

Dedicated to the promotion of high standards in environmental health for the general welfare of the public

**NEBRASKA**  
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION



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## What's Your Environmental Health History IQ?

How much do you know about the legal history of our profession? Take this short quiz and check your answers on page 10. To learn more about the EH history in Nebraska, please refer to page 5.

- 1. What year did President Nixon create the Environmental Protection Agency?**
  - A. 1970
  - B. 1971
  - C. 1976
- 2. What did President Jimmy Carter create in 1977?**
  - A. Natural Resources Defense Council
  - B. Department of Energy
  - C. Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
- 3. Who is credited with starting the U.S. Department of Agriculture?**
  - A. Abraham Lincoln
  - B. Grover Cleveland
  - C. Woodrow Wilson
- 4. Which law assures that government gives proper consideration to the environment before undertaking any major federal action that significantly affects the environment?**
  - A. Prevention Pollution Act
  - B. Endangered Species Act
  - C. National Environmental Policy Act
- 5. Which of these Federal Laws was enacted first?**
  - A. Clean Air Act
  - B. Federal Water Pollution Control Act
  - C. Atomic Energy Act



## 2011-2012 NEHA BOARD

PRESIDENT *Scott Holmes*

VICE PRESIDENT *Jenny Steventon*

TREASURER *Nate Hartman*

SECRETARY *George Hanssen*

PRESIDENT-ELECT *Sarah Pistillo*

PAST PRESIDENT *Jeremy Eschliman*

MEMBER-AT-LARGE *Terry Philippi*

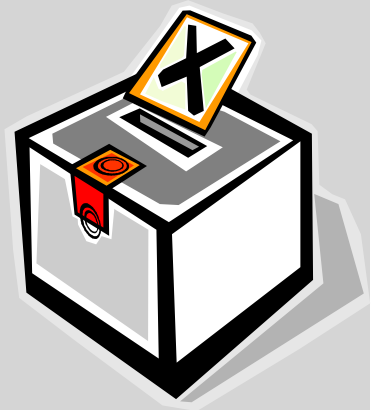
MEMBER-AT-LARGE *Jared Jensen*

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Elections for the 2012-2013 NEHA Board will be held at the NEHA Annual Education Conference on October 24, 2012. The following positions will be voted on:

- Vice President (1 year term)
- Secretary (2 year term)
- President-Elect (3 year term)
- Member-At-Large (2 year term)

If you would like to nominate someone for any of the above positions, please contact Scott Holmes at [sholmes@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:sholmes@lincoln.ne.gov)





# Member News

## NEHA Annual Education Conference

The Nebraska Environmental Health Association's Annual Education Conference will be held on Wednesday, October 24, 2012, at Mahoney State Park. For more information about the conference, see page 9 of this newsletter or visit [www.nehanebraska.com](http://www.nehanebraska.com).

## 2012-2013 Memberships

The 2012-2013 NEHA membership drive is underway! If you want to renew your membership, applications can be found at [www.nebraskaneha.com](http://www.nebraskaneha.com). Questions can be directed to Nate Hartman, NEHA Treasurer, at [nhartman@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:nhartman@lincoln.ne.gov). An annual membership is only \$10.

## Sanitarian Changes in Western Nebraska

Dennis McCrea, Ag Sanitarian stationed in Scottsbluff, has retired. Dennis had over 21 years of service with the Nebraska Department of Agriculture. Dennis has relocated to Colorado.

Becky Falconer has taken over the food sanitarian position in western Nebraska, replacing Dennis. Becky is originally from Michigan. Becky has worked as manager of a restaurant in Gering and for the Great Western Sugar Company in Scottsbluff.





## REHS/RS News

### Updates to Title 172 NAC 168: Certification of a Registered Environmental Health Specialist

The Statutes, Rules and Regulation relating to the Certification of a Registered Environmental Health Specialist, Title 172 NAC 168, have been finalized and are in effect as of August 25, 2012. The REHS Board has been working on this update for some time. The Board reviewed suggested changes to existing language, suggested changes of their own to meet the needs of Environmental Health Specialists, and then voted on all modifications to the existing Rules.



Changes include a “Method of Identification” section, requiring REHS’s to be able to identify him/herself to the consumer, and a minor change to the “Examination Eligibility” section of the statute.

To obtain a copy of the revised Statute, contact the Division of Public Health Licensure Unit at DHHS.

