New in Extension This Year

Hands-On Termite School for Termite Applicators

UNL Extension has presented Termite Control Workshops for Homeowners statewide for 10 years. Increased public awareness from these workshops emphasized the need for hands-on, in-depth training of entry-level termite applicators.

Extension Educator Barb Ogg organized a two-day Hands-on Termite School for Termite Applicators. Held in September, this was the first such training offered in Nebraska. Presenters included University of Nebraska-Lincoln faculty, Nebraska Department of Agriculture pesticide enforcement personnel and industry professionals. Ogg also co-authored and edited a reference manual, *Subterranean Termites: A Handbook for Nebraska Pest Control Professionals*.

According to post-workshop evaluations, 100 percent of attendees were better able to calibrate application equipment, 96 percent were more confident in their ability to identify termite-damaged structures, and 92 percent said they would be less likely to violate label directions. "Your school was well-organized, full of solid educational value," said Bob Hegney of IRC Equipment Company. "I wish there had been a school like this when I first went into pest control."

School Enrichment Nutrition Kits for Kindergarten

NEP’s school enrichment kits for 1st, 4th and 5th grades are now in their sixth year. Using the kits, teachers now average 13 hours of classroom teaching per year — up from 2 hours when the program began. To date, 11,972 students have participated in NEP-School Enrichment program, and the federal Food Stamp Nutrition Education Program has invested more than $127,000 into the Lincoln community as the result.

4-H and GPS Technology

Lancaster County 4-H began introducing youth to Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Global Positioning Systems (GPS) technology. With the help of members from the local Civil Air Patrol squadron, a “GPS Basics” workshop was offered at this year’s 4-H Clover College. With funding from the Nebraska 4-H Foundation, Lancaster County 4-H placed a geocache as part of the high-tech adventure game, geocaching. 4-H also added a GIS/GPS static exhibit category at the 2004 4-H State Fair.

"Container Plants" Video

Extension Educators Don Janssen (of Lancaster County) and John Fech (of Douglas/Sarpy Counties) developed the seventh of UNL Extension’s series of horticultural videos which can be used as training tools for the commercial horticulture industry or as educational tools for interested individuals. The horticultural videos/DVDs can be ordered online at http://lancaster.unl.edu/burt.

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Partners with Nebraska

Land-grant universities work with the people they serve. University of Nebraska—Lincoln teaches, discovers new knowledge through research, and extends that new, unbiased information across the state and beyond through extension. Extension is a division of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska—Lincoln cooperating with the counties and the United States Department of Agriculture. Extension helps Nebraskans put knowledge to work.

Locally, University of Nebraska–Lincoln Extension helps your local extension office leverage its resources and accomplish more. Combining resources and expertise with others gets things done faster. We pride ourselves on working with others throughout the community.

A growing community means more people and increases the challenge of providing personnel and resources. To be effective, we have utilized technology and developed a content-rich Web site that continues to expand exponentially. Extension staff also speak to larger audiences, such as Extension Educator Alice Henneman presenting at Bryan-LGH Medical Center with groups of 200 to 400 people.

Extension’s educational programs and services impact individuals, families, businesses, farms and local communities in many ways. Here are some impacts of this past year:

- Our staff responded to over 23,500 phone calls, walk-ins and e-mails from the public requesting information.
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- NEP-School Enrichment Education Program fund raising, there is a projected health care cost saving of $4.5 million annually.
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- NEP-School Enrichment Education Program fundraising, there is a projected health care cost saving of $4.5 million annually.
- UNL Extension’s Crop Protection Clinic estimated an increased profit potential of $6.72 per acre on 662,484 acres for a $4.25 million benefit to participants.
- Research shows for every dollar of Nutrition Education Program funding, there is a projected health care cost saving of $4.5 million annually.
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- 14,848 youth participated in the Lancaster County 4-H youth development program, which focuses on learning-by-doing.
- The Citizens’ Wash-ington Focus 4-H group completed a three-year project, culminating with an in-depth, 15-day learning experience traveling to Washington D.C. Our Web site received nearly 6 million hits annually.