ARDC Director's Comments

NFS FIRE SHOP

Providing Equipment to Rural Fire Departments Through Federal Excess Property Program
by Becky Erdkamp, Education and Outreach Specialist, Nebraska Forest Service

When certain types of vehicles are no longer needed by the Federal government, it becomes available at military and other Federal installations across the country. Through the Federal Excess Property Program (FEPP), Nebraska Forest Service (NFS), in cooperation with the United States Forest Service, is able to acquire some of these vehicles, which are reconditioned and loaned to cooperating rural fire districts. Currently, there are almost 400 pieces of FEPP equipment in use by rural fire departments across Nebraska.

The program is coordinated out of the NFS Fire Shop. Formerly located at Lincoln’s Air Park West, the NFS Fire Shop moved to the Agricultural Research and Development Center following completion of the Army Corps of Engineer’s cleanup at ARDC.

NFS is responsible for screening, retrieving, reconditioning, inventorying and assigning Federal excess property. While in use by rural fire districts, the equipment remains Federal property. When no longer needed, the equipment is returned to NFS; it is then either reassigned or sold, with sale proceeds returned to the Federal treasury.

Upon arrival at the Fire Shop, mechanics inspect each vehicle to determine its condition. Next, repairs are made to bring the vehicle up to current safety standards. Additional safety devices are often added to each vehicle, making them suitable for use by rural fire departments. Mechanics at the Fire Shop also provide routine vehicle maintenance at the facility. In early 2005, the Fire Shop developed a Mobile Repair Program. “There was a general attitude among us at the shop that this would be useful,” says Lew Steber, FEPP manager.

In mid-May I witnessed people laying gated pipe and irrigating crop so it will come up. I witnessed dying wheat fields and brown pastures in the Sandhills. It is sad to see our great State in such dire condition. At the ARDC, we have a great crop started...how it will finish remains to be determined.

We have several projects in various stages at the ARDC. We are installing over 11 miles of fiber optic line that will enable high-speed voice and data transmission to all major locations on the ARDC. This project should be concluded by the time you read this article.

We have two building projects that will start soon. One project will build equipment storage in the Agronomy area to replace several smaller buildings that were damaged in recent storms. The other project will provide a new home for the general farm and facilities operations. This building will have office and shop space.

The Fire Shop has moved into another phase. We have constructed an outdoor pond for summer prawn culture. The indoor phase will continue, supplying prawns for the outdoor pond and continuing research.

Soil Management Field Days Comes to Wahoo Area Aug. 18

The eighth annual Soybean Management Field Days is set for August 15-18. “Growing America’s Future” is the theme of this year’s event that will offer producers unbiased and research-based information to improve their soybean profitability.

The field days are held at four different producer’s farms each year. And this year, the August 18th stop is close to home at Krumel Farms (Larry and Howie Krumel) near Wahoo.

The event consists of four field stops across the state, each with demonstration plots, lunch and time for questions. Producers can obtain ideas and insight about the challenges they face in producing a quality crop at a profitable price in today’s global economy.

Topics include: Ten Steps to Finding Answers to Your Soybean Production Questions, Management Diagnosis Clinic at the ARDC, Preventing the Meal Time Blues: Dealing with a Picky Eater, and a solution to the unsolved mystery of Nebraska’s patchy crops.

The ARDC Manager’s comments will be about the three new soybean production fields that will be evaluated on the first two days of the event. The first field will look at soybean responses to herbicide tank mixes and the second field will evaluate soybean responses to herbicides and tillage.

The ARDC Director’s comments will be about ARDC’s role in Nebraska’s soybean research.

