



Scott Young of the Food Bank of Lincoln inspects an Indian meal moth pheromone trap, which Lancaster Extension helped set up.

## The Buzz on Controlling Insects and Other Pests

Who are you going to call when you have a pest in your home or yard? Animal Control? Except for a few select animals such as dogs, cats, skunks or bats, Animal Control refers callers to University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension in Lancaster County!

Lancaster residents access extension's extensive pest management resources via the phone, the Web site, workshops, various publications or by bringing specimens to the office for identification.

This past year, Lancaster Extension purchased a digital microscope to assist with insect identification and for use in developing publications.

Lancaster Extension works increasingly with community organizations and professionals in disseminating pest control resources and assistance. Some of these agencies are Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department, Lincoln Public Schools and Lincoln Housing Authority.

Educators in other counties, states

and universities are using materials developed by Lancaster Extension staff. *The Cockroach Control Manual* was written as a reference for the Cockroach Combat Workshop, but more than 786 copies have been sold and thousands of people have accessed the information free on the Internet. K Sharpe of Cornell University wrote, "I examined your manual on the Web and find it to be one of the best references on cockroach control ever done. I was a professional pest control operator for five years and have never seen such a clear and concise presentation of cockroach control information."

Real estate licensees can receive continuing education credits from the Nebraska Real Estate Commission by attending termite workshops led by Lancaster Extension staff and held in cities throughout eastern Nebraska. Termite in-service trainings are also held across the state

for other Extension Educators. A manual, *Subterranean Termites: A Handbook for Homeowners*, was updated this past year for use by homeowners.

Lancaster Extension's entomology staff also provides workshops to farmers and agribusiness professionals regarding crop insect pests.

In addition to insects, Lancaster Extension provides pest management education on wildlife and other animals.



This image of a varied carpet beetle larva was taken with extension's new digital microscope for an in-house fact sheet and the Web site.



### Extension Helps Food Bank Pinpoint Source of Moths

Last year, the Food Bank of Lincoln had a serious Indian meal moth infestation in their warehouse. They contacted Lancaster Extension for information, which led to an on-site inspection by Extension Educator Barb Ogg. She recommended the purchase of nontoxic Indian meal moth pheromone traps and showed food bank staff how to locate infestations using a triangulation method. Two separate infestations were eventually located and controlled.

The Lincoln Food Bank now routinely uses pheromone traps as a monitoring tool for early detection of moth infestations. Executive Director Scott Young says, "We monitor the traps weekly to prevent future infestations, thanks to extension. What great use of a resource — to the benefit of everyone."

### Head Lice Video Gains Attention



*Removing Head Lice*

*Safely* is an 8-minute video developed last year by Lancaster Extension staff in cooperation with other partners. This video is available free on the Web and is the most requested video on 5 City-TV. It has aired on Lincoln Cable Channel more than 20 times per month. 1,000 copies of the video have been sold to educators, health care workers, cosmetologists and parents. Lincoln Public Schools have asked to have the video translated into other languages — translations into Spanish and Arabic are underway.

Lincoln Public Schools reports a 70 percent reduction in head lice cases and Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department reports a 57.7 percent reduction in public health cases.



A still from the educational video, *Turf Establishment and Renovation*, developed by Lancaster Extension Educator Don Janssen (left) and Douglas Extension Educator John Fech (right).

## Horticulture Programs Growing in Depth and Outreach

Cooperative Extension plays a vital role in teaching the community about horticulture issues customized for local weather, water, soil and pest conditions.

In 2001, Cooperative Extension in Lancaster horticulture staff:

- Answered more than 6,500 telephone calls
- Presented 86 educational programs to groups and through other venues such as home and garden shows
- Disseminated information through the media, such as

"Garden Gossip," a weekly column in the *Lincoln Journal Star*; *Backyard Farmer* on Nebraska ETV; *Lincoln Live* on KFOR radio; and Lancaster Extension's Horticulture Web pages

- Diagnosed problems via samples brought to the extension office or on-site

Lancaster Extension Educator Don Janssen teams with Douglas County Extension Educator John Fech to provide

Commercial Horticulture Clinics to educate employees in the horticulture industry about plant identification, problems and care of those plants. These employees are then able to pass this knowledge on to customers.

This year, Janssen and Fech developed two educational videos, *Turf Establishment & Renovation* and *Rose Culture and Care*. These videos will be used as training tools for the commercial horticulture industry and will be available for use at conferences and television broadcasts.



Darren Binder demonstrates screening compost through a 1/2-inch screen.

### Composting Demonstrations Teach Community to Recycle Yard Waste

Lancaster Extension collaborated with the City of Lincoln Recycling Office to develop, establish and maintain a composting demonstration site at University Place Park, 50th and Colby Streets.

Last year 18 hands-on composting presentations were

conducted throughout Lincoln to teach citizens how to successfully compost yard waste in their own backyards. 920 residents attended these presentations.

The demonstration site has an informal, self-guided tour which an estimated 5,000 residents participated in.

Lancaster Extension also educates the public on the benefits of mulching through a "Bag-No-More" grass clippings campaign.

The City of Lincoln Recycling Office estimates these educational programs will extend the life of the present landfill by 3 to 5 years over the next 25 years.

### Volunteers Tend To Master Gardener Program

The Master Gardener Training Program is a volunteer program where people are given training by University of Nebraska personnel and then in return provide 40 hours of volunteer time to educational extension programs such as:

- Answering horticulture phone calls
- Presenting educational

- programs and workshops
- Assisting in 4-H and other youth programs
- Establishing and maintaining community beautification projects

Extension Associate Mary Jane Frogge coordinates the Master Gardener program for Lancaster Extension.

The City of Lincoln Parks and

Recreation Department offer support to the Master Gardener trainings and in return, Master Gardeners provide educational information at public gardens.

In 2001, 40 Lancaster County Master Gardeners logged 1,868



Master Gardeners receive training (above) in exchange for volunteering their time to extension programs.

volunteer hours and had 9,693 direct clientele contacts.