEWORKERS' GUILD, LINCOLN POULTRY, ROCA BERRY FARMS, RUNZA RESTAURANTS, SEW CREATIVE, AND SHERWIN-WILLIAMS CO.



At the Kids Ag Discovery Zone, youth can "milk" a wood cow and other hands-on activities. Zone is open 8 a.m.–9 p.m. each day of the fair.



Figure-8-Races and Demolition Derby



MORE RIDES!

This year's carnival is bigger and better than ever with nearly 27 rides, games and concessions! New this year are The Zipper and Red Baron rides!

- Fairground Rules**
- No smoking inside the buildings.
 - No bicycles, scooters, ATV's or golf carts allowed on the grounds.
 - No dogs allowed in Pavilion 1 & 2 and Multipurpose Arena except as required for special needs.
 - Lancaster County Sheriff will be patrolling fairgrounds.
 - Parking will be allowed in designated parking areas only. NO PARKING IN THE FIRE LANES.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 6

- Kids Ag Discovery Zone** (Pavilion 1 - North Side) 8 a.m.–9 p.m.
FREE! Features hands-on activities and exhibits to help youth see, touch and smell agriculture. Kids can "milk" a wood cow, climb a kid-sized tractor and much more.
PRESENTED LANCASTER COUNTY 4-H AND WAVERLY FFA; SPONSORED BY GRANDPA JOHN'S AND ROCA BERRY FARM
- Open Class & 4-H/FFA Static Exhibits** (Lincoln Room) 9 a.m.–Noon
Come see the very best Lancaster County and its surrounding areas have to offer in Fine Arts, Home Products, Farm Products and Textiles! 4-H youth enter exhibits in more than 100 4-H project areas. FFA youth exhibit projects in FFA Ag Mechanics.
OPEN CLASS STATIC EXHIBITS SPONSORED BY THE CALICO HOUSE, CAMPBELL'S NURSERIES & GARDEN CENTERS INC., EARL MAY NURSERY & GARDEN CENTER, HANCOCK FABRICS, LINCOLN NEEDLEWORKERS' GUILD, LINCOLN POULTRY, ROCA BERRY FARMS, RUNZA RESTAURANTS, SEW CREATIVE, AND SHERWIN-WILLIAMS CO.
- Open Class Beef Show** (Pavilion 1 - East Arena) 9 a.m.
Exhibitors of all ages compete for championship honors in the breeding, market and feeder calf classes.
SPONSORED BY HOWARD JOHNSON INN, MISTY'S RESTAURANT AND LOUNGE, TRACTOR SUPPLY COMPANY, AND TRADEWELL PALLET
- Open Class Swine Show** (Pavilion 1 - West Arena) 9 a.m.
Exhibitors of all ages compete for championship honors with their market hogs.
SPONSORED BY COOK'S FAMILY FOODS
- Open Class Sheep Show** (Pavilion 1 - West Arena) 10 a.m.
Exhibitors of all ages show their sheep in breeding (raised for their wool) and market classes, competing for championship honors.
SPONSORED BY HAMILTON SERVICE CO.
- Open Barrel Racing** (Amy Countryman Arena) 10 a.m.
Fun, FREE event to watch! In this Nebraska 4-D sanctioned show, contestants vie for the fastest time in running a triangular, cloverleaf pattern around three barrels. Four division (4-D) format allows beginning, intermediate and advanced barrel racers to compete and win. Jackpot cash prizes plus \$250 added money. Anyone (no age limit) with a horse can join Nebraska 4-D prior to event and race same day. Fee to enter. For more information, call Julie at 402-470-3112 or Donna at 402-782-2976.
PRESENTED BY NEBRASKA 4-D BARREL RACING ASSOCIATION; SPONSORED BY T.O. HASS TIRE
- Car Show and Shine** (Fair Tent) Noon–4 p.m.
Fun, FREE event to watch. Anyone can enter — cars and trucks, stock and modified, 22 total classes. Registration from 8–Noon, \$10 entry fee. Judging starts at Noon. Fair ribbons will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in each class, with a Best of Show Trophy. All proceeds go to Salvation Army. More details available at <http://www.hoofbeatoflincoln.com>.
PRESENTED BY FAIR BOARD AND CAPITOL CITY FORD & MUSTANG CLUB; SPONSORED BY GRAHAM TIRE COMPANY OF LINCOLN

- Open Class Dog Agility Show** (Pavilion 3 - Exhibit Hall) Noon
Exhibitors of all ages maneuver their dogs through obstacles, jumps and tunnels. A must see!
SPONSORED BY CAPITOL ANIMAL CLINIC AND PETSMART
- Open Class Dog Obedience Show** (Pavilion 3 - Exhibit Hall) Noon
Exhibitors of all ages demonstrate their dog's ability to follow commands. There are nine classes based on dog and handlers' level of ability/title. Exercises include heel on leash, figure eight, stand for examination, recall, long sit and long down, signal exercise, scent discrimination, directed retrieve and directed jumping.
SPONSORED BY PETSMART
- Carnival** (Southwest of Buildings) 1 p.m.–Midnight
This year's carnival is — yet again — bigger and better than ever with nearly 27 rides, games and concessions! New this year are The Zipper and Red Baron rides. Other rides include Bumper Cars, Tilt-a-Whirl, Berry Go Round, Crazy Kars, Sooper Jet, Ferris Wheel, The Raiders (an obstacle/adventure course), a variety of kiddie rides and much more! Unlimited rides for \$18 during wristband session from Noon–8 p.m.
PRESENTED BY BLUES AMUSEMENT CARNIVAL AND LANCASTER COUNTY FAIR BOARD
- Garden Tractor Pull** (Multipurpose Arena) 1 p.m.
Fun, FREE event to watch! In this Nebraska Garden Tractor Pullers Association sanctioned contest, tractors weighing from 950 to 1,500 pounds compete by pulling a mechanically operated, weighted sled. There are six classes of tractors: Stock, Super Stock, Modified (Pro Stock), Pro Modified, Super Modified and Outlaws. First time pullers and local pullers (no age limit) who remove the mowing deck that morning just to try a pull are encouraged—maybe you will catch the "tractor pulling bug!" Each local contestant will receive an award. Registration must be completed no later than 1/2 hour before the pull starts—small fee. For more information and rules, go to <http://www.negtpa.com>.
PRESENTED BY LANCASTER COUNTY FAIR BOARD AND NEBRASKA GARDEN TRACTOR PULLERS ASSOCIATION; SPONSORED BY HAMILTON EQUIPMENT, LEGENDS SPORTS BAR & GRILL, LINCOLN TURF AND TRACTOR, AND WOLFE ACE HARDWARE

Lancaster County Agricultural Society, Inc. would like to thank all our community partners!