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Extended Visions

Aerial Wildfire Suppression: Fire Marshal Training Division’s Firefighter I Curriculum. Videofighters with wildfire suppression training, which allows them to combat wildfires; and explanations of the duties, privileges and responsibilities of members of the equipment replacement; budgeting practices; insurance coverage; fire prevention programs; and explanations of the duties, privileges and responsibilities of members of the Forest Service (NFS) Rural Fire Protection Program provides service in the areas of fire protection, wildfire suppression training, planning and aerial fire suppression to rural fire departments across the state. The goal of these programs is to maximize the impact of fire prevention, wildfire suppression training, planning and aerial fire suppression to rural communities with an active fire prevention program have a more positive attitude about fire prevention. NFS works with local fire departments to develop fire prevention programs that are tailored to meet each community’s needs. Don Westover, Nebraska Forest Service rural fire program leader, says that preventing fires not only saves losses to resources and materials, but also, potentially, to lives.

Wildfire Suppression Training: NFS also works with rural fire districts to provide firefighters with wildfire suppression training, which allows them to combat wildland fires safely and effectively. The effectiveness of this training is reflected by a decrease in the size of the average Nebraska wildfire. NFS staff teach at local fire departments, mutual aid schools and State Fire School. NFS also provides funding and support to wildfire suppression training by the Nebraska Fire Marshal Training Division’s Firefighter I Curriculum.

Aerial Wildfire Suppression: As an agricultural state, Nebraska has many aerial applicators. Under this program, Class A wildland foam fire retardant is stored statewide for wildfire suppression use by aerial applicators. Aerial applicators are able to provide valuable support to firefighters on the ground during large-scale fire events. Westover says that aerial fire suppression can deliver wildland fire foam to areas not accessible to fire trucks, as evidenced by a recent fire in Dundy county. "A wildfire that started in Dundy county near the Nebraska-Kansas border burned into steep canyons. The three fire departments who battled the fire on the ground and a local aircraft proved very beneficial in helping suppress this fire," Westover says. "The acreage burned was held to only about 160 acres, considerably smaller than it could have been in this drought-razed part of Nebraska."

Training for the cooperating aerial applicators is offered through the Nebraska Fire Marshal’s Training Division. The Nebraska Department of Aeronautics, Nebraska State Patrol and Nebraska Emergency Management Agency also provide support for this program.

Planning Assistance: NFS is able to assist rural fire districts with the development of Fire Protection Master Plans, as well as with coordinating Mutual Aid Districts.

Fire Protection Master Plans: Input from individuals at the local level helps develop a report designed to ensure that a community’s future fire protection needs will be met. This report is called a Fire Protection Master Plan. Each plan addresses fire equipment replacement; budgeting practices; insurance coverage; fire prevention programs; and explanations of the duties, privileges and responsibilities of members of the Rural Fire District Board of Directors.

NFS Rural Fire Protection Program provides rural fire districts with tools, training and equipment by Becky Erdkamp, Education and Outreach Specialist, Nebraska Forest Service.

In addition to helping rural fire districts meet their equipment needs, the Nebraska Forest Service (NFS) Rural Fire Protection Program provides service in the areas of fire protection, wildfire suppression training, planning and aerial fire suppression to rural fire departments across the state. The goal of these programs is to maximize the impact of Nebraska’s existing (predominantly volunteer) force of local firefighters. Combined, Nebraska’s 476 rural fire districts have more than 14,000 firefighters.

Fire Prevention: The greatest impact Nebraskans can have on fire protection is by preventing fires. NFS works with local fire departments to develop fire prevention programs that are tailored to meet each community’s needs. Don Westover, Nebraska Forest Service rural fire program leader, says that preventing fires not only saves losses to resources and materials, but also, potentially, to lives. "A fire call prevented doesn’t risk the life of anyone–firefighters included," says Westover. "Fire calls prevented also mean less interruption to the lives and activities of firefighters, both during the work hours and family time. Additionally, surveys show that communities with an active fire prevention program have a more positive attitude about their local fire department." Wildfire Suppression Training: NFS also works with rural fire districts to provide firefighters with wildfire suppression training, which allows them to combat wildland fires safely and effectively. The effectiveness of this training is reflected by a decrease in the size of the average Nebraska wildfire. NFS staff teach at local fire departments, mutual aid schools and State Fire School. NFS also provides funding and support to wildfire suppression training by the Nebraska Fire Marshal Training Division’s Firefighter I Curriculum.

