

Community Focus



Farm Service Agency committee elections underway

County FSA committees administer farm programs at county and area levels and are elected by eligible producers. Farm programs administered by county committees include:

- commodity price support loans and payments;
- establishment of allotments, yields and marketing quotas;
- farmer loans;
- conservation programs;
- incentive, indemnity and disaster payments for some commodities; and
- other farm disaster assistance.

Farm owners, operators, tenants and sharecroppers of legal voting age can vote if they are eligible to take part in any FSA program. Eligible voters will soon be receiving ballots by mail from the Lancaster County FSA Office. The 2000 election ballots must be returned to the FSA county office or post marked no later than March 6. (GB)

LEAD Fellowship applications available for group XX

Fellowship applications for Nebraska LEAD (Leadership Education/Action Development) Group XX are available now to men and women involved in production agriculture or agribusiness.

Up to 30 individuals will be selected from production agriculture and agribusiness. Preference will be given to individuals ages 25 through 45 who have demonstrated leadership potential.

LEAD fellows also participate in a 10-day National Study/Travel Seminar and a two- to three-week International Study/Travel Seminar. Seminar themes include economics, foreign cultures, government, communications, international trade, politics, business, labor, environment, finance and industry.

The program is designed to prepare spokespersons, problem-solvers and decision makers for Nebraska and its agricultural industry. Now in its 20th year, the program is operated by the Nebraska Agricultural Leadership Council Inc., a nonprofit organization, in cooperation with Nebraska colleges and universities, business and industry and individuals throughout the state.

Applications are due by June 15 and are available from the Nebraska LEAD Program, Room 318 Biochemistry Hall, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Nebraska 68583-0763 or by phoning the office at (402)472-6810 and requesting an application packet. General information about LEAD is available from the World Wide Web at <http://www.ianr.unl.edu/lead/> (GB)

LAAA Photography Contest



Theme for 2000 is... "New Century, New Choices, New Ventures"

Open to ALL ages, elementary school age to older folks themselves! All readers are welcome to submit photos. Sponsored by the Lincoln Area Agency on Aging.

Prizes for: Best of Show, 1st, 2nd, 3rd and Honorable Mentions by age groups of: K-6, 7-12 and adult (18 and over). Best of Show winner is awarded \$200.

Judges are from the Lincoln Camera Club, with 50+ years of experience in judging activities.

Exhibit of all entries will be at the 6th Annual Senior Festival held at Gateway Mall, Lincoln, on Thursday, May 18, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., in the lower level auditorium.

The prize winners will be officially framed and be part of a "traveling exhibit show" and go to many places throughout our eight counties (Butler, Fillmore, Lancaster, Polk, Saline, Saunders, Seward and York) throughout the rest of Year 2000.

For a registration and information packet, call (402)441-7022. Deadline for submissions is Friday, April 15...don't delay...call today! (GB)

University of Nebraska—Lincoln's Speakers Bureau can offer you a free speech!

Groups, organizations can take advantage of a *free speech* from the University of Nebraska—Lincoln. The Speakers Bureau makes it easy when your organization needs an entertaining, informative and intriguing topic presented by an expert.

Available through April 24, 2000, topic selection range from the arts to family law and military leadership to the study of viruses. Every speaker is provided free of charge. To schedule a speaker call (402)472-8396.

Three Speaker Bureau examples:

Heat Waves to Blizzards: Climate and Weather of the Great Plains presented by Kenneth Dewey, Professor of Geosciences.

When it comes to weather and climate, there is indeed, no place like the Great Plains. Certain types of weather are unique to this particular area, as those who have recorded

significant weather events in the past can attest. Dewey will examine weather types, causes, myths, realities and the history of these weather events through the use of illustrations and photographs.

A Nebraska Treasure: Quilts from the James Collection presented by Rita Kean, Professor and Chair of Textiles, Clothing and Design.

Named as one of the Top 100 Treasures by "Arts and Antiques" magazine, the James Quilt Collection in the International Quilt Study Center, traces America's history from the late 1700's to the present. In 1997, Robert and Ardis James donated 950 antique, contemporary and art quilts to the University of Nebraska to be developed as part of the quilt study center. Kean's close involvement with the development of the center has provided her with a rich knowledge and expertise. Her discussion of this gem, given in slide

and lecture format, will include the historical, social and cultural significance of the collection, as well as information on the conservation and care of quilts.

Inciting Violence: The Role of the Media presented by Nancy Mitchell, Professor and Chair of Advertising.

Violence in schools and among other segments of our population has made us acutely aware of its pervasiveness in our society. Fingers have pointed to various media including video games, movies and television as the root causes of violence. The question remains, however, whether these factors incite such violence or if blaming the media is simply an oversimplified answer to a difficult social problem. This presentation will explore answers to this question and invite discussion on the role and responsibility of media professionals, government and private citizens in relation to violence in the media. (GB)

Nebraska Pioneer Farm Family Awards—a call for nominations...

For the 45th year, the Knights of Ak-Sar-Ben and the Nebraska Association of Fair Managers will recognize Nebraska Pioneer Farm Families whose land has been owned by the same family for 100 years or more. Titled the "Nebraska Pioneer Farm Family Award," local recognition requires that the land of a family in Lancaster County must have

been owned by some member of that family for a century or more.

Todate, nearly 6,000 families in 91 of Nebraska's 93 counties have been honored at various county fairs. Each honoree receives an engraved

plaque and gatepost marker as permanent recognition for this milestone and public recognition at the Lancaster County Fair.

Applications for this year's recognition are due no later than May 1.

Applications should be mailed to:
Leon Meyer, CFE
Lancaster County Ag Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 29167
Lincoln, NE 68529

Farm Families recognized in 1999:

Clyde W. Burgess &
Vera Burgess Lauk, Lincoln
Dennis & Sharon Egger
Glen & Stella Maye Ehlers
Marty & Lois French

Keith & Doris King
W. Jean Oelling
Robert & Gertrude Stahly
Wylene Swanstrom Twombly

Nebraska Pioneer Farm Family Award Nomination Form

Mail to Leon Meyer, at the above address, no later than May 1, 2000.

Name of present owner(s) of farm _____

Complete mailing address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Telephone # _____

County in which the farm is located _____ Size of farm _____

Legal description: Part of Section _____ Section _____ Township _____ Range _____

Name of original family owner _____

Date originally acquired by family _____

Please fill in the line below with the wording you wish to have engraved on the award.

Example:

JOHN SMITH FARM

NEBRASKA PIONEER FARM FAMILY AWARD

THE KNIGHTS OF AK-SAR-BEN ARE HONORED TO RECOGNIZE THE

Owner(s) Signature _____

Fair Secretary's Signature _____

Address _____ County _____

IMPORTANT: In addition to this nomination form, applicants are encouraged to attach a brief history about the eligible farm and include any available documentation.