



## Community & Home Living

### STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

#### Pollution-Prevention Interns Assist Lincoln Businesses

Several area businesses this summer have received no-cost assistance to reduce pollution and potentially save money.

The assistance was offered over 11 weeks this summer by Beth Fry and Gabriel Hodill, summer interns working out of the Lancaster County Cooperative Extension. After completing a University of Nebraska-Lincoln civil engineering course, "Pollution Prevention — Principles and Practice," the interns brought informational updates about new technologies and products to participating business owners, as well as assessed their work situations and provide them with a detailed report on how to conserve resources. Information about the businesses is confidential.

Gabriel Hodill, from Columbia, Missouri, is a senior in Biological-Environmental Engineering at the University of Missouri-Columbia. Beth Fry, from Columbus, Nebraska, is a senior in Biological Systems Engineering at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Gabriel and Beth enjoyed being able to increase environmental awareness by speaking to several civic groups within the community this summer.

Waste awareness often



Gabriel Hodill (left) and Beth Fry (right)

comes only after someone has had the time and inclination to study the situation and point out more efficient ways of doing things, said Bruce Dvorak, a UNL engineering associate professor and intern adviser. The internship provided this opportunity. The interns have worked with businesses such as farm cooperatives, dry cleaners, print shops, auto repair shops and more. If all 229 Nebraska businesses that have participated in the program had followed all intern recommendations, Dvorak said, each year they could potentially save as much as \$2.9 million, divert 21 million pounds of solid waste from the landfill and avoid generating 32,000 gallons of hazardous material.

Partners in Pollution Prevention internships are sponsored by The University of Nebraska, the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality and the Environmental Protection Agency Region VII. For more information about the program, contact Dvorak at 472-3431. (GH/BF)

#### Arlene Hanna and earth wellness festival Receive Ventures In Partnership Awards

Arlene Hanna, extension associate in 4-H/Youth Development, and earth wellness festival (ewf) were recognized at the annual Ventures in Partnerships (VIP) Kickoff on Aug. 15.

ewf is a yearlong school curriculum with a one-day festival offering 5th graders hands-on experiences to discover the interdependency of land, water, air and living resources.

Arlene's leadership in the 4-H School Enrichment program and ewf were highlighted as she received an award for volunteering over 1,000 hours in Lincoln Public



Arlene Hanna, ewf co-chair

Schools (LPS). ewf received a special honor for achieving over 5,000 volunteer hours during the past school year. "It is a pleasure to associate with Ventures in Partnerships and the Lincoln Public Schools," Arlene said. "4-H School Enrichment and ewf educate around 18,500 youth annually in five different programs. We are honored to be a part of the core curriculum of the Lincoln Public Schools."

The VIP program was established to foster cooperation between LPS and area businesses and organizations.

## Lancaster Extension Embarks on New Neighborhoods Project

### Why NWT?

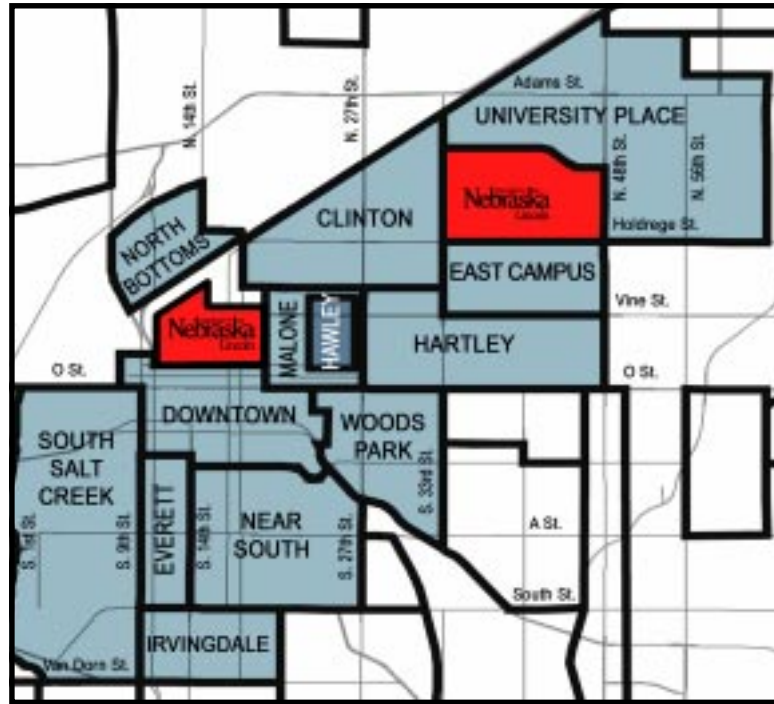
**Neighbors Working Together** (NWT) is about neighborhood leadership. Strong neighborhoods nurture families and ultimately strengthen the larger community.

