

## Termite School Increases Hands-on Training Opportunities For Applicators

**Barb Ogg**  
UNL Extension Educator

Eradication of termites from structures takes skill and knowledge about termites, how structures are constructed and how treatments must be safely applied to eradicate termite infestations. Because termite treatments are expensive, property owners expect competent termite technicians to solve their termite problem.

Every year since 2005, UNL Extension has offered a two-day termite school to provide in-depth training for applicators. This training is unique because the hands-on activities take place at a house with a real termite infestation.

This year's training on Sept. 24-25 was at a home in Martell. The homeowners noticed termite mud tubes in early spring near the furnace in the basement and called the extension office for information about termites. In exchange for letting us use their house for training, we offered to solve their termite problem (at no cost to them). We chose their house because termite activity was visible and it was an interesting house from a teaching perspective.

Program participants learned about novel inspection equipment, house inspection techniques and what locations are most vulnerable to termite

attack. Participants calculated the amount of termiticide needed and discussed how different parts of the house should be treated, in accordance with label directions. Both barrier and bait treatments were covered, along with borate (green) treatments. Personal and environmental safety was also an important theme throughout the two-day program. Attendants received a respirator, gloves and safety goggles.

Forty participants attended this year's workshop. This has become a regional program with applicators from Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri and Iowa attending.

One participant commented, "The training was excellent. I feel better prepared to move forward and offer ... treatments to my customers."

This annual program has been a collaboration between UNL Extension, Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA) and industry representatives. Presentations were given by Dennis Ferraro, Clyde Ogg, Barb Ogg (UNL Extension), Tim Husen (UNL Department of Entomology), Buzz Vance and Clayton Haman (NDA). This year's industry presentations were given by Jim Dotson (Bayer Environmental Sciences), Brian Mount (FMC Corp), Bob Davis and Jared Harris (BASF), Jack Watkins (Dow AgroSciences) and Eric Ham (Nisus Corporation).



In February 2009, homeowners noticed termite mud tubes emerging from a crack in the basement floor.



During Clyde Ogg's pesticide safety demonstration, workshop participants received a respirator and a fit test.



Dennis Ferraro (left) taught proper sub-slab termiticide application techniques.



Participants had a chance to practice injecting liquid for a perimeter application.

## Can You Guess It?



USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service

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

Did you guess it from the October NEBLINE?  
The answer was American Bittersweet

## 4-H'er Recalls State Horse Show Experience

*Editor's Note: As part of the requirements to attain the highest level awarded in the Lancaster County 4-H Horse Incentive Program, 4-H members must complete and hand in a "Light Horse Project" record book. The following story is from Kate Rawlinson's record book. Kate is 12 years old and is a member of the Esprit de Corps 4-H Club.*

**Kate Rawlinson**  
Lancaster County 4-H member

It was one of those hot July mornings that you felt like you were riding through micro-waved syrup. It had been a long haul from home in Lincoln to the state horse show in Grand Island. Head tilted back and eyes closed, I was inhaling the scent of summer, the hot, sticky, dry scent of summer. Sailor and I were walking along. He was always patient when I fumbled with the two reins on my Pelham bridle. Today was no different. Even after the long trailer ride, Sailor was flexible, supple and raring to go.

"Final call, Hunter Hack." My eyes popped open and I looked at Sailor. Hunter Hack was not supposed to start until

9:30, yet the final call came to us at 9:00. My head spun a mile a minute as I hurriedly got dressed and ready. Sailor stood patiently by me, commanding my brain to relax. It was really some magic power of his. Soon I was ready, and I felt cool, calm and collected. It was the feeling of melted butter; soft and squishy. While walking toward the in-gate, I mentally prepared myself for a 2-foot course, like that of the county fair. When I walked onto the course, my mouth dropped, eyes popped, brain exploded and stomach flip-flopped. This was no mediocre 2-foot course. This was the real deal. This course was 2 feet and 6 inches. Six inches does not seem like a lot from the binoculars in the grandstands, but it does when you are hurtling toward it on a 12-hundred-pound land mammal.

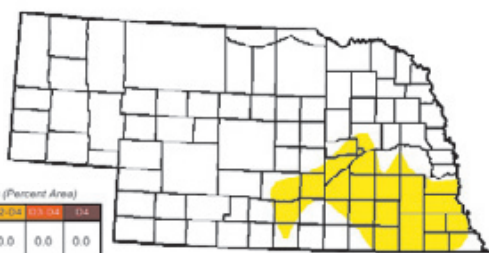
True to his nature, Sailor launched over it like the angel he was born to be. I felt so bad not knowing what to do or how to do it. This class was up to Sailor, almost. We would have won if it was completely up to him, but it was not. I had a part in this ordeal too; I was supposed to steer. After our second jump, I was too busy

rejoicing that my butt was in the saddle and not planted in the freshly plowed dirt that I completely forgot to back up after I stopped. I came out feeling like such an idiot. After the flat class, we stood in a line of experienced horses and riders who all did superbly. We ended up with a red because remembering your pattern is a pretty big deal. (Who would have thought?) But I was proud and discouraged all at the same time. I was discouraged because I had let my horse down. After all the great things he did for me, I could not even show him off to the best of my ability. However, I had a reason for being proud, too. I could have been in an ambulance instead of on my beloved horse's back, accepting the ribbon he won. I could have given up like the 13 other entrants who scratched. But no. I did not fall, and I did not give up. I believed in the horse I love, and our trust is worth more than any ribbon I will ever win. And, we will be right back there next year. Not falling, not quitting, but believing in each other.

4-H Horse Award Night  
Results are on p. 9.

## U.S. Drought Monitor Map

As of Oct. 13,  
Lancaster County  
was abnormally  
dry.



	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)				
	None	D1	D2	D3	D4
Current	84.8	15.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Last Week (10/06/2009 map)	81.6	18.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
3 Months Ago (07/01/2009 map)	76.2	23.8	2.1	0.0	0.0
Start of Calendar Year (01/01/2009 map)	89.8	10.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Start of Water Year (10/01/2008 map)	81.6	18.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
One Year Ago (10/14/2008 map)	90.0	10.0	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