**Landlord/Tenant Lease Workshop, Feb. 13**

Nebraska Extension will present a Farmland Landlord/Tenant Cash Lease workshop on Friday, Feb. 13, 9:30 a.m. – 12 noon at the Lancaster Extension Education Center, 444 Cherrycreek Road. This program is free, but please preregister by Feb. 1 by calling 402-481-0168. The workshop is designed to help landlords and tenants put together a lease that is right for both parties. It maintains positive Farm leasing relations. It is very helpful if both the tenant and landlord can attend together. It is also helpful if the spouse attends.

Allan Vynhalek, Extension Educator in Platte County, will present:

- Latest information about land values and cash rental rates for the area and state.
- Expectations from the lease, including goal setting for the rental property.
- Lease termination, including terminating handshake or verbal leases.
- Lease communication, determining appropriate information sharing for both the tenant and landlord.
- Alternative cash lease arrangements, flexible provision considerations for your situation; and
- Other topics, like irrigation systems, hay rent, pasture rental agreements, and grain bin rental will be covered as time allows.

The workshop is sponsored by the Nebraska Soybean Board. Refreshments and handouts are provided.

For more information or assistance, please contact Allan at avynhalek2@unl.edu or 402-563-4901.

**Rain Gardens – A Green Solution to Acreage Stormwater Management**

Sarah Browning
Extension Educator

Rain Gardens are ornamental landscape areas in shallow depressions which allow rain water to hold water for about 48 hours or less.

Water from rain and melting snow or ice. Traditionally stormwater runoff has been considered a nuisance because it causes damage to our homes or even flooding. Gutters, storm drains, pipes and other structures are used to collect and carry stormwater away from our homes and release it into local drainage ways or streams as quickly as possible.

A New Way of Thinking

However, stormwater management is changing. Current techniques imitate natural systems by capturing and using rainwater close to where it falls. New practices, often referred to as green infrastructure, treat runoff as an asset, not a waste product or nuisance. Green infrastructure relies on plants, soils and the microbial action of soil organisms to encourage stormwater infiltration, evaporation and filtering. It lessens the negative impacts of stormwater runoff by mimicking the functions of natural ecosystems.

Stormwater management functions best when it works together with the existing landscape. This is frequently called low impact development. Low impact site design can greatly reduce runoff problems by:

- preserving natural areas and natural vegetation,
- reducing the amount of impervious surfaces that produce runoff, and
- integrating stormwater management into the landscape.

This decreases the amount of runoff, reduces erosion and helps keep polluted runoff out of streams, rivers and lakes.

Effective stormwater management reduces the amount of runoff and runoff pollution by slowing runoff and allowing it to soak in. When stormwater stays close to where it falls, less soil erosion occurs and fewer pollutants are carried to surface water. Green infrastructure encourages water infiltration into the soil, which filters runoff to remove and neutralize many kinds of pollutants.

Rain Gardens and Bioswales

Two techniques that can be used on acreages to manage stormwater are rain gardens and bioswales. Rain gardens are ornamental landscape areas planted with native or adapted deep-rooting vegetation in a shallow depression, typically 4–12 inches deep. They are designed to hold water for a short period of time, generally 48 hours or less, before the water infiltrates into the soil. They are typically located where roof or other surface runoff can be easily directed, but at least 10 feet away from foundations or basements to avoid water problems. The plants and amended native soil in a rain garden facilitate infiltration and evapotranspiration, as well as provide pollutant filtering.

A bioswale is a broad, shallow, gently sloped, vegetated channel designed to convey, filter and infiltrate stormwater. Bioswales slow runoff water velocity, trap sediment and other contaminants, promote infiltration and help direct runoff. Bioswales are sometimes used adjacent to streets in place of curbs and gutters.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Several great Nebraska Extension publications are available to aid in the design and installation of rain gardens and bioswales.

- “Stormwater Management: Rain Garden Design for Homeowners,” at www.ipm.unl.edu/envl/smfdd/g1758.pdf
- “Stormwater Management: Plant Selection for Rain Gardens in Nebraska,” at www.ipm.unl.edu/envl/smfdd/g1759.pdf
- “Stormwater Management: Installing Rain Gardens in Your Yard,” at www.iapund.unl.edu/sendIt/g1760.pdf

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Several great Nebraska Extension publications are available to aid in the design and installation of rain gardens and bioswales.

Commercial/Noncommercial applicators are professionals who apply restricted-use pesticides for hire or compensation, on property that is not owned or rented by themselves or their employer. Anyone who applies pesticides to the property of another person, either restricted- or general-use products, for control of pests in lawns, landscapes, buildings or homes must also have a commercial pesticide applicator license. Public employees (those employed by a town, county, state) applying mosquito control products, for control of pests in lawn, landscapes, buildings or homes must also have a commercial pesticide applicator license. Public employees (those employed by a town, county, state) applying mosquito control for control of pests in lawn, landscapes, buildings or homes who register online is $60/person; for those registering by mail, fax or at the door, the cost is $70/person.

Note: Due to time and space limitations, training will not be offered in all the general standards categories on every day of training. Check the schedule listing when each category training will be offered.

Commercial certification training sessions will be offered at the Lancaster Extension Education Center, 444 Cherrycreek Road, on the following dates:

- Tuesday, Feb. 3 (categories offered 00-01-04-07-09-11-14)
- Thursday, Feb. 5, 19 categories offered (00-04-07-08-08w-10)
- Thursday, April 9, 4 categories offered (00-04)

The general standards session will begin at 8:30 am. It is highly recommended you obtain and review the written study materials prior to attending. This will greatly improve your chances of passing the written examination. Study materials for all commercial categories may be purchased online at http://pest.education.unl.edu (click on “Classes & Study Materials”).

Commercial recertification training sessions will be offered at the Lancaster Extension Education Center, 444 Cherrycreek Road on the following dates:

- Thursday, Feb. 5 (categories offered: 00-04-05-07-08-08w-11)
- Tuesday, Feb. 17, (categories offered: 00-04-05-07-08-08w-11)
- Thursday, March 19 (categories offered: 00-01-04-07-08-08w-11-14)

The general standards session will begin at 9 a.m.

Note: There are no certification training sessions for Agricultural Pest Control – Animal, Fungicides of Soil, Forest Pest Control, Sewer Root Control with Metam Sodium, Seed Treatment, Aerial Pest Control, Regulatory Pest Control (subcategory), and Demonstration/Research Pest Control (subcategory). There are self-study materials which will enable the applicant to take the examinations in these categories. The only way to certify or re-certify in these categories is to pass a written examination.

For statewide training locations, dates and categories, go to http://pested.unl.edu. For more information about the trainings in Lancaster County, call 402-441-7180.

**NDA Licensing Procedures**

Commercial applicators meeting the certification and licensing renewal or re-certification will receive an invoice from the NDA for $90 for the license fee. When the NDA receives the fee, the license will be issued.

For more information about pesticide licensing, go to www.agr.ne.gov/pesticide.