

May

## Karol Swotek



Lancaster County 4-H is proud to announce Karol Swotek as winner of May's "Heart of 4-H Award" in recognition of outstanding volunteer service.



Karol is leader of the 4-H Explorers club, which she started four years ago when her daughter was old enough to be in 4-H. Karol had been a 4-H member herself for 12 years in Sheridan County.

"I like being a 4-H volunteer because 4-H provides an opportunity for interaction doing everyday activities at an enlightening, educational level," says Karol. "4-H activities encourage development of skills and abilities that otherwise may go untapped or undiscovered. My favorite experience as a 4-H volunteer is being given the opportunity to try new activities with a supportive structure. Our members are building friendships on shared interests and teamwork. Club members find out working can be fun, such as helping at the 4-H Food Booth, building a positive work attitude."

In addition to volunteering for 4-H, Karol also volunteers in school, church and community events.

Congratulations to Karol. Volunteers like her are indeed the heart of 4-H!

*Nominate your favorite 4-H volunteer by submitting the form available online at <http://lancaster.unl.edu/4h> or at the extension office. Nominations of co-volunteers welcome.*

## 4-H Rabbit Show Top Winners

The Lancaster County Rabbit VIPS Committee held their annual Spring 4-H Rabbit Show on March 29 at the Lancaster Event Center.

Congratulations to all the youth who participated! Top award winners were:

- Best Fancy Rabbit — Jacob Ronnau, member of South Prairie 4-H Club
- Best Commercial Rabbit — Austin Hurt, member of Rabbits R Us 4-H Club



## 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 19 and 20 at Southeast Community College. Students discovered and explored the relationships and interdependency of land, water, air and living resources through hands-on activities. Now in its 14th 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. Additional photos from this year's festival are online at <http://lancaster.unl.edu/ewf>



Students interpret evidence during a Wildlife CSI session presented by Extension Associate Tracy Kulm.

## Can You Guess It?



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

Did you guess it from the April NEBLINE? The answer was an egg tooth on a baby chicken's beak

## Ag Awareness Festival Teaches 4th Graders About Agriculture

More than 400 fourth graders from Lincoln area schools attended the Ag Awareness Festival held on April 8 and 9 at the Lancaster Event Center. Students gained a greater understanding of agriculture and how it impacts their daily lives. Students rotate between the following 10 interactive stations: Grain Products, Grain By-Products, Farming Technology, Swine, Horse, Dairy Production, Ruminant Nutrition, Dairy Calves, Beef Production and Hay & Forages.

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. This is the seventh year the festival has been held in Lincoln.



Youth take a hands-on approach to learning about dairy calves.



Extension Educator Monte Stauffer shows 4th graders a preserved cow stomach as he teaches ruminant nutrition.



Dawn Hromanik from Oxbow Animal Health demonstrates the importance of roughage (fiber) in animal diets.

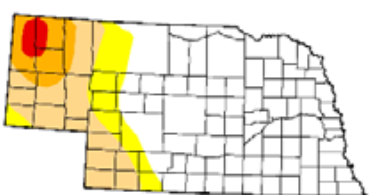


Extension Educator Mark Simmons discusses the role of farm equipment and technology.

## U.S. Drought Monitor Map

As of April 8, Lancaster County was not in drought conditions.

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	Normal	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	66.7	33.3	23.8	7.8	1.7	0.0
Last Week (04/01/2008 map)	66.7	33.3	23.8	7.8	1.7	0.0
3 Months Ago (01/15/2008 map)	66.7	33.3	15.6	7.8	1.7	0.0
Start of Calendar Year (01/01/2008 map)	66.7	33.3	15.9	7.8	1.7	0.0
Start of Water Year (10/01/2007 map)	70.9	29.1	13.6	7.0	1.7	0.0
One Year Ago (04/10/2007 map)	60.2	39.8	25.4	16.5	8.7	0.0



Intensity:  
 E0 Abnormally Dry  
 E1 Drought - Moderate  
 E2 Drought - Severe  
 E3 Drought - Extreme  
 E4 Drought - Exceptional

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

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

Photos by Vicki Jedlicka, UNL Extension in Lancaster County