

EXTENSION IS ON THE MOVE

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Summer Grilling Tips for Cleaning Your Outside Grill

Outdoor grilling is one of summertime's delights. Even basic foods seem to taste better when cooked outdoors. Whether the grill of choice is charcoal or gas, these tips will help keep it in peak performance. Begin by checking the grill manufacturer's instructions for specific cleaning requirements.

Rust is the major enemy of charcoal grills --- and the major cause of rust is failing to clean out the ashes regularly. To do this, turn off the grill, make sure it's completely cool. Then, remove the grates from inside the grill. If there's no ash catcher underneath the bowl, use a garden trowel to scoop out the ashes.

If the grill has an ash catcher, be sure to clean it, too, once the ashes are removed. Carefully discard ashes in a plastic trash bag. Otherwise, they will fly all over, covering everything (including yourself) with soot.

Clean the grate and the inside of the grill with a spray-on over cleaner. Check the label to make sure the cleaning product is safe for both these surfaces, and follow the grill manufacturer's use instructions. Let the cleaner sit long enough to soften the accumulated grease and grime. Then, wipe the cleaner off with paper towels. Follow by washing with a hand dishwashing detergent and water. Clean the outside of the grill, too, using a warm detergent and water solution and a non-abrasive cloth. Rinse and wipe dry.

Gas grills should be checked to make sure there are no leaks or blockages. Make sure the grill is turned off and completely cool. Then, inspect the burner and gas supply tubes for spider webs, grease build-up, rusted areas --- anything that would slow down the gas flow. Clean these areas following the grill manufacturer's cleaning instructions.

Clean a gas grill after every use by turning the grill on "high" and letting it "cook" for 10 to 15 minutes with the lid closed. Turn off the grill and let it cool slightly. Then, loosen the residue with a brass bristle brush. Once the grill is completely cool, wipe the inside and outside surfaces with a soft cloth and warm, soapy water. Rinse and wipe dry.

Source: Lancaster.unl.edu

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.

ON THE RANCH

Cow/Calf Management Field Day

June 17, 2017
Dodge/West Point Area
Tour & Visit Cow/Calf
Confinement Barns,
Rotational Grazing
Practices, and tour
Aronia Berry Shrubs
and visit about Winery

Field Day is Free
RSVP is appreciated
for meal planning

Call 402-372-6006 to
register and directions.

Invited guests:
Bruce Anderson,
Extension Forage
Specialist,
Rick Stowell,
Extension Animal
Environmental
Engineer

Managing Horn Flies

By Dave Boxler, Nebraska Extension Educator – Livestock Entomology

With summer grazing season almost here, now is the time to prepare a horn fly management plan. Developing an effective plan requires some knowledge about the fly's habits, life cycle, economic impact, and available control strategies.

United States livestock producers lose over \$1 billion annually to the horn fly, making it one of the most damaging ectoparasites of pastured cattle. Horn fly feeding cause's dermal irritation, anemia, decreased feed intake leading to reduced weight gains, and diminished milk production. Horn flies have also been implicated in the spread of summer mastitis. Furthermore, an estimated \$60 million is spent annually on insecticidal control. Studies conducted in Nebraska have established calf weaning weights were 10-20 pounds higher when horn flies were controlled on mother cows. The horn fly also affects yearling cattle reducing yearling weights by much as 18 percent. The economic injury level (EIL) for horn flies is 200 flies per animal. An economic injury level is when the economic impact of the pest equals treatment costs. During the summer horn fly numbers on untreated Nebraska cattle can exceed several thousand.

Horn flies are small in size, approximately 3/16" in length and are usually found on backs, sides, and poll area of cattle. During a warm summer afternoon they can be found on the belly region of cattle. Horn flies, both male and female, acquire more than 30 blood meals per day. After mating the female fly will leave the animal to deposit eggs in fresh cattle manure. Eggs hatch within one week, and larvae feed and mature in the manure, pupating in the soil beneath the manure pat.

Newly emerged horn flies can travel several miles searching for a host. The entire life cycle can be completed in 10 to 20 days depending upon the weather.

Many insecticide control methods can manage horn flies; cattle backrubbers (oilers), dust bags, insecticide ear tags and strips, pour-ons, feed-through products, low pressure sprayers, mist blower sprayers, and the VetGun. Backrubbers (oilers) and dust bags can be an effective way to reduce horn fly numbers if cattle are forced to use them. If cattle are not forced to use them expect between 35 – 50 % less control. Insecticide ear tags and strips are a convenient method of horn fly control if applied at the correct time. In Nebraska, ear tags and strips should be applied during the last week of May or the first week in June to achieve maximum control through the fly season. Ear tags and strips applied too early will decrease in efficacy while fly numbers are still high, resulting in economic loss. In addition, adult animals should receive two tags; tagging only the calf will not provide the desired level of control. Animal sprays, mist blower applications, and pour-on products will provide 7 to 21 days of control and need to be re-applied through-out the fly season. Feed-through products, such as oral larvicides and insect growth



Photo courtesy of Dave Boxler.

regulators (IGR's), prevent fly larvae in manure pats from developing into adults. Steady consumption is necessary when using a feed-through product. Horn fly migration from neighboring untreated herds can mask the effectiveness of a feed-through. The VetGun applies an individual capsule of insecticide to an animal using a device similar to a paint ball gun, and can provide horn fly control for 21 to 35 days.

