



## Community Focus

# National Ag Week is March 19 thru 25, 2000

## A "Salute" to Nebraska Agriculture—Sharing the Facts!

Nebraska's Top National Rankings:

1<sup>st</sup> Commercial cattle slaughter, 1998, live weight—9,052,420,000 lbs.

Great Northern beans production, 1998—1,855,000 cwt.

2<sup>nd</sup> Commercial cattle slaughter, 1998—7,300,700 head  
Alfalfa meal production, 1998—148,200 tons

All cattle and calves, January 1, 1999—6,650,000 head  
Cattle on feed, January 1, 1999—2,240,000 head

3<sup>rd</sup> Grain sorghum production, 1998—56,400,000 bushels  
Pinto beans production, 1998—1,386,000 cwt.

All dry edible beans production, 1998—3,666,000 cwt.

Sorghum silage production, 1998—330,000 tons

Corn for grain production, 1998—1,239,750,000 bushels

Cash receipts from all livestock marketings, 1997—\$5,542,050,000

4<sup>th</sup> Land in farms and ranches, 1997—46,400,000 acres

On-farm storage capacity, 1998—1,050,000,000 bushels

Commercial grain storage capacity, 1998—628,610,000 bushels

Cash receipts from all farm marketings, 1997—\$10,092,232,000

5<sup>th</sup> Non-oil variety sunflower production, 1998—33,900,000 lbs.

All hay production, 1998—7,680,000 tons

Alfalfa hay production, 1998—5,250,000 tons

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# Ward "Gus" Shires to Retire March 31

Ward "Gus" Shires, Extension Educator, will retire from University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension in Lancaster County on March 31, 2000. He will complete 15 years of service to Lancaster County and 23 years with the UNL Cooperative Extension system. Prior to coming to Lincoln, in 1985, Shires worked in Nemaha County as the extension agent-agriculture.

Shires earned his Bachelor of Science in



Shires and a A37 Air to Ground Fighter Support Aircraft; Phan Rang, Vietnam, 1971.

Agriculture degree in 1954 and entered the Air Force the same year. His military career consisted primarily as a pilot and military aircraft instructor. Experienced with fighter planes, bombers, transports, tankers and airborne command post aircraft, Shires also served as an aircraft maintenance

officer and squadron commander.

He served overseas duties in England, Turkey, Germany and Vietnam. While in Vietnam, Shires flew combat missions and was awarded two Distinguished Flying Crosses and four Air Medals. During his Air Force career, Shires flew over 7,500 hours and today he is fast approaching over 10,000 hours of total pilot time.

Following retirement from the Air Force with 20 years service, Shires earned a

MS degree in Agricultural Education from the University of Nebraska and began work with UNL Cooperative Extension. While in Lancaster County, his primary program duties have focused on

Agriculture and Natural Resources education. He also provided substantial leadership in establishing Lancaster County as one of Nebraska's leading 4-H horse programs.

An early assignment for Shires was serving on Lincoln's landfill site selection committee. One of



Ward Shires and Richard Krueger discussing a wheat disease problem on Krueger's rural Roca farm.

his more notable accomplishments has been working with the City of Lincoln on solid waste management and land application of Biosolids on area farmland. This program has saved an estimated \$3.25 million dollars in landfill tipping fees, a direct savings to taxpayers. Application of biosolids to farm fields has also added a nutrient value of over \$400,000 for Lancaster County farmers.

Shires is a native of Elliot, Iowa. In retirement, he plans to continue his involvement as a Lt. Colonel and the Vice Wing Commander of the Nebraska Wing of the Civil Air Patrol. The Civil Air Patrol is an auxiliary of the U. S. Air Force. (GB)

# Nobuko Nyman to Retire March 23



Nobuko Nyman and Governor Johanns recognize EFNEP's 50 year anniversary in 1999.

Nobuko Nyman, nutrition advisor with the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program will retire March 23. She will be recognized by UNL for 15 years of service in April.

Nobuko is very skilled at serving at-risk teens. Jasmine, a member of the Y-Teen Moms Program, writes, "Nobuko, thanks for the nutritional information and cooking ideas. The fruit pizza is one of my daughter's favorite." Program director for TLC says, "The young women always look forward to your nutrition sessions and most of all enjoy you because of your accepting attitude."

Nobuko says, "I like to help people succeed. It's been rewarding to watch teenage parents learn to care for their babies."

She has taught nutrition at St. Monicas, Lincoln Action Program Job Readiness, Boys and Girls Group Homes, Commodity Foods, WIC, Lincoln Medical Education Foundation, Parent Support System Mom's Group.

A native of Japan, she speaks Japanese and English. Nobuko is known for oriental cooking classes which she taught at Southeast Community College for ten years. Her NEP vegetable stir-fry demonstrations always receive outstanding evaluations.

Nobuko enjoys reading, playing Japanese musical instruments, classical music and cooking. She looks forward to more time with her husband and granddaughter during her retirement. (MB)

## Open House Retirement for Warder "Gus" Shires, Extension Educator

Friday, March 31, 2000

3 to 5:30 p.m.

Lancaster Extension Education Center  
444 Cherrycreek Road

"Come and wish Ward the best in his retirement years."

# Five Cents Can Improve the World

Rural Nebraskans know what it's like to drop what they're doing to help out a neighbor in need. It's not too often we reach out to help someone on the other side of the world. But you can do that for as little as 5 cents. We know it sounds too good to be true, but 5 cents can insure a baby is born with a healthy brain. 5 cents can insure a child does not develop physical or mental handicaps. 5 cents can improve Nebraska's farm income, and thereby, help you and I. You see, 5 cents is all it takes to give a child a tiny dose of iodine that will change their lives forever.

How is this possible? In the 1920's, the Swedish people convinced some key people in America that eating iodized salt would eliminate goiter, an enlarged thyroid. Today, it is known that iodine also

prevents brain and organ damage in fetuses, children and adults. Today, all Americans get some iodized salt.

In the 1980's, the World Health Organization learned that 1,500,000,000 people in the world lived in countries that don't have or eat iodized salt. In 1995, Kiwanis and UNICEF formed a partnership to teach the remaining people how to eliminate this costly disease. Today, there are still about 26,000,000 babies born each year to mothers that do not use iodized salt. About \$26,000,000 is still needed to correct the problem. Studies have shown that if these babies were to grow up healthy, they would be more likely to afford Nebraska grain.

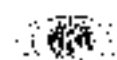
The ABC program 20/20 put together a special on this problem. It's available to help show the story and Kiwanis speakers are also available to



Saturday May 6, 2000

Saline Wetlands

Walk to Help Save a Child.



help tell the story. A walkathon is planned on the morning of May 6, 2000 at the Lincoln Saline Wetlands Nature Center in West

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