PIPE AND DRAPE PROVIDED BY AAA RENTS
STREET SIGN PROVIDED BY BOB'S MOBILE FLASHING SIGNS
TRUCK PROVIDED BY ANDERSON FORD
FAIR TENT PROVIDED BY LINCOLN TENT INC.
FAIR TENT SPONSORED BY CHASE SUITES HOTEL AND DISC, JOCKEY SERVICE
RESTROOM FACILITIES PROVIDED BY EAGLE SERVICES
MULES PROVIDED BY KAWASAKI MOTORS
CAMPER PROVIDED BY LEACH CAMPER SALES
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RENTAL EQUIPMENT PROVIDED BY NCS EQUIPMENT
EQUIPMENT PROVIDED BY ROSE EQUIPMENT INC
DONUTS FOR BOARD ROOM PROVIDED BY RANDY'S DONUT SHOP



LANCASTER EVENT CENTER

The general office of LCAS is located at the Lancaster Event Center, P.O. Box 29167, Lincoln, NE 68529 • Phone: 402-441-6545 • Web site: <http://www.lancastereventcenter.com>
BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Ron Snover (President and Fair Manager), Ron Dowding (Vice-President), Trudy Pedley (Secretary), Wayne Heyen (Treasurer), Jane Berg, Chet Hill, Frank Mitchell, Scott Nicholson, Jay Wilkinson



4-H is a learning-by-doing program open to all youth ages 5–18. Lancaster County 4-H is part of University of Nebraska–Lincoln Extension in Lancaster County, 444 Cherrycreek Road, Suite A, Lincoln, 68528 • Phone: 402-441-7180 • Web site: <http://lancaster.unl.edu>
The National FFA Organization is an agricultural education program which applies classroom instruction to hands-on opportunities • Web site: <http://www.ffa.org>



Designed by Vicki Jedlicka • All photos and map by Vicki Jedlicka, except Papa Bear Carvings, Demolition Derby and Cactus Hill photos provided

FAMILY & COMMUNITY EDUCATION (FCE) CLUBS

President's Notes — Alice's Analysis

Alice Doane
FCE Council Chair

The past month has found Ted and I on the road again. We made a trip to Orlando, Florida to see our grandson working at Disney World. We took a drive down to Key West. Yes, there are chickens in the street. We saw a beautiful sunset in Kay Largo from the hotel balcony of our room.

This past month we had a visit from the Rector and his staff from Ataturk University in Erzurum, Turkey. Ted was on staff there 40 years ago and a lot of reminiscing was done



during this visit.

Our next council meeting will be Monday, June 26 at 7 p.m. I want to thank Bonnie Krueger who will preside at the meeting during my absence. Featured

speaker will be Dr. Jean Krejci of the Healthy Homes Program at the Lancaster County Health Department — she will talk about Teddy Bear Cottage. This year's FCE scholarship will be presented to Kerri Merkel, a full-time student at BryanLGH College of Health Sciences.

The FCE Poster Con-

test winners were 1st Place — Chlose Kreikemeier; 2nd Place — Shane O'Grady and 3rd Place — Marcus Sanders. Thanks to all who entered this year's contest.

Don't forget to register by July 6 for the Sizzling Summer Sampler on Tuesday, July 11, 6 p.m. Come enjoy a fun and entertaining evening. Remember to bring your club's

baskets to be raffled off throughout the evening to support our FCE scholarship.

Hope your summer goes well and happy traveling. We go to Seattle the end of June.



by Lorene Bartos, UNL Extension Educator

Washing Pillows

Regular laundering of pillows is important to remove dust mites and their allergens. Wash two pillows at a time, agitating only one or two minutes on a gentle cycle. Dry pillows in the dryer. During the drying cycle, periodically take them out and fluff them to prevent clumping and to promote even drying.

Tease-Proof Your Child

Teasing is part of growing up for both the teaser and the teased. The more parents know about this troubling behavior, the more a parent can help their child endure and survive these incidents.

Teasing can be far more painful than broken bones, and some kids never completely recover. Kids who are targets of persistent teasing may have difficulty studying, sleeping and eating, often suffer from severe stomachaches and dread going to school. Left unchecked, teasing can ruin a child's peer relations.

The reason for teasing usually stems from a lack of the teaser's own self-esteem and lack of confidence. Often it's a way of expressing worries and vulnerabilities. Teasing usually begins in preschool and could carry on into high school. However, in high school, it sometimes becomes cool to tease one particular kids, and the cumulative effect of the teasing can be oppressive and even abusive.

Many different lessons can be taken from being teased. Some lessons may even result in positive changes in behavior. Teasing also may alert parents to ways in which their child is set up to be odd or different from his peers. Most parents hope their kids can learn less-painful lessons about fitting in. For a loving parent, it's difficult to see their child endure teasing.

Parents can help the situation by encouraging their child to talk about it. Most kids are reluctant to talk about a teasing incident because it is embarrassing. Make sure your child is comfortable to reveal what happened. A parent might respond with, "Wow! I can tell you're really upset about this," or "That must have hurt your feelings a lot."

Parents should share their own memories. Kids benefit from hearing other's stories about being teased as a child. Children will see someone they love and respect survive the teasing and turned out all right.

Children need to be self protective. Kids who wear their feelings on their sleeve can become the victims of on-going teasing. It's important to teach children not to shrink or back off. Instead, they need to stand up straight and look the teaser right in the eye.

Help children become proactive. Work on a plan to help you child let the teaser know how he or she feels about the teasing.

Responding well to teasing takes practice. Once the parent and child settle on some approaches, rehearse. Kids have to feel confident with the technique before they can go out and use it.

It's vital for children to develop his or her own coping skills. The best thing parents can do is to be there for them.

FCE News & Events

Council Meeting June 26

The next FCE Council meeting will be Monday, June 26, 7 p.m. Helpful Homemakers and Home Service are responsible for the program.

Dr. Jean Krejci of the Healthy Homes Program at the Lancaster County Health

Department will speak about the Teddy Bear Cottage.

