

New in 2004

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4-H Kids Ag Discovery Zone at County Fair



"Milking" a wooden "dairy cow" was one of many activities at the Kids Ag Discovery Zone.

New at the Lancaster County Fair was a free 4-H Kids Agricultural Discover Zone. It featured hands-on activities and exhibits to help youth see, touch and smell agriculture. Activities included: climbing a tractor, "milking" a "cow," touching unprocessed sheep wool and seeing a 1,000 pound boar!

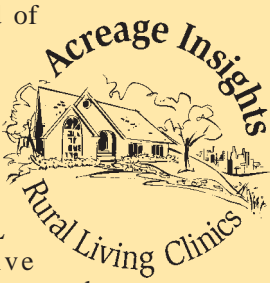
"Resources for Educators" on Food Web Site



This year, a special section, "Resources for Educators," was created on extension's Food Web site at lancaster.unl.edu/food/resources.htm. Educational materials are provided in downloadable formats useful for teaching: posters, handouts, displays, games and PowerPoint presentations. Most of these resources are free, some have a small fee.

Acreage Insights: Rural Living Clinics

Instead of an annual Acreage Owners Expo presented at one location, UNL Cooperative Extension presented a series of 10 "Acreage Insights: Rural Living Clinics" at three locations, each seminar focusing on a different topic such as waste water treatment, weed control and windbreaks. 152 people attended the clinics held in Lincoln.



People's Choice 4-H Awards



Jeremy Bradford Morgan's cucumbers were chosen "Plant or veggie that looks most like a person"

Lancaster County 4-H introduced its first annual People's Choice 4-H Awards at the Lancaster County Fair.

A Look at Some Program Impact Numbers

of University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension in Lancaster County programs from Oct. 1, 2003–Sept. 31, 2004

Extension responded to more than **33,300 phone calls, walk-ins and e-mails** from the public requesting information.

Extension uses multiple delivery methods to extend the university's research-based information to residents. Information flows both ways — extension responds to needs and concerns.



34,300 tons of biosolids were delivered and applied to **1,169 acres of crop land, worth \$850,000 to farmers and saving taxpayers \$340,000** by keeping this recyclable material out of the landfill.

Biosolids are organic solids separated from wastewater and biologically processed. Extension coordinates distribution and application of biosolids to agricultural cropland for the City of Lincoln Wastewater and Solid Waste Division. Studies have shown the nutrient value of biosolids worth at least \$25 per acre for the first year's crops.

An estimated **20,000 tons of yard waste** were kept out of the landfill, **saving taxpayers \$556,749**.

Extension educates residents on how to successfully compost yard waste in their own backyards and on the benefits of mulching grass clippings. More than 110 residents attended one of 19 composting workshops conducted by extension, and an estimated 2,000 people participated in an informal, self-guided tour of the composting demonstration site at University Place Park.



9,510 pounds of pesticide containers were collected and recycled through the Pesticide Container Recycling program.

Agricultural pesticide containers are collected and ground into small chips to be recycled into parking lot tire bumpers, fence posts, traffic lane markers, pallets and more.



Research shows for **every dollar of NEP funding**, there is a projected **health care cost savings of \$2.07–\$5.29**.

The Nutrition Education Program (NEP) helps limited-resource families learn to prepare nutritious and safe foods while stretching their food dollars. Last year, more than 1,800 adults, 2,289 youth and 100 seniors participated in NEP.

Crop producers taking the online **Irrigation Home Study Course** indicate an average savings of **\$4.22 per acre** — an estimated **total savings of \$3.5 million**. Of the attendees at Financial Record Keeping workshops, **82% expected to make better management decisions** and **58% expected to save time and/or money**. Participants of the **Crop Protection Clinic** estimate the value of the program to be **\$5.37 per acre** — a **total benefit of \$1.6 million**.

Agricultural profitability and sustainability is an extension priority issue.



The average value of a termite treatment is more than **\$1,500**. Extension's **termite control information** could be worth **more than \$2 million** to Lincoln homeowners.

Online termite resources received nearly 35,000 hits, 86 people (including 13 Realtors) attended this year's Termite Control workshops, hundreds of people requested information and articles were published in local media. A post-workshop survey has found 82% of attendees obtained information that saved them money, 98% obtained information needed to better protect their property.

The 4-H youth development program reached **16,658 youth** in Lancaster County. There were **4,262 4-H exhibits** showcased at the 2004 Lancaster County Fair.

4-H is open to all youth ages 5–19. Youth can belong to a club, be an independent member, participate in 4-H activities such as Clover College, or participate in 4-H School Enrichment projects.



Last year, UNL Cooperative Extension in Lancaster County programs benefitted from **1,338 volunteers investing 51,925 hours** of time for a total value of **\$892,590!***

Extension trains and supports, as well as coordinates the efforts of, a variety of volunteers: 4-H leaders and superintendents, Master Gardeners, Family Community Education (FCE) volunteers and Nutrition Education Program (NEP) volunteers. In addition, 4-H and FCE members often volunteer in community-related projects.

*Independent Sector values volunteer time at \$17.19 per hour.