Many horn fly populations in Nebraska exhibit resistance to synthetic pyrethroid insecticides. To manage resistance be sure to alternate insecticide classes (insecticide ear tags, animal sprays, pour-ons, and feed-through products).

Insecticides have been placed into numbered insecticide Mode of Action (MOA) groups based on how they work against insects. Mode of action groups include organophosphates (Group 1B), pyrethroids and pyrethrins (Group 3), avermectins and milbemycins (Group 6), juvenile hormone analogues (Group 7A), and benzoylureas – chitin inhibitors (Group 15).

Continual use from a single MOA against a species can lead to reduced control (resistance to all products in the group). To improve control, do not apply insecticides within the same group number repeatedly. Rotate between MOA groups during the fly season. A list of delivery methods, labeled insecticides, and their MOA for horn fly control are found in Table 1.

Table 1. Horn fly delivery methods, labeled insecticides, and their mode of action (MOA).

	MOA		MOA
<u>Pour-ons</u>		<u>Backrubbers and Oilers</u>	
StandGuard 0.5%	3	Co-Ral 6.15%	1B
Saber	3	Ravap 23%+ 5.3% (R)	1B
Saber Ultra	3	Prolate/Lintox-HD 11.72%	1B
CyLence 1%	3	Permethrin 10% (many brands)	3
Permethrin (many brands)	3		
Clean-up	3 + 15	<u>Dust bags</u>	
Dectomax	6	Co-Ral 1%	1B
Eprenix	6	Rabon 3%	1B
Ivomec and Generics	6	PYthon 0.15%	3
Cydectin	6	Permethrin -0.25%	3
		Pyrethrins – PYGanic 1%	3
<u>Direct Animal Application</u>		<u>Feed-through (IGR)</u>	
Co-Ral 6.15%	1B	Altosid - IGR	7
Vapona 40.2% (R)	1B	Clarifly - IGR	15
Prolate/Lintox-HD 11.72%	1B	Rabon	1B
Rabon 50% WP	1B	Vigilante - bolus	15
Permethrin 10% (many brands)	3		
PyGanic 3%	3		
Evergreen EC60-6	3		
<u>Ear tags & Strips</u>		<u>Ear tags</u>	
Permethrin (many brands)	3	Corathon	1B
CyLence Ultra	3	Dominator	1B
Double Barrel VP	1B + 3	Optimizer, Terminator	1B
PYthon	3	Patriot	1B
PYthon MagnumM	3	Warrior	1B
Ultra Saber	3		
XP820	6		
<u>Compressed Air Application</u>			
Vet Gun, Aim capsule	3		

(R) – Restricted use pesticide, can only be purchased and used by a certified applicator.

When applying any insecticide control product, please read and follow label instructions.

AVOID POISONING LIVESTOCK WITH HEMLOCK

Bruce Anderson, Nebraska Extension Forage Specialist

Have you noticed tall weeds with umbrella-like white flowers in moist areas of pastures recently? It's probably hemlock, and it could poison your livestock.

Poison hemlock and its cousin, water hemlock, are two of the most poisonous of all flowering plants. We find them throughout our region, especially in wet or moist soils along streams, roadsides, and grasslands. The heavy, persistent rain this spring has made them abundant and especially vigorous this year.



Fortunately, hemlock usually is not palatable to most livestock. Animals won't eat much of it unless very hungry or if the plant has been altered in some way.

So how should this affect your management? It's critical that you avoid overgrazing pastures that contain hemlock. When adequate forage is available to graze, animals select healthy, palatable plants to eat and avoid the hemlock. But if grass gets short, even unpalatable poisonous plants might be eaten. This includes turning hungry animals into fresh pasture containing hemlock, since some hungry animals will eat the first green plant they come to when very hungry, palatable or not. Also make sure plenty of water, salt, and mineral always are available. Animals deprived of water or mineral may eat abnormally, increasing the risk of consuming some hemlock.

Do not try to control hemlock during the grazing season by clipping or spraying. I repeat – do not spray or clip hemlock during the grazing season. This alters the plant and actually can increase its palatability, making it more likely that animals will eat enough of it to cause poisoning.

The risk of poisoning animals with hemlock may be greater than normal this year. But, graze intelligently and losses can be avoided.

NEBRASKA GRAZING CONFERENCE

August 8 and 9 in Kearney

Jim Gerrish, internationally respected grazing expert and developer of the Management Intensive Grazing (MIG) method, will share his insights into fence and water development during his keynote presentation and informal evening workshop. Then Craig Derickson and Brad Soncksen from NRCS will describe cost share programs to help you pay for these improvements.

