Volunteers Contribute to Extension’s Success

UNL Extension in Lancaster County trains and supports, as well as coordinates the efforts of a variety of volunteers: 4-H leaders and superintendents, Master Gardeners, Family Community Education (FCE) volunteers and Nutrition Education Program (NEP) volunteers. In addition, 4-H and FCE members often volunteer in community-related projects. Extension programs in Lancaster County benefited from 1,871 volunteers investing 22,671 hours of time for a total value of $397,876.*

Independent Sector values volunteer time at $17.55/hour.

Plant and Pest Diagnostic Services
Throughout the year, Lancaster County residents bring sick plant parts and an assortment of insects, pests and wildlife “signs” to the UNL Extension in Lancaster County office. A free service, extension entomologists and entomologists identify insects, weeds and diseases in and around the home and garden. UNL Extension makes recommendations about the best way to help manage these problems.

Lancaster Extension Education Center Facilitates Community Programs
As part of extension’s commitment to community learning, the extension education facilities at Lancaster Extension Education Center are made available to other nonprofit and governmental organizations at a nominal cost. Last year, more than 4,300 hours of conferences and meetings were held at the Education Center. “This is such a valuable community resource and has been much appreciated by my office,” says Deputy Jerry Witte with the Lancaster County Sheriff’s Office.

Web Site Receives Nearly 6 Million Hits Annually

University of Nebraska–Lincoln Extension in Lancaster County’s Web site, http://lancaster.unl.edu, has more than 5,000 pages of content and received 5,966,790 hits (accesses) last year! The Food Web site continued to be rated “Among the Best” by Tufts University Nutrition Navigator. Extension in Lancaster County’s Web site’s resources are frequently featured near the top of many search engine results.

Visitors can easily navigate the site and find extensive educational resources in extension’s program areas. The site is updated daily and has interactive features such as online registration forms, searchable database, Egg Cam, movie clips, quizzes and Master Gardener Diagnostic Center.

Not only do Lancaster County residents, Nebraskans and Americans utilize the site, the site also has Web users from more than 100 countries monthly.

"I have to compliment you on your very informative site! I needed more information about poultry egg candling, development, etc. and your site was by far the most interesting, informative and navigable."
— G. Kohar, Ohio

Staff Honors, Awards and Accomplishments

Extension Educator Gary Bergman — Nebraska representative on planning committee for the National Urban Extension Conference to be held May 2007 in Kansas City, Mo.; vice-president of the Nebraska Great Plains Resource Conservation and Development.

Extension Educator Tom Dorn — president-elect of the Nebraska Section of the National Association of County Agricultural Agents, president-elect of the Nebraska Agribusiness Club.

Extension Educator Alice Henneman — 2004 Omvedt Innovation Award presented by John Owens, Vice Chancellor of the UNL Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources; member of the Scientific Advisory Committee for Food and Health Communications; invited to co-present “Leading the Way in Osteoporosis Prevention” at the Society for Nutrition Education annual meeting; invited to present at poster session on “Sink Those Germs: An Activity to Promote Handwashing to Younger Children” at Society for Nutrition Education annual meeting.

Retired Extension Associate Arlene Hanna — 2005 National Award Winner of the Edith Stevens Extension Educator Award presented by The Groundwater Foundation.

Extension Associate Oscar Rios Pohirieth — statewide Communication Award presented by the Nebraska Cooperative Extension Association (NCEA) 4-H Section; regional semi-finalist Communication Award presented by the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents.

Extension Educator Barb Ogg — invited to present a poster session at the ABC’s for Good Health program at the Society for Nutrition Education annual meeting.

Extension Educator Mardel Meinke — state member of Urban Pest Management Conference team which received an Excellence in Team Programming Award from UNL Extension.

Extension Associate Arlene Hanna — 2005 National Award Winner of the Edith Stevens Extension Educator Award presented by The Groundwater Foundation.

The information resources UNL Extension in Lancaster County has available comes from knowledge based on experience, science and technology. The availability of this information allows all members of this community to have the opportunity to better function within the natural environment around them."
— Oscar Rios Pohirieth, Lancaster County Extension Board