

EXTENSION NEWS

Dorn Receives Teaching Excellence Award



UNL Extension Dean Elbert Dickey (left) and Extension Educator Tom Dorn (right).

In March, Tom Dorn, extension educator with University of Nebraska–Lincoln Extension in Lancaster County, received one of four senior faculty Holling Family Awards for Teaching Excellence presented by UNL Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

The Holling Family Awards are given annually for outstanding teaching in the university's Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources. The Holling Family Award Program was made possible by a gift from the Holling family to honor their pioneer parents.

Over the past 15 years, Tom has provided Computerized Farm Financial Recordkeeping workshops to 940 people. Surveys indicate participants keep more complete and accurate financial records as a result of the five-hour workshop. Tom has provided statewide leadership in updating teaching materials to stay current with software advances.

A Lancaster County producer commented, "Tom's teaching style is down to earth and presented in a way in which we could understand it."

From Tekamah, Dorn received his B.S. and M.S. in Mechanized Agriculture from UNL. He began his extension career in 1980 as an Extension Technologist in Biological Systems Engineering. He also served in Holt and Filmore counties before coming to Lancaster County 10 years ago.

Last year, Barb Ogg, extension educator with University of Nebraska–Lincoln Extension in Lancaster County received this award.

Food Entrepreneur Workshops

The University of Nebraska–Lincoln Food Processing Center offers one-day seminars for individuals interested in exploring the idea of starting a food manufacturing business. Upcoming "From Recipe to Reality" seminars at UNL East Campus are Saturday, May 31 (presented in Spanish only) and Monday, June 2. Pre-registration is required and space is limited. Registration deadline for both workshops is May 16. There is a fee. Contact Jill Gifford at jgifford1@unl.edu or 472-2819 for an information packet.

LEAD

Nebraska LEAD Program
Nebraska Agricultural Leadership Council, Inc.

(LEADERSHIP EDUCATION/
ACTION DEVELOPMENT)

Applications are now being accepted for Nebraska LEAD Group XXVIII, which begins in the fall of 2008.

Thirty highly motivated individuals with demonstrated leadership potential will be selected.

Application deadline is June 15.

The Nebraska LEAD Program is specifically designed for both males and females involved in production agriculture or agribusiness, in the general range of 25–55, who are intent on making a difference by providing quality leadership for the future of the industry of agriculture and the state of Nebraska.

For application or re-application materials and/or further information, call the Nebraska LEAD Program at 472-6810 or e-mail akinnaman2@unl.edu

On the Web at <http://lead.unl.edu>

Knowing Facts About Severe Weather Can Prevent Harm

Many myths surround spring severe weather, but knowing all of the facts about safety and preparation can save lives.

Be Prepared

The first thing a family can do to prevent harm is buy a weather radio. A weather radio costs roughly the same as a family of four going to see a movie. Instead of using a phone or looking outside, find out about severe weather through a weather radio.

When traveling in a car during severe weather, make sure to listen to the radio. Take out the CD, the MP3 player or turn from an FM station to a local AM station covering the weather going on in the area.

Make a photocopy of everything on paper of value in a home or business. This may include insurance information, car information, licenses, passports or other forms. Keep those copies stored in a safe location, preferably away from home. Surviving severe weather is important, but returning to normal life will be much easier with backup copies.

Families should also have a communication plan set in place. Relatives or friends could overload authorities' phone lines trying to find out if their loved ones are OK. Designate a relative to be the head of a "communication tree." That person can find out information about family in the disaster and let relatives and friends know about their condition.

Families need to have plans in place for safety areas and meeting places during a storm. Kids home alone on school days need to know a meeting place and designated tornado shelter in their home. Children have died from panicking during a storm and not knowing a safe place to take cover.

Watch vs. Warning

People should know the difference between a warning and a watch. A watch is telling citizens to just watch out for the hazard, to be more aware of

the weather. A warning means something is happening now and everyone near should seek shelter and safety.

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Lightening

Many myths surround lightning from severe thunderstorms. Many people believe no phones are safe during an electrical storm. Phones on land lines are not safe because charges can travel through wires. However, cell phones are completely safe.

Get inside immediately after hearing thunder during a storm. A house, car or well-enclosed picnic area in parks are good options. If caught outside, crouch to the ground, don't lie on it. Lying on the ground puts the heart closer to the ground, which increases the chance of an electrical charge reaching the heart and stopping it.

Don't hide under a tree. Trees stand high from the ground and a charge can run through them. If a person's hair begins standing up, it means static electricity is in the air and he or she should find cover immediately. However, don't run. Running in a storm increases static electricity that attracts lightning.

Another huge myth is visibly seeing the sun or being outside rainfall means lightning won't strike close. Lightning can strike more than 15 miles away from the storm. A "bolt in the blue" occurs when lightning strikes out the side of a storm

system. These are some of the most common lightning fatalities. In fact, lightning is more dangerous than tornadoes. Lightning is the number one severe weather killer.

Many people think a human body will hold the charge from a lightning strike, but that's not true. The person struck needs CPR immediately. He or she may just need a few chest pumps to get the heart going again, but if you don't the person could be dead by the time paramedics arrive. Paramedics can talk a person through CPR over the phone.

Tornadoes

Tornadoes have their share of myths as well, though many are disappearing. Bathrooms aren't safe to stay in if they are connected to an exterior wall. Also, it doesn't matter if a window is opened or closed during a tornado. Windows will be damaged either way, though if closed, they could prevent debris from coming inside.

Staying safe under overpasses is a common misconception as well. They are not safe from storms and traffic safety would be a concern as well.

Many people believe if a tornado approached from the southwest, it would be safer to stay in the southwest corner of the home. They think it would blow the house over to the northeast, so the southwest side is the safer choice. The center of the home, preferably in a basement, is the safest point.

Source: Ken Dewey, Ph.D., UNL extension climatologist

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN) provides disaster education resources to reduce the impact of natural and man-made disasters. <http://eden.lsu.edu/default.aspx>

Lancaster County Emergency Management provides information or presentations. Contact 441-7441 or go to <http://www.lincoln.ne.gov/Cnty/civil/index.htm>

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