

Nebraska Arboretum Speakers Bureau

Nebraska Statewide Arboretum (NSA) is a remarkable network of arboretum sites, parks, historic properties and other public landscapes located in dozens of communities across the state. Supported by University of Nebraska–Lincoln, one of the services it provides is giving talks, tours and presentations to garden clubs and other organizations.

No speaker fee will be charged to groups which hold an associate membership with NSA, or which become an associate member (dues are \$100 per year) prior to the engagement. For other groups, there is a \$50 speaker fee.

To schedule a speaking engagement or find out more about the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, call 472-2971. Their Web site is <http://arboretum.unl.edu>

2006 Speaking Topics

Trees for Nebraska/Great Plains — An informative discussion of some of the better trees suited for use in Nebraska and/or the Great

Plains.

Woody Plants for Nebraska/Great Plains — An informative discussion of some of the better shrubs and vines suited for use in Nebraska and/or the Great Plains.

Plains Scapes — A closer look at the natural landscape of the Great Plains, how it evolved and how it can serve as the inspiration for more sustainable community landscaping.

The Wonder of Trees — Inspirational look at trees from across the world and what they mean to our lives.

Plant it Right — Design and planting recommendations for successful landscaping projects.

Gardening with Prairie Plants — This presentation will focus on native plant selection of forbs and grasses for use in home landscapes.

Proven Perennial Performers (native and hardy exotics) — This presentation will discuss the use of hardy herbaceous perennials to create a low maintenance landscape.

Tree Selection & Care

— Outstanding and overlooked trees for the Great Plains landscape. How can we help trees thrive?

Outstanding Shrubs for Nebraska — Outstanding and overlooked shrubs for the Great Plains landscape. How can we help trees thrive in our climate?

On Fire for Phlox — No group of American plants can equal the genus Phlox for its preeminence in the wild and in the garden.

Enliven your Gardens! — Tips for design and maintenance success' covers basic design and maintenance strategies to set our gardens apart.

GreatPlants for the Great Plains program — This presentation explains the GreatPlants program. What is the program and why does it exist?

The Nebraska Statewide Arboretum — A closer look at the programs and accomplishments of this unique, nationally recognized organization.

Prepare Horses For Winter

Kathy Anderson
UNL Extension Specialist

As winter approaches, horses need a different kind of care to stay in good condition while they fight the cold weather.

Much of horse care depends on where they are kept during the winter, says Kathy Anderson, Ph.D., UNL horse specialist. If horses spend winter in a pasture, their shoes should be removed. Often, ice and snow can build up and cause the horses to trip. If horses are wintered indoors, their hooves should at least be trimmed and reset.

Nutrition requirements change in winter. It's important to maintain a condition score of six to seven. A

horse in this condition has enough fat across its flank, neck, ribs and down its topline that it would be necessary to push a little to feel the bones.

The nutritional value of winter pasture grass also is slim so horses should be fed some type of hay — round bales, square bales, grass hay or alfalfa — as well as salt and mineral. Stalled horses nutritional requirements don't change much from summer. Be sure the horses always have an open water source.

If horses are kept outside, their coats should be allowed to grow. This isn't as critical for horses kept inside, but unless they are in a heated barn they should be covered in blankets to keep them from getting sick.

As the number of daylight hours decreases, horses' coats grow thicker because amounts of light affect hair growth. If the horses are on a lighting program, take them off far enough in advance that their coats can grow thicker. People who continue to show their horses in winter should keep horses inside and on a 16 hour per day lighting program from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Horses wintered outside need a shelter to block the wind. A shelter could be as simple as a thick shelterbelt or a three-sided shed with an opening that points away from primary winds.

Also, continue to deworm horses every 60 days and vaccinate them for rabies if there is a rabies problem in the area.

Improve Nebraska Woodlands in Late Fall and Winter

Spring is the best time to plant trees in Nebraska, but late fall and winter are good seasons to work in the woods. Cool weather, less interference from shrub and weed vegetation and no bothersome insects are added incentives for fall/winter woodland improvement work.

One can manage Nebraska's woodlands for multiple benefits including wildlife, recreation, soil and

water protection, beauty and wood products.

Growing trees for wood products is not much different than growing other agricultural crops except the time to harvest. Trees, like other crops, compete for sunlight, water and nutrients. Weeding, thinning and pruning are common forestry practices used to improve growth and quality of woodlands.

Several forestry cost-share programs are available to lower initial investment costs. The cost-share rate may be up to 75 percent of the actual cost of planting trees or improving existing woodlands.

For more information, contact any extension, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Farm Services Agency, or Natural Resources District office.

“Woody Florals” Acreage Insights Clinic, Nov. 10

“Wood Florals” is the last of this year's “Acreage Insights — Rural Living Clinics” presented by University of Nebraska–Lincoln Extension. It will be held Thursday, Nov. 10 from 7–9 p.m. at the Lancaster Extension Education Center, 444 Cherrycreek Road in Lincoln.

What are woody florals? Plants commonly grown in Nebraska with decorative stems, such as curly willow or redbud dogwood, that are harvested for use in decorative arrangements. Who buys them? Wholesale and retail florists. Can you really make a profit with these plants? Yes, you

can! Join us for this presentation by the Nebraska Woody Florals group to learn the basics of this acreage enterprise, including plant species, planting and growing requirements, and harvesting techniques. Marketing and sources of plant material will also be discussed.

Pre-registration for the clinic is \$10 per person and must be received by Nov. 7. Late registration is \$15 per person. For more information or to register, contact extension at 441-7180 or go to the Acreage & Small Farm Insights Web site at <http://acreage.unl.edu>.



GREEN ACRES

Setting Goals for Your Small Farm



Don Janssen
UNL Extension Educator

Note: This is the first in a series of articles related to acreage enterprises.

The owners of small farms vary in both resources and aspirations. Many people are interested in having a few animals, growing some fruits and vegetables and providing a high-quality rural lifestyle for their families. Others seek to manage a small farm intensively to produce supplemental or total family income.

The goals you set for your small farm must realistically consider the feelings of family members, your financial situation, the farm or business-related talents family members have (or don't have) and more. Consider these questions:

- Do you view the farm as a “hobby” and a way to achieve quality of life for the family?
- Are you simply trying to keep the agricultural tax deferral?
- Do you want the farm to produce a supplemental or even a full income for your family?

Small Farms as a Hobby

Rural areas are attractive places for families to live. A great deal of satisfaction can come from experiencing farm life without the pressure to make a profit. In this situation, money off the farm— supports the farm's activities. In addition, many small-farm families wish to replace some of their purchased food with home-raised foods. This can be extremely satisfying and surprisingly easy.

Two acres will produce a year's supply of vegetables, ample fruits and berries, some meat and possible opportunities for small cash sales. Another two acres of well-managed woodlot can heat a well-constructed house indefinitely. This path is different from a commercially focused farm, but is very appropriate for many families.

WATERWHEEL

Prevent Soil Erosion

Note: This is part of a series of articles related to rural water issues.

Like pesticides and fertilizers, soil washed away by rain can pollute streams and lakes. Even if you do not live near water, soil will eventually be carried to surface water in runoff from storms. Gardens, lawns and construction sites with areas of bare soil — especially on sloped land — are prone to soil erosion.

You can protect soil and reduce erosion by planting groundcover vegetation or using woodchip mulch or landscape fabric. On steep slopes, plant a vigorous ground cover but avoid turf grass, which requires mowing. Building terraces or retaining walls on slopes can also help prevent soil loss. As with lawns, choose plants suited to your area and resistant to insects and diseases.