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Preventing the Meal Time Blues: Dealing with a Picky Eater by Casey Holstein, RD

As a dietitian, I hear parents say “My child won’t eat anything!” or “It’s just not worth the battle!” This can then lead to the child taking complete control of what foods are served in the household. The parent becomes a short order cook and more importantly, the child is missing out on key nutrients by eliminating foods from their diet. However, as stressful as life can be with a picky eater, there is a light at the end of the tunnel! By utilizing the following tips, it will become possible to “tempt your picky eater” into eating many foods that were once an impossible thought.

Responsibilities: In every household, rules must be established between the child and the parent. You can sigh when I say that the role of the overwhelming child and the short order cook is not allowed! Instead, what I mean by rules is really a division of responsibility. For instance, as a parent, it is not your job to cater to your child’s every taste. Instead, it is your responsibility to purchase and prepare nutritious foods for your children. It is my responsibility to offer to offer many new foods. Keep in mind that it can take up to 8-10 times of offering a new food before your child will even try it. This may seem like a lot of work, but be patient, don’t force your child. You want to want to keep the meal time environment fun and safe. Secondly, it is up to you to set a positive exam-
"The preparation of a Fire Protection Master Plan is a proactive step that allows the Fire District / Community to determine what course(s) of action it will take to provide long-term fire protection to the district / community," says George Teixeira, Nebraska Forest Service fire resource manager. "The Master Plan is a key tool that should also be used to assist the Fire District / Community during its annual budgetary process."

Mutual Aid Districts: Large fires or emergencies may stress local resources and result in the need for help from neighboring fire departments. For this reason, NFS encourages fire departments to participate in Mutual Aid Districts. The 476 rural fire districts in Nebraska are organized into 58 Mutual Aid Districts. Each Mutual Aid District has a Mutual Aid Resource Directory that helps familiarize each rural fire district with the resources and capabilities of the neighboring fire districts within their Mutual Aid District.

Through its rural fire protection program, NFS strives to strengthen rural fire departments, thus strengthening the communities they serve. "Whether it is through fire department planning, fire suppression actions or fire prevention activities, the local fire department makes a vital contribution to the sense of community felt by rural Nebraskans," Westover says. The Nebraska Forest Service is pleased to help strengthen rural Nebraska by working with local fire departments.

For more information about services and assistance provided by the NFS Rural Fire Protection Program, contact the Nebraska Forest Service at (402) 472-2944 or trees@unl.edu.

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he Nebraska Forest Service seeks to improve peoples’ lives by protecting, utilizing and enhancing Nebraska’s tree and forest resources. This includes the Rural Fire Protection Programs. In this issue, we feature one of the leaders of the program, as well as the employees based at the NFS Fire Shop at the ARDC.

As Fire Program Leader for the Nebraska Forest Service, based at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Don Westover plays an important role in helping disseminate information in regards to the Rural Fire Protection Programs. Don grew up in central Wisconsin and joined UNL in 1975. He received his B.S. in Forestry in 1969 and his M.S. in Natural Resources in 1975, from The University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point. He received an M.A. degree from the University of Nebraska in Adult Education in 1980. Don also spent 4 years in the Air Force as a medic. Most of that time was spent at the Air Force Academy in Colorado. He has also worked with the U.S. Forest Service in Montana. Away from work he enjoys hunting, wood carving, and shooting sports.

Lew Sieber is the Fire Equipment Manager at the NFS Fire Shop. He manages the day to day operations of the shop. Lew also oversees the placement of Federal Excess Property with Volunteer Fire Departments that participate in our program.

He has been with the University since 2000. He started out as the shop supervisor but now has the additional duties of Fire Equipment manager.

Lew has an Associates Degree in Road Diesel Truck Technology from Southeast Community College. He also has served as a motor transport operator and wheeled vehicle mechanic with recovery specialist designee with the Army National Guard. He retired 2 yrs ago with 23 years of service.

