

# The NEBLINE

Nebraska Cooperative Extension  
Newsletter  
Lancaster County

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Gary C. Bergman, Extension Educator—Unit Leader

NOTICE: All programs and events listed in this newsletter will be held at the Lancaster Extension Education Center unless noted otherwise. Use of commercial and trade names does not imply approval or constitute endorsement by the University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension in Lancaster County.

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# Extension Calendar

All programs and events will be held at the Lancaster Extension Education Center unless otherwise noted.

**March 12**  
4-H Ambassador Meeting ..... 2 p.m.  
4-H Teen Council Meeting ..... 3-5 p.m.

**March 13**  
4-H Shooting Sports Meeting

**March 15**  
4-H Beef, Swine, Dairy Cattle, Goat, Llama, Rabbit and Sheep ID's Due

**March 16**  
Fair Board Meeting ..... 7:30 p.m.

**March 19**  
4-H Speech Contest—*State Capitol* ..... 1:30 p.m.

**March 23**  
earth wellness festival—*Southeast Community College* ..... 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

**March 25**  
Rabbit Clinic ..... 9 a.m.-noon

**March 27**  
4-H Leader Training ..... 9:30 a.m. or 7 p.m.  
Pet Pals 4-H Club Meeting ..... 7 p.m.  
FCE Council Meeting ..... 1 p.m.

**March 28**  
FCE & Community Club Leader Training 1 p.m.

**March 29**  
4-H Horse Leader Training ..... 6:30-9:30 p.m.

**March 31**  
Be A Better Gardener Preregistration Deadline  
Ward Shires Retirement Open House ..... 2:30-5 p.m.

**April 1**  
4-H Rabbit Show—*Lancaster Building, State Fair Park* ..... 9 a.m.  
4-H Record Book Workshop ..... 9:30-11 a.m.

**April 4**  
4-H Council Meeting ..... 7 p.m.

**April 8**  
“Creating a Galaxy of Stars” Childcare Provider Conference ..... 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

**April 9**  
4-H Ambassadors ..... 2 p.m.  
4-H Teen Council ..... 3-5 p.m.

**April 10**  
4-H Shooting Sports Meeting ..... 7 p.m.

**April 11**  
CWF Meeting ..... 7 p.m.

### ANTS

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their colony in search for food. Researchers are looking for baits that will control carpenter ants, but, because carpenter ants eat such a wide variety of foods, researchers have not had very good success controlling colonies with baits.

Carpenter ant colonies can be outdoors in hollow trees, logs, posts, landscaping timbers or inside in the structural wood of houses. The most successful colonies are found in wood that is moist.

To create their galleries, the ants chisel out the softer part of the wood with their mouthparts and produce a coarse sawdust-like material, and push it out of the colony. Small piles of sawdust are evidence of carpenter ants. In addition to sawdust, there may be other debris from the nest, including bits of soil, dead ants and insect parts.

#### Control

The secret to controlling carpenter ants is *find the nest and treat it*. Finding the colony

can be difficult. Clues that may help you are finding small piles of sawdust or swarming ants. Following the movements of workers, usually in the early morning hours, can also help locate the colony. Spraying individual ants with insecticides will not be effective because the colony will continue to produce more workers.

Once the colony is found, the carpenter ant problem can be solved. There is such a high affinity between carpenter ants and moisture, it is smart to fix a moisture problem before treating with an insecticide. In some cases, replacing wet wood and fixing the water problem will solve the problem without having to use any insecticides. In situations where there doesn't seem to be a moisture problem, insecticides can be injected into wall voids. For more information about carpenter ants, call 441-7180 and ask for fact sheet 04-97, Carpenter Ants. (BPO)

### PRUNING

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Pruning away branches infected with diseases such as black knot of plum, is the main means of controlling their spread.

Next, remove large branches that have grown so vigorously that they shade the lower ones or make the tree difficult to spray or harvest. In some cases, removing large branches can correct earlier pruning mistakes. Remove large limbs where they originate or shorten them back to small, healthy sized branches. Another goal of pruning is to remove less productive wood — i.e., overly vigorous, vertical branches such as water sprouts and suckers and weak, downward drooping limbs.

Pruning tools should be sharp for clean cuts that will heal quickly. To remove a large branch safely and avoid tearing the bark, undercut it partway, then finish removing most of the length with a cut from the top side. A third cut removes the stub. Wounds need not be painted or sealed. (DJ)