



Community Focus

Pollution Prevention Interns Assist Nebraska Businesses



This summer Sarah Anderson is working out of the Lancaster County Extension

and auto repair shops. Their goals are to reduce pollution and potentially save money. During the ten-week program, interns bring informational updates about new technologies and products to participating business owners, assess their work situations, and provide them with a detailed report on how to conserve resources.

In addition to working with small businesses, the interns will speak to several community groups about the benefits of pollution prevention. They also have the opportunity to work with businesses and apply the techniques learned during the

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Office as a pollution prevention (P2) intern. A senior biological systems engineering major at UNL, she is originally from Omaha and graduated from Omaha Central High School. The Partners in Pollution Prevention internship program is offered through UNL and provides no-cost assistance to small businesses and industries in Nebraska. Interns work with businesses such as farm cooperatives, dry cleaners, print shops,

Your Child and Self-Care

LaDeane Jha
Extension Educator

When are kids old enough to take care of themselves? How do we structure time alone for older kids during time out of school and during the summer? How to ensure safety, while allowing self-care? These are questions many parents struggle with as their children grow older and no longer need full time day-care.

The reasons for deciding upon self-care are many and no two situations are exactly alike. While it is never appropriate for children to be in self-care at very young ages, there is varied opinion about when a child is old enough. Most experts say the maturity level and self-confidence of the child is most important. Once you have made a decision about self-care, it is important to involve your family in figuring out how to make self-care work for your child and for you.

Rules and limitations on

behavior play an important role in the development of children and help to build feelings of security when children are in self-care. Children need to know exactly what is expected of them and what they can expect of others. Usually it is most helpful if parents and children can work together to set house rules and determine which chores need to be completed, where to go or whom to call for help, and how to handle emergency situations. Some topics that may need to be discussed include:

May friends come over? If yes, how often? Who? How long can they stay? Do arrangements need to be made in advance?

May your children go to a friend's house? If yes, how late may they stay? May they go if no adult is present at the other house? Do you need to be contacted first for permission or to know where the child will be?

May the telephone be used? Is there a time limit for each call? Is there a limit on the number of calls per day or to

whom calls can be made? Are you to be called daily? What time? Can you be reached in case of an emergency? Should you be called for help on things like arguments?

Which appliances may a child use? Are certain appliances off limits?

What may be eaten? May the stove be used? The toaster? The microwave?

May the children play outside? How far can they go? Are they permitted to walk to playgrounds, stores or friends houses?

Do they have chores to do? When are they to be done? Who will assign them? May children trade chores?

What time will you be home? Will you call if you are going to be late?

Once you've decided on the rules, rehearse them with your child and then clearly post the rules your family has agreed on and make sure children under-

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Little Salt Valley Planning Cooperative Begins Collaborative Planning... Next Meeting Scheduled July 23, 2001 at Raymond Public School, 3:30-5:00 p.m.

