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For Immediate Release

April Winds are Perfect for Kites

Spring is finally here, and you know what that means? Sunshine, budding trees, daffodils, Easter eggs and wind, lots of wind. This time of year, the wind can really try our patience, our shingles, and all yard decorations that aren't fastened down. I say, let's make the best of it and go fly a kite! Flying kites is a great opportunity to be outside, get some exercise and of course tap into our creativity.

Growing up we only received a few "real kites", most often we had to make our own. We would make kites out of anything and everything. We tried feed sacks, trash bags, newspapers, fabric we took from mom's sewing room. For the connecting sticks, we used sticks, bits of wire, or anything else that looked like it might work that we found in dad's shop. If it was available, believe me, we would have tried it. We spent a lot of time constructing our kites. Once our masterpieces were ready, we would run our little feet off trying to get them off the ground. So much running. Unfortunately, the kites were not meant to fly and rarely took flight. Once again, we were back to the drawing board. Although we weren't successful, we didn't stop trying.

As a mom, I loved giving kites to my children. It was always fun to see them pull them out and run around the hay field with their kites. It's usually easy to find inexpensive kites. I even kept kites in my car and in my husband's pickup for years. When we would go and pick up my husband from the field, there was always "waiting time". While he was making extra rounds with the disc or the swather, we would pull out our kites. They are a great way to pass the time and entertain your kids.

Central and western Nebraska is the best place to fly kites. Each year the Callaway Kite Flight celebrates the winds of Nebraska and creativity. This event is held over Labor Day weekend and welcomes professional kite flyers as well as kids flying their first kite ever. It is a beautiful site to see with

the rainbow of kites in the sky. You will see kites of all sizes and shapes. My children loved the kites that would drop candy over the field. They would get so excited to see them flying and then run out and fill their pockets with candy. This event is so much fun for all ages. You can find more information on Facebook – Callaway Kite Flight or the Village of Callaway website. If you must drive far to get there, throw a kite in your trunk. If your children get restless, you can pull over and get the kites out. After a bit they will be worn out and ready to get back in the car.

When we look again at our unstable weather in April, we may have rainy, sunny, windy, or even stormy days. I say, take advantage of one of those rainy or stormy days to make kites with your children or grandchildren. Gather your supplies and turn loose the creativity. Whether it flies or not, we would love to see it at the County Fair. We have classes for posters on kites and a specific class for home-made kites. If you have any questions on our kite fair projects or others, please contact your local Extension Office. In all fun and games, I will end by telling you to “Go Fly a Kite”.

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