

## Turkey ball

Nebraska and Colorado renew their day-after-Thanksgiving clash Friday in a game that could help NU national title hopes. PAGE 7



## Parisian Life

Eugene Atget took hundreds of photographs of Paris at the turn of the century. An exhibit at the Sheldon highlights his work's importance. PAGE 13

November 23, 1999

HEATLESS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Rain, snow, high 38. Windy tonight, low 26.

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## Y2K contingency plans ready to go

BY KIMBERLY SWEET  
Senior staff writer

“Whatever the case may be, contingency plans are in place.”

DOUG AHLBERG  
Emergency Services coordinator

Service providers across Lincoln and Lancaster County are expecting “business as usual” come Jan. 1, 2000.

But just in case, those who provide critical services to area residents will have large standby teams that will be ready to conquer any glitch that arises as a consequence of year 2000 rollover.

That was the message delivered to those who attended the Y2K workshop on community preparedness Monday night at the Lancaster County Extension Office.

Representatives from businesses and agencies reported on their progress in dealing with Y2K issues.

All representatives said they were ready to face the much-talked-about “millennium bug,” which could show its face in 38 days.

“People need to understand that utility companies have spent time, effort and money to guarantee there won’t be a disruption of services,” said Doug Ahlberg, Emergency Services coordinator for Lincoln and Lancaster County. “But whatever the case may be, contingency plans are in place.”

Bill Lucke, a representative from Peoples Natural Gas, said his company isn’t worried about the flow of electricity and gas to its clients’ houses on Jan. 1, 2000.

The company is more worried

about the systems that measure the flow to each consumer’s home or business.

“Most of our concern comes with monitoring, measuring and metering,” Lucke said. “It won’t affect the flow of electricity or power to customers.”

Utilicorp United, the company that serves Peoples Natural Gas, has been working on addressing year 2000 issues since 1994, Lucke said.

Lincoln Electric System has been ready for the much anticipated Jan. 1, 2000, date since June.

It participated in year 2000 drills in April and September to test its equipment and spent \$4.5 million to update it, said Larry Pelter, a representative of the company.

The company is not expecting a loss of power, Pelter said.

But because Nebraska is connected with half the country through the eastern interconnect, the worst-case

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## Research: Grazing may be cost-effective

■ Instead of harvesting food for cattle, letting cows mingle with the crop could save money.

BY MICHELLE STARR  
Staff writer

Because of recent UNL research, ranchers may be able to save some time and money by letting their cattle do some of the work.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln researchers have been conducting a series of research projects in the Sandhills with the goal of decreasing ranchers’ expenses.

Rather than using people to harvest the hay that cattle eat throughout the spring and early summer, UNL researchers have found it is more cost-effective to allow the cattle to graze on the fields during that part of the year, said Walter Schacht, UNL associate professor of range science.

Schacht, along with Jerry Volesky, a UNL range and forage specialist, and Devyn Richardson, a UNL graduate student, are researching what kind of

grazing practices would be the most cost-effective and ecologically safe.

The 2-year-old study examines how many cattle can be allowed to graze on a plot of land, the number of months they are allowed to graze and the time of year they graze to determine the most cost-effective method of combining grazing and haying the Sandhills wet meadows.

Grazing in the Sandhills is possible because of wet meadows that have high water tables and some small lakes. The ground is consistently wet, Volesky said.

