



## Farm Views

### Are You Looking for the Latest Wheat Variety Test Results?



Internet users have access to University of Nebraska variety test results as soon as the data is compiled by accessing it on the World Wide Web. The Lancaster County Extension Web Pages provide a convenient link to this information from the Nebraska Production Agriculture pages. Simply access the Ag/Acreage home page at <http://lanaster.unl.edu/ag/> then click on the Crops button under blue state of Nebraska icon (Nebraska Production Agriculture). On the Crops page, click on Small grains, then on "2001 - Nebraska Fall-Sown Small Grain Variety Tests." The wheat testing site results are listed individually or one may select a map of testing sites and click on the locations of interest. (TD)

### Sprayer Nozzle Tip Selection Fact Sheet Available

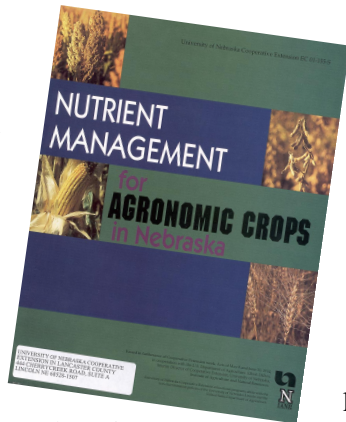
Have you ever had to buy a set of sprayer tips but weren't sure which material (brass, polymer, stainless steel, etc.) to buy? Do you know how to pick a set of nozzles that will apply 20 gallons per acre, with nozzles spaced every 20 inches on the boom, while traveling 5 mph and at a pressure that will give full coverage while keeping spray drift to a minimum?

A new Lancaster County Extension in-house fact sheet on Sprayer Nozzle Tip Selection has been developed to help with these and other questions. This fact sheet discusses how to select spray tip materials that will provide optimum wear life as well as which tip(s) will provide the output capacity, spray coverage, and drift management required for the situation. Mathematical equations useful for selecting nozzles, calculating output, correcting pressure, etc. are also presented. Ask for In-house fact sheet 289-01. (TD)

### Nutrient Management Guide for Crops Published

The University of Nebraska has published a comprehensive nutrient management guide that deserves to be in the library of every crop producer. This 166 page guide, extension circular EC 01-155-S contains in-depth information on N, P, K, Ca and Mg, S, micronutrients, pH, and liming, manure and organic residual management, Soil testing and nutrient recommendations. It also contains specific fertility management recommendations for: corn, winter wheat, grain and silage sorghum, oats and spring grains, alfalfa, dry edible beans, soybeans, sugar beets, sunflower, millet, grass pastures and haylands, popcorn, and potatoes.

I personally have read through this guide and would say, unequivocally, that it is the most complete and useful source of fertility and nutrient management information written for crop producers that I have seen in my 25 years as a professional working in agriculture. The guide can be picked up at the Extension office. This publication sells for \$25.00. (TD)



### TREES

*continued from page 2*

and grapefruit) are seven to eight feet tall and create tree-like shapes as they branch freely to develop a full crown of foliage. Their waxy, bright green leaves are several inches long and remain on the plants all year. Under the right cultural conditions these plants may produce creamy white, sweet-scented flowers and colorful, edible fruit. Like all flowering plants, citrus need plenty of sun, so putting

them in an eastern or southern window works well. They need to be kept warm in the winter with temperatures between 62 and 72 degrees Fahrenheit.

If you have a vacant corner or bare wall, consider one of these large foliage plants to add color, variety and interest during the year. When summer arrives, these indoor trees can be moved to your outdoor living space, where they will benefit from the additional light and humidity while you enjoy their color and beauty. (MJF)

## Safety Should Always Come First

Farming is one of the most dangerous occupations in the state of Nebraska. Youth and adults need to be careful and cautious when operating, maintaining, or moving equipment and machinery not only in the field, but also around the farmstead and buildings. Working with animals can also be very dangerous as there are many injuries every year caused by animals. Dave Morgan, the University of Nebraska Safety Specialist, has several tips for staying safe while working on the farm.

### Be especially careful when children are around:

- Before moving vehicles, equipment, or animals walk around and make sure children aren't nearby.
- Establish safe play areas for older children, which lessens the likelihood of being suffocated while playing in grain bins or watching moving grain or being trampled when moving animals.
- Don't let kids ride in tractors or combines unless the equipment has a buddy seat and

seatbelt. Also don't allow small children in animal pens unsupervised.

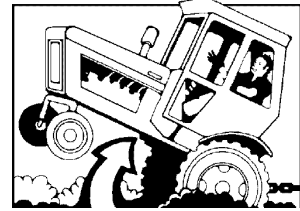
- Auger and machinery entanglement is common among 5 to 10-year-olds, so teach them not to approach operating machinery.

- To avoid overturns, older children should be taught safe operation skills. These same children should be instructed on animal behavior and proper animal handling techniques. Reinforce safety practices often.