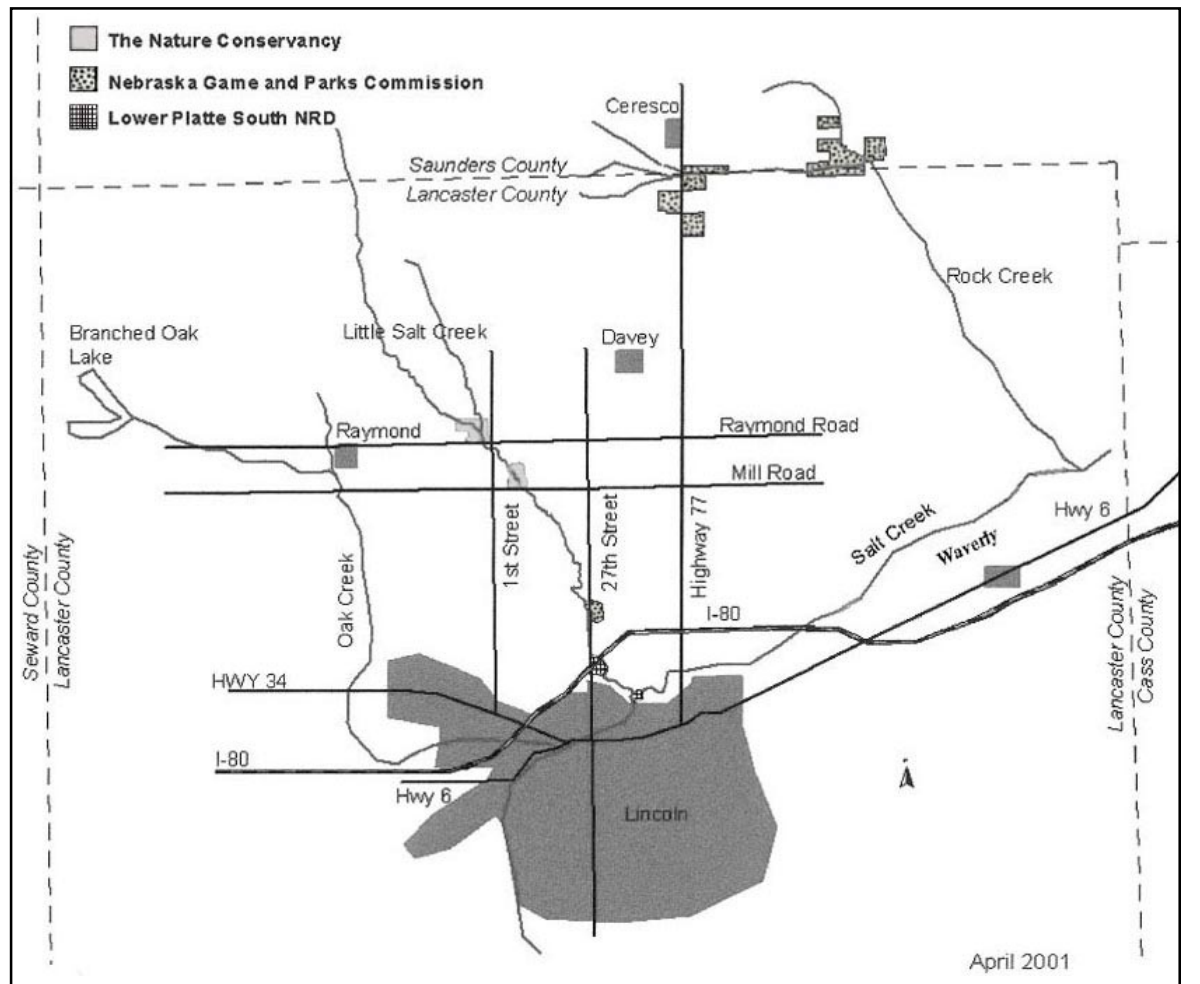
The Little Salt Valley Planning Cooperative is a group composed of landowners, representatives of public and private agencies and organizations, and interested individuals who are participants in a collaborative planning initiative for the Little Salt Creek Watershed. The watershed is the site of a unique environment of saline marshes and home to the Salt Creek tiger beetle. The purpose of the initiative is to develop a community-based action plan for the watershed because of concerns with growth along the

North 27 street corridor and Interstate 80. The process was originally hosted by The Nature Conservancy through a series of public meetings in the summer of 2000. The consensus of the third of three meetings was to complete a formal process for community-based plan for the future of the watershed. The Nature Conservancy and Nebraska Game and Parks provided funding and convened a steering committee.

The initiative was divided into two phases. The purpose of phase one, the preliminary

planning, was to identify and interview stakeholders, that is, anyone interested in what is going to happen in the Little Salt Creek watershed and to identify their issues, concerns, and ideas for this watershed. Three public events were held in May 2001 to invite participation, present preliminary findings, and provide displays from local public and private agencies. Flyers were mailed to the 592 addresses in the watershed and announcements were made in

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Sief Mahagoub—New Intern for Extension Office

Sief Mahagoub joined the Lancaster County Extension office on July 5. He will be working on a part-time basis with Cooperative Extension staff on educational programs directed to minority populations and newly arrived refugees and immigrants of Lincoln. Sief is the co-founder of the African Multi-Cultural Community Center, board member to the Lincoln Literacy Council, and a member of the Lincoln Journal Star Diversity Council. Fluent in Arabic and Japanese, he is also a member of the Sudanese Community and Faces of the Middle East of Lincoln.

Originally from Sudan, Africa, Sief has BA and MA degrees from Cairo University, Cairo, Egypt. (GB)