

## Extension is Now on Popular Social Media Sites

For the past few years, teenagers and young adults have been the primary users of Web sites like MySpace and Facebook. But the face of social networking is changing as their parents and grandparents are embracing this new way to stay in touch. YouTube and Twitter have added even more opportunities to help people connect and learn. UNL Extension in Lancaster County staff use these social and media sharing sites to provide even more opportunities for you to engage with your local extension office.

**YouTube, www.youtube.com** — YouTube was founded in 2005. It is an online Web site where people connect, inform and inspire by sharing short videos. YouTube reports people are watching hundreds of millions of videos every day. And each minute, users are adding 10 hours of video to the site. UNL Extension in Lancaster County has a variety of videos on YouTube so you can watch, learn and enjoy at your convenience. Videos include Farmers' Markets, Lancaster County Fair, Raising Rabbits, 4-H Clover College, Saving Money at Supermarkets and Bagworm Control. For a list of YouTube videos currently available from the extension office, go to <http://lancaster.unl.edu/media>

**Twitter, www.twitter.com** — President Obama uses Twitter. Celebrities use twitter. You can't listen to the evening news without hearing one of the reporters talk about Twitter. Did you know 4-H clubs, government agencies, individuals and families are also using Twitter? Twitter is a free service that let's you keep in touch by quickly exchanging ideas in a "tweet" — saying something in 140 characters or less. Join [Twitter.com](http://twitter.com) and follow us:

- [www.twitter.com/UNL\\_LancasterCo](http://twitter.com/UNL_LancasterCo): follow the tweets on the extension office Twitter to learn about upcoming programs, find useful information and get important updates on hot topics in the yard and garden, on the farm, relationships, finance, pests and much more.

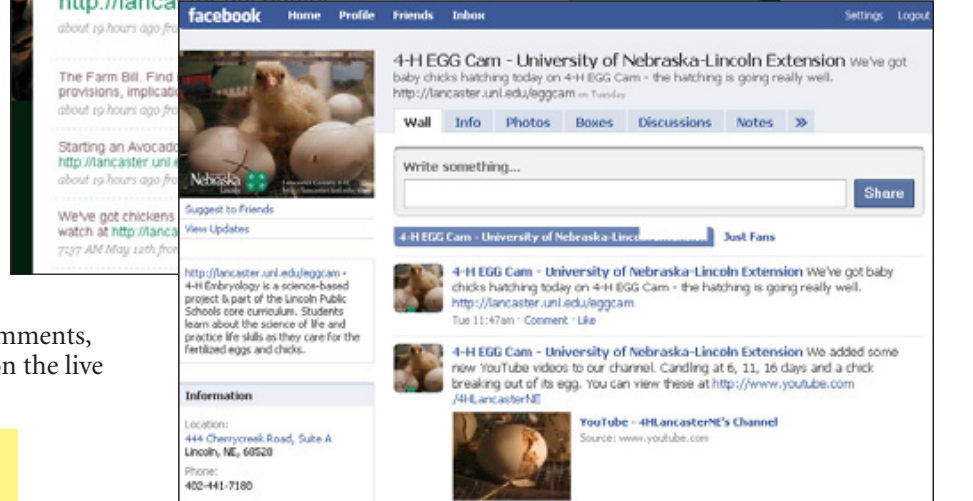
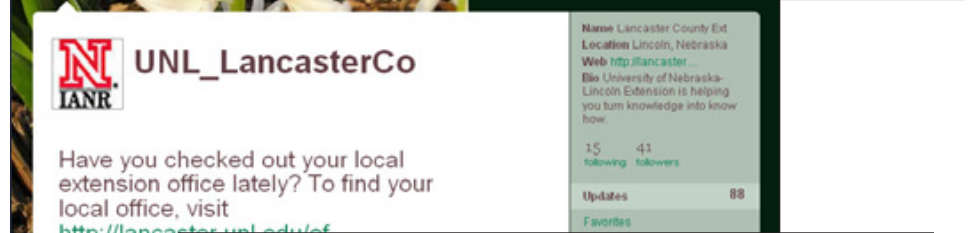
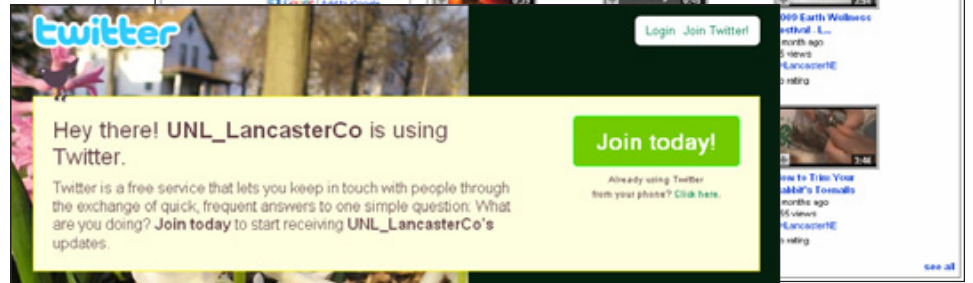
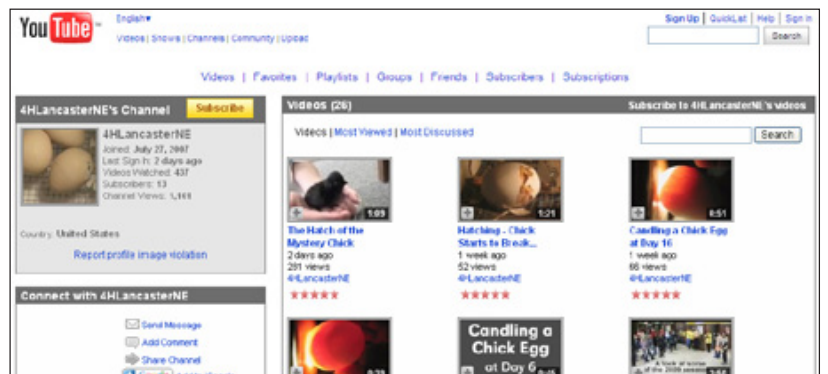
- [www.twitter.com/LancasterCo\\_4H](http://www.twitter.com/LancasterCo_4H): the 4-H Twitter gives 4-H'ers, leaders and families updates on upcoming events, deadlines, ideas for club meetings, resources and much more.

