

Responsible hunting and landowner relations

Hunting in Nebraska is a time-honored tradition that has brought excitement, comradery and enjoyment to countless individuals throughout the years. Unfortunately, the hunting season is usually accompanied by rule violations, complaints and citations that come from a disregard for hunting regulations and a disrespect for the rights of landowners. According to the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, the two biggest complaints associated with hunters every year are hunting on land without permission and shooting from roads. These problems can be caused from simple ignorance about Nebraska laws but are usually the result of a blatant contempt for the statutes meant to regulate hunting activities. So what is the solution to these problems? Simply put, it comes down to respect and courtesy by hunters. Respect for the laws of Nebraska, the rights of property owners and treating people with the courtesy you would expect from others. Hunting is a privilege for Nebraskans and many of the problems associated with hunting can be avoided if hunters would view their ability to hunt as a benefit and not a right.

Both landowners and hunters need to understand the rights of property owners to avoid possible confrontations and violations of Nebraska law. To clear up some possible misconceptions about landowner rights, here are the most common problems.

1. *Land must be posted with signs that prohibit hunting/trespassing.* False.

Nebraska law states that any person entering property for hunting/fishing/trapping without the express permission of the

landowner/renter, is either trespassing or hunting without permission. Although "No Hunting" and "No Trespassing" signs help to discourage people from illegally entering private land, they are in no way required to keep people from hunting someone's personal property.

2. *Only the landowner can press charges against a trespassing hunter.* False.

Special signs that state "Hunting by written permission only" can be posted on a landowner's property. These signs allow law enforcement officers to contact hunters in the field and require them to produce written permission, by the owner, stating they are allowed to hunt the area. Failure to produce a document granting permission enables the law enforcement officer to issue a citation without the landowner being present.

3. *A landowner cannot prove a person was on their land without permission.* False.

A landowner can take down a vehicle license plate number and write down a description of the individuals involved. This information, along with a signed affidavit by the landowner stating that the parties in question did not have permission to hunt, is often times enough for law enforcement (Game & Parks or sheriff) to cite a person for trespassing. The landowner is also not required to be present in court. Finally, as a safety issue for landowners, law enforcement should be left to the proper authorities. Landowners should never try to detain a hunter.

4. *The landowner retains hunting rights when the land is being rented.* False.

Nebraska law says that unless formally stated that the

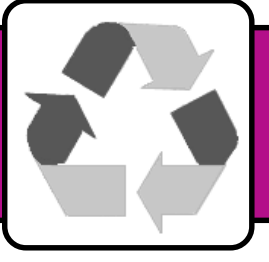


owner retains hunting privileges when the rental agreement is established, the operator has the hunting rights and ability to grant permission to hunters on land they rent. This situation is analogous to renting an apartment. The renter has the right to allow people to enter the apartment even though they do not own the property. Uncomfortable situations of the landowner and the renter granting hunting permission to different people at the same time, have undoubtedly occurred, but can be avoided by a simple agreement between the operator and owner as to who controls hunting on the property.

Most hunters are respectful, seek and ask permission and follow the regulations when they are hunting. If you are in that majority of hunters, then this article will hopefully clear any possible misconceptions and help you to educate fellow hunters about some of the common problems associated with hunting. Hunters who violate laws need to be made aware of the problems they are causing and hopefully change their actions. As the saying goes, "One rotten apple spoils the whole bunch," and nothing could be more true than in hunting. A hundred good experiences between hunters and landowners can be destroyed by one bad experience. It is our responsibility, as ethical hunters, to represent the hunting community every time we enter the

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Environmental Focus



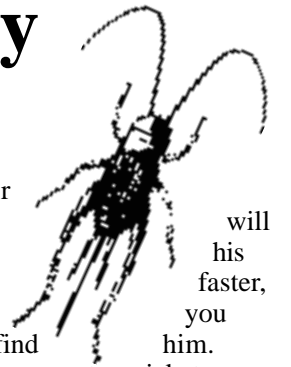
Jumpin' jiminy crickets

Homeowners are reporting lots of crickets this fall. There are several species that may be a problem in the fall but the crickets that I have noticed are very large, black, field crickets. An annoying feature is that the male field cricket chirps loudly to attract a mate. If a male cricket accidentally finds its way into our home, we can have many sleepless nights until he dies a lonely death.