Entries for the Heritage Skills Contest should be brought to this meeting. All FCE members are invited to attend.

Club Baskets

Has your FCE club got their basket or baskets put

together for the scholarship fund raffle? The raffle will be held at the Sizzling Summer Sampler. Remember you can choose any theme. Use creativity as to size, shape or even container. Tickets will be sold the evening of July 11 for \$1 each of 6 for \$5. Help support the Lancaster County FCE Scholarship Fund.

Lancaster County Association for Family and Community Education presents

SIZZLING SUMMER SAMPLER

Tuesday, July 11 • 6 to 9 p.m.

Light Supper at 6 p.m.

Lancaster Extension Education Center, 444 Cherrycreek Rd, Lincoln

Cost \$10. Make checks payable to FCE Council.

Send reservation and check by July 6 to: Attn Pam, UNL Extension in Lancaster County, 444 Cherrycreek Road, Suite A, Lincoln, NE 68528

Programs

"GURU OR GOURMET: THE SCIENCE OF FOOD"

John Rupnow, UNL Professor of Food Science and Technology
Learn about the science of developing new food items.

"HATS, WOMEN & SONG"

Dorothy Applebee
Wear your favorite hat — old or new.



When to Turn Off Personal Computers

If you're wondering when you should turn off your personal computer for energy savings, here are some general guidelines to help you make that decision.

Personal computers use about the same amount of energy to startup as they use when they are on for about two seconds. For energy savings, consider turning off the monitor if you aren't going to use your PC for more than 20 minutes both the CPU and monitor if you're not going to use your PC for more than 2 hours.

Make sure your com-

puter is on a power strip/surge protector. When the PC is not in use for extended periods, turn off the PC with the switch on the power strip. Even when you turn some PCs off with the switch on the PC itself, it may consume a small amount of power. If you don't use a power strip, unplug the CPU and monitor.

Most PCs reach the end of their "useful" life due to advances in technology long before the effects of being switched on and off ten or more times have a negative impact on their service life. The

less time a PC is on, the longer it will "last." PCs also produce heat, so turning them off reduces building cooling loads.

For cost effectiveness, you also need to consider how much your time is worth. If it takes a long time to shut down the computer and then restart it later, the value of your time will probably be much greater than the value of the amount of electricity you will save by turning off the computer.

Power-Down or Sleep Mode Features

Many PCs available today

come with a power-down or sleep mode feature for the CPU and monitor. ENERGY STAR computers power down to a sleep mode that consume 15 watts or less power, which is around 70 percent less electricity than a computer without power management features. ENERGY STAR monitors have the capability to power down into two successive "sleep" modes. In the first, the monitor energy consumption is less than or equal to 15 watts, and in the second, power consumption reduces to 8 watts, which is less than 10 percent of its operating

power consumption.

Make sure you have the power-down feature set up on your PC through your operating system software. This has to be done by you, otherwise the PC will not power down.

Note: Screen savers are not energy savers. Using a screen saver may in fact use more energy than not using one, and the power-down feature may not work if you have a screen saver activated. In fact, modern color monitors do not need screen savers at all.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy



July

Jean Pedersen

Lancaster County 4-H is proud to announce Jean Pedersen as winner of July's "Heart of 4-H Award" in recognition of outstanding volunteer service.

Jean began volunteering for 4-H 10 years ago when her daughter Nicole was old enough to join 4-H. Jean has been a dedicated parent volunteer who helps her children and other members of the Cool Clovers 4-H club

complete projects in sewing, foods, entomology, horticulture, photography, home environment, cats, household pets, leather and welding — and prepare for Style Revue, Table Setting, Speech & PSA, Contest and Music contests. Four years ago, Jean and Nicole joined 4-H Council. Jean currently schedules volunteers for the County Fair 4-H Corner Stop (food booth). Last year, Jean became Cool Clovers organizational leader. This year, Jean and Nicole are teaching a plant class at Clover College.

"I like being a 4-H volunteer because I like to see kids learn, grow and excel in many project areas," says Jean. "I like to see kids help each other and grow into responsible confident adults. My favorite experience as a 4-H volunteer is having the kids do well in the horticulture contests. I have also had fun serving at the 4-H Council sponsored Spudfest at the county fair."

Jean is also a UNL Extension Master Gardener volunteer. She is also a member of the Lincoln Iris Society, the Lincoln Rose Society, the Lincoln African Violet Society, the Lincoln Orchid Society, the Lincoln Herbal Society and P.E.O. Chapter HW.

Jean lives in Lincoln with her husband Joel and their children Nicole and Kyle. After 20 years as a scientist at MDS Pharma Services, Jean is currently working for Landscape Services on UNL East Campus and taking courses towards a Masters Degree in Horticulture at UNL.

Congratulations to Jean! Volunteers like her are indeed the heart of 4-H!

Nominate your favorite 4-H volunteer by submitting the form online at <http://lancaster.unl.edu/4h> or available at the extension office. Nominations of co-volunteers welcome.



Swine Show to Benefit UNL Livestock Judging Team

A youth swine show is scheduled to take place at the Kimmel Event Center, Otoe County Fairgrounds, Syracuse, Nebraska on Saturday, July 1. While this event is not a University or Extension activity, it is being conducted on behalf of Purina Show Feeds (Doug Batie, Beatrice) to provide financial support for the UNL Livestock Judging Team. Entries are due by June 25.

If you are interested or would like more information, please check out the Winning Results Jackpot Series flyer online at <http://www.pigjock.com>

4-H Project Completion Certificates

4-H Project Completion Certificates are available for club leaders to present to members at the conclusion of the 4-H year. The certificates are designed to be used with one form per 4-H member. For your convenience, you may order and pick these up in conjunction with your county fair entry forms and tags.

District Speech & PSA Contest Results

Twelve Lancaster County 4-H'ers participated in the Southeast District Speech and Public Service Announcement (PSA) Contest held on May 30 at the University of Nebraska—Lincoln East Campus. The following youth earned purples in their division — the top five in each division received medals:

Senior Speech — Amanda Peterson (medal)

Intermediate Speech — Caleb Swanson (medal), Erica Peterson, Jessica Stephenson* (medal)

Junior Speech — Abigail Swanson, Jaime Stephenson*

Senior PSA — Amanda Peterson (medal)

Intermediate PSA — Rachel Pickrel (medal), Jessica Stephenson (medal)

Junior PSA — Jaime Stephenson (medal)

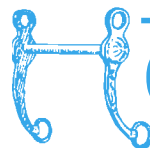
*Participated in the Northeast District Speech Contest held on June 12 at Norfolk.

