

## EXTENSION HIGHLIGHTS

## Jedlicka is 2003 County Employee of the Year

Vicki Jedlicka, Publication and Media Assistant at UNL Cooperative Extension in Lancaster County, was recognized at a recent Lancaster County Commissioner's meeting as winner of the 2003 Annual Commissioner's Award of Excellence. Vicki was selected from the 12 monthly winners of the

County Commissioner's Award of Excellence—she was the November 2003 winner. The award recognizes county employees who consistently provide outstanding service and work that demonstrates exemplary personal commitment to Lancaster County.

She was nominated by Extension Educator and Unit Leader Gary Bergman in the area of productivity. Eleven co-workers made supporting statements endorsing the nomination. "Vicki has high standards for her performance and as a result, she has had a pivotal role in enhancing Lancaster County Extension's reputation for excellence," wrote Soni Cochran. "I've worked closely with Vicki on several project and value her creativity, innovation, design development, hard work and diligence. She has made outstanding contributions to the office and the community."

Vicki's duties include monthly layout of THE NEBLINE; designing flyers, brochures, posters, displays for educational programs; photography; and sending news releases to the media. She has been an instructor at 4-H Clover College, judged Public Service Announcements at the 4-H Speech Contest and assisted with creating School Enrichment teacher curriculums. In addition, she is also a member of the statewide 4-H marketing team.



(L-R) Gary Bergman and Vicki Jedlicka

## Be Prepared for Stormy Weather

Lorene Bartos  
Extension Educator

Are you prepared for the stormy weather? Already we have experienced many different types of weather. With spring approaching there will be more activities such as thunderstorms, tornados, floods, hail and damaging winds. Before the severe weather hits, it is important to be prepared in case basic services such as gas, water, electricity or telephone are cut off.

Knowing the terminology used to define conditions is important for all ages. A **watch** is when weather conditions are right for a severe thunderstorm or tornado. A **warning** is when severe weather or a tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar.

## Have a Disaster Plan

To be prepared a disaster plan should be developed.

Develop an emergency storm plan for all family members whether at home, work, school or outdoors.

Explain the dangers of fire and severe weather to children.

Teach children the name of their county and neighborhood. Storm alerts are given by county name.

Have a battery operated radio, flashlight and new batteries available where they are easy to locate if the electricity should go out.

Discuss the types of disasters most likely to happen. Explain what to do in each case.

Pick two places to meet. Right outside your home in case

of a sudden emergency, like a fire, or outside your neighborhood in case you can't return home. Everyone must know the address and phone number.

In case of a tornado, if you are in a home with a basement — go near the basement wall in the most sheltered and deepest below-ground part of the basement.

## Prepare a Disaster Kit

The Emergency Management Agency suggest the following disaster supplies. Store these supplies in easy-to-carry containers such as backpacks, duffel bags or covered trash containers or plastic totes in case of evacuation.

- Three day supply of water (one gallon per person per day) and food that won't spoil.
- One change of clothing and footwear per person and one blanket or sleeping bag per person.
- Sanitation supplies.
- Special items for infant, elderly or disabled family members.
- Flashlight and extra batteries.
- Battery-powered radio and extra batteries.
- Emergency food and water.
- First aid kit and manual.
- Essential medicine.

Doug Alberg, Lancaster County Emergency Management Director, suggest having ample supplies for your family for 72 hours and have a planned location to go. Most important is having a battery-operated radio, flashlight and extra batteries.

## Other Tips

Lightning is one of nature's most spectacular displays but

also the most frequent weather threat to personal safety during a thunderstorm. Take precautions and avoid dangerous lightning situations. During storms with lightning stay away from trees, poles and other isolated tall objects. Don't stand in open areas such as crop fields, ball fields, golf courses or stadiums. Stay away from wire fences and water.

Protect valuable records by maintaining a safety-deposit box of family and business papers that cannot be replaced. Review specific wind and flood damage protection provided by your insurance policy. Also prepare records that will help verify losses for insurance, taxes or federal disaster declarations.

Mr. Alberg, encourages residents to take part in the free training available for Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT). These teams are trained to take care of themselves and then help others in their communities for 72 hours following a disaster. The 21 hour training blocks are free and schedules are available from the local Emergency Management Agency at 441-7441. For more information on preparing for emergencies visit the Web site [www.ci.lincoln.ne.us/cnty](http://www.ci.lincoln.ne.us/cnty) and click on Emergency Management.

Most importantly use common sense before, during and immediately after the strongest parts of thunderstorms. Safety is a top priority. Take time to check your home and review emergency plans in case of severe weather or a disaster.

## Knights of Ak-Sar-Ben Pioneer Farm Family Award

If your family has owned your farm in Lancaster County for 100 years or more, consecutively, you are eligible to apply for the Nebraska Pioneer Farm Awards sponsored by the Knights of Ak-Sar-Ben Foundation and the Nebraska Association of Fair Managers.

Honoree's receive an engraved plaque and a gatepost marker as permanent recognition of this milestone. To date, nearly 6,000 families in 93 Nebraska counties have been honored.

If your family qualifies for this special award, please obtain an application from Deanna Karmazin at the University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension office in Lancaster County or by calling 441-7180. Applications are due into the Extension office or the Lancaster Event Center by May 1.

Winners will be notified no later than June 1 and the award will be presented during a special ceremony at the 2004 Lancaster County Fair.

If you have any further questions regarding this award, please call the Knights of Ak-Sar-Ben office at 402-554-9600, extension 100. (DK)



## Nebraska Agricultural Youth Institute Applications Due April 15

High school juniors and seniors are invited to take part in the Nebraska Agricultural Youth Institute (NAYI) which will be held July 11-15. The NAYI is to help build leadership skills, explore new aspects of agriculture and encourage young people to become more involved with and remain in agriculture.

The Institute takes place at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. All meals, lodging and activities are sponsored by the Nebraska Department of Agriculture. The only expense for students is transportation to and from the Institute. Applications are due April 15. Contact extension for an application, if interested. (LB)



## Grantsmanship Training Scheduled for May 3-7

The Grantsmanship Training Program will again be offered to the Lincoln community May 3-7. The intensive, "hands-on" workshop covers all aspects of researching grants, writing proposals and negotiating with funding sources.

Designed for both novice and advanced grant seekers, the

program participants are given follow-up services, including expert grant proposal reviews for a full year following training. To maximize personal attention, the group size for the workshop is limited.

Since 1997, Lancaster County Extension has hosted the Grantsmanship Training Pro-

gram. Approximately 120 individuals representing various Lincoln and area agencies have participated to date.

For more information and to register as early as possible, contact The Grantsmanship Center at (800) 421-9512 or go to [www.tgci.com](http://www.tgci.com). (GB)

This Ord native is growing her career at Nebraska.

Kami Marsh's horticultural studies at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources help her grow a career in her hometown or wherever she wants to go.

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## We're Looking for Eggs — Ducks, Geese, Peacocks, Turkeys, Unusual Chickens

Do you raise or own poultry? Would you be interested in allowing us to hatch eggs from your flock on EGG Cam this spring and through July?

From Australia to Arkansas, Nebraska to the Netherlands, thousands of children, parents and teachers tune in to learn about embryology and watch eggs hatch from their computers at home and in school. To check it out, visit [lancaster.unl.edu/4h/embryology](http://lancaster.unl.edu/4h/embryology)

If you are interested in donating eggs, please call Soni or Marty at 441-7180. Any birds that hatch from eggs you donate, can be returned to you. (SC)