Livestock profits from grazinglands are increasingly hard to come by. Cattlemen John Maddux from Wauneta and Jim Jenkins from Calloway will describe ways they have adjusted their operations to find economic opportunities while Aaron Berger and Jay Parsons from Nebraska Extension will examine ways to control costs and risk. Nancy Peterson from Gordon will describe the many varied ways her family have used diversity and stewardship to build their cow herd and soil.

Peter Ballerstedt with Barenbrug USA will describe cool-season grasses to plant in new pastures as well as show how grass and cattle combine to form healthy human diets.

Wildlife thrive on well-managed grazinglands. Learn how this is being accomplished in Nebraska, South Dakota, and Oklahoma from Bill Vodehnal, Patricia Johnson, and Dwayne Elmore.

Learn how to look at weedy plants from a different perspective with Chris Helzer of The Nature Conservancy.

Conference information available on-line at <http://grassland.unl.edu/current-conference>.

IN THE FIELD

Get the Latest
Information from
Cropwatch at

<http://cropwatch.unl.edu/>

Bean Leaf Beetle Identification

- Eggs – lemon shaped, orange in color, may be found in small clusters around the base of soybean plants.
- Larvae – grub-shaped, whitish, dark brown at both ends, segmented and have 6 very small legs near the head. They are approximately 3/8 inch long when fully grown.
- Pupae – white and soft bodied. Pupation takes place in an earthen cell.
- Adults – reddish to yellow in color, about 1/4 inch long, usually with 4 black spots on the back surrounded by a black band near the outer margin of the wing covers. They also have a black triangle in the anterior margin of the wing. Adults drop to the ground when disturbed.

Bean Leaf Beetle Adult - The bean leaf beetle usually has four rectangular spots in the center of the wing covers and a black triangle near the head.

Life Cycle

- Overwinter as adults in various habitats around soybean fields but seem to prefer leaf and plant litter in wooded areas.
- Beetles begin emerging from overwintering sites in early April at which time they mate and disperse to weedy and brushy areas, especially along roads and ditches. They may move into spring legumes such as alfalfa and sweet clover.
- Beetles move into soybeans as soon as plants have emerged.
- These colonizers feed on developing leaves and cotyledons and begin laying eggs.
- Eggs are laid in the upper two inches of soil, usually within three inches of the plant stem. A female normally lives about 40 days and lays 125 to 250 eggs.
- Eggs hatch in 4-14 days, depending on soil temperature.
- Larvae live in the soil where they feed on plant roots and have three instars.
- Larvae develop to pupae in about 23 days. Warmer soil temperatures can shorten larval development time.
- Pupation is completed in about a week and adults emerge from the soil.
- Total developmental time from egg to adult normally ranges from 25 to 40 days.
- There are two generations per year in Nebraska.



Host Range – Soybean; Peas; Snap beans; Dry beans; Present in alfalfa and sweet clover in the early spring before soybean emerges, but damage due to feeding has not been reported.

Injury & Damage

- Adults feed on the leaves causing defoliation. As defoliation increases, yield decreases.
- Adults also feed on the pods causing scarring. Pod damage can decrease yield and reduce seed quality. Damaged pods are also predisposed to secondary infection by bacteria and fungi which may cause rotting and discoloration.
- Bean leaf beetles are known to transmit bean pod mottle virus, cowpea mosaic virus, and southern bean mosaic virus.
- Larvae feed on the roots and root nodules. Although this feeding can reduce nitrogen fixation, its economic importance remains unclear.

Monitoring

- Beetle activity varies during the day but the best sampling times are around mid-morning or in the afternoon.

Direct Observation

- During the seedling stage, direct observation is the preferred sampling technique. A seedling soybean has three or fewer unfolded trifoliolate leaves.
- To use this method, randomly select at least five sampling sites from across the entire field.
- At each sampling site, slowly walk down 15 to 20 feet of row and carefully count all beetles.
- Do not disturb the plants, but set close enough so you can see the underside of the leaves. Calculate the average number of beetles per foot of row.

Drop Cloth Technique

- Used when soybean plants are too large for direct observation.
 - Cannot be used in drilled or broadcast seeded soybean fields.
 - Equipment consists of an off-white cloth measuring 36 x 42 inches with strips of wood, approximately 1/2 x 1 inch wide, stapled to each long side of the cloth.
1. Randomly select at least five sampling sites from across the entire field.
 2. At each site, carefully slide the rolled up drop cloth beneath the canopy and unroll the cloth from one row over to the next row without disturbing the foliage.
 3. Next, vigorously shake the plants from both rows over the drop cloth using both hands and forearms. Count the beetles as they hit the cloth. In this way, two 3-row-feet sections (6 feet total) are sampled.
 4. Calculate the number of beetles per row-foot.
 5. If you cannot identify the insect, collect several specimens for later identification.



