

# My Wife's Garden: Truly A Labor Of Love And Sweat

BY MIKE ROSMANN PH.D.

Like many farm couples, my wife plants the flower gardens, and I take care of the vegetable gardens. Anyhow, that's how she sees it.

I can the tomatoes and salsa. I freeze the beans, beets, asparagus and give away the excess fresh veggies to our adult children and my office staff.

I have enjoyable off-farm employment as well but our farm brings us different types of fulfillment. It's fun to be the first in the neighborhood in the spring to harvest fresh spinach because I mulched the August-planted spinach late last fall and it over-wintered fine.

When I uncovered it in early March, it was already growing nicely. Two weeks later, we had our first garden produce.

And, it's fun when my office staff appreciatively praises my fresh tomatoes, peppers, beans and assorted surprises.

But, this is about my wife's gardens. During a past spring day, my phone rang at my office for the second time in as many hours.

"Hi, it's me again. Can you stop at The Garden Supply place and pick up six more bags of red cedar mulch? Get the same stuff that we bought yesterday.

"Can you pay for it? I didn't have my credit card when I called to see if they still had mulch. And, oh, pick up four more Japanese lilies and get some rooting hormone."

How could I resist such a cheery voice? And, of course, I wasn't one to stand in the way of home-improvement projects.

So, two hours later I unloaded the mulch and various items next to her plots of tulips, daffodils, lilies, irises, gladioli, asters and assorted native prairie plants.

As I finished the unloading chores, my wife pleasantly asked, "Can you haul these branches for me? And can you bring me a couple buckets of water for the new plants?"

"Would you make sure the lawn tractor starts OK because we haven't used it yet this spring? And where is the spade? Is there any fertilizer left from last year?"

"How about if I change clothes first so I don't get my clean pants dirty," I intoned.

But, I cranked up the lawn tractor, hooked it to the cart, tossed in the spade and drove

to where my wife was working in her gardens before entering the house to change clothes.

While I was changing clothes I could hear the lawn tractor rev up. The motor droned outside the bedroom window, and I was glad it seemed to be working.

For the next hour, I could hear the tractor surge as Marilyn was clipping dandelions instead of hauling the trash for which she had requested the tractor and garden cart.

She trailed the cart the entire time. I went about watering her newly planted flowers and carried away the trash with my arms because the garden cart was unavailable.

Not wanting to interfere with progress, I said nothing until the tractor sputtered

to a stop in the farthest corner of our yard. I went about hoeing my gardens and planting a few peppers and tomatoes in the rich soil.

"Can you see what's wrong, the tractor won't run," my wife said.

"Did you check the gas," I asked.

"There was about a quarter tank when I started," she responded. "It just won't start now. Can you see what's wrong with it?"

I started to feel the blood collect in my neck and head. Certain words husbands should keep to themselves were collecting on my tongue.

I slammed my hoe to the ground and stalked to the lawn tractor and cart. I immediately raised the hood and saw the gas tank was bone dry.

My blood pressure simmered as I galumphed to the shop to get the gas can.

Marilyn had gone into the house. When the tractor started again I drove it to the shed and parked it. As I collected my garden tools I saw the spade lying where she last used it.

Not wanting it to rust, I shined it up and smeared a thin coating of petroleum jelly on the metal surfaces. I washed and entered the kitchen.

"Don't you think my gardens look good," my wife joyfully professed. "Julie stopped by and said my gardens always look so nice."

I started to say something, but instead I sat down and penned this tribute to "My Wife's Gardens."

Sponsor: Lewis and Clark Behavioral Health.



Dr. Mike  
**ROSMANN**

# Postal Carriers' Food Drive Set

TABOR — On Saturday, May 12, Campbell Soup Company will join forces with the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) to help Stamp Out Hunger in Tabor, Tyndall, Springfield, Lesterville, Utica and Yankton.

Now in its 20th year, the annual food drive has grown from a regional to a national effort that provides assistance to the millions of Americans struggling to put food on the table.

The Stamp Out Hunger food drive, held on the second Saturday in May, has become the nation's largest single-day food drive benefitting Feeding America, the nation's largest domestic hunger-relief organization. In 2011, generous Americans donated 70.2 million pounds of food, which marked the eighth consecutive year that at least 70 million pounds were collected by letter carriers.

"We're incredibly excited for the 20th anniversary of the Stamp Out Hunger food drive," said Fredric V. Rolando, NALC president. "We're asking people across the country for their support to make this year's drive the most successful in its 20 year history. It's so easy to make a donation: simply leave a bag of non-perishable food by your mailbox to help neighbors in need. That's all it takes."