District contest winners in the senior division in Speech and PSA advance to the State Contest which will be held September 2 during the Nebraska State Fair.

Congratulations to all the participants!

Take the Healthy Clubs Challenge!

Keep your club members active and healthy while having FUN by taking the Healthy Clubs Challenge! The goal of this challenge is for 4-H members to learn about physical activity and healthy eating while checking out the new Fast Foods and YOUTH in Motion projects. The challenge takes place during club meetings and members are encouraged to share the activities with their families. Create your own plan or use roll call ideas, club activities, service projects, snack ideas and more found on the Healthy Clubs Challenge web page. There will be a special event at the 2006 State Fair to celebrate your accomplishments (more details coming soon). Just visit <http://4h.unl.edu> and click on the Healthy Clubs Challenge link to find out more and to get started with YOUR challenge today.



HORSE BITS

Last Chance for Riding Skills Group Testing, July 8

It's almost County Fair time! Don't forget — to show at the county fair all horse exhibitors must have completed Level I.

As of March 18, 2006, all riding skills level tests must be done in group testings. Individual testing done by leaders will no longer be accepted.

The last chance for the riding skills group testing will be **JULY 8** (location and time TBA). 4-H'ers who pass the riding skills portion on July 8 will still be allowed to register for the county fair even though it's after the registration deadline. Make sure the club demonstration and written test are completed before July 8.

Please RSVP by June 30 for the test date to Marty at 441-7180 or mcruickshank2@unl.edu.

Dress Code Enforced at District and State

A reminder to all 4-H horse project exhibitors the dress code (on pages 18–20 of the new Nebraska 4-H Horse show and judging guide) will be enforced at the District and State 4-H Horse Shows. For Western Attire:

- Shirts and blouses must be all white, including button, thread, etc., with convertible collars (one meant to be folded at the seam). Tuxedo, turtleneck, or other stand-up collars are not permitted. No national, county or club emblems, medals, etc., permitted. Shear, see-through blouses are inappropriate and not permitted.
- Dark blue denim jeans must be worn. No fringe is allowed nor are jeans that are button down the side.
- Boots with waffle-type tread greater than or equal to 1/8 inch will not be allowed in riding classes.

State Horse Expo Information

The 2006 Fonner Park State 4-H Horse Exposition will be held July 16–20 in Grand Island. **Remember health papers!** A 14-day health certificate will be required. (The Ak-Sar-Ben Horse Show will require a 30-day health certificate.)

There will be no stall fees or camper hookup fees. Fonner Park is providing most of the finance necessary for the state expenses, so be sure to thank them and the Grand Island Chamber of Commerce during or after your stay. For this \$13,000+ financial backing, all exhibitors must clean stalls into the manure pits before leaving. Be sure to bring your own pitchforks, etc. Also, many stalls do not have doors, so you must bring doors, webbing, ropes, etc. to hold your horses in the stall. Most stall doors are 40–45 inches wide.

Exhibitors shouldn't depend too heavily on hay and wood shaving purchase on the grounds although a limited supply may be available.

Additional information as well as the schedule is online at <http://animalscience.unl.edu/horse/horse4h.htm>

EXTENSION NEWS



(L-R) Jessica Bauman, Jami Rutt and Debi Schulz

Interns Assist with 4-H Activities

Each year, student interns join the 4-H staff at the University of Nebraska—Lincoln Extension in Lancaster County and provide much needed assistance during the summer for contests, County Fair and other activities. The following three interns are returning for a second summer:

- Jami Rutt assists Tracy Kulm in the Family and Consumer Science areas.
- Debi Schulz assists Deanna Karmazin in the livestock areas.
- Jessica Bauman assists Marty Cruickshank with the horse, poultry and rabbit areas (she has been assisting with the Embryology School Enrichment program the past few months).



COUNTY FAIR 4-H/FFA NEWS

2006 LANCASTER COUNTY FAIR AUGUST 2-6

A Slice of the Good Life

LANCASTER EVENT CENTER • 84TH & HAVELOCK • LINCOLN

Animal Entries Due July 7

All 4-H & FFA county fair animal entry forms are due to extension by Friday, July 7, 4:30 p.m. or postmarked by July 7. No late entries will be accepted! All entry forms are available at the extension office or online at <http://lancaster.unl.edu/4h/Fair>.

One Livestock Entry Form MUST be completed for each exhibitor entering livestock (beef, dairy, bucket calf, goats, sheep, swine). Bedding fees (\$6/bag) for beef, dairy and bucket calves are being collected with entry forms — bedding for other animals must be purchased at the fair.

Volunteers Needed

Adults and youth ages 12 and over are needed to help during County Fair. Help is especially needed in the following areas:

- Static exhibit set-up days on Thursday, July 27 at 6:30 p.m. (pizza will be served) and Saturday, July 29 at 8 a.m. (doughnuts will be served) in the Lincoln Room
- Livestock set-up day on Sunday, July 30 at 2 p.m. in Pavilion 1 (pizza will be served)
- Horse set-up days, Sunday, July 30–Tuesday, Aug. 1 in Pavilion 2
- During judging of static exhibits on Tuesday, Aug. 1
- Teen tour guides are needed for Fair Fun Day for child care groups on Friday, Aug. 4 at 9:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.

If you can help, please contact the extension office at 441-7180.

Food Booth Training, July 27

The 4-H Corner Stop food booth at the county fair is Lancaster County 4-H Council's primary fundraiser. Volunteers are needed to staff 3–4 hour shifts from Tuesday, Aug. 1 through Sunday, Aug. 6. For more information, contact Jean Pedersen at 420-0573 or jean.pedersen@mac.com

ALL food booth volunteers are encouraged to attend a training on Thursday, July 27, 6–7 p.m. at the Event Center. Learn about food safety, customer service and volunteer responsibilities.

Static Exhibit Check-In Monday, July 31, 4–8 p.m.

Static exhibits do not preregister, but MUST be physically checked in during Static Exhibit Check-in on Monday, July 31 between 4 to 8 p.m. at the Lancaster Event Center, Lincoln Room. An adult — such as a club leader or parent(s) — should assist 4-H members in entering exhibits. All entry tags, additional information, recipe cards, data tags, etc. MUST be attached at this time.

