

New in Extension

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Community Visioning Process for Village of Bennet

Wanting to update their Comprehensive Development Plan, members of the Bennet Planning Commission asked Extension Educator Yelena Mitrofanova to help facilitate citizen participation in the process. Mitrofanova and other extension educators have outlined a Community Visioning Process which will bring the community together to help shape the future of the Village of Bennet.

In September, a Town Hall meeting was held and nearly 80 residents attended. Other steps are underway, including committee research, listening sessions and written input. At future Town Hall meetings, the community will develop a vision statement. Eventually, the community input will be used by a private consulting firm to develop a new Comprehensive Plan which will guide future land development.

"I have found it very enlightening to work with extension personnel," said Bennet Planning Commissioner Bruce Dahlberg. "Their knowledge of community planning has proven to be very beneficial in obtaining community input for the shaping of Bennet's Vision."

Mitrofanova has also worked with the Village of Firth on a community attitudes survey, which may lead to a Community Visioning Process.

Midwest Mold, Moisture & Ventilation Symposium

Extension Educator Lorene Bartos was part of a planning team comprised of extension, health agencies and businesses which organized the Midwest Mold, Moisture and Ventilation Symposium held March 16 in Omaha. More than 250 builders, contractors, remodelers, residential housing managers, real estate licensees, inspectors and HVAC and other housing professionals attended. "I plan to use the information I gained today in the inspection of the



Mold, Moisture & Ventilation Symposium



Community Visioning Project for Bennet

2,500 homes we manage," said one attendee. Another participant said, "This is the best conference I have attended in my 20 years in the business." This was first of a series of indoor air quality conferences.

Fair Impressions

This summer, Extension Educator Yelena Mitrofanova and two educators from other counties conducted Fair Impressions at three county fairs, including the Lancaster County Fair. Evaluations were recorded and presented to the Fair Boards to use as a tool in planning future County Fairs. "Yelena's work with Fair Impressions was great," said Wayne Heyen, Lancaster County Fair Board member.

"It brought to light some things we knew needed changed, and it also affirmed things we are doing well." Based on the success of Fair Impressions this year, other educators statewide will be trained to apply the program locally.

4-H Career Portfolios

This year, Extension Associate Deanna Karmazin was part of a statewide 4-H team which developed a new record-keeping system, "4-H Career Portfolio." This publication replaces the 4-H awards book. 4-H members can use the portfolio to record their 4-H experiences — including knowledge learned, skills gained and community service activities. The goal of this project was to simplify the 4-H record-keeping system and to provide the youth with a tool to assist them in scholarship, college and job applications.



Educational Programs at Juvenile Detention Center

This past year, UNL Extension in Lancaster County partnered with the Juvenile Detention Center to present educational experiences at the

Lancaster County Youth Services Center. Extension staff and Master Gardener volunteers presented 10 activities to more than 150 youth, ages 11–18 years old. Focus was on vegetable gardening, but other units included embryology, entomology and a rope-making activity. With the help of a grant, a greenhouse will be built at the Youth Services Center for year-round horticulture activities.

"These activities have exceeded our expectations," said Juvenile Detention Coordinator Annette Thompson. "I've seen these kids take responsibility and work together as a team. They respond well to practical, hands-on teaching."

Meth Educational Materials

As part of a statewide extension awareness campaign about the dangers of methamphetamine production and use, UNL Extension in Lancaster County delivered educational messages via newspaper articles, printed educational materials (available in English and Spanish), community program lesson, roadside cleanup tape and online links to the statewide Web site at <http://extension.unl.edu/Meth/index.html>

Integrated Pest Management in Schools

Extension Educator Barb Ogg is part of the UNL Extension Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in Schools Team. The IPM in Schools team has developed a pest management guide book specific for Nebraska schools, learning modules about pests on their Web site at <http://schoolipm.unl.edu>, and workshops for school custodians. Ogg wrote five of eight insect pest modules which were placed online in April. This year, team members conducted pest assessments in three Lancaster County schools: Arnold Elementary, Lincoln East High and Malcolm Public School.



Educational Programs at Juvenile Detention Center



14,848 Youth Participate in Lancaster County 4-H

The University of Nebraska–Lincoln Extension 4-H youth development program is open to all youth ages 5–19. Emphasis is on teaching practical skills and developing life skills through learning-by-doing. In the past year, 4-H reached 14,848 youth in Lancaster County.

"By being in 4-H, I have gained the responsibilities and leadership skills that I will use for the rest of my life — through speech contests and submitting items in the county fair and state fair," says 4-H member Amanda Peterson (age 17).

Lancaster County 4-H consists of several components:

- **Organized Clubs** — Lancaster County has more than 100 4-H clubs which range from 4 to 60 members. Each club is led (or co-led) by adults. Youth choose officers to run meetings. Clubs usually participate in one or more projects together.
- **Independent Members** — With increasingly busy schedules, more and more youth are becoming independent 4-H members. Youth work on 4-H projects on their own.
- **Projects** — Youth can choose from more than 150 projects. Project manuals are written by university experts.



• **School Enrichment** — 4-H programs for classrooms include: Garbology, Embryology, Earth Wellness Festival, Ag Awareness Festival and Nutrition Education Program.

• **4-H Embryology Web Site** — EGG Cam and other resources at <http://lancaster.unl.edu/4h/Embryology>.

- **Educational Events** — 4-H staff organize several educational events each year, such as Clover College, speech workshops and leader trainings.
- **Leadership Opportunities** — 4-H Teen Council, 4-H Council, Citizen Washington Focus group and more.



2005 CWF Group



Clover College



4-H at the County Fair

Gettysburg, Mount Vernon and Monticello.

CWF is a citizenship and leadership program for high school youth which provides an in-depth look at our nation's government and history. In Lancaster County, CWF organizes a trip to D.C. every three years.

4-H at County Fair Continues to Grow

Many 4-H youth showcase their projects at the Lancaster County Fair, which has seen rapid growth since moving to the Lancaster Event Center in 2001. 4-H at the county fair shares in the growth. A total 4,331 4-H exhibits were showcased at this year's fair (including static exhibits, animals and contest entries). Entries in the 4-H horse, beef cattle, dairy cattle

4-H CWF Members Travel to D.C.

In June, the Lancaster County 4-H Citizen Washington Focus (CWF) group traveled by bus on an ambitious 15-day itinerary to Washington D.C. This year's group consisted of 48 teens and 5 sponsors. Stops along the way included historical sights such as the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, Valley Forge,

and poultry shows were up significantly and extra stalls and pens had to be installed.

Lancaster County 4-H has the largest county fair horse show in the state with 29 total events!

To discover more about Lancaster County 4-H, go to <http://lancaster.unl.edu/4h>