This year, Nick Cannon, multi-talented entertainer and member of the Feeding America Entertainment Council, is the national spokesperson for the Stamp Out Hunger food drive for the second year in a row. The drive particularly hits home for Cannon, who experienced hunger and visited food pantries as a child. Cannon will promote the drive on television and radio, as well as in print and social media to encourage even greater participation and donations.

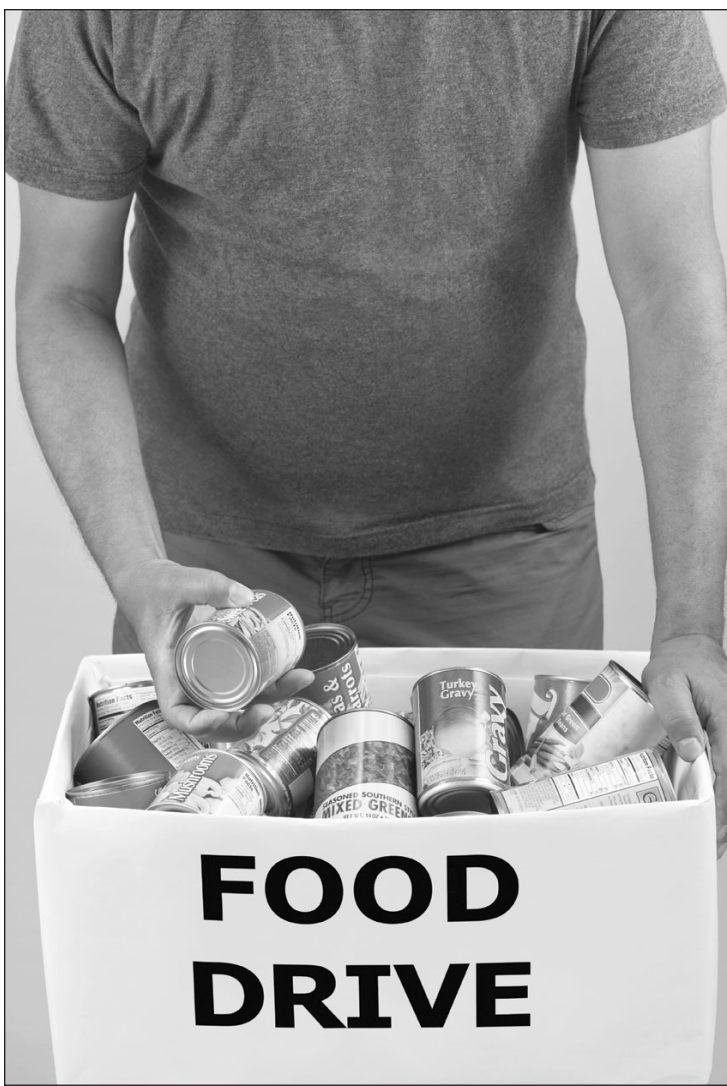


PHOTO: METRO GRAPHICS

The need for food assistance continues to exist in every community in America, no matter how rich or poor. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's annual study measuring food security in the United States, the number of Americans living in food insecure homes reached nearly 49 million in 2011 (the most recent year that such data is available). Perhaps most

alarming is the fact that more than 16 million children in America — more than 1 in 5 — are faced with the prospect of hunger.

Campbell Soup Company and its partners are producing postcards and shopping bags that will be delivered to more than 90 million homes across the country as a reminder to participate in the drive. In addition, Camp-

bell will again support this year's food collection effort by donating 1 million pounds of food to Feeding America.

"Campbell is committed to the success of the Stamp Out Hunger food drive and we encourage everyone to participate," said Denise Morrison, Campbell Soup Company's president and chief executive officer. "It's unfortunate that millions of Americans, especially our children, continue to go hungry in a country as bountiful as ours. We believe that, with the help and generosity of those who are able, we can provide much needed support for our community members in need."

To participate in the 20th Stamp Out Hunger food drive in Tabor, Tyndall, Springfield, Lesterville, Utica and Yankton residents are encouraged to leave a sturdy bag containing non-perishable foods, such as canned soup, canned vegetables, pasta, rice or cereal next to their mailbox prior to the time of regular mail delivery on Saturday, May 12. Tabor, Tyndall, Springfield, Lesterville, Utica and Yankton's letter carriers will collect these food donations as they deliver the mail and take them to Tyndall & Yankton's Food Bank.

Feeding America provides food assistance to 37 million Americans every year. According to Feeding America, one in eight Americans relies on the organization for food and groceries, and the organization distributes 3 billion pounds of donated food and grocery products annually.

For more information about the annual Stamp Out Hunger food drive visit [www.helpstampouthunger.com](http://www.helpstampouthunger.com) or [www.facebook.com/StampOutHunger](http://www.facebook.com/StampOutHunger), and follow the drive at [www.twitter.com/StampOutHunger](http://www.twitter.com/StampOutHunger).

