



Lancaster Event Center Progress Report

Concrete floor work has been completed for the Lincoln Room and concession areas of the Event Center's Multi-Purpose Building. Concrete block walls defining the concession areas and restrooms are also complete. The main office area is currently receiving attention with stud and sheetrock construction. Also underway is

the installation of the arena's air handling system and the Lincoln Room's duct work.

Most of the flat concrete work is completed in Pavilion I and installation of outside doors and trim is being finalized.

Electricians are finishing electrical work in Pavilion II and painters have begun painting drywall, exposed steel beams and concrete walls. Hauling in of a

special clay and sand mix for the indoor arena floors is also scheduled to begin soon.

Planning of the announcer's stand that will overlook the Amy Countryman Outdoor Arena is underway. Construction is anticipated to begin this October. (GB)

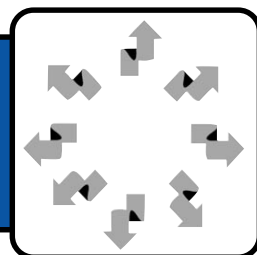


Extension staff and Board members recently visited the Lancaster Event Center to begin planning for the 2001 Lancaster County Fair.



Photos by Joel Armstrong

Miscellaneous



BALES

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stem-down side tends to shed rain and snow better than the stem-up side. The stem-up side will then receive more sun to provide some melting and drying to lessen spoilage. If more than one line of bales is needed, space adjacent lines at least 10 feet apart. This will minimize snow buildup between rows and allow the sun to reach the back row. Stacking large round bales usually increases losses. Stacking tends to trap moisture and limits drying action from exposure to the sun and wind.

Locate bale rows away from fences and tree lines to avoid contact with snow drifts. Keep livestock and other animals away from bales. Prevent weed growth around bales. Weeds shade the bales and can cause snow drifts.

Indoor storage and bale covers – If bales are to be

marketed, stored for more than one season, or the location is in climates with high precipitation (such as the eastern two-thirds of Nebraska), indoor storage or bale covers should be considered. Remember that the outer four inch thick layer of a six foot diameter round bale contains about 25 percent of the total bale volume. Studies have shown outdoor storage losses range between five and 35 percent depending on the amount of precipitation, storage site location, and original condition of the bale. Storage losses are usually reduced by approximately two-thirds with indoor storage and by one-half with good plastic covering outdoors. Beware of the side forces which stacked, large round bales can exert on the walls of storage structures. (DJ)



WEEDS

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regimen of 2,4-D plus Banvel/Clarity applied to vigorous fall growth with retreatment in the spring at flower bud stage, will most likely be necessary. In cultivated fields, a post-harvest, late fall application of Roundup or Touchdown plus 2,4-D or Banvel/Clarity can be quite effective. Retreating to control escapes and new seedlings will likely be necessary.

Musk thistle while not a perennial, is a common problem in Lancaster County pastures. Musk thistle is a biennial or winter annual, germinating in the fall or early spring and producing seed the following summer. A fall herbicide treatment, applied when the thistles are in the

rosette form, provides excellent control, because the plants have not developed a deep root system yet. As mentioned above, plants not killed outright will enter winter in a weakened condition, making them susceptible to winter kill. A second choice would be an early spring herbicide application while the plants are still in the rosette form.

For recommendations on specific herbicides and rates for control of weeds in the pasture, consult the 2000 Guide for Weed Management in Nebraska EC 00-130-D available for \$2 when picked up at the extension office, or call to visit with one of the staff for recommendations on specific weed species. (TD)



TREATS

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flesh of the apple with a little orange or pineapple juice to keep apple from turning brown.

8. HALLOWEEN COOKIES

Idea One: Mix red and yellow food coloring until you have an orange color. Mix a few

drops in with your favorite sugar cookie dough. Cut into pumpkin shapes and bake as usual.

Idea Two: Let children help decorate sugar cookies with orange colored frosting. Make faces with chocolate chips, raisins, or dried fruit bits.



FALL INVADERS

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- Spiders. Many ground-dwelling spiders find their way inside homes this time of the year. Wolf spiders cause the most panic, because they can be very large. They are not poisonous.

- Millipedes and pillbugs (roly-polys). These multi-legged critters live in the soil (or wood chips, mulch) and feed on organic matter. They sometimes wander in search of moisture or

a better place to live and will enter houses. They cannot live inside because it is too dry and will curl up and die within a few days.

Most of these insects do not survive very well inside, so non-toxic methods like vacuuming and trapping with sticky traps work well. The best and most permanent method of prevention is to seal cracks and crevices. (BPO)

Commitment to Learning

With each day, we all need to learn something new. It is an internal asset that helps us grow and maintain our physical, emotional, and mental health. We learn from each experience we encounter in life. For children's sake, it is important to model a personal desire for learning and a commitment to continued growth. When children see parents involved in life-long learning, they are

likely to be more motivated to learn in school, to complete homework, have a desire to excel and to read for personal pleasure. Some ideas to instill a commitment to learning in your children include:

Talk to children about your perspective on education.

Make sure every child has a library card and use them frequently.

Play board games together.

Limit TV viewing.
Visit a bookstore.
Visit your child's school.
Let your children teach you something new each day.
Have a family reading hour.

Establish a regular time every evening for homework.

Praise children for perseverance and sticking to a task until it is completed or the problem solved. (LJ)



MANAGEMENT

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operation? Could the available labor at cultivation time be used in some other enterprise such as putting up hay in a more timely manner? What is the environmental benefit of applying half as much herbicide worth to you personally?

This is a just one example of thousands of management decisions producers make every year, each choice having an affect, to some extent, on the overall operation. Most choices must be made quickly without much time to mull over the alternatives. However, the more informed a person is, the easier it is to make the "right" deci-

sions, even those which appear to be made quickly.

In keeping with my belief, the best choices are those based on sound information. I would like to call your attention to the many extension programs offered. The staff in the Lancaster County office are currently in the process of organizing educational programs and setting the agenda for the coming winter season. We would like to hear about any programming requests or ideas you feel would be beneficial to the people of this area. Once we set the agenda, the programs will be promoted in this newsletter.

Watch for the announcements and plan to attend those you feel will give you the little extra knowledge that will help you remain competitive.

We also maintain an extensive catalog of extension publications in the office and we have many links to information via our web pages. We would be happy to help you locate whatever resources you need so you can make the kind of informed choices that will help you make the "right" choices. (TD)