Interview Judging, Aug. 1

Interview judging is Tuesday, Aug. 1 starting at 9 a.m. in the Lincoln Room. 4-H'ers have the opportunity to talk to judges about their fair exhibits and share their trials and lessons they learned. 4-H'ers also learn what the judge looks for and how to improve skills. 4-H'ers may interview judge ONE exhibit from each project area (for example: one item from Celebrate Art, one item from Design Decisions and one item from Tasty Tidbits). Refer to page 38 of the Fair Book for project areas which have interview judging. Call the office at 441-7180 after July 4 to sign up for a five-minute time slot.

Clover Kids Show & Tell, Aug. 5

All Clover Kids, youth age 5-7 by January 1, 2006, are invited to show & tell their 4-H exhibits at the Lancaster County Fair, Saturday, August 5, starting at 1 p.m.

Clover Kids Show & Tell is held in the Lincoln Room at the Lancaster Event Center. Youth are also invited to do a skit or song at this time. See page 33 of the Fair Book for more information. To register, call 441-7180 by Friday, July 28, or sign up at the static exhibit area Monday, July 31, 4-8 p.m.

Static Exhibit Release Time Sunday, Aug. 6, Noon–2 p.m.

All static exhibits will be released on Sunday, Aug. 6 between 12 noon and 2 p.m. This includes both 4-H and Open Class static exhibits.

Contest Information

Preregistration is required for the Presentations, Style Revue, Table Setting and Bicycle Safety contests by July 7 (entry forms are available at the extension office or online at <http://lancaster.unl.edu/4h>). For the other County Fair contests, enter day of contest.

Horticulture Judging Contest, July 7

The Horticulture Judging Contest will be held Friday, July 7, 10 a.m.–Noon at the Lancaster Extension Education Center. Contest is open to all 4-H'ers — need not be enrolled in a horticulture project. Study material is available from extension. Youth choose which of the following portions of the contest to participate in: Tree Identification, Grass & Weed Identification and Horticulture Judging Contest.

Junior Life Challenge Contest, July 7

The junior division Life Challenge will be held Friday, July 7 at 1:30 p.m. at the Lancaster Extension Education Center. Open to all 4-H'ers ages 8–11 (need not be enrolled in a specific project). Contest questions will be based on the following 4-H manuals: Six Easy Bites, Attention Shoppers, Health A "Discovering Myself" and The Sitter.

Presentations Contest, July 14 or Aug. 5

Choose between three classes, all based on method of presentation. There are three methods in which 4-H'ers may present: 1) presentation using LCD, slide, video or overhead projector; 2) presentation using posters; or 3) multimedia presentation. You choose which date works for you: Friday, July 14 beginning at 1 p.m. or Saturday, Aug. 5 beginning at 8 a.m. See Fair Book page 35 for complete contest information. Must submit entry form by Friday, July 7.

Style Revue Judging, July 26 Public Style Revue, Aug. 2

Style Revue judging will be Wednesday, July 26 starting at 8:30 a.m. The public Style Revue is Wednesday, Aug. 2, 7 p.m. at (both revues will be held at the Lancaster Event Center, Pavilion 3–Exhibit Hall). A handout is available from the extension office or online at <http://lancaster.unl.edu/4h>. Must submit entry forms by July 7.

Cattle Fitting Contest, Aug. 2 **New!**

New this year is the Team Cattle Fitting Contest. The contest will be held on Wednesday, Aug. 2 at 6 p.m. Teams of two 4-H/FFA members will have 30 minutes to blow, groom and prepare an animal for show. At the completion of the 30 minutes, one team member will compete in the showmanship phase while the other team member is available for questions. See Fair Book page 34 for complete contest information. Teams must preregister the day of the contest by NOON. Start putting your team together now!

Table Setting Contest, Aug. 3

Contest will be Thursday, Aug. 3, 5 p.m. at Lancaster Event Center, Pavilion 3 – Exhibit Hall. A handout is available from the extension office or online at <http://lancaster.unl.edu/4h>. Must preregister by July 7 by contacting the extension office (there is no entry form).

Bicycle Safety Contest, Aug. 5

This contest will be held on Saturday, August 5, 10 a.m. at the Lancaster Event Center, south parking lot. 4-H members do not need to be enrolled in the bicycle project to enter this contest. See Fair Book page 34 for rules. Must preregister by July 7 by contacting the extension office (there is no entry form).

Premium Payouts Must Be Picked Up During County Fair, Sunday, Aug. 6

Premium payouts to 4-H & FFA exhibitors will be paid in cash on Sunday, Aug. 6, Noon–4 p.m. at the Lancaster Event Center Fair Board Office. Subject to identification, parents, guardians, 4-H club leaders, FFA chapter advisors will be permitted to pick up and sign for exhibitor premiums. NO CHECKS WILL BE ISSUED THIS YEAR! No changes or corrections will be made on premium amounts after 14 days.

NEBRASKA STATE FAIR 4-H/FFA NEWS



Get ready for fun at the 2006 Nebraska State Fair Friday, Aug. 25 through Monday, Sept. 4! For a schedule of 4-H at the state fair and more, go to <http://4h.unl.edu/programs/statefair>

Animal Entries Due Aug. 6

4-H & FFA animal exhibitors ages 10–18 are eligible to participate at the Nebraska State Fair regardless of county fair placing. State Fair 4-H & FFA animal entry forms are due to Lancaster County 4-H staff no later than Sunday, August 6 at the county fair. Forms will be available online or at the livestock office at fair. Registration fees must be included with entries.

Static Exhibits

At the county fair, 4-H static exhibits will be selected for the Nebraska State Fair by the judges in the respective areas. A state fair sticker will be placed on all exhibits selected for state fair. 4-H members with qualifying static exhibits will receive information in the mail after County Fair about entering at the State Fair.

State Fair Gate & Parking Passes

State Fair gate passes and seasonal parking passes may be purchased and picked up at the extension office AFTER County Fair. These passes are for 4-H members and their immediate family only.

Volunteer at the 2006 Nebraska State Fair!

Hundreds of people volunteer their time and energy in making the 4-H section at the Nebraska State Fair incredibly successful. Along with the opportunity to participate in this great event, meet new people, and provide assistance to fairgoers, each volunteer will receive a free parking pass and gate entrance pass to the State Fair for the day(s) they volunteer.