Extension Releases Grain Marketing Plan App

A new mobile application from Nebraska Extension aims to help farmers manage their operations in a rapidly changing price environment. The free Grain Marketing Plan app is available on iPhone and iPad devices for users marketing corn, soybeans or winter wheat.

The app can help farmers develop customizable grain marketing plans pre- or post-harvest. It has a built-in reminder system so that once a farmer has entered decisions into their plan, he or she will receive alerts once a decision trigger has been hit. The decision triggers can be set up based on a target time or futures price. It is one of the first apps of its kind to allow users to not only view futures price information, but interact with them.

"The idea is that the mobile app will help producers make their grain marketing decisions, even while they're in the field," said Associate Extension Educator Jessica Groskopf.

While grain marketing plans are critical to an operation's success, the majority of Nebraska farmers have not developed a plan. Nebraska

Extension hopes that this new user-friendly app can help producers decipher fact versus feeling when making grain marketing decisions.

"The Grain Marketing Plan app allows farmers to dictate their future, on their terms," said Cory Walters, assistant professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics. "A simple reminder for farmers of the decision triggers they committed to in the spring can make a huge difference in the overall success of a farming operation."

According to Walters, the app is beneficial in the current environment because it is important for farmers to actively market their grain during times of lower commodity prices. With rapidly changing prices, there are limited opportunities for farmers to price grain above break-even prices. This app can alert farmers when futures prices have hit their estimated break-even point.

For more information on the app, visit <http://farm.unl.edu/grain-marketing-plan>.

HEALTHY EATING

Campfire Safety

Campfire safety will make the experience more enjoyable.

Rules around campfires:

- Safety always comes first!
- A first aid kit, directions to the closest emergency care facility, and cell or land-line phone should be readily available before the campfire activity starts.
- Always supervise children carefully. Absolutely no running or playing near campfires.
- Never leave the campfire or grill unattended and have a bucket of water nearby. A responsible adult must be present at all times.
- Have a safety circle around the campfire or grate.
- Never wear loose or flammable clothing near campfires.



June is Beef Steak Month

Enjoy the ZIP of beef (zinc, iron and protein)

GARDEN HERB STRIP STEAKS

Total Recipe Time: 35 to 40 minutes - Makes 4 servings

Make a rub from thyme, oregano, lemon and garlic for big flavor on Strip steak.

INGREDIENTS

1. 2 beef Strip Steaks Boneless, cut 1 inch thick (about 10 ounces each)
2. Salt

Seasoning:

1. 2 tablespoons chopped fresh thyme
2. 1 tablespoon chopped fresh oregano
3. 2 teaspoons freshly grated lemon peel
4. 3 cloves garlic, chopped
5. 1/4 teaspoon pepper



INSTRUCTIONS FOR GARDEN HERB STRIP STEAKS

1. Combine Seasoning ingredients in small bowl; reserve 2 teaspoons for garnish. Press remaining seasoning evenly onto beef steaks.
2. Place steaks on grid over medium, ash-covered coals. Grill, covered, 11 to 14 minutes (over medium heat on preheated gas grill, 11 to 15 minutes) for medium rare (145°F) to medium (160°F) doneness, turning occasionally.
3. Carve steaks into slices. Sprinkle with reserved seasoning and salt, as desired.

NUTRITIONAL INFORMATION FOR GARDEN HERB STRIP STEAKS

Nutrition information per serving: 219 calories; 9 g fat (3 g saturated fat; 4 g monounsaturated fat); 84 mg cholesterol; 64 mg sodium; 1 g carbohydrate; 0.4 g fiber; 31 g protein; 8.9 mg niacin; 0.7 mg vitamin B₆; 1.8 mcg vitamin B₁₂; 2.2 mg iron; 36.2

mcg selenium; 5.8 mg zinc. This recipe is an excellent source of protein, niacin, vitamin B₆, vitamin B₁₂, selenium and zinc; and a good source of iron.

Provided by: Nebraska Beef Council

TODAY'S FUTURE

Quarreling among brothers and sisters happens in every family



- The arguments may get tiresome for adults, but they help children learn to get along with others.
- Within families, children learn much from each other — like how to argue, defend themselves, stand up for their own rights and make peace.

The Summer Slide

By: Brad Averill, M.Ed. Nebraska Extension in Antelope County

The “summer slide” for physical activity in children is defined as a decrease in physical activity for children during the summer months. Decreases in physical activity can lead to lethargic behavior and weight gain. During the school year children are on a very routine physical activity schedule. Physical education classes, school sponsored sports, and after school activities help keep kids on a regular physical activity routine. Summer vacation eliminates those routines and can lead to sedentary behavior. The best way to keep your children active during the school year is to establish physical activity norms. Here are a few tips to keep your children active this summer.

