

earth wellness festival Celebrates 10 Successful Years

The earth wellness festival marked its 10th anniversary this year with nearly 2,800 Lancaster County fifth graders from 44 schools attending on March 19 at Southeast Community College. Students rotated between sessions to discover and explore the relationships and interdependency of land, water, air and living resources.

Classrooms attending the festival received pre-festival learning kits in October.

Hundreds of volunteers, area educators, environmentalists, government representatives, as well as donations from local businesses, make this educational experience possible. The earth wellness festival steering committee is comprised of ten local educational resource agencies, including University of Cooperative Extension in Lancaster County.



(Right) Youth learned about water quality through the study of bubbles in "Bubbology."



In "Paper to Paper," 4-H staff and volunteers (4-H'er Jordan Lantis is pictured above right) helped students transform used office paper into new pieces of paper.



Featured presentations by the World Bird Sanctuary from St. Louis included owls, raptors, turkey vultures, spiders and snakes.



4-H volunteer Sheri Ramirez quizzed students on beaver trivia in "Build a Beaver."



In "Buy Recycled," Extension Educator Lorene Bartos discussed buying products made from recycled materials.



4-H volunteer Shirley Condon tested student's knowledge of what can and can't be recycled in "Round & Round It Goes."

Can You Guess It?

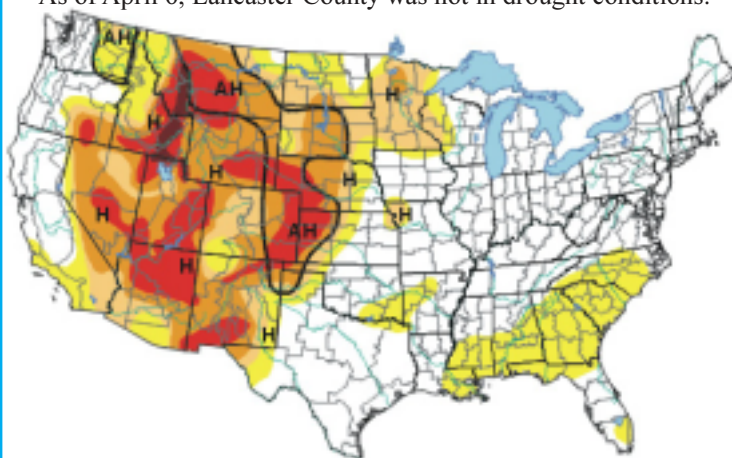


Did you guess it? Find out at lancaster.unl.edu

Did you guess it from the April NEBLINE? The answer was a compost for the garden.

Latest U.S. Drought Monitor Map

As of April 6, Lancaster County was not in drought conditions.



For the most recent map, visit www.drought.unl.edu/dm

Source: National Drought Mitigation Center, University of Nebraska

Ag Awareness Festival Teaches Youth Importance of Agriculture

More than 400 fourth graders attended the Ag Awareness Festival April 6 and 7 at the Lancaster Event Center. Students rotated between stations to learn about agricultural products, how they are produced and how they are used. The Ag Awareness Coalition, led by University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension, organizes the festival with the help of agriculture businesses, commodity associations and food industry companies. This is the fourth year the festival has been held in Lincoln.



Extension Educator Barb Ogg (right) demonstrates the value of farming technology by having students use a 1909 corn grinder.



Douglas/Sarpy Extension Educator Monte Stauffer (right) places rumen fluid (obtained from a cow's stomach) under a microscope to show the role of microorganisms in a cow's digestive process.



Youth met a pair of 5-week-old piglets.



Students learned about breeds and care of horses.