

NFBA

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places where their particular costs are out of line. By reevaluating expenses in those specific areas, they might find ways to trim expenses and thus improve profitability. For example: if fertilizer expense is higher than the top 33 percent group, one might want to visit with their extension educator about their fertilizer program to see if they can cut down on expense without hurting yield.

In the summary report for 2001, Bredenstener reports, "Production efficiency continues to be the biggest difference between the high profit 1/3 and the average. The top operators find a way to accomplish the difficult task of controlling costs while maintaining production."

The NFBA is currently accepting new memberships. Call the NFBA office at (402) 472-1399 to request an informational brochure and enrollment form. Membership fees are based on level of services desired and size of operation. For fee information, call the NFBA office. Printed copies of the 65-page summary report books are available for \$30 from the NFBA office, 110 Mussehl Hall, Lincoln, NE 68583-0719.



BARLEY STRAW

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we haven't had a local supply. Even so, we get a number of calls from pond owners each year asking where they can buy barley straw for algae control. I talked with one person who had driven over 400 miles round trip to buy a few bales from a grower in west central Nebraska. They intend to use it for a pond in a horse pasture. I will be monitoring their success this year."

Johnson plans to market bales measuring 14 x 16 x 18 inches for algae control. The smaller sized bale will have more surface area per pound of straw to react with the water as compared to full-sized hay bales. He is still exploring marketing

venues for his product. One avenue being explored is wholesaling quantities to garden centers and farm supply stores in the metro area. He is also making plans to market the straw directly to consumers.

Since the straw must be submerged at the right depth to be effective, Johnson is planning to offer a complete package, including the straw bales, tether ropes, anchor weights and floats to keep the straw at the optimum distance below the water surface even when it becomes water-logged. The straw will need to be replaced each spring but the anchoring system should be reusable for several years. "The small bales will be easier to handle and will allow the user to distribute the straw more uniformly through the pond," Johnson said. "They can buy the complete package or they can buy only the straw bales and design their own anchoring system."

For more information about algae control in ponds, see "Controlling Algae in Ponds and Lakes" on p. 4 of this issue. (TD)



CARPENTER ANTS

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and put back together again (even if you have brick or stone). Carpenter ants are not smart enough to know that your home is not a tree and that the ants should only build their nests in the tree in your yard. If your home has suitable nest sites, the carpenter ants take advantage of those just like they would in any tree.

To prevent carpenter ants from nesting in your home, keep your home in good repair. Are there places on your home where the wood is damaged (usually by water) and rotting? Does your home have gutters and are they in good repair? Is the roof older or leaking? What about windows and doors? Do you have or have you had plumbing problems inside your home? All of these conditions make it possible for wood to become damaged, start rotting and eventually create a potential

site for carpenter ants to nest in your home.

For more information on carpenter ants and treating a colony on your home, visit <http://lancaster.unl.edu>. This Web site offers educational resources in both audio and print. You can also pick up the free educational resource, "Carpenter Ants" (004) at the extension office. (SC)



WATER IN IRAQ

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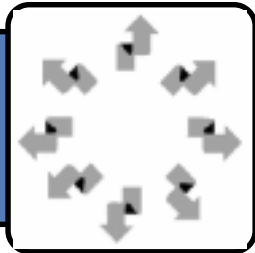
Al-Hamar marsh. The Tigris is the second longest river in southwest Asia at 1,840 kilometers. It has its springs in Turkey, but the main contribution to the river comes from the tributaries in Iraq. These tributaries are: the Greater Zab, the Lesser Zab, Al-Ashaim and Diyala. The average annual runoff as it enters Iraq is estimated at 21.2 cubic kilometers. Extensive irrigation and diversification canals remove around 70-80 percent of its water before joining the Euphrates. Before the confluence of the two rivers at the city of Qurna to form Shatt Al-Arab River which is only 190 kilometers and flows in the Persian Gulf, the Euphrates flows for about 1,000 kilometers and the Tigris for about 1,300 kilometers respectively within the Iraq territory. Many barrage or dam reservoirs existed at Samara, Dukan, Darband, Khan and Al-Qadisiyah on the Tigris River and Habbaniyah and Al-Hindya on the Euphrates.

The marsh lands region is situated in the south of the alluvial plain. This area which once covered 5,800-7,700 square miles have now shrunk to just 580-770 square miles. The vanishing of these vast wetland resources is attributable to two main causes: upstream dams and drainage schemes.

Ground water resources:

Good quality subterranean water has been found in the foothills of the mountains in the northeast of the country at a depth of 5-50 meters and in the area along the right bank of the Euphrates at a depth of 300 meters.

Miscellaneous



4-H Summer Camps

Open to all youth, 4-H and non 4-H

4-H Summer Camps held at the Eastern NE 4-H Center near Gretna are safe, educational and absolutely fun!!

Registrations are still being accepted. For more information call (402) 332-4496 or visit online at <http://4h.unl.edu>.



- Wet'n Wild I** June 17-19
- Wet'n Wild II** June 20-22
- Spotlight on Talents** June 24-26
- Boldly Bound** June 30-July 3
- Niobrara Trip** July 7-10
- First Timers** July 12-13
- Clover Kids Day** July 13
- Outdoor Skills** July 15-18
- High Adventure** July 29-Aug 1

2002 Household Hazardous Waste Collections

DATE & TIME	LOCATION
June 14 3-7 p.m.	Union College Parking Lot, North 52 and Cooper Street
June 15 9 a.m.-3 p.m.	Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department 3140 N Street
August 3 9 a.m.-3 p.m.	Nebraska Wesleyan University North 56 and Huntington Streets
September 21 9 a.m.-3 p.m.	Pfizer Inc. 601 W. Cornhusker Highway
October 19 9 a.m.-3 p.m.	Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department 3140 N Street
November 16 9 a.m.-3 p.m.	State Fair Park 4-H Youth Complex

ITEMS THAT YOU CAN BRING FOR DISPOSAL

- Heavy metals: items containing mercury such as thermometers and thermostats.
- Solvents: mineral spirits, turpentine, paint strippers and thinners, oil-based paints, varnishes, stains, polishes and waxes.
- Pesticides: weed killers, garden sprays, wood preservatives, roach powder, rat poisons. You may also bring EPA banned products, like DDT, chlordane, 2,4,5-T, pentachlorophenol, silvex, PCP and Dursban.
- PCB's: Ballasts from old fluorescent fixtures and capacitors from old appliances including radios, motors and televisions.

Leave products in their *original* container and keep the label intact. Open, leaking or rusted containers should be placed in a clear plastic bag during transport. Do not mix chemicals.

DO NOT BRING: latex paint, medicines, explosives or ammunition, fertilizers, used oil, general household trash, antifreeze or batteries.

These collections are for households only; not businesses. Only residents of Lincoln and Lancaster County can bring items to collections. For more specific information, call the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department at 441-8040.

This Lincoln High grad is designing her own Nebraska degree.



Emily Chen a marketing/merchandising major at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, didn't have to go far to find a unique opportunity to study both fashion and business. But when she graduates, she knows her Nebraska education can take her anywhere.

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