1. Device and screen time should be limited. Instead of telling your children that they are not allowed to sit in front of their television, phone, or tablet, try setting a schedule when screen time is available. Some children are very attached to their devices and might struggle with the notion of not having their device in their hands at all times. As a parent, try to model this behavior as much as possible. Children are very impressionable. If they see you playing on your phone all day, they will think that this is acceptable.
2. Family exercise is a great way of keeping your child active. Exercising is another impressionable behavior that can have a huge impact on a child. Family hikes, bike rides, kayaking, or visiting a local playground can be a great way to spend physically active time with your children. Visiting museums, zoos, or state parks are also a great way to keep moving. Community pools are a great place for your kids to be active. Swimming is one of the best total body exercises that you can do.
3. Summer chores and/or yard work are great activities that benefit the entire family. For the parents its free labor, and for the kids it is a great opportunity to spend some time outside.
4. For those entrepreneurial kids who would rather get paid for their efforts, there are plenty of summer jobs to keep them active. Farms, construction, and landscaping companies are always looking for help during the busy summer season.
5. Unstructured play time is necessary. Even though staying on a regular schedule is important for children, they must have time to explore and make decisions on their own. Creativity and personal expression is fostered when kids have the ability to choose how to spend some of their time.

The last tip to keep your children active is very simple. Be present. Summer time is a wonderful time for parents to make up for lost family time during the school year. One extra hour of quality physical activity time spent with you children per day, adds up to almost three full days by the end of the summer. An hour might not seem like much to you, but it could mean the world to your child.

WORLD OF WORK

A 2013 Tax Law Change–The Portability Rule

A 2013 tax law change–the portability rule–can simplify farm and ranch estate planning. But farm and ranch families still need to do estate planning to develop and implement farm or ranch business transition plans so that the farm or ranch can continue to be successfully operated by the next generation.

What is the portability rule? This is a fairly recent tax law that makes it easier for married couples to get a double federal estate tax exemption, currently from \$5.49 million to \$10.98 million per estate.

Find additional information at <http://cvi.unl.edu/news/2013-tax-law-change%E2%80%93portability-rule>

QUICKEN TAGS

for your farm or ranch

Jessica Groskopf - Extension Educator for Agricultural Economics

You have your farm or ranch financial information entered into Quicken (Deluxe) and have categorized each transaction by the proper type of income or expense. With this information, you can provide an up-to-date cash flow or tax summary report to your banker or accountant at a moment's notice.

Getting this far with your financial documents is a monumental accomplishment, but how do we take the next step in farm or ranch financial analysis? The answer is *tags*.

Do you have multiple enterprises within your operation? Have you ever wondered: Which crop is more profitable? How much do you spend on family living? Do you need to have a better system for tracking equipment repairs? Tags can help you glean this information from your Quicken file without complicating your category list.

Many Quicken users are not aware of the tag feature. This article discusses how to get started with tags, and how to use them to enhance your financial records.

Tags vs. Categories - Tags are similar to categories, allowing you to easily sort transactions. Unlike categories, tags are not associated with a tax line item. Transactions can be given both categories and tags. In fact, each transaction can have multiple tags and can even be split by tags.

Reports filtered by tag are more specific and narrower than reports filtered by category.

For example, you want to track your repairs by each piece of equipment. When you enter a transaction, the category will be “Farm Repairs” and the tag will be for the piece of equipment.

- **Category:** Farm Repairs
- **Tag:** Tractor 1, Tractor 2, Tractor 3...

By tagging each piece of equipment, we can now run reports for all “Farm Repairs” (category report) or for each individual tractor (tag report).

Tags vs. Sub-Categories - You could do something similar to the example above by using sub-categories. However, subcategories may not work for every situation. This time, let's think about tagging transactions by crop or enterprise.

- **Category:** Chemicals, Grain Sales, Fertilizer, Farm Insurance
- **Tag:** Corn, Soybeans

Now we have multiple combinations of categories and tags. We could create a subcategory under each main category for corn and soybeans. However, it would be easier to simply tag the transaction by the appropriate commodity.

Getting Started with Tags

When starting to use tags, it is best to start as simple as possible with only a few tags.

In most cases, when entering transactions, the tag column is not visible without changing your register columns preferences. To change these preferences click on the gear icon on the top right just below the search bar. Check the box next to “Tag.”

To create a tag, simply type your tag word into the tag column. Once you press tab or enter, a dialog box will appear, click save. Another way to add tags is to view the Tag List. Go to *Tools>Tag List* and click the “New Tag” button on the bottom left of the dialog box.

Running Reports by Tag

By using tags you can create customized reports. To do this, create the desired report using the reports menu. Once a report is open tap the “Customize” gear on the top right hand of your report. Then select the “Tags” tab and uncheck the desired tag. (Note: You must have created at least one tag for the tag tab to appear.) This will include or exclude the desired information regardless of the category or account.

In some reports you may also be able to change the column to tag, or subtotal by tag using the dropdown menus across the top of the report.

Splitting Transactions

If your operation is like many others, occasionally family expenses make their way onto the business checkbook or credit card. One useful tag is “Family Living.” By using a “Family Living tag,” you can filter out family expenses from your business financial reports.