### REHS/RS Renewal Information

All Registered Environmental Health Specialist certificates expire December 31, 2012. To renew your certification, you will need to provide the following to the Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services: a fee of \$116 and a completed renewal notice (sent by DHHS at least 30 days prior to the end of the year) attesting to the completion of twenty-four (24) contact hours of continuing education. Specific questions can be addressed with Rene Tiedt, Office Administrator, at (402) 471-2299 or [rene.tiedt@nebraska.gov](mailto:rene.tiedt@nebraska.gov)

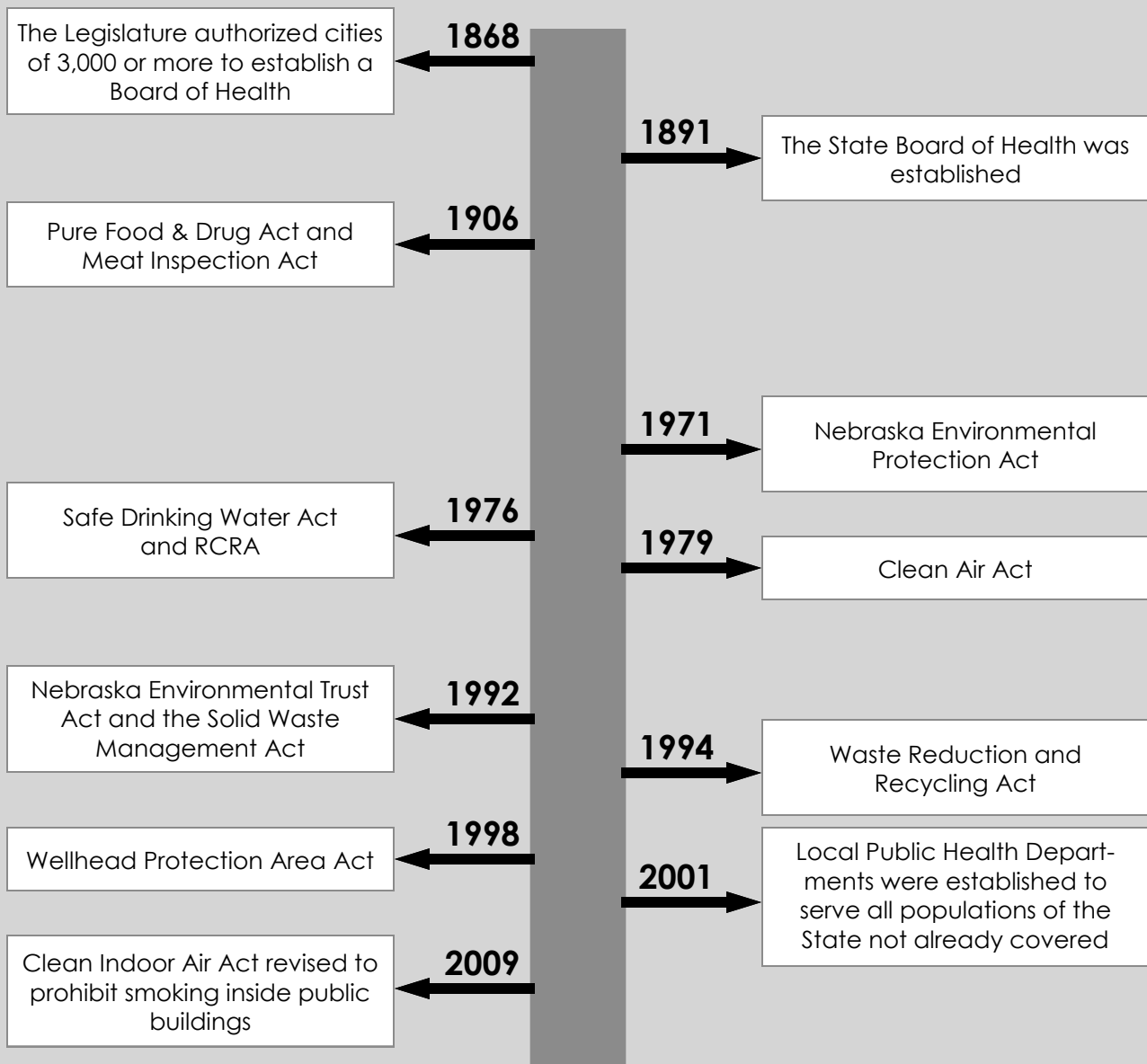
For more information on becoming an REHS/RS, visit the Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services website at [http://dhhs.ne.gov/publichealth/Pages/crl\\_rcs\\_ehs\\_ehs.aspx](http://dhhs.ne.gov/publichealth/Pages/crl_rcs_ehs_ehs.aspx)



# History of Environmental Health in Nebraska

Environmental Health (EH) laws in the United States can be traced back to Colonial Virginia in the early 1600's, when Jamestown settlers attempted to control pollution in the Colony. In Nebraska, EH laws weren't officially enacted until 1869. That year the State Legislature authorized cities of 3,000 or more to establish a Board of Health.

