

4-H'ers Help Install Flower Garden at Northeast Family Center

By Spencer Farley
 4-H member

A special place in Lincoln for me is the Northeast Family Center at Whitehall Mansion. I've grown up going to the Mansion with my mom for meetings and special family gatherings. Whitehall Mansion is a great old house about a hundred years old.

Two new playgrounds were being donated and I wanted to help. The installation was moved from the summer to fall during school hours. Since I couldn't help put the playground in, my mom and I tried to think of other ways to help. We came up with the idea of planting hybrid iris along the playground fence to help beautify the area. Our project started out small, but before we knew it our garden grew to 25 feet by 58 feet and would include plants and flowers that would bloom all season. With a project this



4-H member Spencer Farley (at left) plants hybrid iris.



Members of 4-H Teen Council shaped and placed granite stepping stones in the garden.

big we needed help.

I am a member of the Lincoln Iris Society. I asked my fellow members if they would be willing to help. I was a little nervous getting up and speaking to the whole group but they were wonderful! Not only did they agree to help, but they voted to donate money to the

project! Members also donated hybrid iris, daylilies and other plants.

I called on some local businesses to donate needed chemicals and flowering bulbs. We even got a park bench!

More than 25 4-H Teen Council members and parents helped shape and put granite stepping stones in the garden. Some Teen Council members also helped with planting.

It was really fun seeing all the people come together and work on the project. In all, we had nearly 100 volunteers. Even my best friend, who has never gardened, helped! The garden has nearly 500 flowering bulbs, around 200 hybrid iris, 30 hybrid daylilies and many other flowers and grasses. All donated. It was fun seeing the garden come together. Giving something back to the community feels good.

Note: For more photos, go to the 4-H Web site at <http://lanaster.unl.edu>.



4-H Teen Council members and parents who helped with the project.

Garden Opening Celebration, April 22

The flower garden is located in the carriage way of the Northeast Family Center building, the historic Whitehall Mansion, 5903 Walker Avenue, Lincoln. A formal opening, entitled Northeast Family Center in Bloom, is scheduled for Saturday, April 22, 1-4 p.m. and will include informal tours and activities.

Visit the Garden Anytime

The public is welcome to visit the Northeast Family Center garden and playgrounds anytime. Flowers will be in bloom from April through late fall.

Volunteers Needed to Maintain Garden

Northeast Family Center is seeking volunteers to help maintain the garden throughout the season and give educational tours to requesting groups. If you are interested in helping, please call 471-3700.

Special Thanks

Spencer Farley and his family would like to thank the nearly 100 volunteers who helped with this community service project. Special thanks to Jean Pedersen (a 4-H parent and Extension Master Gardener) who was very involved in the planning, designing and installation of the flower garden.

Cold Pizza for Breakfast

MyPyramid Food Safety Tips for Teens & Tweens Who Cook



Food Safety Tips for Teens Online

If you're a teen, tween or work with this age group, you can download a PowerPoint "Cold Pizza for Breakfast: MyPyramid Food Safety Tips for Teens & Tweens Who Cook" at <http://lanaster.unl.edu/food/pizza.shtml>. To view the PowerPoint directly on the Web, click on the slide show link.

This is a great way to learn about food safety in the kitchen and will complement your 4-H food and nutrition projects! There are LOTS of graphics with teens and tweens giving food safety advice. It ends with a game of "Keep or Toss."

These materials were developed by University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension, Nebraska Department of Education and the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department.

Can You Guess It?



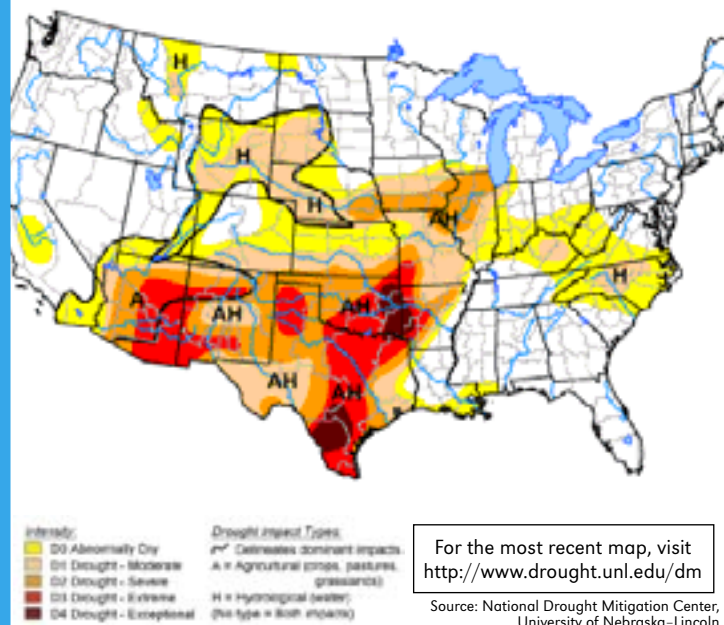
Photo by Jim Kalisch, UNL Entomology Department

Did you guess it? Find out at
<http://lanaster.unl.edu>

Did you guess it from the March NEBLINE?
 The answer was Leafy Spurge — a Nebraska noxious weed.

U.S. Drought Monitor Map

As of March 7, Lancaster County was in severe drought conditions.



For the most recent map, visit <http://www.drought.unl.edu/dm>

Source: National Drought Mitigation Center, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

2006 Nebraska Agricultural Youth Institute Conference

The Nebraska Agricultural Youth Institute (NAYI) is a conference open to high school juniors and seniors interested in agriculture. The 2006 NAYI conference will be held July 9-13 at the Kauffman Center on University of Nebraska-Lincoln City Campus. The conference is a five day educational exposure to many areas of the agriculture sector.

All meals, lodging and conference fees are paid by the Nebraska Department of Agriculture. Applications and further information can be obtained from the extension office. Applications are due April 19.