
In our rapidly changing community, Nebraska Extension and 4-H in Douglas-Sarpy Counties is a respected educational leader offering research-based educational programming and outreach to improve the lives and lifestyles of local youth and families. We also provide vital scientific resources to aid in the development and management of area organizations, businesses and civic institutions.

Our team of educators operating out of our Omaha and Papillion office locations serve Douglas and Sarpy Counties via the following University of NE-Lincoln (UNL) educational program areas: Community Environment; Food, Nutrition & Health; 4-H & Youth Development; and The Learning Child. We also receive support from UNL regional extension educators for Urban Agriculture, Crop & Water Systems, and Beef Systems.

In these Bimonthly Impact Reports, we share recent accomplishments, milestones, updates, and important data with our extension board, county commissioners and public stakeholders. We welcome your inquiries and feedback. Please contact Jayne Hutton, Interim Unit Leader: jayne.hutton@unl.edu | 402/444-7871.

Community Environment

On June 8, 2016, the NE Department of Agriculture announced that the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) was found in a tree located in Pulaski Park in Omaha, NE. Because of its potential to cause lethal damage to unprotected ash trees, Nebraska Extension recommends a 5-step approach to management:

1. Identify the tree as an ash tree species.

2. Evaluate the tree's age, condition and location. If it is between 5-50 years of age, defect-free and located in a place that casts shade on a home or other important building, it's a good candidate for being retained in the landscape. If it's very young or old, has flaws such as co-dominant leaders, decay or stem girdling roots, it may not be worth saving.
3. Trees that are determined to be good candidates for treatment that are under 20 inches in diameter can be treated by individual property owners with products available at independent garden centers. Larger trees should be treated by an ISA or NAA certified arborist.

4. Trees that are candidates for removal should be replaced, with trees chosen from a diverse group of well-adapted species.

5. Trees should be replaced with size, location and species characteristics in mind.

If you have questions about EAB, call the Horticulture Helpline at 402-444-7804 M-F from 8-4 to have your questions answered. You may also bring your specimen to our Douglas County location at 8015 West Center Road in Omaha, M-F from 8 a.m. - Noon and from 1 - 4 p.m.; or our Sarpy County location at 501 Olson Drive, Suite 5, in Papillion, M-F from 1 - 4 p.m.

Since June 8, 2016, the date of the NDA’s Emerald Ash Borer announcement, the NE Extension in Douglas-Sarpy Counties Hort Helpline team of professional educators and Master Gardener volunteers has handled at least 720 questions from the public and professionals in regard to this invasive pest.

In addition, 52 members of the public attended two educational presentations conducted by John Fech and Dr. Jonathan Larson to provide more information on the EAB infestation.

Emerald Ash Borer Look-Alikes: A UNL IANR Publication Resource

Concerned about Emerald Ash Borer? View and Download UNL IANR’s 'Emerald Ash Borer Look-Alikes' insect comparison guide, a cooperative effort by UNL Extension, NE Dept. of Agriculture, Nebraska Forest Service, and USDA-APHIS:
Other recommended EAB resources:

- NE Department of Agriculture Press Release
- NE Extension Hort Update: Emerald Ash Borer
- Managing Emerald Ash Borer Decision Guide
- NE Forest Service: EAB ID, evaluation, treatments, and suitable tree species

**Food, Nutrition & Health**

Through the 4-H Food Smart Families program, our EFNEP/SNAP-ED educator team provided positive, health and nutrition-focused experiences to help over 712 underserved youth and their parents learn family- and budget-friendly ways to improve their healthy lifestyle choices.

This spring, our 4-H Food Smart Families education team of Nicole Busboom, Kylie Arment, Mariah Moore, Tori Stengel, and Team Lead Carrie Miller partnered with 12 schools in Douglas and Sarpy Counties to provide vital skills training on nutrition, cooking skills, and food budgeting for over 712 students and their families, to date. Programs to be held at Boys Town this summer will reach an additional 80 youth.

The 4-H Food Smart Families education team included teens, using the 4-H “Teens as Teachers” model. This model empowers the youth being educated through the proven influence of other young people. In the Douglas-Sarpy Counties, two teen teachers participated in the program in collaboration with expert faculty and staff.