The following is a timeline of when key EH laws were originally enacted in Nebraska:

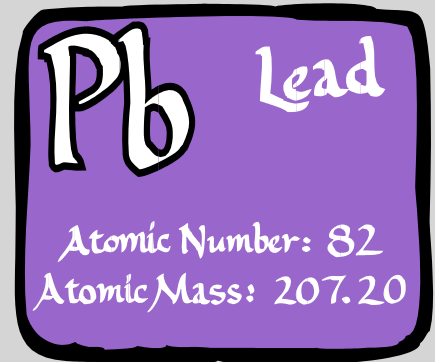




## Nebraska Lead Law

Under the new law effective July 19, 2012, the Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services was tasked with establishing a lead poisoning prevention program. The coordinated plan will aim to prevent childhood lead poisoning and to minimize exposure of the general public to lead-based paint hazards. This will be accomplished by:

- ◇ Providing a standard, stated in terms of micrograms of lead per deciliter of whole blood, to be used in identifying elevated blood-lead levels;
- ◇ Requiring that a child be tested for an elevated blood-lead level in accordance with the Medicaid state plan as defined in section 68-907 if the child is a participant in the medical assistance program established pursuant to the Medical Assistance Act; and
- ◇ Recommending that a child be tested for elevated blood-lead levels if the child resides in a zip code with a high prevalence of children with elevated blood-lead levels as demonstrated by previous testing data or if the child meets one of the criteria included in a lead poisoning prevention screening questionnaire developed by the department.



More information about the new law can be found at <http://dhhs.ne.gov/publichealth/Pages/LeadIndex.aspx>

## Share Your Thoughts



The Federal Government needs your real-world Environmental Health stories! Imagine your environmental health success story being shared on Capitol Hill—your work on display to showcase how vital it is in keeping the public safe and how it positively impacts communities. Well, imagine no more! On behalf of its federal government partners, NEHA is seeking these environmental health success stories from you. We are interested in ANY program stories you wish to share involving food safety, emergency response, sustainability, wastewater management, indoor air quality, and others. Please share your success story with Susan Peterson via e-mail at [speterson@neha.org](mailto:speterson@neha.org) or call 847-563-8242.



## Bed Bugs and EH Professionals: Survey Results

In the Spring 2012 NEHA Newsletter, an article titled “Bed Bugs and Environmental Health Professionals” was published by Jenny Steventon. A link to an on-line survey regarding bed bugs was provided in that article. The following is a summary of what our NEHA members reported (the most popular answers are shown):

1. Which type of organization do you work for?  
*Local Public Health Department 80%*
2. In your present position, do you have the authority to inspect for bed bugs?  
*No 60%*
3. In your present position, do you have the authority to enforce the abatement of bed bugs?  
*No 60%*
4. If inspections are not done, what is the reason?  
*I have no authority to inspect 100%*
5. Is there another agency in your jurisdiction that does inspect for or enforce the abatement of bed bugs?  
*No 60%*
6. If you needed advice or help with a bed bug outbreak, who would you contact?  
*Barb Ogg, UNL Extension*
7. How many phone calls or e-mails regarding bed bugs do you receive?  
*1 or less per week 80%*
8. Do you feel bed bugs are an environmental health concern that should be dealt with uniformly across Nebraska?  
*Yes 80%*

## NEHA Members Survey: Who are We?

Environmental Health professionals in Nebraska are a diverse group. We would love to hear about you! How long have you been in the profession? What drew you to Environmental Health in the first place? Please take a few moments to fill out this [on-line survey](#). A link to the survey is also posted on the NEHA website at [www.nebraskaneha.com](http://www.nebraskaneha.com)



# Conferences & Education

## NEHA Annual Education Conference

The Nebraska Environmental Health Association's Annual Education Conference will be held on Wednesday, October 24, 2012, at Mahoney State Park. Registration will begin at 8:00, and the opening remarks will begin at 8:30. A fantastic lunch will be provided by the Mahoney Grill. The day will be full of fun and educational speakers and activities. The conference has been approved for 6.5 CEU's for the REHS/RS. And back by popular demand is the raffle! Some exciting prizes are up for grabs this year, so bring your money. The conference fee this year is only \$50, which also includes your 2012-2013 NEHA membership fee.