**Facebook, www.facebook.com** — Facebook is a social networking site originally designed for college students, but is now open to anyone 13 years of age or older. Facebook users can create and customize their own profiles with photos, videos, and information about themselves. According to Inside Facebook, in February 2009, Facebook reported nearly 45.3 million active users. Women over the age of 55 are the fastest growing users of Facebook, up 175% from November 2008.

It's easy to start your own free Facebook account and it only takes a few minutes. You'll be asked to edit your profile with basic information and find people you know. Once you have an account, you'll soon be connecting with friends and family, and joining groups of interest to you. Make sure you take time to learn about the privacy options on Facebook. You can decide what you want to make private, and what you want to share. If you have teenagers, also review their privacy settings on Facebook with them.

Once you are on Facebook, you can become a fan of 4-H EGG Cam. A link and directions are available at <http://lancaster.unl.edu/media>. Fans of 4-H EGG Cam get regular updates, share photos, comments, ideas and discuss what's happening on the live streaming Web camera.

Access these opportunities at <http://lancaster.unl.edu/media>



## Can You Guess It?



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

Did you guess it from the May NEBLINE?  
Aged horse manure — a great soil amendment for the garden

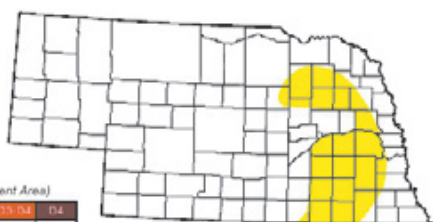
## Attracting Wildlife: American Goldfinch



Female (left) and male (right) goldfinches (summer colors)

## U.S. Drought Monitor Map

As of May 12, Lancaster County was in abnormally dry conditions.



	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)						
	None	D0-D1	D1-D2	D2-D3	D3-D4	D4	D5
Current	85.7	14.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Last Week (05/05/2009 map)	85.9	14.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
3 Months Ago (02/17/2009 map)	89.5	10.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Start of Calendar Year (01/01/2009 map)	89.8	10.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Start of Water Year (10/01/2008 map)	83.0	17.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
One Year Ago (05/13/2008 map)	65.4	34.6	15.1	7.8	0.0	0.0	0.0

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

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

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

American Goldfinches are some of the most beautiful birds in our neighborhoods. They are sometimes called wild canaries. In summer, males are vivid yellow with black on the wings and top of head. Females and young are a more drab olive.

Goldfinch fly as if they are on a rollercoaster, dipping up and down. While they fly, they sing a series of chirping notes. Unlike many songbirds, goldfinches do not carry droppings of the young away from their nest. The nest becomes very messy by the time the baby birds are ready to leave.

Goldfinches prefer shrubby, weedy fields, wood

edges, pastures, meadows and open areas with scattered, brushy thickets and trees. They nest from June–September in shrubs or small trees, 4 to 14 feet high. This is relatively late compared to some other songbirds. The pale bluish white eggs hatch in about two weeks. Both parents feed the baby birds until they are ready to fly in 10–16 days.

Goldfinches are primarily seed eaters. They feed on thistle seeds and the seeds of ragweed, goldenrod and dandelion. They will eat some insects in spring.

These delightful birds are common at backyard bird feeders. They feed on niger or thistle seeds. The birds will

also eat broken sunflower hearts and black-oil sunflower seeds. Hanging finch feeders work best, but these birds will also feed out of other types of feeders. A water source for drinking and bathing is an important attractant.

Goldfinches will not take advantage of man-made bird houses or nesting structures. You can attract them by planting or maintaining shrubby vegetation near pastures or weedy areas in rural areas. In urban backyards, plant zinnias, evening primrose and other plants with small seeds.

Source: *Who's Who in Great Plains Songbirds*.