

## Last Household Hazardous Waste Collections for 2000 Pfizer and State Fair Park Collection Sites

Date/Time	Location
Saturday, September 16 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.	Pfizer Animal Health, 601 W. Cornhusker Highway
Saturday, October 28 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.	State Fair Park, 4-H Youth Complex



Items that you can bring for disposal:

- Heavy metals: items containing mercury such as thermometers and thermostats.
- Solvents: mineral spirits, turpentine, paint strippers and thinners, oil-based paints, varnishes, stains, polishes, and waxes.
- Pesticides: weed killers, garden sprays, wood preservatives, roach powder, rat poisons. You may also bring EPA banned products, like DDT, chlordane, 2,4,5-T, pentachlorophenol, silvex.
- PCB's: Ballasts from old fluorescent fixtures and capacitors from old appliances including radios, motors, and televisions.

Leave products in their original container and keep the label intact. Open, leaking, or rusted containers should be placed in a clear plastic bag during transport. Do not mix chemicals.

Do not bring latex paint, medicines, explosives, ammunition, fertilizers, used oil, general household trash, antifreeze, or batteries. For more specific information, call the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department at 441-8040. (BPO)

## Tips for Non-toxic Cricket and Spider Control

Current indications show we will have large numbers of crickets and spiders invading homes this fall. The best way to prevent entry into homes is to seal entry points, like cracks and crevices, with caulk. However, it is difficult to seal all entry points.

To eliminate crickets and spiders that have found their way into the house, use sticky traps (mouse glue boards work great) in the corners of rooms. To catch a "singing" cricket, put a very small amount of cornmeal in the middle of a glue board and place the glue board near where the cricket is hiding. The cricket will be attracted to the cornmeal and get caught in the glue board. (BPO)

## West Nile Virus and Rabbit Calcivirus Disease Alerts

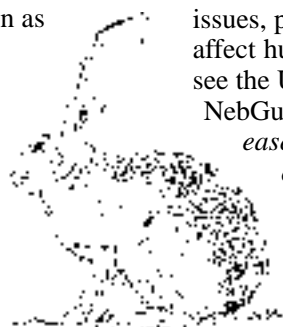
Two interesting articles appeared in a recent issue (4/00) of the Southeastern Wildlife Disease Study newsletter, *SWDS Briefs*.

The first involved monitoring last summer's outbreaks of the West Nile Virus (WNV) in New York which resulted in 61 serious cases, including seven deaths. These cases were the first documented occurrences of this disease in the western hemisphere; WNV is indigenous to southern Europe, the Middle East, Southeast Asia, and Africa. WNV is primarily vectored by *Culex* mosquitoes; but birds, especially crows, are reservoir carriers for the virus. The *SWDS* article states that the American crow seems to be most susceptible to the disease and that any dead crows found in any state, should be reported to the state health organization.



Because of bird migration patterns, the Centers for Disease Control is monitoring these birds mostly in the southeastern states. Still, Nebraskans should be aware of the issue as many communities, including Lincoln, have growing crow populations.

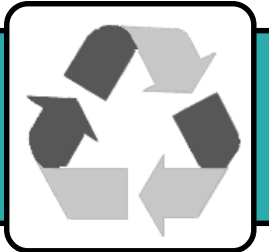
Another article mentioned in *SWDS Briefs*, was about the Rabbit Calcivirus Disease (RCD), also known as viral hemorrhagic disease of rabbits. This disease was recognized this past March in Iowa as the first U.S. occurrence among domestic European rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*). This highly contagious disease killed 25 of 27 domestic rabbits at a



farm in rural Iowa, but the RCD has not been detected elsewhere in the U.S. However, rabbit owners, who raise European rabbits and veterinarians have been encouraged to report all incidents of excess acute mortality of unknown cause to animal health authorities. For more details about West Nile Virus surveillance and the Rabbit Calcivirus Disease, check out the *SWDS* newsletter at [www.scwds.org](http://www.scwds.org)