Conference agenda and registration forms can be found on the NEHA website at [www.nebraskaneha.com/neh\\_004.htm](http://www.nebraskaneha.com/neh_004.htm). Hurry! The cost of the conference raises to \$60 after September 26.



## 2012 Public Health Association of Nebraska Conference

The 2012 Annual PHAN Conference will be held on September 27 and 28 at the Midtown Holiday Inn in Grand Island. The purpose of the conference is to provide public health professionals with the information, skills, and resources to improve public health in their communities. For more information about the conference, visit [www.publichealthne.org/conferences.htm](http://www.publichealthne.org/conferences.htm)

## 2012 Sustainability Summit

The Summit workshop will be held in Lincoln on October 10, 2012, at the University Nebraska East Campus. The Summit will feature keynote speaker Auden Schendler of the Aspen Skiing Company. There will be break out sessions highlighting the topics of Energy, Tools and Resources for Sustainability Planning/Tracking, Zero Waste, Employee Engagement, Green Certification, and Green Marketing/Branding. Register at [www.wastecapne.org/](http://www.wastecapne.org/)

## Wastewater Certification Training Sessions

This three-day session for Class 3 and 4 Operators will be held from November 13-15, 2012, in Lincoln, Nebraska. For more information, contact Brian Bakke at (515) 280-4942 or [brian.bakke@hdrinc.com](mailto:brian.bakke@hdrinc.com)





# Opportunities

## **Epidemiology Surveillance Coordinator (DHHS)**

Lincoln, Nebraska

## **Environmental Quality Programs Specialist II (NDEQ)**

Lincoln, Nebraska

### **Out-of-State Postings (via NEHA)**

#### **Deputy Director, Environmental Services Department**

Phoenix, AZ

#### **Sanitarian Supervisor**

Charleston, WV

#### **Corporate Food Safety Specialist**

Baltimore/DC Metropolitan Area

#### **Education Coordinator**

Denver, CO

#### **Food Safety and Product Certification Auditor**

Boston, MA; Chicago, IL; Seattle, WA ; Denver, CO; Dallas, TX;  
St. Louis, Missouri; Indiana; Wisconsin



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## DID YOU KNOW...

...you can submit an environmental health article for the next edition of this newsletter? Tell everyone what is going on in your organization, department or program. Share a success story or let everyone know of your research findings.

## HOW?

Just submit your article to a NEHA Board member. Visit the NEHA website listed on the front of this newsletter for contact information.



# National News

## NEHA 77th Annual Educational Conference and Exhibition

There are now two ways to participate in the Call For Abstracts: “Be a Speaker” or “Be a Voice”. The deadline to submit an abstract is October 1, 2012. Visit the National Environmental Health Association’s website at [http://www.neha2013aec.org/abstract\\_general\\_instructions.html](http://www.neha2013aec.org/abstract_general_instructions.html) for a complete list of submission instructions.

New this year is the “Be a Voice” option. It gives members the opportunity to tell NEHA what you’d like to experience at the AEC, from topics you’d like to hear about to speakers you’d like to see. Visit <http://neha2013aec.blogspot.com/> for more information.

## U.S. Postage Stamp for Environmental Health

In an effort to draw greater attention to the good work that environmental health does, the National Environmental Health Association has embarked on a campaign to persuade the U.S. Postal Service to issue a postage stamp that commemorates the environmental health profession. The NEHA board of directors has approved a resolution that supports petitioning the Citizen’s Stamp Advisory Committee of the U.S. Postal Service to develop, approve, and issue such a stamp. Several board members are leading this effort. As additional opportunities for involvement develop, NEHA will let its affiliates and members know.



## Certified Professional in Food Safety Compliance (CP-FSC)

The Certified Professional in Food Safety Compliance (CP-FSC) is the National Environmental Health Association’s newest credential. The credential is being developed to meet the increasing need for highly qualified food safety professionals to provide oversight in preventing food safety breaches at U.S. facilities and abroad. Sign up at <http://neha.org/credential/CPFSC.html> to receive the latest news and information about this new credential.

## Environmental Health History IQ Answers

1. A, 2. B, 3. A, 4. C, 5. C