If the total amount of a transaction is a family living expense, you can simply tag the entire transaction as “Family Living.”

However, if only a portion of the transaction is a family living expense, you will need to split the transaction. When entering data, press Ctrl+S and the “Split Transition” dialog box will appear. Now you can assign each portion of the amount to different tags.

For example, you might enter a transaction from your local farm store for a total of \$81.50. On the receipt for this transaction, you notice that a candy bar was purchased for \$1.50. You can split the transaction, tagging the expense of the candy bar as “Family Living.” You can categorize the remaining \$80 of the transaction to the appropriate business expense category. Now, when you run a report, the \$1.50 will not be included as a business expense.

These are just a few simple ideas to get you started with tags. If you need more help with Quicken for your farm or ranch check out [Oklahoma State University's Farm/Ranch Quicken website](http://agecon.okstate.edu/quicken/)



Source: <http://cropwatch.unl.edu/2017/quicken-tags-your-farm-or-ranch>

SPLASH INTO EXTENSION

Stormwater and Your Well

Rains that hit your roof, driveway, and other parts of your landscape end up as stormwater. Beyond the puddles and the annoyance of moving your landscaping mulch around, that stormwater can also be problematic to your drinking water supply. Stormwater can carry with it chemicals that you may have applied to your yard or even oils and other hazardous materials from your car among other things. That pollutant-laden stormwater can end up near your well and potentially introduce hazards to your water supply.

Visit

<http://communityenvironment.nl.edu/stormwater-runoff-and-your-well> for information on managing stormwater.

Water Question and Answer Testing Well Water



Q: We've recently moved to an acreage and would like to have our well water tested, how much will it cost?

A: (from Meghan Sittler, Extension Educator - Domestic Water & Wastewater)

While I'd like to give a simple and direct answer, that question doesn't have a single answer other than it varies and it depends. It varies and depends because there are many contaminants that can be present in water. Public drinking water systems are required to conduct tests on 100 different potential contaminants. If you were to conduct tests for all 100 potential contaminants on your private supply, the cost would approach \$4,000. If you aren't in the market for a \$4,000 drinking water test—which is definitely not necessary—the first step is to identify which contaminants are the most key to protecting your health and operation of the water system.

Nitrates and bacteria such as e-coli or total coliform are considered primary health hazards and pose the most immediate and serious risk to your health. High nitrate levels are most dangerous to babies and small children however, continued exposure to nitrates can result in serious health complications in people of all ages. Bacteria can cause severe gastrointestinal issues. At the very least, you should test for both bacteria and nitrates. Other contaminants such as the minerals calcium, iron, manganese and magnesium are considered secondary contaminants as they do not pose health risks but they can make water undesirable for domestic use due to change in taste, staining, or impact on portions of your water system.

Before deciding which contaminants you want to test for you can also talk to neighbors in the area to identify any issues they have had with certain contaminants. You also need to keep in mind that you should periodically test your well water as concentration of contaminants can change through time with the movement of groundwater or through land use changes or hazards that can impact your water supply.

Contact your local extension office for more information on testing sites and costs.

IN THE DIRT

How do you effectively control squash bugs in the vegetable garden?



A. Squash bugs are difficult to control in our cucurbit vegetables including zucchini, squash, pumpkins, gourds, melons, and cucumbers. The best option is to kill the adults when they first emerge to manage the population before it explodes. Watch for the eggs as they develop on the underside of the leaves to destroy them before they emerge. Switch to other chemicals for management besides just using "Sevin" for control, which they are becoming resistant to. There are also lures that can be used for them which might help early in the season.

Insect Pests to Watch For

By: Kelly Feehan, Nebraska Extension Educator

As we move into the growing season, think twice before applying insecticides to control insects. Always identify an insect first to determine if it is harmful or even requires control. Protection of beneficial insects like pollinators should be a priority.

The majority of insects we see are harmless or even beneficial. While there are some insect pests we can be watching for, it is important to know what signs or symptoms to look for, what insects cause harm, and which are beneficial or only cause cosmetic injury.

When a plant pest is found that justifies control, select the least toxic method that will prevent plant damage. This may include hand-picking, hosing the pest off, biological controls or insecticides. If insecticides are used, read the label for information on how to apply them to protect pollinators.

Some landscape insects to look for now include bagworms on evergreens, Euonymus scale and pine sawfly. And think twice before applying an insecticide to lawns for white grub control this season. It is only needed if a lawn had unacceptable damage last season.

Evergreen trees, especially spruce and juniper, should be checked for bagworms since eggs have started hatching. Bagworms are not large webs easily seen in trees. They are quite small and a close examination of twigs and needles is needed to find them.



At this time of year, bagworms can be as small as one-fourth inch and difficult to see. They are light brown, triangular shaped, and covered with webbed together needles for camouflage. They are not attached to twigs at this time of year, but moving around on evergreens to feed.

If many bagworms of this size are found, the organic product *Bacillus thuringiensis*, known as B.t., Dipel or Thuricide, is effective in controlling them. More than one application may be needed.