**Participating Schools:**

- Masters Elementary
- Field Club Elementary
- Pawnee Elementary
- Sherman Elementary
- King Elementary
- Miller Park Elementary
- Lothrop Magnet School
- Howard Kennedy Elementary
- Fontenelle Elementary
- Chandler View Elementary
- Lewis & Clark Middle School
- Boys Town

The 4-H Food Smart Families program is sponsored by the National 4-H Council and the ConAgra Foods Foundation.

**Learn more:** IANR News, 4-H Food Smart Families program implemented across Nebraska
Maria Walker, the 4-H Program Coordinator in Douglas-Sarpy Counties, is selected for the position of Southeast District 4-H Coordinator.

Maria will step into her new role as the Southeast District 4-H Coordinator on August 1, 2016, and will continue to assist our 4-H team through the Sarpy County Fair and with other projects to support office transition. Maria’s new office location will be with the ENREC/SREC Administrative team in the Christensen Building at the ARDC.

Maria’s educational background includes a B.A. in Human Development and Family Studies, and a M.Ed. in Human Resources and Organizational Development. Maria brought a wealth of experience and enthusiasm for 4-H to her position here at our office, and became well known and respected as the Douglas-Sarpy Counties 4-H Program Coordinator and 4-H & Youth Development Team Leader.

We at NE Extension in Douglas-Sarpy Counties recognize Maria’s strong leadership of the Douglas-Sarpy 4-H program and her notable career while serving in our urban Extension unit. While Maria will be missed in her role at our offices, in her new position she will remain influential in the success of the Douglas-Sarpy 4-H program and we look forward to our continued relationship.

### Sign Up For Our New 4-H Update eNewsletter

Do you love all things 4-H? We do, and our 4-H Team in Douglas-Sarpy Counties now shares this news in a new **eNewsletter, the 4-H Update**. Packed with the latest project ideas, program information and event schedules, it keeps 4-H members, clubs, and alumni 'in the know'.

Contact Rachel Wright at **rwright4@unl.edu** to get signed up today.

### The Learning Child

In late June and early July, eight early childhood programs serving over 100 children in the Douglas and Sarpy counties participated in the **Look Who's Hatching Project**.

This project was developed by Extension Educator, Katie Krause, as a developmentally appropriate way to hatch chicken eggs in programs serving young children (typically ages 5 and under). Unlike our traditional embryology projects where school age students study all about chickens while they wait for their eggs to incubator (for three weeks!), the Look Who’s Hatching Project encourages children to explore the many types of oviparous
(egg laying) animals that hatch from eggs. During the three weeks, Nebraska Extension works with the teachers to help encourage the children’s inquiry process as they predict what kind of animals could come out of the eggs. The curriculum is also a type of emergent curriculum, meaning that rather than adults determining what types of animals the children will study, the curriculum emerges from the children’s ideas. Teachers are supported in their documentation and reflection of children’s interests and a variety of ideas for activities related to the types of animals that might come out of the eggs are available. The curriculum will be available in print and online forms in early 2017.

About Us/Impact

Community Environment Team Members Kathleen Cue, Scott Evans, and John Fech, earn ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualifications.

Community Environment Team members Scott Evans, Kathleen Cue and John Fech have long been certified as ISA (International Society of Arboriculture) Arborists, an important credential in their everyday work as consultants to the arboricultural industry and other Nebraska Extension clients.

Now, they have taken it to the next level by participating in the ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ) learning and certification professional development experience to bolster their capacity to extend research based information to their clientele.

ISA recognizes the need to standardize an evaluation to allow arborists the tools to meet the needs of their clients. The training and evaluation process centers around the determination of risk of individual and groups of trees, considering a multitude of factors including mechanical defects, species characteristics, site conditions and the surrounding elements of value such as people and property.

Each assessment is a bit different. The process begins with a goal setting and scope of work discussion with the property owner, continues with the inspection and evaluation itself, after which several mitigation options are presented to the client. Typical next steps are traditional best management practices such as pruning, limb stabilization, pest control, crown cleaning, mulch application and removal.
The TRAQ qualification enables Scott, Kathleen and John to bring a high degree of knowledge and experience to Nebraska Extension clients, providing both public consumers and industry professionals with independent evaluation data and mitigation options, and reduce risk to high value targets.

UPCOMING EXTENSION & 4-H ACTIVITIES

Our Extension and 4-H activities are available for 24/7 public view on our Online Extension Events Calendar and our 4-H Events Calendar. Simply click through the calendars to access different months, event details, and more.

This report is provided by:
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