### Encourage other adults to stay safe:

- About 25 percent of adult victims aren't discovered for more than two hours after an accident occurs. Carry a cellular phone or two-way radio, and stay updated on family members' or co-workers' work schedules and intended locations.
- Always call 911 before attempting to rescue someone. Never enter confined spaces without proper ventilation, a

lifeline and someone holding the lifeline who is prepared to pull the rescuer out. Confined spaces include well and manure pits, silos, grain bins, cisterns, some animal pens and storage tanks.



### Make sure machinery is well-maintained:

- Repair or replace damaged guards and shields, gates, fences and chutes.
- To prevent high-pressure injection injuries, replace damaged hydraulic hoses and fittings.
- Check power take-off shaft shields for proper function and make sure the tractor's master shield is in place and works properly.

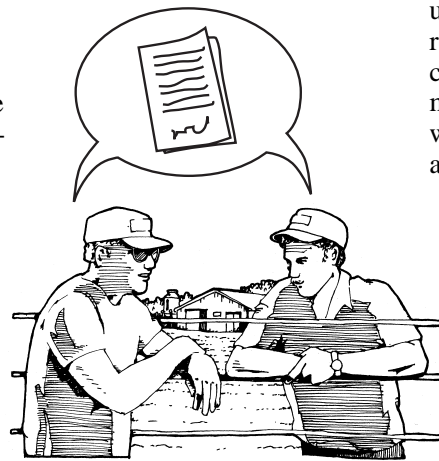
The extension office has several publications that address farm and animal safety for youth and adults. For more information on farm safety please contact Lance Cummins-Brown at the Lancaster County extension office at 441-7180 or e-mail at [lbrown4@unl.edu](mailto:lbrown4@unl.edu). (LCB)

## Terminating Farm Leases

The turnover rate for rental land is very small in Nebraska, averaging about eight percent each year. Surveys show that the average landlord-tenant relationship lasts 15 years. However, due to various circumstances or changes in plans, occasionally a landowner or tenant may opt to terminate a lease. The timing and actions necessary to terminate a lease is dependent on whether the lease is written or oral.

Oral leases are legally presumed to be year-to-year leases. A year-to-year lease has no fixed time period and is automatically renewed for another year until proper notice has been given to the tenant by the landowner that the lease is terminated. Most farm leases in Nebraska are unwritten year-to-year leases.

For year-to-year leases, the Nebraska Supreme Court has ruled that the lease year begins on March 1. Notice to a tenant to vacate under an oral year-to-year lease (legally referred to as



a "notice to quit") must be given six months in advance of the end of the lease, or no later than August 31.

Written leases are in effect only for the period specified in the lease itself, which could be one year, five years, etc. For written leases, no notice is required from the landlord to the tenant that the lease will not be renewed unless the lease specifically states that notice of termination is required. Unless it contains a renewal clause, the lease automatically terminates at the end of the lease period. The tenant generally has no right to have a written lease renewed

unless the lease contains a renewal clause. If a tenant continues farming the land by mutual consent after the end of a written lease but without signing a new written lease, a year-to-year lease is automatically established by implication. On holdover leases, the lease date is established by when the lease began in the original written lease rather than automatically being March 1.

A written lease is generally preferable to a verbal lease because it provides a written record of the lease provisions. In addition, the March-to-February lease year for year-to-year leases may not be appropriate for fall-planted crops.

For more information about farm lease termination, talk to an attorney or refer to NF 91-42 Farm Lease Termination by Dr. David Aiken, Extension Water and Agricultural Law Specialist. This publication is available only from the University of Nebraska - IANR website at: <http://www.ianr.unl.edu/pubs/farmmgmt/nf42.htm>. Source NF 91-42. (TD)

### VEGETABLES

*continued from page 2*

buttery yellow or cream. This color change is more noticeable on the dark green skinned varieties. In addition, the fruit tends to lose its slick appearance on the top and become dull when ripe. Thumping or tapping the melon is generally not a good indicator of ripeness. The browning of the curled tendril attached to the vine near the melon is also not reliable. In some varieties the tendril may

turn brown 7 to 10 days before the melon is ripe.

**SUMMER SQUASH-** Zucchini and scallop squash should be harvested when young and tender. Harvest zucchini, crookneck and straight neck squash when 2 inches in diameter and 4 to 8 inches long. Scallop types are best harvested when they are 3 inches in diameter.

**SPAGHETTI SQUASH-** Harvest spaghetti squash when the fruit changes color from ivory white to golden yellow.

### WINTER SQUASH-

Squash are mature the skin is firm and glossy. A thumbnail will not easily penetrate a mature fruit. The portion of the fruit resting on the ground will be cream to orange in color.

**PUMPKIN-**Harvest pumpkins when they are fully colored and skins have hardened enough to resist puncture by thumbnail. Harvest before killing frost.

**SWEET POTATO-**Harvest in late fall after first light frost. (MJF)