

Landfill Rates Haven't Changed Since 1996

Barb Ogg
Extension Educator

On March 17, 2003, Lincoln's City Council unanimously passed an amendment to the Lincoln Municipal Code which establishes an occupation tax of \$7 per ton on refuse and special waste collected within the city. It also applies to refuse collected outside the corporate limits and deposited in the Lincoln sanitary landfill. This occupation tax will only be collected from commercial refuse haulers.

The purpose of the occupation tax is to provide sufficient revenue to fund programs associated with solid waste management, such as recycling and composting programs, old landfill closure and the disposal of demolition debris. These waste management programs previously were funded by a portion of the landfill tipping fees. The occupation tax fairly assesses the cost of these programs to refuse haulers who may be taking waste generated in Lincoln to landfill sites outside of Lancaster County.

At the same time, the City Council reduced tipping fees at the North Bluff Road Landfill from \$17 to \$10 per ton. This \$10 per ton is what it actually costs to operate the landfill. For commercial waste haulers who bring their waste to the North Bluff Road Landfill, the total cost (\$10 tipping fee + \$7 occupation tax) is \$17. This total hasn't increased since 1996. Other fees for waste disposal have not increased.

Where Wastes Should Go

The City of Lincoln's Recycling Web site has information on recycling just about everything from aerosol cans to x-ray film. Check out



www.ci.lincoln.ne.us/city/pworks/waste/recycle/index.htm

Illegal Dumping

Let's keep our urban and rural areas looking nice. Report

any person dumping waste at recycling sites, city parks, county roads or on private property to the Sheriff at 441-6500 or Lincoln Police Department at 441-7204.

Landfill 2003 Fees

BLUFF ROAD

Solid Waste (waste haulers) (dollars per ton)	\$10.00 (tipping fee) + \$7.00 (occupation tax)
Solid Waste (non-waste hauler) (dollars per ton)	\$10.00
Yard Waste (dollars per ton)	\$15.75

48TH STREET TRANSFER STATION

Disposal fees

Pickup trucks and vans (each)	\$10.00
Small trailers (each)	\$10.00
Cars (each)	\$2.50
Pickups with trailers (each)	\$16.00
Cars with trailers (each)	\$12.50

Construction and Demolition Debris

Small vehicles (each)	\$4.00
Large vehicles (dollars per ton)	\$4.00

Additional Fees

Uncovered loads at North 48th Street (each)	\$3.00
Passenger tires (each)	\$3.00
Truck tires (each)	\$6.50
Heavy equipment tires (each)	\$11.50
Appliances (each)	\$5.50

About Opossums

- The opossum is North America's only marsupial mammal. The female has a pouch where she carries the babies until they are about 2-3 months old. After the young leave the pouch, the female carries them on her back for another 1-2 months.
- Opossum is derived from the Algonquin Indian word *apasum* meaning "white beast or animal."
- Opossums prefer to be alone and are mostly nocturnal (active at night) — although they can be seen shuffling about in the day time.
- Opossums are omnivores. They eat insects (including cockroaches!), snails, small rodents and snakes, dead animals, over-ripe fruit, leaves and vegetables. They also eat dog food, cat food and your food!
- Opossums live anywhere they

- can find food, water and a place for shelter. When climbing in trees, opossums use their tail to keep them stable—they do not just hang by their tails. Opossums feet are shaped somewhat like human hands with an opposable thumb on their hind feet.
- Common in rural areas, opossums are also found in urban and suburban neighborhoods. They move through backyards at night causing some grief to sleeping residents as neighborhood dogs bark to announce their presence.
- Opossums don't usually cause problems for homeowners or farmers. They are a nuisance when they raid garbage cans and get into pet food that has been left outdoors. You can easily solve these problems by using tight-fitting lids on trash containers,

- bring pet food inside at night and exclude them from your buildings.
- Opossums are more resistant to rabies than any other mammal. Humans are even more susceptible to rabies than opossums. Opossums do carry fleas, often the same fleas that infest cats and dogs. If you are foolish enough to grab an opossum, it will bite (opossums are, of course, wild animals).
- When an opossum is threatened, it shows its 50 teeth (the highest number of teeth in any mammal), growls, hisses, screeches — and if these things don't scare you off, the opossum may play dead.
- "Playing 'Possum" — opossums can appear dead when faced with danger. No amount of prodding, poking or shaking revives the animal.

WEST NILE VIRUS NEWS

Adult Mosquito Control

Recent West Nile Virus cases in Nebraska have resulted in questions from acreage owners and farmers about treating acreages or farmsteads for adult mosquitoes. In general, this type of treatment alone will take much effort with limited results unless treatments are repeated every day or two. Treating standing water or ponds with a larvicide, like *Bacillus thuringiensis* will be more helpful.

The most sensible and inexpensive way to prevent mosquito bites is to use an insect repellent, containing DEET (diethyl-toluamide). Products containing DEET are available in many concentrations that range from liquids to aerosols. It is even possible to purchase moist towelettes containing DEET that can be put in backpack, purse or glove box, just for emergencies. Be sure to read and follow label directions when using personal repellents.

It is legal for a acreage owner or farmer to apply general-use pesticides for adult mosquitoes on their private property. However, persons must be certified and licensed by the Department of Agriculture under certain conditions.

- They need to be certified and licensed if:
- They are hired to apply insecticide for adult mosquitoes in private or public areas or,
- They apply Restricted Use Pesticides or,
- They apply insecticides for adult mosquitoes as a condition of their employment.

For more information about pesticide certification and licensing, contact the Nebraska Department of Agriculture Pesticide Program at 471-2394.

The following information about controlling adult

mosquitoes comes from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Because most adult mosquito control is done by municipalities, it is written for that audience, but the information also applies to successful adult mosquito control on acreages and farmsteads.

"For adult control to be successful, insecticides must be applied under proper environmental conditions (e.g., temperature and wind) and at the time of day when the target species is most active. The applicator must apply pesticides with carefully calibrated equipment that generates the proper-sized insecticide droplets that will impinge on adult mosquitoes while they are at rest or flying. If the droplets are too large, they will fall to the ground. If they are too small, the prevailing winds will carry them away from the target area. Once the insecticide spray mist dissipates, insecticides will break down in the environment (generally within 24 hours) producing little residual effect. Depending on the situation, insecticides can be applied from spray equipment mounted on trucks, airplanes or helicopters. All insecticides used in the U.S. for public health use have been approved and registered by the EPA following the review of many scientific studies. The EPA has assessed these chemicals and found that, when used according to label directions, they do not pose unreasonable risk to public health and the environment."

Because of the frequent applications that are required to control adult mosquitoes, it is more sensible to treat standing waters for mosquito larvae and use DEET repellents when outdoors during times mosquitoes are active. (BPO)

"Death" may last up to 4 hours. During this time, the opossum lays on its side, it is stiff, the eyes appear glazed, it drools, the opossum's tongue may hang out the side of its mouth and the opossum releases a greenish anal fluid. Attackers, thinking the animal

is dead, may just leave it alone. Wildlife biologists still aren't sure if this is deliberate or involuntary (caused by nervous paralysis). (SC)

See page 12 for photos of an opossum playing dead.

Visit 4-H Web Cam

Visit the 4-H Web cam online at www.lancaster.unl.edu. The site features fun activities, photos, and educational resources for parents and teachers. Check out the new "What Will I Look Like When I Grow Up?" feature which shows what baby chickens, turkey, peacocks, quail, guinea fowl, ducks and pheasants look like when they grow up!

