



April 2021

Upcoming Events

Arbor Day celebration on April 30

There will be an Arbor Day celebration at the Northeast Arboretum on the grounds of the Haskell Ag Lab on Friday April 30. The event will start at 1:30pm with a dedication of an oak tree in the front parking lot in memory of long time arboretum supporter, Ernest Swanson. This will be followed by hazelnut plantings in the newly established Hybrid Hazelnut research project adjacent to the arboretum's fruit orchard. Seedlings will be given to participants to take home and plant. Come join the 2021 Arbor Day celebration, see what is growing at the Northeast Arboretum and take home a tree seedling to plant.



Food trucks will be on site. Each attendee will receive one voucher worth \$10 for use at the food trucks. Hand sanitizing stations will be located at the event. Distancing and face coverings are suggested even though this is an outdoor event.

In addition, Backyard Farmer will hold a live question and answer panel at 1 p.m. A walking tour of the Northeast Arboretum will also be available in the morning and afternoon. Activities and booths available all day include the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Mobile Beef Lab, Science Literacy Trailer, Shooting Sports Trailer, Maker Space Trailer, various learning child activities, food demonstrations, pressure canner testing, and others. Educational booths and vendors will also be present during the day for demonstrations and information.

All ages are welcome and encouraged to attend. For more information or if you would like to be an event sponsor or have a booth, call the Haskell Ag Lab at 402-584-2261. You can also visit their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/HALenrec/ or their webpage at: <https://hal.unl.edu> for updates. The Haskell Ag Lab is located at 57905 866 Road (about one-and-a-half miles east) of Concord, Nebraska.

HASKELL AG LAB SCIENCE & AG FAMILY FIELD DAY -

Wednesday, June 30, 2021

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln Haskell Agricultural Laboratory will be holding a Science & Ag Family Field Day on Wednesday, June 30. This is a free and open to the public event. All ages are welcome, there will be a variety of activities and programs at this event. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. at the farm site with booths and activities scheduled from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

The morning sessions will feature educational tracks. The first session (10:00 to 11:00 a.m.) will run concurrently and will feature the following two tracks: **Track A:** (Nebraska Land Values & Cash Rental Rates 2021; Farm Succession & Transition; and Cover Crops Research). **Track B:** (Using Annual & Perennial Flowers in Landscape Design; Lawn Care; and Trees). Each topic in the sessions will be 20 minutes.

The second session (11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.) will also feature two concurrent tracks: **Track C:** (Soybean Gall Midge; Nitrogen Management in Corn; and Fungicide Resistance in Soybean Frogeye Leaf Spot). **Track D:** (Beekeeping; Forages; and Learning Child activities).

SAVE THE DATE

HASKELL AG LAB SCIENCE & AG FAMILY FIELD DAY

57905 866 Road, Concord NE 68728
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC - ALL AGES WELCOME

Farm Succession
 Arboretum Tours
 Lawn Care
 Nitrogen Management
 Soybean Insect & Disease Problems
 Backyard Farmer Panel
 Other topics and demonstrations

Cover Crops
 Cash Rental Rates
 Forages
 Beekeeping

Wednesday,
 June 30, 2021
 9 A.M.- 2:30 P.M.
 Registration begins at
 8:30 A.M.

Nebraska 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.

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Manure Education Events Coming Soon!

We're just getting dates set now, but you can attend any one session that will occur in late May and through June. These sessions will fulfill recertification requirements. More information will be coming soon at <http://water.unl.edu/lat> but locations in the northeast part of the state will include Concord, Plainview, West Point and Columbus.

APPLYING MANURE MANAGEMENT CONCEPTS ON-FARM

These sessions will be held in-person and will include an update on regulations and discussion on how to best use manure on your operation. This session will meet requirements for Land Application Recertification. Space at each session will be limited and masks will likely be required. Pre-registration is required and is available at: water.unl.edu/lat



Breeding Season Planning Resources

Aaron Berger, Nebraska Extension Beef Educator

The breeding season will soon be underway for spring calving herds. Understanding the factors that contribute to a successful breeding season in heifers and cows can help cow-calf producers effectively manage for this event. Whether producers are utilizing natural service or estrus synchronization programs with artificial insemination, the beefrepro.org website offers numerous resources that will benefit planning and management. This website is hosted by the Beef Reproduction Task Force which is a multi-state extension group, whose objective is to provide timely information regarding applied reproductive strategies in beef cattle. Current recommended estrus synchronization protocols for both heifers and cows along with several resources related to understanding the estrus cycle in cattle are available.