Crickets become adults in the late summer and breeding activities become their major focus. Because they typically inhabit cracks and crevices, they often find their way inside our houses by exploring around the foundations and exterior doorways of our houses. The warmth within is agreeable to them and, as far as a male cricket is concerned, our houses are good echo chambers to make themselves louder. Crickets have a high water requirement and will move toward where there is a source of moisture. This is why we may hear them under a refrigerator (drip pans provide water), under the sink (sweating or leaky pipes) or in the basement (in drains).

What to do about crickets? It depends on the annoyance level that the cricket causes. If you ignore the cricket it will eventually die, having no food and being unable to breed inside the home. If you are really "bugged" by the chirping cricket you will be motivated to search for and destroy it. Remember, the cricket will be attracted to water and removing

water sources will cause his demise faster, even if you cannot find him.



To prevent cricket invasions, the best control options include reducing the attractiveness of your home to crickets. This may involve removing dense overgrowth, mulch and piles of debris (wood piles, lumber, etc) near the house. Tall grass and weeds should be removed near the foundation or the house. Clean up your garbage collection area, especially if it is close to the house. These areas can be prime breeding and feeding sites.

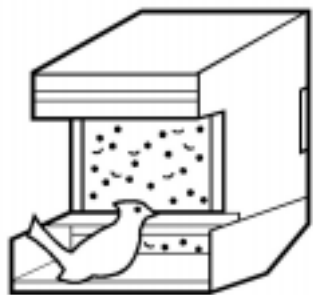
Examine the exterior of your home for cracks and holes that may be providing a passageway inside and seal these openings. All doors should be equipped with tight-fitting weather stripping. Windows, especially basement ones, must also fit tight.

Other control options include turning off porch and garage lights that attract crickets at night. Mercury vapor lights are particularly attractive to crickets and other flying insects. If possible, they should be replaced with sodium vapor lights.

If you are finding crickets inside the house, get some mouse glue boards and put them in the corners of rooms. This passive method of control is just as effective as insecticides used inside the home. For the cricket

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Autumn is a great time to clean your feeder



Take a moment to think about your bird feeder. When was the last time you cleaned it? To minimize the spread of disease at your feeder follow these seven easy steps:

1. Give the birds enough space. Do you have too many birds and only one feeder? Add another feeder if the feeder is crowded.
2. Clean your feeder and the droppings on the perching area each time you fill your feeder.
3. Disinfect the feeder once or twice a month with one part of liquid chlorine household bleach in nine parts of warm water. If possible, immerse the feeder for two to three minutes and allow to air dry.
4. Feed birds only high quality food. Moldy seed, bread or spoiled leftovers doesn't do them any more good than it would you.
5. Keep rodents out of food. Mice can carry some bird diseases.
6. Act early and spread the word. Don't wait until you see sick birds huddled at the feeder and tell your friends who feed birds, to take the above precautions.
7. Check your feeder for sharp edges where birds might cut themselves. Small scratches or cuts allow bacteria and viruses to infect a bird more easily. Source: Oregon State Extension Service. (SC)

Last chance for disposing of household hazardous waste in 1999!

Saturday, October 23, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department (LLCHD) 3140 "N" Street, south parking lot

Lancaster county residents only

For more information, call LLCHD at 441-8040.



Head lice videotape available

An eight-minute videotape that discusses head lice management is now available at the Lancaster County Extension office. This tape shows live lice (highly magnified), nits (lice eggs) and provides tips on inspection, treatments and prevention. The video features a combing demonstration using a metal lice comb. Parents faced with head lice treatments will find this videotape helpful, but it may also be useful for daycare centers, schools and other health and childcare professionals who work with families. It can be purchased at the Lancaster County Extension office for \$10. To view this video, call (402) 441-7180 and make an appointment with Barb Ogg or Soni Cochran. Lincoln residents can watch this videotape on cable access Channel 5 during the months of September and October at the following days and times:

- Mondays: 11:30 a.m. and 10:30 p.m.
- Tuesdays: 9 p.m.
- Fridays: 10:30 a.m. and 9 p.m.
- Saturdays: 12:30 p.m.
- Sundays: 10:30 a.m.

In addition to the videotape, written information about managing head lice management is also available at the Lancaster County Extension office. Call the extension office and request *Head Lice Management*, Fact Sheet 018-99 and *Quick Guide for Removing Head Lice Safely*, Fact Sheet 030-99. (BPO)