

Can You Guess It?



Vicki Jedlicka, UNL Extension in Lancaster County

Did you guess it? Find out at
<http://lanaster.unl.edu>
Did you guess it from the April NEBLINE?
The answer was the 2007 Perennial Plant of the Year
Nepeta "Walker's Low"

Fifth Graders Learn About Water, Air and Land and Living Resources at earth wellness festival

Nearly 3,000 Lancaster County fifth graders attended **earth wellness festival** on March 21 and 22. Students discovered and explored the relationships and interdependency of land, water, air and living resources through hands-on activities. This year, the festival expanded from one to two days.

Now in its 13th year, the festival is organized by 10 local agencies, including University of Nebraska–Lincoln Extension in Lancaster County. Classrooms attending the festival received pre-festival learning kits in October.

“Students and teachers look forward to this annual event,” said Lois Mayo, member of the ewf steering committee and Lincoln Public Schools Science Curriculum Specialist.



Fifth graders crawled into a 45-foot long, inflated whale during the “Whale of a Tail” session.

A long-eared owl was part of “The Raptors” presentation (right) by the World Bird Sanctuary of St. Louis, Missouri.



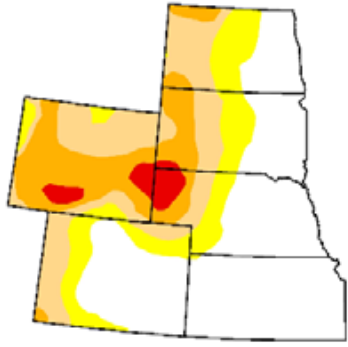
Photos by Vicki Jedlicka, UNL Extension in Lancaster County

In “Trees to the Rescue” (below), students discovered the benefits of windbreaks, including effect on soil temperature.

U.S. Drought Monitor Map

As of April 10, Lancaster County was not in drought conditions.

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)						
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4	D4
Current	47.5	52.5	37.6	17.7	3.1	0.0	
Last Week (04/03/2007 map)	47.1	52.9	38.0	17.2	3.1	0.0	
3 Months Ago (01/14/2007 map)	29.5	70.5	55.1	34.5	16.8	0.0	
Start of Calendar Year (01/01/2007 map)	26.9	73.1	54.3	32.0	14.3	0.0	
Start of Water Year (10/01/2006 map)	10.2	89.8	61.6	33.7	16.7	0.0	
One Year Ago (04/11/2006 map)	31.7	68.3	37.9	3.0	0.2	0.0	



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

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

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



Students examined abundant animal and plant life found in dirt during the “The Secret Life of Soil” session.



Ag Awareness Festival Teaches 4th Graders About Agriculture

More than 400 fourth graders from Lincoln area schools attended the Ag Awareness Festival held on March 27 and 28 at the Lancaster Event Center. Students gained a greater understanding of agriculture and how it impacts their daily lives. Students rotated between 10 interactive stations: Farming Technology, Grain Products, Grain By-Products, Swine, Horse, Dairy Production, Dairy Calves, Ruminant Nutrition, Beef Products, Beef Production and Hay & Forages.

“We want youth to understand the food process—that food doesn’t originate from a restaurant or grocery store,” said Festival organizer Deanna Karmazin.

The Ag Awareness Coalition, led by University of Nebraska–Lincoln Extension, organizes the festival with the help of agriculture businesses, commodity associations and food industry companies.



Youth saw a preserved cow stomach as they learned a ruminant digestive system has multiple stomach chambers.



Students got a “hands-on” approach to learning about dairy production.



Is this timothy or alfalfa hay? Students learn the different types of forages and their uses.



Students got a close look at two-month-old barrows (male swine).

One American farmer/rancher produces enough food for 129 people – 95 in the U.S. and 34 abroad.



In the Farming Technology session, youth had a chance to sit in a combine cab.

Photos by Vicki Jedlicka, UNL Extension in Lancaster County