He and his wife, Karen, have three sons and three daughters, and make their home in Lincoln. Lew is actively involved in the community with Boy Scout Venture Crew, Girl Scouts, and the Arnold Heights Neighborhood Association. And he also enjoys golfing.

Joseph Liberator started with the Fire Shop in 2001. He completed a two year automotive course at Iowa Western college in 1973 and has taken various welding, body, etc. classes, as well. He also received training on military equipment while in the Army Reserves during his 18 years in the Reserves.

He and his wife, Marian, live in Omaha. They have one daughter.

Richard Kapple and his wife, Michele, live near Wahoo and have three sons and a daughter. In his spare time, Richard enjoys hunting, fishing, and working on older vehicles.

About the People

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Best Wishes to Connie Reimers-Hild

Connie Reimers-Hild has accepted an Extension Educator position at the Kimmel Education and Research Center (KERC) located in Nebraska City. Her last day as an Extension Educator in Saunders County was June 16. More information about KERC can be found on their web site: http://www.kimmelorchard.com/kerc.html.

We wish Connie the best!
Here are a Few Interesting
NFS Program Impacts from 2005...

- $80,625 external competitive grant dollars secured for fuel reduction
- 387,197 people reached by fire prevention activities
- 7,038 volunteer hours provided by rural fire departments
- 4,455 rural firefighters trained
- 109 communities received Volunteer Fire Assistance cost-share assistance
- 476 cooperating rural fire departments.
- 121 fire prevention program partners
- 37 cooperating aerial applicators
- 279 pieces of Federal Excess Property placed in rural fire districts
- $304,000 fire assistance funds distributed to local fire districts

2006 Saunders County Fair Schedule

SATURDAY, JULY 29
9:00 a.m. 4-H Dog Show - Open Air Pavilion
10:00 a.m. Check-in Cats - Gayle Hattan Pavilion
11:00 a.m. 4-H Cat Show

MONDAY, JULY 31
8:30 a.m. Fashion Revue Judging - 4-H Building
9:00 a.m. Open to All Livestock Entries
(Beef, Dairy, Sheep, Swine, Goats, Poultry, Rabbits)
6:00 p.m. 4-H Shooting Sports Competition - Gayle Hattan Pavilion
8:00 p.m. Public Fashion Revue - Open Air Pavilion

TUESDAY, AUGUST 1
9:00 a.m. 4-H Horse Show - Judging Halter Classes, Showmanship - Rodeo Arena
TBA that day
4-H Horse Show - Performance, Walk Trot, Pleasure, Western Riding, Horsemanship - Rodeo Arena
4:00-8:00 p.m. Check-in 4-H Rabbit and Poultry - Poultry/Rabbit Barn
5:30 p.m. Home Ec and add'l 4-H & FFA Exhibits Entry - 4-H Bldg
5:45 - 7:15 p.m. Weigh-in & FFA in H-F and FFA Sheep - Goats & Swine Barn
7:45 - 9:15 p.m. Weigh-in 4-H and FFA Beef - Swine Barn
8:30 p.m. All Livestock, Poultry and Rabbit Exhibits in place (including swine)

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2
8:00 a.m. Weigh-in & Ultra Sound Swine Entries - Swine Barn
8:00 a.m. ATV Safety Driving
9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Judging of 4-H Exhibits & Interview Judging by Appointment - 4-H Bldg
12:00 p.m. 4-H Tractor Driving Contest (or immediately following ATV)
-Gayle Hattan Pavilion
4:00 p.m. 4-H Bicycle Safety Contest - Meet at Gayle Hattan Pavilion
5:00 p.m. 4-H Building Open to Public
6:30 p.m. 4-H and FFA Hay Hauling Contest - Gayle Hattan Pavilion

