

Foundation teaches public about water conservation

By Leslie Kendrick

The need for water and soil conservation will be brought to the public's attention through various programs of a private foundation in Nebraska.

Lee Orton, director of the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts, said the Nebraska Foundation of Resources Districts, started in April 1981, will use donated money to educate the public about natural resources.

Orton said the foundation has a \$1.25 million fund-raising goal. The foundation has been seeking donations from individuals and organizations interested in water conservation. Orton said the foundation may receive money from national organizations.

The foundation was started by the board of directors of the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts, Orton said. He said there was interest in creating a tax-exempt organization that would be able to receive contributions for water conservation efforts.

The foundation plans to start educating the public about water conservation through mass media. Orton said the

foundation might also finance water and soil conservation education in the schools. The foundation would like to work with UNL in conservation research and education, he said.

Orton said the foundation and the university could work together to avoid duplication of education efforts. The foundation is not out to copy the university's extension service, he said.

Don Swoboda of the UNL Cooperative Extension Service said he hoped the university and the foundation would have some joint programs.

The extension service releases educational material on all aspects of agriculture including water and soil conservation, Swoboda said.

Orton said there is a need to work cooperatively with other organizations. Even if there was duplication in some efforts, it wouldn't do the public any harm, he said.

"If there's one problem in the resources conservation effort it is that there isn't nearly enough sharing of information with the people who could apply it," Orton said.

Fitness prince at festival

The NU Medical Center's ninth annual Oktoberfest will be Sunday at the university's Omaha campus.

show people how losing weight is similar to a cross-country race.

According to Dave Ogden, associate director of public affairs, the Oktoberfest theme is "Here's to Healthier Living." Ogden said the purpose of the Oktoberfest is "to show Nebraskans and others in the Midwest what the medical center is doing for them in the way of health care and research, and how the public can take charge of their own health to enjoy a happier, healthier life."

"Basically, we want people who come to the exhibit to ask themselves if they're winning or losing the race," said Linda Hester, a clinical dietician. Hester said interested people can get information on weight counseling programs offered by the medical center.

For people who like to run, the Oktoberfest also includes a 10 kilometer (6.2 miles) mini-marathon for health professionals, and a 6.2 mile walk for the general public.

The Oktoberfest will feature Richard Simmons, the television personality who has been called the "prince of fitness." Simmons will give two one-hour programs. Also included in the festival will be more than 115 exhibits, demonstrations and displays on everchanging medical research.

Ogden said entertainment will be provided by the UNL Scarlet and Cream Singers, UNL Band and cheerleaders, Shrine Train and clowns, Flames Drum Corps and the Strategic Air Command rock band "Flare."

One such exhibit is the "Great Plains Weight Race." The exhibit's purpose is to

Ogden added that all events at Oktoberfest are free. There is a minimal charge for refreshments, he said.

Chadron State joins crowd of student lobby supporters

By Eric Peterson

Chadron State College became the third Nebraska campus to endorse the State Student Association, a statewide student lobbying organization, said Nette Nelson, Government Liaison Committee chairperson.

The Chadron State student body will vote on the resolution Oct. 28. The GLC will direct its next SSA efforts to UNO, Kearney State and Wayne State colleges, Nelson said.

UNL and Peru State College are already members of the SSA.

UNO students will vote on joining the student lobbying organization Oct. 28 through 30, and the Wayne State student body will vote on the SSA in December.

Nelson and Peru State student president Chris Walsh went to the 2000-student Chadron campus Monday to lobby for the SSA. They met with administration and faculty members, including Chadron State President Edwin Nelson.

Nelson said she noticed an increased interest in student lobbying when she was at Chadron.

Nette Nelson and Walsh testified before the Chadron State student senate about the SSA, after which a resolution supporting the SSA unanimously passed with three abstentions. An open meeting with Chadron students followed, Nelson said.

"One thing we discovered was that while the SSA had seemed premature earlier, people think it's necessary now. The general reductions in aid to education and cutting off student loans concern people," she said. "We have an obligation to the administration and to the NU Board of Regents in emphasizing the importance of education to Nebraska."

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