

5th Graders Learn about Land, Water & Air at earth wellness festival

Nearly 2,500 fifth graders from Lincoln Public Schools and other Lancaster County classrooms attended the 11th annual earth wellness festival (ewf) held mid-March. Students rotated among 25-minute sessions to discover the relationships and interdependency of land, water, air and living resources. The ewf steering committee is comprised of ten local educational agencies, including University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension in Lancaster County. Hundreds of volunteers, area educators, environmentalists and donations from local businesses make this educational experience possible.



UNL Pesticide Education specialist Larry Schulze discusses nature's role in field pest management.



A stream table demonstrates the dynamic nature of rivers and streams.



Barb Ogg (of Lancaster County Extension) and Marshall Coleman (of Wastewater Operations) explain how Lincoln's wastewater treatment plant converts sewage into cleaned water, carbon dioxide and wastewater solids.



Students learn about the factors that affect water quality as they limbo in a session presented by Lancaster County 4-H staff and volunteers.



At the end of the "Rep-Tales" presentation by the World Bird Sanctuary of St. Louis, students had the opportunity to touch a seven foot-long boa constrictor.

Can You Guess It?



Photo by Dr. R. Hays Cummins, Miami University

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

Did you guess it from the April NEBLINE? The answer was the strong mouthparts of a pine sawyer beetle grub.

Students Watch Eggs Hatch in the Classroom!

Embryology is a 4-H School Enrichment project sponsored by the UNL Cooperative Extension. Classrooms receive a dozen fertile eggs and students care for the eggs during the 21-day incubation period. In Lancaster County, nearly 3,000 third graders participate in Embryology each spring.

This year, the University of Nebraska Poultry Division supplied some "mystery" eggs for the project. The students learned after the hatch these were White-Crested Black Polish chicks. Messiah Lutheran's third grade classroom captured on video one of the little Polish hatching. A special thanks to university poultry specialists Lyle Robeson and Chad Zadina for gathering and donating the mystery eggs!

The hatching video can be viewed on the 4-H Embryology Web site at lancaster.unl.edu/4h/Embryology. In the upcoming weeks, EGG Cam will feature a live view of chicks and guinea hatching.



UNL student Ann Barnett (left) helped pick up chicks from classrooms, including Fredstrom.

4-H Speech/PSA Contest Winners

This year's Lancaster County 4-H Speech and Public Service Announcement (PSA) Contest was split into two events and dates to make it easier for youth to participate in both contests. The PSA contest was held April 5 at the Lancaster Extension Education Center and the Speech Contest was held April 9 at the State Capitol Building. These are the first 2005 Lancaster County Fair 4-H competitions. Waverly Grange and Lancaster County Farm Bureau donated cash awards. The top three winners in each division will go to regionals, held May 31 in Seward. Complete results and photos are online at lancaster.unl.edu/4h/Fair.

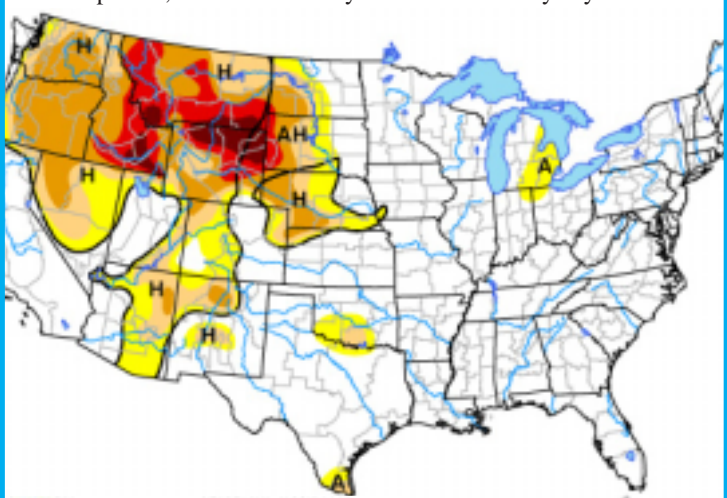
- SENIOR PSA: Nicole Pedersen (1st), Amanda Peterson (2nd)
- INTERMEDIATE PSA: Ryan Keys (1st), Hannah Spencer (2nd), Terra Garay (3rd)
- JUNIOR PSA: Lisa Keys (1st), Jessica Stephenson (2nd), Spencer Farley (3rd)
- NOVICE PSA: Jamie Stephenson (1st), Amy Keys (2nd), Matthew Grimes (3rd)
- SENIOR SPEECH: Amanda Peterson (1st), Nicole Pedersen (2nd), Grace Farley (3rd)
- INTERMEDIATE SPEECH: Carmen Claesson (1st), Ryan Keys (2nd), Kyle Pedersen (3rd)
- JUNIOR SPEECH: Jessica Stephenson (1st), Erica Peterson (2nd), Lisa Keys (3rd)
- NOVICE SPEECH: Abigail Swanson (1st), Jaime Stephenson (2nd), Sadie Hammond (3rd)



(Left to right) Grace Farley, Alice Doane (representing Waverly Grange), Amanda Peterson and Nicole Pedersen

U.S. Drought Monitor Map

As of April 12, Lancaster County was in abnormally dry conditions.



Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Drought - Moderate
- D2 Drought - Severe
- D3 Drought - Extreme
- D4 Drought - Exceptional

Drought Impact Types:

- A = Agricultural crops, pastures, grasslands
- H = Hydrological (water)
- (No type = Both impacts)

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

Source: National Drought Mitigation Center, University of Nebraska