THURSDAY, AUGUST 3
8:30 a.m. 4-H Sheep Lead Class - Gayle Hattan Pavilion
9 a.m. - 9:30 p.m. 4-H Building Open to Public
9:00 a.m. 4-H Sheep Show - Judging Breeding & Market - Gayle Hattan Pavilion
(or 15 minutes after conclusion of Lead Class)
12:00 p.m. 4-H Pork Show - Open Air Pavilion
1:00 p.m. 4-H Meat, Dairy, Pygmy & Angora Goat Show - Gayle Hattan Pavilion
(or immediately following Sheep Show)
6:00 p.m. Saunders County Fair Parade - Downtown Wahoo

FRIDAY, AUGUST 4
8:30 a.m. 4-H Rabbit Show - Judging - Open Air Pavilion
9:00 a.m. 4-H & FFA Beef Show - Judging Breeding & Market - Gayle Hattan Pavilion
9 a.m. - 9 p.m. 4-H Building Open to the Public
9 a.m. Ice Cream Rolling - Open Class Patio
12:00 p.m. 4-H Dairy Show - Gayle Hattan Pavilion (Only Milking Dairy Cattle released following the show - all other livestock, rabbits and poultry must stay!)

SATURDAY, AUGUST 5
8:30 a.m. 4-H Swine Show - Judging - Gayle Hattan Pavilion
9 a.m. - 9:30 p.m. 4-H Building Open to the Public
9:00 a.m. 4-H Small Pet Show - Open Air Pavilion
10:30 a.m. Clover Kids Show (or after Small Pet Show) - Open Air Pavilion
3:00 p.m. Livestock Round Robin Showmanship - Gayle Hattan Pavilion
(or half-hour following Swine Show)

SUNDAY, AUGUST 6
8:00 a.m. Release of all 4-H and FFA livestock, rabbits and poultry
8:00 a.m. Load Swine not in Livestock Sale (subject to change, contact Swine Supts)
4:00 p.m. 4-H BBQ - Gayle Hattan Pavilion
4:00 p.m. Meritorious Award Recognition - Gayle Hattan Pavilion
1:30 p.m. 4-H Building Open to the Public
LIVESTOCK SALE - Gayle Hattan Pavilion
5:00 p.m. Home Ec Exhibits released
6:00 p.m. State Fair & Ak-Sar-Ben entries due

Late Season Crop Management Diagnostic Clinic at ARDC

Late season Crop Management Diagnostic Clinic will be held on Aug. 24. Topics include hands-on crop science investigation (CSI) - the art and science of diagnosing plants’ needs, and management. The UNL Extension clin- ic begins with 7:30 a.m. registration at the ARDC August N. Christenson Research and Education Building and starts at 8 a.m. Presenters include UNL extension educators and specialists.

Certified Crop Advisor credits are anticipated with 2.25 in soil and water management, 2.25 in crop management, and 2.25 in nutrient management, and 2.25 in pest management.

Cost for this clinic is $115 for those registering one week in advance and $115 after. For more information or to register, contact the ARDC CMDC Programs, 1071 County Road Q, Ithaca, NE 68033, call (800) 529-8030, fax (402) 625-8010, e-mail cdunbar2@unl.edu or visit the Web at http://ardc.unl.edu/training.htm.

Solution Days Moves to York Location - Aug. 29 & 30

Solution Days 2006 will provide practical solutions to everyday agronomic questions. The annual educa- tional event will be held at a new location this year. The field day site is located 3 miles north of York on Hwy 81 on the west side of the road.

Producers, farm managers, and dealers will learn how to work smarter, not harder at the field days to be held August 29 and 30.

Increasing efficiency while decreasing expenses and minimizing losses are key in succeeding in today’s ag marketplace. This event will offer realistic solutions for meeting the challenges of higher crop yields while keep- ing production costs economical.

Solution Days 2006 is sponsored by NK Brand Syngenta Seeds and the Nebraska Soybean Board in coop- eration with University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension, a division of the University’s Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Presenters include industry consultants and University of Nebraska specialists. The program runs from 9:00 am to 2:30 pm each day with in-field pre- sentations.


For more information call 1-800-852-BEAN or visit http://ardc.unl.edu/solutiondays.htm.