As bagworms increase in size, B.t. is less effective and other insecticides, including acephate, cyfluthrin, or permethrin, may be needed for control. These products are also most effective applied when bagworms are small, typically from mid to late June.

Euonymus scales appear as small, one-sixteenth inch, white leathery spots on euonymus leaves. Males are white and elongated and females are brown and oval shaped. Overwintering females lay eggs that hatch in late-May or early June.

Crawlers, young scales that have recently hatched, move to leaves and stems to begin feeding on plant juices. This stage is when euonymus scale is most easily controlled. Check with a magnifying glass to be sure crawlers are present before treating. If nothing is moving, crawlers are not active.

When crawlers are found, a horticultural oil or insecticidal soap can reduce their numbers. Labeled insecticides include malathion, acephate, permethrin, or Spectracide. Euonymus that are heavily infested or in poor condition are best removed and destroyed.



Monitor pines for pine sawfly larvae. When these worms are small, they scrape the top layer off needles. Individual needles end up appearing brown and twisted. Look for this damage or for the larvae.

Sawfly worms feed in bunches, so a number of larvae will be found close together, usually near branch tips. As larvae mature, they eat entire needles and can strip bare a tree branch or tips of branches. Since this happens before new needles expand, the tree is rarely killed.

The best control for pine sawfly may be to hit the pine branch with a stick to knock sawflies off and reduce feeding. An effective organic product against young larvae is spinosad; as well as horticultural oils and insecticidal soaps. The insecticides Orthene, cyfluthrin or bifenthrin can be used for control. Monitor pine trees and use your choice of control, but only if sawfly larvae are present.

Opossums — Nature's Tick Eaters

Soni Cochran, *Extension Associate*

As North America's only marsupial, opossums are often maligned because they are not the "cutest creature" in our wildlife world.

We know opossums are our neighborhood sanitation workers. They eat rodents, snakes, insects, beetles, slugs, snails and carcasses. Did you know they also eat ticks?



If birdseed is available, opossums will eat it. To discourage them, hang bird feeders on a wire between trees or on a baffled pole. Reduce seed falling to the ground by using feeders that recapture fallen seed.

In areas where blacklegged ticks are found (deer ticks), opossums were a magnet for getting rid of ticks. A normal "tick load" for a opossum in the wild is around 200 ticks. A

study by the Cary Institute for Ecosystem Studies found opossums consume 95 percent of those ticks as they

groom themselves. Researchers estimate in one season, opossums kill and consume about 5,000 ticks.

For the most part, opossums are immune or resistant to rabies, although a few cases have existed. On average, a feral dog is eight times more likely to carry rabies than a opossum.

Here are more fascinating facts about opossums:

- Opossums have the briefest gestation period of any mammal — about 12 days — the blind and hairless newborns crawl into their mother's pouch. They stay in the pouch and nurse for approximately 100 days.
- The male opossum has a bifurcated (forked) penis. Early American colonists believed the forked penis allowed males to breed females through her nostrils, and then the female sneezed her young into the pouch.
- As a marsupial, females have two sets of reproductive organs.
- Opossums are resistant to some venomous snakes including rattlesnakes, cottonmouths and pit vipers. Researchers are studying opossums as they may hold the secrets to anti-venom for humans.
- Opossums are one of the shortest-lived mammals of their size and seldom live more than one year. Automobiles, owls, coyotes and bobcats take their toll on opossums.
- Folks in the southern U.S. tend to drop the "o" — and just say 'possum. However, there really are "possums" — they are members of a separate marsupial family found in Australia and New Guinea.

Sources: *National Wildlife Federation, Kansas State Research & Extension News.*

Daylily Aphids Appearing Earlier This Year

Daylily aphids, *Myzus hemerocallis*, (Figs. 1, 2) were first reported in Nebraska in 2015, and were noted as fall pests of daylilies in Butler County and surrounding areas. This held true in 2016 as well, but in May 2017 daylily aphids were noted feeding on daylilies in Butler County.

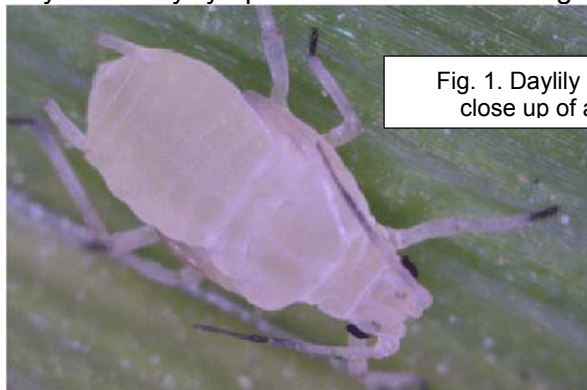


Fig. 1. Daylily aphid – close up of adult.



Fig. 2. Daylily leaf with close up of aphids.

