

The NEBLINE

Nebraska Cooperative Extension Newsletter
Lancaster County



THE NEBLINE is published monthly by:
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All programs and events listed in this newsletter will be held (unless noted otherwise) at:

Lancaster Extension Education Center
444 Cherrycreek Rd., Rooms A-C (event rooms posted)
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Extension Calendar

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

NOVEMBER

- Nov. 14 Horse VIPS Meeting 7 p.m.
- Nov. 15 **AMERICA RECYCLES DAY**
Fair Board Meeting (Lancaster Event Center) 7:30 p.m.
- Nov. 18-24 **NATIONAL FAMILY WEEK**
- Nov. 27 Pet Pals Club Meeting 7 p.m.

DECEMBER

- Dec. 3 Crop Rental Meeting 1-4 p.m.
- Dec. 4 4-H Council Meeting 7 p.m.
- Dec. 9 4-H Ambassador Meeting 2 p.m.
- Dec. 9 4-H Teen Council Meeting 3-5 p.m.
- Dec. 14 Extension Board Meeting 8 a.m.

Crop Rental Meeting Will Address Trends and Details to Consider

In many counties in Nebraska, more than 60 percent of the cropland is rented. Share leasing is still the predominant type of agreement in the state, but various forms of cash leasing are becoming more popular. Cash leases represent about 40 percent of the crop leases in the state.

A number of details should be considered when developing a lease agreement. These include: land ownership costs, crop production costs, federal farm program benefits, the market value of the crops produced and

the relative risks of the two parties in the agreement.

Lancaster County Extension will host a rental arrangements seminar on Dec. 3 from 1-4 p.m. The workshop will present information on the current trends in rental agreements and the essential elements to include when developing a fair and equitable agreement. Examples will be calculated for local conditions, including an opportunity to budget specific case situations.

Topics to be covered include:

- Current cash rental rates.
- Common share agreements.
- Principles for fair and equitable leases.
- Keys to maintaining good landowner-tenant relationships.
- How to adjust rental agreements.

The presenters include Nebraska University Extension farm management specialists Roger Selley and Doug Jose.

For more information about the crop rental arrangements workshop, call 441-7180 and ask for Tom Dorn. (TD)

Recycling: An Important Part of Local Solid Waste Management

Gene Hanlon
City of Lincoln Recycling
Coordinator

Each week, households across Lincoln and Lancaster County, perform the same ritual. We take the trash out of our homes and watch it magically disappear.

We don't give it much thought, but a lot of planning and organization goes into this simple task. Each day hundreds of people climb into expensive trucks to collect your waste and take it to a disposal facility, designed and managed by the City of Lincoln, to protect the health and safety of our residents.

The City also has spent millions of dollars to offer non-disposal programs such as recycling, composting, household hazardous waste programs and pollution prevention programs to serve residents in Lincoln and Lancaster County. Our solid waste management system is very complex and offers many services to our residents.

Over the past decade, recycling has become a very important part of our solid waste management system. A network of private recyclers provide county residents the opportunity to recycle scrap metals, paper and cardboard from businesses, as well as, household recyclables. Each year, these private firms recycle more than 107,000 tons of material. In addition, contractors in the county recycle concrete and asphalt. More than 230,000 tons of concrete and



asphalt is recycled each year.

Roughly 55,500 tons of material were recycled last fiscal year through public sponsored programs. These include the city's biosolids land application program which spreads roughly 24,225 tons of wastewater residuals on farm ground as a municipal fertilizer. Another 24,950 tons of material were composted or ground into wood chips last year. The recycling drop-off program recycled 6,187 tons of material last fiscal year.

When public and private sector recycling programs are added together, close to 50 percent of the waste generated in Lincoln and Lancaster County is being recycled. If only traditional recyclables are considered and the construction and demolition debris and the wastewater biosolids are not included, roughly 28 percent of Lincoln's solid waste is being recycled.

Recycling benefits our community a number of ways. Since 1992, public sector recycling efforts have saved 1.3 million cubic yards of landfill space. This amount represents a savings of more than 2.75 years in the landfill's life. The value of

landfill space in the Bluff Road Landfill is estimated at \$11.90 per cubic yard. This translates to savings to the City and County of over \$15.5 million. If our current level of recycling is continued over the remaining 21-year life of the landfill, another 5.75 years will be added to the landfill life.

Recycling also provides intangible benefits. For example, producing one ton of paper from discarded waste paper uses 70 percent less energy, half the water, and results in 74 percent less air pollution and 35 percent less water pollution, saves 17 pulp trees, reduces solid waste going to landfills and creates five times more jobs than producing a ton of paper from virgin wood pulp.

As a result of local recycling programs, less waste is being hauled out to the curb each week and transported to the landfill. Last fiscal year, about 2,320 pounds of waste per person was disposed of, compared to about 2,485 pounds of waste per person a decade ago. This represents a decrease of 6.8 percent in the per capita disposal rate. This decline is directly related to a reduction in the amount of waste generated through recycling, household hazardous waste and pollution prevention programs.

A number of publications, brochures and videos are available through Lincoln's Solid Waste Operations. For more information, call the Recycling Office at 441-8215 or browse the website at www.ci.lincoln.ne.us/city/pworks/waste/recycle.



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