A schedule of events and volunteer times, as well as a volunteer interest form are on the 4-H Web site at <http://4h.unl.edu/programs/statefair>. Please mail form no later than Aug. 7. For more information, contact Doug Swanson at 472-2805.

Start Your Own Community Tool-Sharing Program

There's nothing like having the right tools to help make your projects go smoothly. But, tools can be a big investment for homeowners. When money is tight, tool costs can make or break a project. Often, we only need that 20-foot ladder once a year to clean the gutters. Many table saws sit idle in the garage for months at a time.

Some neighborhoods and communities across the country have discovered a better way—tool sharing. It is an idea that is alive and well, from small housing cooperatives in rural areas to lending programs in large cities. Many people are finding, in addition to making economic sense, tool sharing offers a way to simplify life and create community, pulling together neighbors to exchange ideas, skills and a helping hand.

The Roots of Tool Sharing

Many of today's thriving tool-sharing programs grew out of the cooperative movement of the 1970s, which spawned a proliferation of co-ops, from food to housing and energy. Tool-sharing promotes many cooperative core values: self-help, self-responsibility, equality and solidarity.

Today's tool-sharing and lending programs range from

small, informal arrangements among neighbors to large operations supporting thousands of community volunteers.

They include tools for carpentry, landscaping, woodworking and car repair, and are housed in homes, community wood shops, libraries, neighborhood centers and even warehouses. You will find the programs supporting all walks of life, from single-working mothers to farmers living off the land.

Building Community

Beyond its economic practicalities, tool sharing could be recognized as a critical approach in community building. Tools available to neighborhood residents would be an incentive to keep their properties in good condition. The lending program benefits residents by reducing the costs of maintaining and improving their homes and yards; up-keep of their properties gives neighborhood residents pride and a strong sense of community and helps them realize their neighborhood can be beautiful.

Residents who take care of their yards develop relationships with their neighbors while they are outside mowing the lawn, planting flowers or watering a garden. Statistics show when you know your

neighbors, crime rates go down.

Facing the Challenges

Even with all of the benefits of tool-sharing programs, they are not without their challenges. The common problems range from a lack of organization, funding shortages, tool maintenance, noting intricate tools often require frequent repair. The constant need for maintenance may make some tools of this sort impractical for smaller sharing programs that lack the needed maintenance skills among participants.

Tool-sharing programs also must confront funding constraints. Several programs collect tool maintenance fees, or charge fees for the late return of tools, while others rely on grants, including federally funded Community Development Block Grants, fund-raising or donations.

Tracking the fate of tools on loan is essential. Record-keeping is an important component of the program. Some tool-lending programs have turned to computer databases to help track tools on loan; otherwise, tools would end up sitting in someone's basement. In addition, some tool-sharing programs carry liability insurance, added insurance

costs could be a real problem for smaller groups without a track record of safety. Other programs require users to sign liability waivers for power tools.

Tool-Sharing Start-Up Advice

Are you thinking of starting a tool-sharing program in your community or neighborhood? Here are some helpful tips:

- Hold a meeting to find out people's needs and available resources.
- Everybody lists useful household/yard equipment they are willing to share.
- Determine the scope of the program; it is often best to start with simpler hand tools.
- Determine storage—will tools be stored in homes or in a common space, somebody's garage or basement?
- Determine how costs will be covered for tool purchases and ongoing maintenance. Are you going to collect maintenance fees and fines for late return? Are you going to apply for some mini-grants to cover start-up costs? Are you going to do some fund-raising events in your neighborhood?
- Develop a clear set of lending, repair and tool-return rules (lending guidelines).

- Develop a list of "experts" who can share skills.
- Organize a system to track checkout and return of tools.
- Assign responsibility for maintenance and repair.

Keys to Success

Whether it is simply to help neighbors down the block or to mobilize a community, virtually anyone can start a tool-sharing program. On its most basic level, sharing can be as simple as meeting, developing a list of tools and swapping contact information. Try to keep it simple—do not try to be a tool rental shop. In addition to creating maintenance headaches, larger power tools also can carry greater operating dangers, particularly for the less-skilled homeowner.

A dedicated and skilled do-it-yourselfer can go a long way toward getting a tool-sharing program off the ground. It really helps to have someone who is skilled in repair; otherwise, the tools waiting to be repaired may just pile up. A membership fee or pay-as-you-go system will fund ongoing maintenance.

Adaptation of an article by Dave Wortman from Mother Earth News Magazine, April/May 2004.

EXTENSION NEWS

P3 Intern Working at Extension



The Partners in Pollution Prevention (P3) program is a 12-week program which is part of a UNL biological systems engineering class.

This summer, P3 intern, Jeff Thiele, is working at the UNL Extension in Lancaster County. He is a senior at UNL, majoring in civil engineering with a minor in business. Jeff will visit small businesses to assess their work situations, provide research options and a detailed report on how to conserve resources. He will also be providing public education on pollution prevention to various civic groups. As another part of his internship, Jeff will be working on some dry-weather water monitoring for the City of Lincoln to help screen for illicit dumping.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the P3 program. During the first nine years, P3 interns have worked with 340 clients in over 40 Nebraska communities. The P3 program has diverted approximately 1,800 tons of solid waste from landfills, reduced hazardous waste by more than 24,500 gallons and saved clients an estimated \$6.2 million in direct savings. More information about the program is available online at <http://www.ianr.unl.edu/p3>

E-Waste: What It Is, and What You Can Do

Jeff Thiele

UNL Partners in Pollution Prevention Intern

In today's world, it seems electronics become obsolete as soon as you purchase them. We see the benefits of technology in everyday life, but we don't see its cost: large amounts of electronic waste or e-waste. Electronic waste, or E-waste, is a growing problem for America. Millions of computers, monitors, cell phones, televisions and other electronics become outdated each year, begging the question, "What should we do with our e-waste?"

One disposal method used for e-wastes has been to place them in a landfill, which can create many problems. Many e-wastes contain harmful materials, that can enter leachate or liquids seep out of a landfill. Newer landfills are lined with a material to help prevent leachate from leaking out into the soil, but it is not fail-safe. Leachate leaking out of a landfill may end up in groundwater, a source of drinking water for approximately half of all Americans.

There are many materials in e-waste that create concern. For example, the cathode ray tube (CRT), found in many



older televisions and computer monitors, contains over four pounds of lead, which can cause damage to human nervous systems, circulatory systems and kidneys. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), our obsolete computers and monitors contain more than a billion pounds of this material.