For other wildlife disease issues, particularly those that affect human health and safety, see the University of Nebraska *NebGuide, Wildlife and Disease-Public Health Concerns (G-1259)* at <http://ianrwww.unl.edu/pubs/health/G1259.htm>. Source: Dallas Virchow, Project Coordinator, Distance Education and Wildlife Damage Management, UNL. (BPO)

## Environmental Focus



## Your Hummingbird Feeders Should Be Up and Running

The ruby-throated hummingbird migrates through eastern Nebraska in the spring and fall. Some birds do stay and nest here, but mostly along the Missouri river. Look for these hummingbirds to start arriving in August with the peak between September 2-18. If weather permits and you are lucky, you may still have these wonderful visitors through October.

**What do hummingbirds eat?** The natural diet for hummers is flower nectar, tree sap, small insects, and spiders. Natural diets can be supplemented with hummingbird feeders. Flowers in bloom through the migratory season are needed to attract hummingbirds. You can purchase commercial "nectar" solutions for hummingbirds.

**What type of feeder do I need?** Look for a hummingbird feeder that is easy to fill and clean (one that doesn't have too many nooks and crannies). Some red on the feeder is desirable because it seems to attract the birds. If your feeder doesn't have red on it, add a red plastic flower, red ribbon, red tape, or even red nail polish on the surface of the feeding ports.

**Do you have a hummingbird "nectar" recipe?** Mix one part granulated white sugar (common table variety) with four parts water (i.e. 1/4 cup sugar with 1 cup water). Boil the water, dissolve the sugar, then allow to cool before filling the feeder. Keep leftover portions refrigerated until

needed. Avoid any honey mixtures and red food coloring.

**How often do you change the "nectar" in the feeder?** Change the mix every few days, more often in hot weather. Clean the feeder each time to prevent molds.

**What is the best way to clean the feeder?**

There are a couple of methods you can try:

1. Rinse the feeder with hot water, fill with vinegar and uncooked rice. Shake vigorously then rinse with water.

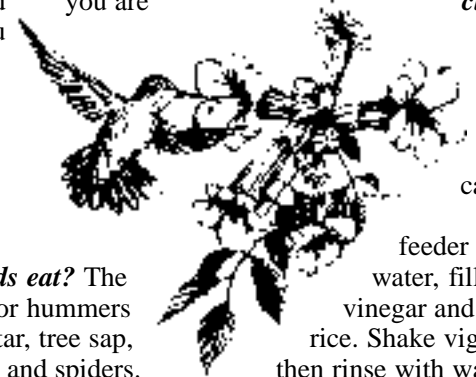
2. Soak the feeder in a solution of two ounces household bleach mixed with one gallon of water.

A stiff bottle brush may help, but avoid soaps because residues may interfere with the action of the feeder.

**Now I'm ready, where do I hang my feeder?** Hang the feeder from a tree branch, deck, or porch. Find a spot that has partial shade, near flowers, and out of the wind. It is best to hang more than one feeder to decrease competition and for your viewing pleasure.

**I've got ants in my feeder?** Try coating the feeder hanger with salad oil or petroleum jelly.

**For more information:** Contact the extension office at 441-7180 or stop by and pick up your free copy of *NebGuide, Backyard Wildlife: To Feed a Hummingbird (G97-1331)*. This wonderful *NebGuide* is filled with more feeding tips and a list of plants for your "hummingbird garden." (SC)



## New Website Help for Wildlife Damage Problems

Having problems with bats in the attic, raccoons in the chimney, or rabbits in the garden? The University of Nebraska and its partners in Lancaster County and other cooperative extension offices have always been the leaders in delivering timely and accurate ways to help you solve wildlife problems. Now the University of Nebraska has developed a website called "The Internet Center for Wildlife Damage Management" to help you even more. Coming soon...look for our Prevention and Control of Wildlife Damage handbook in both "pdf" and "html" formats and searchable databases which will make finding information easy. For ready access to all this information, bookmark <http://wildlifedamage.unl.edu>. Source: Dallas Virchow. (BPO)