Photo credit: Troy Walz

The Beef Reproduction Task Force hosts an annual "[Applied Reproductive Strategies in Beef Cattle Symposium](#)." This event is considered to be the premier national event in beef cattle reproductive management and has a long history of providing the latest information on the application of reproductive technologies. The [2020 Symposium](#) was held online and [past Symposium webinars and proceedings](#) for the event are at the website. A wide range of topics are covered related to cowherd reproduction — such as nutritional interactions, management and bull fertility.

A second resource is a webinar titled "[Principles for Improving Conception Rates with Estrus Synchronization and AI](#)" by Nebraska Extension Beef Cattle Reproductive Physiologist, Dr. Rick Funston. This webinar is available at beef.unl.edu.

The entire article can be found at: <https://beef.unl.edu/beefwatch/2021/breeding-season-planning-resources>

Science with Sarah

Sarah Roberts, Extension Educator



Well, we are well into Spring, and even though it might be a little chilly outside, it's a great time to get out in nature! You might be starting to see the grass turning green again and flowers beginning to pop up. Here's a fun (and easy) activity to do in your own backyard.

Nature Bracelets

- ◆ Cut a piece of duct tape long enough to go around your wrist.
- ◆ Put the tape on your wrist, sticky side out, like a bracelet.
- ◆ Go outside and find nature items that spark your interest. These may be small pebbles, brightly colored flowers, unique leaves, etc. Collect items and place them onto your bracelet.
- ◆ When you have filled your bracelet, you can either wear it or cut it off to display.
- ◆ If you choose to display your bracelet, mount your bracelet onto a piece of cardstock with tape or glue.
- ◆ Spray lightly with plain hairspray to help preserve your nature items.

Questions to Ask:

- * What made you choose the nature items on your bracelet?
- * What are other ways to modify this activity? (e.g. Collect trash you find outside as a way to show the importance of recycling and cleaning up garbage)
- * How could you do this activity in different seasons?

For questions or more fun science experiments, email me at sarah.roberts@unl.edu. Happy Spring and THINK OUTSIDE!

Tree Planting Do's and Don'ts - April 2021

Steve Rasmussen Retired NFS Forester Emeritus

Late April through early June is a great time to plant trees in northeast Nebraska. Through my 40 years of working with tree plantings, I have seen the right way and the wrong way to plant a tree. Following are some proper planting recommendations along with the "DON'Ts" that I have seen.

- ◆ Plant the right tree in the right place. Know the size that the tree will get at maturity and allow for growing space. DON'T plant little Colorado Blue Spruces seedlings 5 feet from the sidewalk or building.
- ◆ Plant trees and shrubs in groupings for easier mowing, less herbicide spraying, less potential damage from lawnmower injuries, and overall better tree growth. Trees and other woody plants like and grow better in groupings. DON'T stick a single tree out in a vast sea of grass.
- ◆ Dig the planting hole twice as wide as the container or root mass with the stem-root flare at ground level. Wider holes are better than deep holes. DON'T plant the tree like you are setting a fence post.
- ◆ Remove the container or burlap and loosen the roots while cutting any roots that are starting to circle and strangle other roots. If planting a bare root seedling, spread the roots out. DON'T plant the pot in the hole with the tree or stuff a seedling into a small hole.
- ◆ Water the tree right after planting to settle the soil, remove air pockets and keep the roots moist for nutrient uptake. Studies show that watering right after planting is the best way to help the tree establish in a new environment. DON'T plant in dry soil.
- ◆ Mulch around the base of the tree with a 3 – 4 inch depth of organic matter like wood chips. The mulch insulates the soil and conserves moisture and keeps the lawnmower away. DON'T pile a "mulch volcano" around the base of the tree.
- ◆ Stake the tree only if it looks like it needs help in the wind. Use strips of material that will not cut into the bark. DON'T use wire and tie the tree down like you think it will run away like your dog.
- ◆ Water once a week if there is no natural precipitation. DON'T walk away and expect Mother Nature to provide the moisture the tree needs to become established.

Trees provide so many positive benefits to us, our neighborhood, local environment and this planet. Help the tree you plant get off to the best start by following the proper planting recommendations. Good luck with your tree planting this season.