## SCHOLASTICS

### NORTHEAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE

NORFOLK, Neb. — Students from Northeast Community College in Norfolk recently finished fourth in the two-year college sweepstakes division at the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA) Judging Conference.

Some 19 community colleges and 16 university teams competed in the contest hosted by Coffeyville Community College, Coffeyville, Kan.

The Northeast students were accompanied to Coffeyville by Agriculture Instructors and Coaches Hilary Maricle, Mike Roerber, Bernie Thyen, and Mike Zierke.

Northeast's Meats Judging Team, coached by Maricle, placed third overall and in beef grading, beef judging, pork judging, lamb judging and placings, and fourth in questions. Team members were Brent Johnson, Brighton, Colo.; Chelsea Asmus,

Randolph; Angie Weiler, West Point, and Jacob Soukup, O'Neill. Individually, Johnson placed fifth in beef grading while Weiler finished fifth in lamb judging.

With Roerber as coach, the Livestock Management Team placed third overall, second in problem solving and third in identification and general exam. Team members were Tyler Steffen, Crofton; Rachel Steffen, Crofton; Kelsie Landholm, Fremont, and Cory Schluntz, Republican City. Individually, Tyler Steffen finished third in problem solving and fifth overall and in general exam.

The Crops Team, coached by Thyen, finished fourth overall, second in math practical, and fifth in lab practical. Team members were Jared Anderson, Ne-ligh; Wyatt Chapman, North Bend; Adam Haselhorst, Randolph, and Chance Lambrecht, Osmond.

Other Northeast Community College students participating in

the Crops Contest were Cameron Christensen, Big Springs; Brennan Christman, St. Edward; Andy Doerr, Creighton, and Kenny Kuchar, Humphrey.

The Agribusiness Management Team, coached by Maricle, finished fourth overall, third in problem solving and fourth in general exam. Team members were Rena Hoelscher, Norfolk; Tyler Steffen, Crofton; Kuchar, from Humphrey, and Jennifer Krueger, Foster. Individually,

Tyler Steffen placed fourth in written exam.

The Horse Judging Team, coached by Roerber, finished fifth overall and fourth in halter. Team members were Oswald, South Sioux City; Desiree King, Oakland; Asmus, Randolph, and Eggerling, Milford.

Ag Knowledge Bowl Team members were Oestrich, Pierce; Haselhorst, Randolph; Doerr, Creighton, and Landholm, Fremont.

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## Congratulations



### Novelty Food Catering Ribbon Cutting

The Yankton Area Chamber of Commerce Ambassador Committee hosted a ribbon cutting for Novelty Food Catering located at 2901 Broadway Ave. Ben Iverson owner will cater home cooked meals for any event large or small. Novelty Food Catering's motto is: Nothing like home cooked meals for any event. To contact Ben call (712)730-1759 or email: [noveltyfoodandspiritscatering@gmail.com](mailto:noveltyfoodandspiritscatering@gmail.com).

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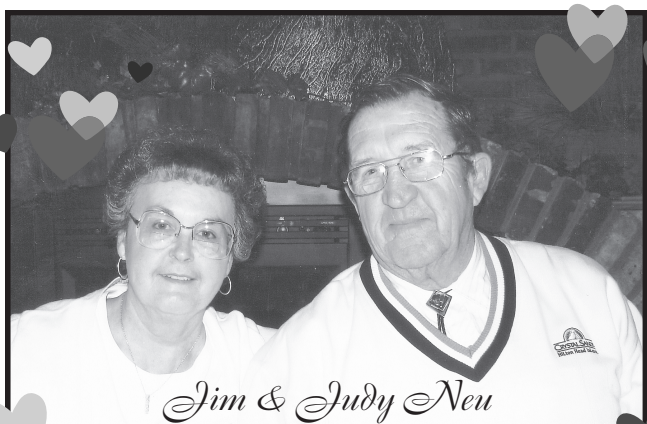
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*Jim & Judy Neu*

Mr. and Mrs. Jim & Judy Neu of Yankton, SD will celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on April 24, 2012. Their family requests a card shower. Cards may be sent to: 3706 Staci Lane, Yankton, SD 57078. Judith Klaus and John Jim Neu were married on April 24, 1962 at St. Martins Catholic Church in Emery, SD. They have 4 children: Mike & Nicole Neu, Waukesha WI; Kevin & Patty (Neu) Zavakil, Menominee, NE; Paul Neu, Hamberg, Germany; and John & Amy Neu, Yankton, SD. The couple has 9 grandchildren and 1 great-grandson. The couple requests no gifts.