

EXTENSION HIGHLIGHTS

New and Outgoing Lancaster County Extension Board Members



Outgoing board members Alice Doane (left), Wayne Heyen (center) and Sheila Kepler (not pictured) were recognized for their outstanding service to extension.

Lancaster County Extension welcomes new board member appointments. Carna Pfeil, Clarice Steffens, and Jay H. Wilkinson were recently appointed by the Lancaster County Board to three-year terms beginning in January 2004.

Extension board members assist the county extension staff in establishing and accomplishing extension education program goals and objectives. They work in partnership with University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension on priority issue areas of:

- Agriculture Profitability and Sustainability
- Children, Youth and Families
- Food Safety, Health and Wellness
- Strengthening Communities
- Water Quality and Environment

Carna Pfeil and Clarice Steffens are new appointees while current extension board member Jay H. Wilkinson was reappointed for a second three-year term.

Outgoing board members Wayne Heyen, Sheila Kepler and Alice Doane were recognized for their outstanding service to extension during the January board meeting. (GB)



Carna Pfeil joined the extension board.

2004 Master Conservationist Award Nominations due April 1

Sponsored by the Omaha World-Herald and the University of Nebraska Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources; the Master Conservationist program was established in 1983 to recognize those who have excelled in soil and water conservation. Award categories include production agriculture, residential, community and youth. Last year, the Norris FFA Chapter was selected the winner in the 2003 Community Youth Group category for their "Safe Water Tomorrow Through Pollution Prevention Today Project."

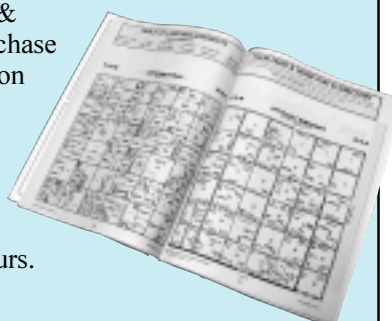
Guidelines for nominations can be obtained from the extension office. For questions about nominations, please contact Dick Fleming, Institute of Agriculture & Natural Resources: 472-8742 or e-mail rfleming1@unl.edu

Award recipients will be recognized during a special presentation at the Nebraska Association of Resource Districts annual banquet Sept. 27, at the Kearney Holiday Inn, and will be featured in the Omaha World-Herald on Sept. 26. Deadline for nominations is April 1.



Latest Plat & Directories Available

The latest Farm Home Plat & Directories are available for purchase at the Lancaster County Extension Office. They are published by Farm & Home Publishers, LTD of Belmond, Iowa. Price for the directory is \$23. They are available for pickup at the reception desk during office hours. (GB)



Is Your Home Safe from Carbon Monoxide?

During winter months, the number of deaths and injuries from carbon monoxide poisoning increases with about 80 percent of deaths happening in the home. Consumers can take action to help prevent carbon monoxide poisoning.

Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless gas produced by burning fossil fuel. Each year, a qualified professional should check all fuel-burning appliances for potential carbon monoxide problems. Furnaces, water heaters and stoves that burn natural or propane gas, heating oil, wood, or other fuel should be checked for potential carbon monoxide leaks.

Chimneys and flues should be checked for leakage and creosote or debris blockage. Also be aware of ice or other weather problems that could cause blockage in chimneys and flues.

Loose or disconnected vents from furnaces, water heaters, boilers or vented space heaters also should be corrected. High temperature plastic venting pipes should be inspected for any separation or cracks—especially on gas-fired, mid-efficiency furnaces or boilers installed

between 1987-1990.

Professionals should also check for the potential of downdrafting or spillage. Downdrafting can occur when other exhaust fans are in use and the natural drifting of a fuel-fired appliance is overpowered and the air in the home is at a lower pressure than outside.

Downdrafts result when air flow reverses in a vent of a chimney pulling air and combustion gases back into the house. Anything that moves air out of a home and depressurizes the house can potentially downdraft the chimney. This includes exhaust fans, other vented appliances, fireplaces and holes in the ceiling. Tight homes can result in downdrafting when insufficient air is available for ample combustion. Consult an owner's manual for recommendations.

Heating systems may have poor combustion or poor venting. Defective installation of a vent, such as it being too small or large, insufficient height, too many elbows or improper location, can cause venting problems and contribute to carbon monoxide problems. To reduce the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning, natural

draft heating appliances can be replaced with sealed combustion units specifically designed to operate in tighter homes. The units are sealed pipes with outside combustion air supplied directly to the burner chamber. Also consider an air to air heat exchanger.

In addition to annual inspections, carbon monoxide alarms should be installed that meet Underwriters Laboratories requirements. Battery powered, AC current or a combination are available. Due to potential electrical outages or forgetting to check or replace batteries, a combination carbon monoxide alarm is recommended.

It's also important to never use charcoal grills in enclosed spaces, such as a home, garage, vehicle, tent or partially enclosed patio. Avoid using ranges and ovens to heat the home.

It is very important to have appliances and items inspected before they are used. Know the operating and safety procedures that must be followed. Generators, especially, require a complete understanding of how they are to be safely used. (LB)

Winter Series to Focus on Globalization

Chuck Francis
UNL Professor, Agronomy & Horticulture

February and March again bring us the Winter Lecture Series on international issues. Globalization is a key issue for all in agriculture and other sectors of U.S. society, and the impacts on food systems are a real part of our economic future in rural areas.

What does it mean to be a citizen of the world or of any one country? Six lectures will explore this topic and its relevance to us in Nebraska. A series called "National Identity and Global Citizenship" will explore the benefits and negative impacts of globalization.

Lectures are Sundays from 7-8 p.m., and questions from 8-9 p.m. Location is the Unitarian Church, 6300 A Street, Lincoln.

The public is invited and there is no charge for the programs.

Students interested in taking the series for undergrad or grad credit, please contact Chuck Francis at 472-1581 or e-mail cfrancis2@unl.edu. The series is offered as a seminar course for attending and doing short reports as well as participating in a final evaluation session: AGRO 496, section 005 (Call#1337) and AGRO 896, section 005 (Call#1363).

Schedule

Feb. 8 — "Trends in Development and Philanthropy in a Globalized World" by Natalie Hahn, 32 years with U.N. agencies

Feb. 15 — "International Politics and International Courts" by David Forsyth, UNL Political Science Department

Feb. 22 — "U.S. Politics

and Multi-Lateral Solutions to Global Problems: Pollution, Terrorism, Crime and Disease" by David Rapkin, UNL Political Science Department

Feb. 29 — "Enhancing Global Connections: the Role of Education in Developing Countries" by Joan Sullivan Owomoyela is an independent consultant with experience in NGOs

Mar. 7 — "A Legal History and Analysis of Sovereignty and Rights of Native Americans" by Attorney Walter Echo Hawk, legal counsel for Native American Rights Fund

Mar. 14 — "Mediating Ethnic Conflicts in Eastern Europe: the Role of Transnational Networks" by Patrice McMahan, UNL Political Science Department (GB)

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 Program. 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. (GB)