

Field day will feature profitable crops and marketing for small farms

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

Scheduled for Saturday, August 7, the day will begin at the Haymarket Farmers Market at 11:30 a.m. with a brief overview of the market. Maps and information will be available at the Market Manager's booth that morning. Come to the Farmers Market early to shop.

The group will meet at the Lancaster County Extension Office, at 12:30 p.m. for lunch and a presentation on specialty-cut flower production and marketing. A delicious array of

locally grown vegetables, fruits, sweet corn and bread will be served. Please bring your own sandwich and drink.

At 1:30 p.m., the group will depart for farm tours. You will need to provide your own transportation; carpools can be arranged at the extension office. The tours will include:

Equinox Community Supported Agriculture (CSA), Lincoln (2:00 p.m.). Ruth Chantry and Evrett Lunquist will give an overview of their CSA farm. CSA is a unique marketing strategy where customers share the risks and rewards of farming. Ruth and Evrett raise vegetables, herbs, turkeys and chickens for garden members who receive a share of the farm's produce each week. They also sell their produce at the Haymarket Farmers Market. Pawnee Pride Meats,

Steinauer (4:30 p.m.). Paul and Cindy Rohrbaugh will explain their specialty meat and egg business. The Rohrbaughs raise poultry, eggs and beef on pasture using management practices developed by Joel Salatin. They sell their high-value products directly to customers.

The Specialty Crops Field Day is co-sponsored by the Nebraska Sustainable Agriculture Society, the Haymarket Farmers Market, University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension in Lancaster County, the UNL Center for Sustainable Agricultural Systems and the Organic Crop Improvement Association Nebraska Chapter #3.

For more information, call Cris Carusi at 402-471-0817 or Billene Nemecek at 402-435-7496. (SCB)

Wet spring may mean more white grub damage

Be on the lookout later this summer for white grubs. According to Fred Baxendale, Ph.D., entomologist, NU/IANR, "Nebraska's mild winter allowed good grub survival and the wet spring weakened the turf, increasing the chance for white grub injury to lawns."

White grubs are one of the most destructive turf insect pests. They feed on grass roots and can destroy the entire root system, causing large areas of grass to die in a short time.

White grubs are scarab beetle larvae. They are white with a brown head and C-shaped body with three pairs of short legs immediately behind the head.

Many species of white grubs live in Nebraska. The most common groups are annual grubs, May/June beetles or three-year grubs and the black turfgrass ateniens.

Grub injury usually is seen in the spring, a consequence of the previous year's generation of grubs that began in mid-August.

Spring feeding rarely is destructive to the turf and only rarely requires insecticide treatment.

Grubs separate grass from underlying soil. Infested turf will have a spongy feel when stepped on and can usually be pulled back like a carpet.

Six to eight grubs per square foot must usually be present for lawns to show visible injury. To find grubs in your lawn, cut a "V" in the grass, about six to eight inches on either side, lift up and look for feeding grubs. Grubs feed in the top inch or two of the soil, normally at the soil/thatch interface. Heavily infested turf will become yellow, wilt and may ultimately die.

Two new preventive insecticides are on the market to control white grubs: Grubex and Grub-B-Gon. These insecticides work best when applied between the third week in June and the third week in July, before grubs begin hatching from eggs. Because these treatments are relatively expensive, they should be used only where grubs have

been a problem before.

Maintaining turf health and vigor through proper mowing, fertilizing and irrigating will help minimize grub injury to turf.

Also recommended are well-adapted, grub-tolerant grasses such as a blend of turf-type tall fescues.

Traditional curative insecticides such as Diazinon, Dylox, Oftanol or Turcam should be applied about the first week of August.

Immediately after applying these insecticides, water grass thoroughly, using at least 1/2 to 3/4 inch of water. Repeat irrigation every four or five days to move the insecticide into the soil and to keep the crown area moist to encourage turf recovery. If conditions are hot and dry and grubs are deeper in the soil, a pretreatment irrigation of 1/2 inch applied 48 hours prior to applying insecticide, should encourage grubs to move closer to the soil surface. This should enhance the level of white grub control. (DJ)



Ticks and disease transfer

Ticks, like mosquitos and chiggers, are annoying blood-sucking pests. But besides feeding on human blood, they transmit diseases that call for some attention.