Damage - These aphids are of concern because of the damage they do, which can initially result in leaf yellowing (Fig. 3), and subsequent browning and drying (Fig. 4).



Fig. 3. Yellowing of daylily leaves due to daylily aphid feeding.



Fig. 4. Browning and desiccation of daylily leaves due to daylily aphid feeding

Inspect Your Plants - The first sign of daylily aphids is often the cast skins of aphids as they grow. These appear to be white in color and attached to the leaves, usually deep in the foliage near the base of the plant (Fig. 5).

Control - Control of aphids on daylilies will not be as easy as on other plants, as the aphids are deep in the foliage and protected from contact insecticides and biological controls such as lady beetles. Systemic insecticides should provide control however. Examples of insecticide active ingredients with system activity include dimethoate and acephate.

Homeowners are urged to take care when using these products for their personal safety and to be aware that systemic insecticides can also be expressed in floral parts that can also expose visiting bees to the insecticide. Make sure to read the directions on the label and to follow the directions.



Fig. 5. Cast aphid skins appear white on these daylily leaves.

Plants severely damaged by fall did not die, however, the severe feeding in previous falls was expected to reduce the carbohydrates in the root systems. This may in turn reduce early season daylily growth the following spring.

Infestations this early in the year are new. Homeowners with daylilies need to monitor and may need to treat when plants begin to yellow if aphids are present.

June Garden Guide

- * Heavy rains encourage slug problems. Check for slugs during rainy periods and hand pick the pests.
- * For hanging baskets in cool, shady locations, use tuberous begonias, ferns, impatiens or fibrous rooted begonias in combination with trailing plants, such as English ivy.
- * Remove old flower heads from annual bedding plants to keep them blooming.
- * Disbud chrysanthemum flowers to secure large, beautiful blooms on straight, strong stems. To disbud, remove the small side buds along the stems which form in the angles of the leaves. This will allow all of the food reserves to be used for one large flower rather than many smaller ones.
- * Plant annual flowers in tubs or large containers for the porch or terrace. Make sure there are holes in the container's bottom to provide good drainage.
- * Remove foliage from spring bulbs after it turns yellow and begins to dry. Set out bedding plants to cover the bare spots using care not to damage the bulbs.
- * Watch for and control blackspot and powdery mildew on rose foliage.
- * Spring flowering shrubs such as spirea, viburnum, lilac and forsythia should be pruned as soon as they are done blooming.
- * Mid to late June is an excellent time to take softwood cuttings of shrubs to start new plants. Some shrubs which can be propagated in this way are spirea, lilac and viburnum.
- * When you buy nursery stock that is container grown, check the root ball and make sure it is not bound too tightly. A mass of circling roots will stay that way even after it is planted in the ground.
- * If you do not have much room to landscape, consider using some of the many dwarf varieties available. These are plants that have slow growth and stay small, so there is little pruning maintenance. There are numerous dwarf evergreens, flowering trees and shrubs from which to choose.
- * After your vegetable garden is well established, it is best to water it thoroughly once a week rather than giving it a light watering every day. That way, a deeper root system is encouraged to develop, which will later help the plants tolerate dry weather.
- * Keep a close eye on the quality of your spring crops. Hot weather causes lettuce to bolt and become bitter. Plant a warm season crop as soon as the spring vegetables are harvested.
- * In most cases, blossom-end rot on tomatoes, peppers, squash and watermelons can be prevented. Do this by maintaining uniform soil moisture by mulching and watering correctly, planting in well-drained soil and not cultivating deeper than one inch within one foot of the plant. Also avoid the use of high nitrogen fertilizers.
- * The best time to harvest most herbs is just before flowering, when the leaves contain the maximum essential oils.
- * Identify garden pests before you attempt to control them. If you decide to use chemical control, read the label carefully.
- * Bats can be an effective way to control insects. One big brown bat can eat 3,000 to 7,000 insects each night. Attract bats by building and placing bat houses in your yard.

EXTENSION
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Preheat oven to 375° F. Split pita into 2 rounds by placing pita flat on work surface and carefully cutting around the edge. Separate the 2 rounds and place, cut side up, on a work surface. Spread each pita round with 1½ teaspoons of pizza sauce. Top each pita with half of the cheese, chicken, pineapple, onion and parsley, if desired. Bake for 8-10 minutes or until cheese is melted and edges are browned.

Directions

- 1 (6-inch) whole wheat pita bread
- ½ cup shredded reduced-fat Monterey Jack or Mozzarella cheese
- 2 (1/8-inch thick) slices cooked deli chicken (1 ounce each), cut into strips
- ½ cup diced fresh pineapple or canned pineapple tidbits in its own juice, drained
- 3 teaspoons pizza or pasta sauce
- 2 teaspoons finely chopped green onion chopped parsley for garnish (optional)



Ingredients

Enjoy the tasty combination of pineapple and chicken in every bite of this cheesy pita pizza.

Recipe by: Midwest Dairy Association

June is Dairy Month try making *Monterey Jack Pita Pizza*