There are other materials in e-waste that should raise concern. Mercury, which causes birth defects, neurological problems and kidney disorders, is found in e-wastes like batteries, mobile phones and some circuit boards. Chromium is also found in many circuit boards and can cause damage to DNA and other health problems. E-wastes contain many other dangerous materials and listing them all could easily fill an article.

The bottom line is throwing e-wastes into landfills is a problem, not a solution. While the Nebraska Department of

Environmental Quality (NDEQ) currently regulates e-waste created in quantities by businesses, there are currently no e-waste regulations for private consumers. However, the EPA and NDEQ encourage private consumers to find alternate uses for their e-waste. Some examples include:

- **Donate your e-waste.** Many organizations will accept usable electronics such as computers and monitors. Donations to non-profit organizations may be filed for a tax deduction. *Organizations which accept donations can be found at <http://www.ci.lincoln.ne.us/city/health/enviro/pollu/waste/pdf/computer.pdf>*
- **Recycle your e-waste.** Much of the material in e-waste can be recycled for use in new electronics. While recycling often has a service charge, recycling helps protect the environment and makes better use of our resources. *Local recycling service providers can be found at <http://www.wastecapne.org/pub/2006/guidebook.shtml>*
- **Buy green.** Purchase electronics environmentally friendly. *Information can be found for electronics and other products online at: <http://www.epa.gov/epp/pubs/electronics/electronics6.htm>*

EXTENSION CALENDAR

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

June

- 26 **Family & Community Education (FCE) Council Meeting** 7 p.m.
 26-27 **4-H PASE/Life Challenge**, UNL East Campus
 27-30 **District 4-H Horse Shows** (Sydney-27, Valentine-28, McCook-29, Lexington-30)

July

- 7 **ALL 4-H/FFA County Fair Animal Entries Due to Extension**
 7 **County Fair 4-H Table Setting/Bicycle Safety/Style Revue/ Presentations Preregistrations Due to Extension**
 7 **Pesticide Container Collection**, Waverly Co-op - east elevator, 148th St., Waverly 9 a.m.-Noon
 7 **4-H Horticulture Contest** 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
 7 **4-H Junior Life Challenge** 1:30 p.m.
 8 **4-H Horse Riding Skills Group Testing**, Location TBA TBA
 9 **4-H Teen Council Meeting** 3 p.m.
 11 **Family & Community Education (FCE) Sizzling Summer Sampler** 6-9 p.m.
 14 **County Fair 4-H Presentations Contest** 1 p.m.
 18-21 **State 4-H Horse Show**, Fonner Park, Grand Island
 26 **County Fair 4-H Style Revue Judging**, Lancaster Event Center - Pavilion 3, Exhibit Hall 8 a.m.
 27 **4-H Food Booth Training**, Lancaster Event Center, Lincoln Room . . 6-7 p.m.
 27 **4-H Council Meeting**, Lancaster Event Center, Lincoln Room 7 p.m.
 30 **County Fair 4-H Horse Show Pre-Fair Briefing**, Lancaster Event Center - Pavilion 3, Extension Office 2 p.m.
 31 **Entry Day for County Fair Static Exhibits**, Lancaster Event Center - Lincoln Room 4-8 p.m.

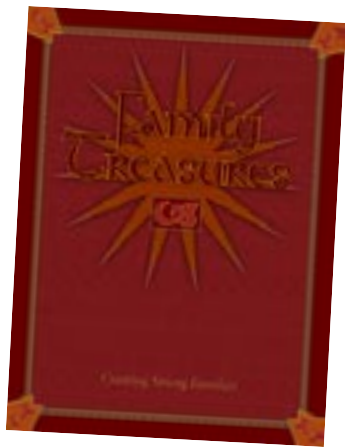
UNL Research Traces Traits of Strong Families

Compiling data from families around the globe, UNL researchers identified six characteristics of strong families and published the findings in the new book, "Family Treasures - Creating Strong Families."

Written by John DeFrain, a UNL professor and member of UNL Extension's family team, the book outlines the characteristics as:

- appreciation and affection
- commitment
- positive communication
- coping ability,
- spiritual well-being
- enjoyable time together

The characteristics were identified through responses from all 50 states and 27 countries — all from participants who believe their families are doing well.



The book includes results from the family strengths research, inventories for family members to use in assessing their strengths, and best practice activities that can be used by families of all types as they try to build upon their assets, DeFrain said.

"Strong families form

the basic fabric of our society. Strong families lead to stronger parenting and a better environment for developing children who are ready to face the 21st-century world," DeFrain said. "Family Treasures - Creating Strong Families' examines the assets of successful families and offers real tools for real families who want to develop their strengths."

The family assessments included in the book help families identify strengths and potential improvement areas. Also, 'Family Treasures' includes many ideas for hands-on activities to strengthen families.

"Family Treasures - Creating Strong Families" is available for \$20 online at <http://unlforfamilies.unl.edu>



Extension is a Division of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln cooperating with the Counties and the United States Department of Agriculture.

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 Conference Facilities
 444 Cherrycreek Road, Lincoln
 Lobby Phone: 441-7170



UNL Extension educational programs abide with the nondiscrimination policies of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the United States Department of Agriculture. We assure reasonable accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act; for assistance contact UNL Extension in Lancaster County at 441-7180.

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Community CROPS Will Hold a Garden Open House, July 29

Community CROPS, Lincoln's community garden and farm project, will host a garden open house on Saturday, July 29, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. (note: date has been moved from June as was previously published). Select gardens will be open for visiting, including:

- 46th and Pioneers Community Garden
- 23rd and P Community Garden

Gardeners will be on-site to showcase their plots. There will be various garden and food-related demonstrations. Refreshments will be available.

Community CROPS: Combining, Resources, Opportunities & People for Sustainability is a Lincoln, Nebraska organization, which works with local gardeners and farmers to grow and market agriculture products. Now in its fourth year, Community CROPS has six community gardens throughout Lincoln. For more information about the open house, go to <http://www.communitycrops.org> or call 730-2532.



THE NEBLINE

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Can You Guess It?