Spring and summer are when ticks actively feed and look for hosts and female ticks pursue a blood meal to produce eggs.

Barb Ogg, Ph.D., entomologist, NU/IANR says, "The most common ticks in Nebraska are

the American dog tick and the brown dog tick. However, the lone star tick also is found in southeast Nebraska."

The lone star tick may be the vector of Lyme disease in Nebraska, because deer ticks, the common carrier of the disease in the rest of the United States, aren't found in Nebraska. Although there are only an average of three to six cases of Lyme disease reported each year in Nebraska, be cautious.

Lyme disease signs and symptoms include a bull's eye rash at the point of the bite. Symptoms usually appear within 3-32 days after the bite. Other symptoms include persistent headache, fever, spreading rash, aching joints and fatigue. The disease should be treated with antibiotics as soon as possible.

Besides Lyme disease, ticks can transmit Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever and other diseases. About two to four cases of



Acreage Insights

Tractor safety tips (part 7)

Tractors are one of the most important pieces of equipment on a farm, yet they are also among the most dangerous. More deaths are caused by tractors than by any other type of farm accident. It is, therefore, imperative that tractor owners routinely check their tractors and keep in mind the following safety guidelines:

Use rearview mirrors if you need to keep an eye on rear attachments or loads. Operators twisting to look over their shoulder can cause the tractor to swerve abruptly.

Be sure the tractor and implements have adequate lighting and are equipped with a bright, slow moving vehicle (SMV) emblem, whenever the tractor is driven on a public road. Most accidents on roads involving tractors, have resulted in tractor overturns.

Always back up and drive down hills with a conventional style tractor (rear wheels larger than the front wheels). Remember that the front is always pointing downhill whether the operator is backing up or driving down the hill. When backing up or driving down a hill, keep the tractor in low gear. Never turn sharply on hills. Tractors are also subject to rear turnover when driven up a steep incline. Backing the tractor up the hill keeps the weight on the front wheels, preventing the tractor from flipping over. (DJ)

Grasshopper alert!

It's de ja vu, all over again. We have already had reports of tiny grasshoppers feeding on foliage in gardens in southeastern Nebraska, especially in rural areas.

Acreage owners in southeastern Nebraska should be checking out grassy ditches, field margins and pastures looking for small grasshoppers and feeding damage to plants. Right now the grasshoppers are small, but we have had at least one report that the small grasshoppers are so numerous that they have completely eaten the leaves off some garden crops. Grasshoppers may also be found in wheat fields; they will be leaving those fields as the wheat continues to mature and after harvest.

Right now the small hoppers can be controlled by insecticides. By summer's end, they will be full-grown adults and control using insecticides will be difficult, if not impossible.

For insecticide recommendations, contact the Lancaster County Extension Office and ask for Fact Sheet #268-95, Grasshopper Control in the Field and Garden. (BPO)

Learn at your convenience

—24 hours a day, 7 days a week—

NUFACTS (audio) Information Center

NUFACTS audio message center offers fast, convenient information. In the Lincoln area call 441-7188; for the rest of Nebraska call 1-800-832-5441. When directed, enter the 3-digit number of the message you wish to hear.



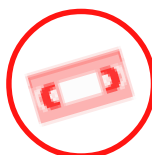
Acreage & Small Farm Insights Web Site

Visit our Internet web site at: <http://www.ianr.unl.edu/ianr/dodge/acreage/index.htm> to learn about Extension programs, publications and links to other acreage and small farm information.



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Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever are reported each year.

Symptoms of Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever include severe headaches, chills, fever, aches and pains. A reddish-purple-black rash may occur on the bottom of the foot, ankles, palms, wrists or forearms a few days after infection. The rash can spread to the torso, neck and face. Left untreated, the victim may become agitated, develop insomnia, become delirious or

even go into a coma. As with Lyme disease, antibiotics will control the disease.

Wear light-colored clothes in grassy areas to see ticks easier. Usually ticks land on a person's ankles or knees and crawl up their bodies. Using an insect repellent that contains DEET repels ticks. After spending time in tick-infested areas, people should thoroughly examine their