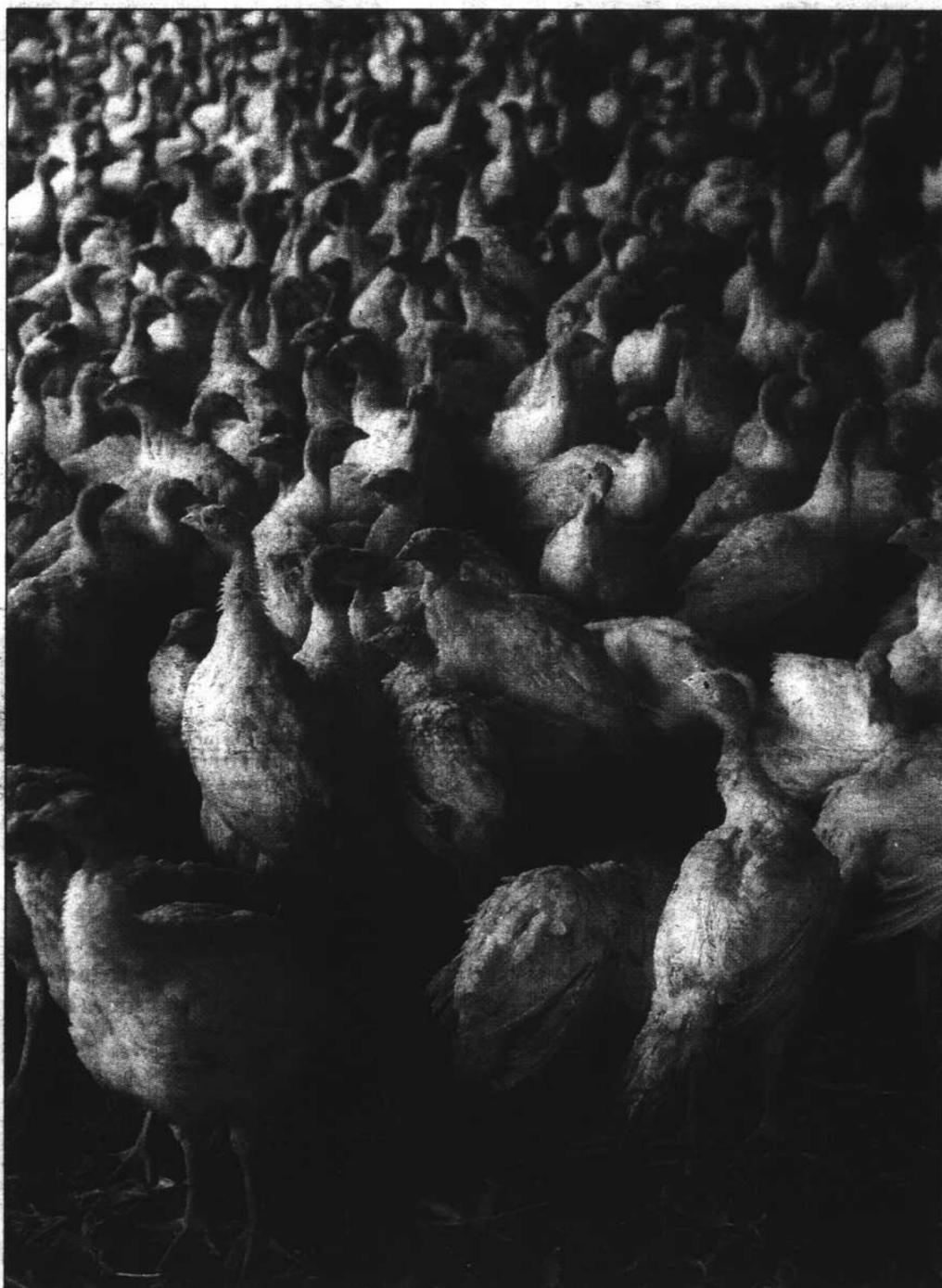
The study’s preliminary reports show that from an ecological, economical and nutritional standpoint, the idea is a win-win situation, Schacht said.

The cattle are benefiting from a boost in nutritional value from fresh hay, and ranchers would benefit from a decrease in labor costs, Schacht said.

Another benefit is that the grazing land does not inhibit other plant or animal species from living there too, making grazing ecologically safe for the area, Volesky said.

The study was based on two related studies conducted during the early and mid-1990s. The UNL study has been

Please see GRAZING on 3



LANE HICKENBOTTOM/DN

TO EAT or not to eat? Some UNL students said that eating turkeys is barbaric and are urging students to choose substitutes for the Thanksgiving traditional fare. Area turkey farmers disagree that turkeys are treated cruelly on farms.

## Turkeys a seasonal focus

■ As stores are busy stocking the popular Thanksgiving dinner food, protests linger.

BY MARGARET BEHM  
Staff writer

Thanksgiving can mean a variety of things: For some students, it’s a time to protest animal rights, and for grocery stores, it’s a time to stock turkeys.

Either way you look at it, the center of attention around this time

of year is that feathered, gobbling bird.

Jason Nord, a member of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Students for Animal Rights, doesn’t want people to buy a traditional Thanksgiving turkey.

Nord has been a vegan, which is a person who doesn’t eat animal or dairy products, for the past year and a half, and he was a vegetarian for a year before that.

“I urge people to not buy turkeys or any meat but to go vegetarian,” said Nord, a UNL senior philosophy and English major.

He started his eating habits because of the suffering animals go

through, he said.

“I don’t understand why the suffering of an animal is less important than the suffering of a human,” Nord said.

A majority of turkeys are raised on factory farms where they are mistreated, Nord said. He objected to what he called cruelty in turkey raising.

Turkeys are raised to abnormal sizes so they can’t support their own weight, making it impossible for them to stand up, Nord said.

Turkeys are also taken away from their friends and families at a

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