

## Ag Land Management: Back to the Basics

Monday, Aug. 7 • 9:30 a.m.–3 p.m.

Lancaster Extension Education Center,  
444 Cherrycreek Road, Lincoln

Please register by Friday, Aug. 4 by calling  
402-441-7180

Cost is \$20/person or \$30/couple (includes lunch)

This workshop is designed for farmland owners who haven't been on the farm much, or on the farm recently. It is also designed to be a refresher course for those who would like to have the latest information on land management and rental. Instructors will be Extension Educators Allan Vyhnaek, Aaron Nygren and Jim Jansen.

Vyhnaek says, "I am contacted monthly from citizens who have had their parents pass away, and now they are managing a farm for the first time in their lives. They may have even grown up there, but haven't been around for 30 or 40 years, and need to understand that farming practices and management concepts have changed."

Participants can use this seminar to learn about:

- Am I keeping the farm, or selling it?

- How do I manage a farm?
- If leasing, what are key lease provisions?
- What legal considerations do I have with this decision?
- How do we manage family communications and expectations when other family members are involved?
- What does a soil test tell me?
- I hear about organic or natural production. How does that vary from what my farmer is currently doing?
- If corn and soybeans aren't making money, why don't we raise other crops?
- What should I expect for communications between the landlord and tenant?
- What are key pasture leasing considerations?

For assistance about seminar content, contact Allan Vyhnaek by e-mail at [avyhnaek2@unl.edu](mailto:avyhnaek2@unl.edu).

## Opportunities for Growing and Grazing Cover Crops

Wednesday, Aug. 9 • 11 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

During the Lancaster County Super Fair  
Lancaster Event Center – Exhibit Hall, 84th & Havelock, Lincoln

Please register by Friday, Aug. 4 by going to  
<http://lancaster.unl.edu/ag/covercrops> or calling 402-441-7180

FREE thanks to our sponsors (includes lunch)



Nebraska Extension, Lancaster County Farm Bureau, Nebraska Corn Board and North Central SARE have teamed up to provide this unique learning and networking opportunity for potential cover crop growers and cattle operators. Lunch will be provided. A reception will follow the event sponsored by Polansky Seed.

The day will feature a trade show, speakers from both public and private organizations, as well as first-hand insight from producers who are using cover crops in

Nebraska. Program topics will include:

- Tips and opportunities for growing cover crops.
- How and when to utilize livestock.
- Rental rates and partnership agreements.
- Opportunity to visit and network with related businesses and producers.

There are many challenges and opportunities with cover crops, but utilizing cattle to graze cover crops may provide a benefit to both farmers and cattle owners. President of Lancaster

County Farm Bureau Rod Hollman says, "Cover crops can be a way for both livestock producers and grain producers to improve soil health and increase their income. Cover crops can provide extra feed for livestock allowing producers to increase the size of their herds."

UNL Beef Systems Specialist Mary Drewnoski says, "Using cattle to graze cover crops is a way to capture extra income while also gaining some environmental benefits."

# Water Conservation in the Hot Summer Months

Meghan Sittler  
Extension Educator

Water conservation is important to both your drinking water and wastewater systems. Conservation is also important to help protect your pocket book.

During the warm summer months and the growing season, water use tends to increase as we try to help meet water demand of lawns, vegetable gardens, flowers and trees.

However, our water use inside the house can also tend to increase during the summer months — something we may not always realize. We may create more laundry, take more frequent showers, teenagers may be home during the days instead of at school, combined with other household practices that can increase our water usage.

There are an increasing number of ways to use water more efficiently within our society, such as many appliances designed to use smaller amounts of water, low-flow faucets and fixtures, and rain barrels to catch and reuse water outside the home. However, it is still a good idea to practice good conservation measures both within and outside the home to protect the safety and reliability of your water supply.

Developing good conservation habits can help lower utility and maintenance costs and provide greater insurance



for your water supply in years of drought. Here are some tips.

### Water Conservation Inside the Home

- Wash fewer full loads of laundry instead of multiple small loads and select the correct load size on your machine.
- Draw a pitcher of water to keep in the fridge so water isn't wasted while you wait for the tap water to cool to the desired temperature.
- Shut the flow of water off while shampooing, brushing teeth or shaving.
- Run the dishwasher only when you have a full load.
- Plug the sink if you are washing.
- Compost leftover food to limit running the garbage disposal.
- Adjust the water level in your toilet tank.
- Fix faucets that drip or have a small leak as soon as you notice the issue.
- If you have a dehumidifier,

use the water collected by the machine, to water house plants.

- Explore rebates or cost-share programs on the purchase or installation of water-efficient fixtures and appliances.

### Water Conservation in the Landscape

- Plant native or drought tolerant plants that require less water.
- Purchase an inexpensive soil moisture probe to assess soil moisture and the need to water vegetables, flowers, trees and shrubs.
- Ensure your in-ground irrigation system has a rain sensor installed and functioning to make sure your system does not run immediately after or during a rain shower.
- Sweep driveways, sidewalks, porches and decks instead of using water to rinse off dust and debris.
- Wash your car using a bucket instead of running the water constantly.
- Consider installing a soaker hose or drip irrigation system to help water plants more efficiently and reduce water lost to evaporation.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

You can find many more ways to conserve water inside and outside the home at:

- <http://water.unl.edu>
- <http://lancaster.unl.edu>
- [www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense)

## Water "Load" Affects Private Wastewater Systems

If you live on an acreage or a farm, water conservation is not only important for your water supply, but is also equally important for the successful and appropriate operation of your individual wastewater system. Increased water use in your home can strain your wastewater system.

Your system is designed for a certain "load" of wastewater entering it each day. Not exceeding that amount of wastewater or "load" is key to ensuring your system operates properly.

If your system's load is exceeded, the system will not be able to effectively treat the wastewater to remove harmful bacteria and other contaminants. The system can become overloaded and result in untreated wastewater rising to the surface and exposing your surface and groundwater, as well as plants and animals to harmful contaminants.

Some simple tips to prevent your system from exceeding its designed load include:

- Stagger loads of laundry throughout the week instead of washing all your laundry on one day.



Deann Hochman, flickr.com

- Composting leftover or discarded food can limit or eliminate the use of your garbage disposal and reduce the amount of both wastewater and solids entering your wastewater system.

Practice other water conservation habits such as:

- Fixing leaks in faucets immediately.
- Adjusting water levels within your toilets.
- Taking shorter showers and shutting off the water when brushing your teeth or shaving.
- Only running the dishwasher when there is a full load.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Nebraska Extension has many resources on private wastewater systems at <http://water.unl.edu>