Increasing Outreach Through “Training the Trainer”

In addition to direct outreach, University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension trains individuals who in turn impact multiple people. This includes teachers, business professionals, food and other service industry workers, government employees, health professionals, childcare providers and community volunteers.

Here are some ways Cooperative Extension trains individuals:

- Extension provides training for Commercial Pesticide Applicator certification. More than 350 people were trained or recertified at the Lancaster Extension Education Center in 2002.

- Extension provides integrated pest management educational resources for pest control professionals, health care professionals and social workers.

- A teaching program was developed for commercial horticulture industry employees on localized horticultural concepts and horticulture clinics and videos.

- Master Gardener volunteers receive training and share the information with the public through phone calls, direct contacts, educational programs and special events.

- In the ServSafe program, extension partners with UNL, Lancaster County Extension, and the Nebraska Restaurant Association to train food handlers in food safety procedures. Ninety-seven percent of ServSafe participants pass a national certification test.

- Extension conducts Food, Nutrition and Food Safety Updates for child care providers, directors and cooks, in cooperation with the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department and the State Department of Education.

- Lincoln Public School teachers learn how to use Nutrition Education Program activity kits during a teacher training and sign up.

- Lancaster County Extension developed an award-winning program “Don’t Get Bugged by a Foodborne Illness,” for nutrition educators to teach consumers important food safety practices. Approximately 3,000 copies of the game have been sold to educators nationally and internationally.

- The Food Web site offers extensive resources for other health professionals and educators to teach successful food, nutrition and food safety programming.

- 4-H staff provides ongoing leadership training to 4-H leaders and parents.

UNL Cooperative Extension in Lancaster County 2001–02 Honors and Awards

- Extension Educator Gary C. Bergman — co-winner, 2001 National Finalist, NACAA Communication Award; State Winner, Masters category, NACAA Communication Award.

- Extension Associate Arlene Hanna — award winner for volunteering over 1,200 hours in Lincoln Public Schools, Ventures in Partnerships.

- Extension Educator Alice Hanneman — co-winner, Regional Communications (Educational Technology). National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Scientists, selected to co-present poster presentation at annual meeting of National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Scientists; selected to co-present session at annual meeting of the American Evaluation Association.

- Extension Educator Barb Ogg — selected to present paper at region meeting of the Entomological Society of America.

- Extension Educator Maureen Burgess — presented to Nebraska Extension Education Center by entities who work with limited-resource families.

Lancaster Extension Education Center Serves Community Programs

As part of extension’s commitment to community learning, the conference facilities at Lancaster Extension Education Center are made available to other non-profit and governmental organizations. Last year, more than 2,125 hours of meetings were held at the Education Center by entities such as City of Lincoln, Human Service Federation, Lincoln Public Schools and United Way.

“Education has the power to transform lives as well as entire communities. Cooperative Extension’s programs turn knowledge into action which helps create a stronger Nebraska.”

— Heben Heyen, president of Lancaster County Extension Board

Norris FFA students test nitrate levels in private well water.

Beginning in 1997, Lancaster County Extension began a partnership with Nebraska Public School to teach vocational agriculture classes about precision agriculture techniques such as global positioning systems (GPS) and geographic information system (GIS) technologies. This knowledge base lies at the heart of their involvement in “Safe Water Tomorrow Through Pollution Prevention Today,” a project developed by Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department. Norris FFA students are in the process of testing and mapping 600 private drinking wells in local rural areas. In October 2002, Norris students placed third in a nationwide water quality competition at The National Youth Watershed Summit in Edgewater, Maryland.