**Neighbors Working Together** creates a supportive network facilitating leadership and collaboration across neighborhoods adjacent to the University of Nebraska. The project works to strengthen relationships between the university and those neighborhoods through improved communications and cooperation.

### Program Objectives

Through monthly meetings, neighborhood workshops, leadership training, needs assessments and collaboration with other groups, **Neighbors Working Together**:

- Offers university technical assistance and leadership training based on needs identified by the neighborhoods.
- Facilitates ways for neighborhoods to collaborate and share concerns, resources, and ideas.
- Helps neighborhoods identify emergent leaders and develop a dynamic capacity to lead effectively.



Participating neighborhoods. Note: Hawley Neighborhood overlaps Malone Neighborhood.

- Encourages neighborhood and university commitment to community-based action.
- Improves relationships between the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and adjacent neighborhoods.

federally funded grant through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

For more information on NWT, contact: Extension Educator Dr. LaDeane R. Jha or Graduate Assistant William Manzi Freitas at UNL Cooperative Extension in Lancaster County, 444 Cherrycreek Road, Suite A, Lincoln, NE 68528. Phone: 441-7180.

**Neighbors Working Together** (NWT) is one of four projects in the **Community Outreach Partnership Center's (COPC)** program, a

## 2002 Nebraska Pioneer Farm Awards

Farm families whose land has been owned by members of the same family for 100 years or more were recognized at the 47th Annual Nebraska Pioneer Farm Awards program presented during the 2002 Lancaster County Fair. Sponsored by the Knights of Ak-Sar-Ben Foundation and the Nebraska Association of Fair Managers, the program has honored nearly 6,000 families in 93 Nebraska counties at various county fairs.

Honoree's received an engraved plaque and a gatepost marker as permanent recognition of this milestone.

This year's Lancaster County honorees are:

- Melvin and Linda Deinert, Lincoln (family farm located west of Lincoln)
- Harold and Verna Deinert, Lincoln (family farm located west of Lincoln)
- Diane Gropp, Crete (family farm located near Sprague)

- Stephen and Georgia Kratochvil, Raymond
- Ronald and Linda Meyer, Hallam
- Brad Moser, Hallam
- Ray and Marian Mulder, Firth
- J. Steve Nordstrom, Waverly
- Marcelene Rolofson and Orpha Faye Holland, Lincoln (family farm located near Raymond)
- Gladys Wright, Phoenix, AZ (family farm located near Waverly)

## Lead Is a Hazard, Especially for Kids

Why is lead a hazard? Lead poisoning is one of the most serious health threats for children in and around the home. Lead may cause learning and behavior problems. It may damage hearing and the nervous system, including the brain.

One in nine American children have an elevated blood-lead level. In 1990, between 6 and 12 million U.S. children were estimated as exposed to lead in house dust and soil (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services 1991). More recently, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimated almost one million U.S. children age 1-5 have elevated blood lead levels, and more than one-fifth of African-American children living in housing built before 1946 have elevated blood lead levels (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 1997).

A primary reason for elevated blood lead level is lead-based paint from older homes. Most homes built before 1960 contain leaded paint. Some homes built as recently as 1978 may also contain lead paint. This paint could be on window frames, walls, the outside of homes or other surfaces.

Lead may also be found in soil around the home or in drinking water. Lead-contaminated soil is a problem when children play outdoors or when soil is tracked inside the home. Soils may be contaminated by flaking, peeling or chalking lead-based paint that follows the "drip line" of the house.

Most well or city water does not naturally contain lead. Water usually picks up lead inside your home from household plumbing made with lead materials. Boiling the water will not reduce the

amount of lead.

Lead paint in good condition is not usually a problem except in places where painted surfaces rub against each other and create dust. For example, when you open a window, the painted surfaces rub against each other.

If your home has lead-based paint hire a person with special training for correcting lead problems if you are doing remodeling or paint is flaking. It is best not to remove lead paint yourself. Sanding or scraping generates large amounts of lead dust which can cause health problems if not done correctly.

Precautions to take to protect children from lead poisoning are:

- Keep areas where children play as dust-free and clean as possible.