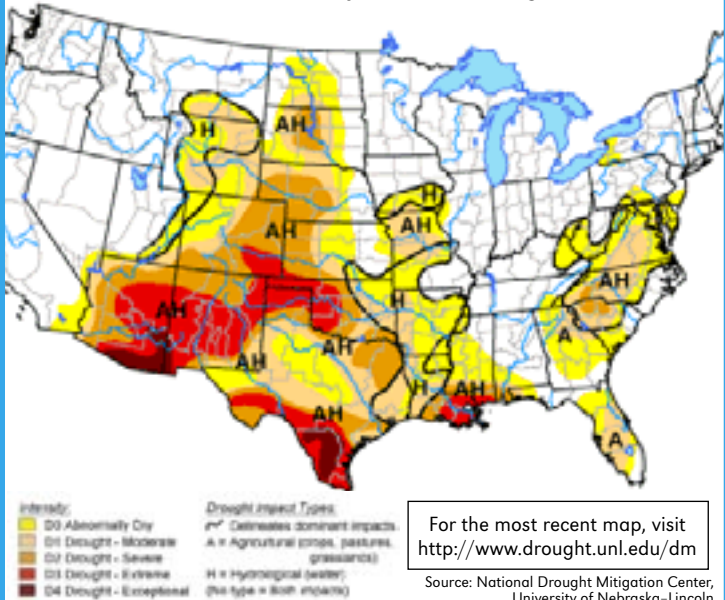


Vicki Jedlicka, UNL Extension in Lancaster County

Did you guess it? Find out at
<http://lancaster.unl.edu>
 Did you guess it from the May NEBLINE?
 The answer was bark on a birch tree.

U.S. Drought Monitor Map

As of June 6, Lancaster County was not in drought conditions.



Still Time to Sign Up for 4-H Summer Camps!

There is still time to sign up for 4-H summer camps held in late June, July and early August!

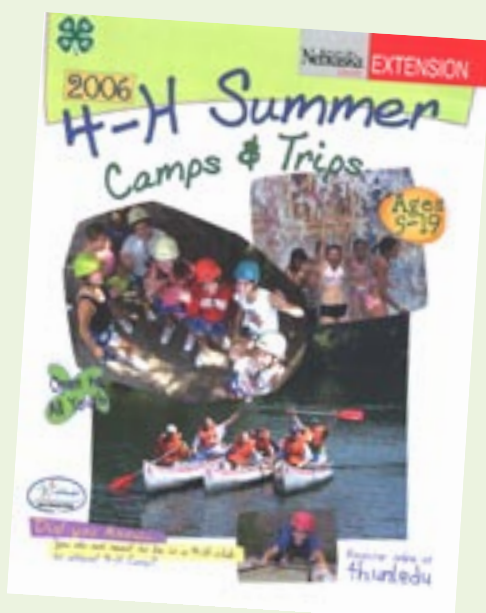
Open to all youth ages 5-19, 4-H summer camps are a great opportunity to meet new friends and experience a wide variety of exciting activities such as canoeing, mountain biking, horseback riding, rappelling or climbing, volleyball, basketball, art, dancing, backpacking, shooting sports, water skiing and fishing!

Most camps include one to three overnight stays in comfortable cabins. Camps and trips are held at three 4-H camp locations in Nebraska:

- Eastern Nebraska 4-H Center, Gretna
- Nebraska State 4-H Camp, Halsey
- South Central 4-H Center, Alma

Brochures with camp descriptions, registration forms and more information are available online or at the extension office. New this year, register online!

<http://4h.unl.edu/camp>



Insect of the Month: Fireflies

Barb Ogg
 UNL Extension Educator

Fireflies are familiar insects in Nebraska on still, warm summer evenings. The common names *firefly* and *lightning bug* are misnomers. These insects are not flies or bugs, but soft-bodied beetles belonging to the family Lampyridae. There are about 200 species of fireflies in North America. Most are an inch or less in length.

Adults rest on foliage, but become active between dusk and midnight. Males and females produce these flashing light signals to find each other for mating. While flying, the males emit light flashes recognized only by females of its species. A responding female sits on vegetation and responds to the male's light pattern with her own flash pattern. After several back and forth flash sequences, the male locates her position.

Females lay eggs in the soil, particularly in cool, damp places. The predaceous larvae, called glow-worms, also produce light, but are rarely seen. Scientists think firefly larvae flash to warn predators they taste bad.

Bioluminescence is the term used when light is produced inside an organism. Fireflies aren't the only living creatures to produce light. Experts believe 90 percent of deep-sea marine life produce some type of bioluminescence. Bioluminescence is also found in some annelids (worms), arachnids (spiders), bacteria and fungi.

To increase the number of fireflies in your backyard:

1. Eliminate using insecticides or other chemicals on your lawn.



Adult fireflies — one turned to show light-producing organ.



Firefly larvae also produce light on the end of their body.

2. Reduce "extra lighting" on your property at night, because this light will interfere with firefly flashing patterns and make it harder for fireflies to locate mates. Light interference also occurs on clear nights when the moon is full.
3. Provide low overhanging trees, shrubs, tall grasses to give adult fireflies a place to rest during the day and remain cool.

Free Test Kits Available for Toxic Blue-Green Algae

Soni Cochran
 UNL Extension Associate

According to UNL specialists, the incidence of toxic blue-green algae blooms in Nebraska lakes and ponds should remain the same from previous years. The algae blooms can pose serious health threats to both humans and animals.

Skin irritations and gastrointestinal problems are the main risks to people exposed to the toxins. In very rare cases, extremely high toxin levels can be fatal.

Children are at greater risk of exposure because of their tendency to explore the shoreline where algae blooms can be concentrated. Children also swallow a higher volume of water than adults based on their body weight, so are at greater risk. People with liver disease, kidney damage or with weakened immune systems are also at risk.

Free test kits from UNL Extension are available so lake owners, users and managers can check for toxic-producing algae. The kits include instructions on sample collection, a



During rapid blue-green algae growth, lake water becomes cloudy with a green or blue-green cast and blue-green streaks may be visible on the water's surface.

sheet for recording measurements, a questionnaire about the lake and sample bottles for water and algae. If you request a kit, and submit samples, you will be notified of the results.

For more information or a free kit, call Hilary Hansen at 472-8190.

What You Should Do

Learn what toxic blue-green algae looks like and avoid water where the algae is present. Avoid swimming,

water skiing, riding personal watercraft or any activities that put you, your pets or livestock in contact with water where the algae is present. If you come in contact with algae, rinse off with fresh water as soon as possible.

For an updated list of health alerts for area lakes, visit the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality Web site at <http://www.deq.state.ne.us>