Hello everyone! Seems like the months are flying by and winter is just around the corner. After talking to several colleagues throughout the summer, it sounds like everybody was staying busy. I hope everyone had a safe and prosperous spring and summer and are looking forward to some fall and wintertime activities. It is nice to be busy, but it is also nice to have this time of year to look back on your summer, re-evaluate things, make changes, and get ready for 2014.

Over the summer we had a meeting with the University of Nebraska to discuss plans for the upcoming 2014 Urban Pest Management Conference. There was a lot of discussion about popular topics, as well as speakers that we would like to have at our conference. We are continuing to discuss our relationship with the University of Nebraska, how we can improve vendor attendance, overall attendance, and make the conference more enjoyable to attend. We made some changes to the social hour activities that hopefully will make the conference more valuable and fun for everyone. There were a lot of good ideas at the meeting and I think we can look forward to a very informative conference.

I want to remind everybody that the Ward Combs Scholarship Fund is available to any student preparing to enter or already enrolled in college. For information on this scholarship fund, please contact the association office.

The new association website is in place. I would encourage all of you to visit the website as there is valuable member information being added on a regular basis.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the conference in February. Thank you to the many great members of this association and our office staff that have made this another successful year for all of us. If you ever have any questions, or would just like to visit, you can reach me at (402) 306-0466 or email me at crittercontrol2@qwestoffice.net. Hope everybody has a great winter!

The Nebraska State Pest Control Association and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension will be co-hosting the 2014 Urban Pest Management Conference February 18-19, 2014 at the Cornhusker-Marriott Hotel in Lincoln, NE. Registration materials and highlights are included in the newsletter.

This annual conference offers your company and employees an opportunity to meet with other industry professionals and suppliers. The Nebraska Department of Agriculture will also be in attendance to provide initial and re-certification for applicators.

The Annual NSPCA Membership Meeting will be held on February 19, 2014. Please RSVP your attendance by emailing the NSCPA at info@nspca.org or by calling 402-476-1528 with the number attending so we are sure to have a lunch for you.

UNL Extension’s Pesticide Safety Education Program presents “PeRK” — a free mobile pesticide application recordkeeping app. If applicators spray RUPs (Restricted Use Pesticides), they are required by Nebraska state law to keep records of those applications for three years.

This app is designed to meet all Nebraska state law requirements for RUP pesticide recordkeeping and would be a handy tool for keeping track of all pesticide use from year to year. PeRK uses a device’s GPS coordinates to note location of application. The app records pesticide applied and how much was applied, product application rate, target site and pest(s), date and time of application, temperature, wind speed, and disposal method.

The records are saved and stored within the app on the device and can be exported via email as a .csv file, which can be opened in Microsoft Excel and other common software programs.

Other features in the app include contact information for the UNL Extension Pesticide Safety Education Program and Nebraska Department of Agriculture Pesticide Program, emergency phone numbers, a link to the DriftWatch website, and links to helpful publications.

The download can be found at http://pested.unl.edu.
Do You Have a Student in the Family?

The Nebraska State Pest Control Association is proud to offer the Ward Combs Scholarship to help members and employees of the Association achieve their educational goals.

Through a generous donation from the Combs’ family, and others, the NSPCA is able to assist our members and their children with financial scholarship towards their education.

If you have a student preparing to go to college, please take the time complete the application included on pages 11 and 12. With the increased cost of tuition and books, every little bit can help.

Please contact the association office if you have any questions.

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Critters Gone Wild  
By Paige Yowell, Omaha World Herald


That's just a normal day at work for businesses that catch wild critters for a living, and many are so swamped with calls they are booked for days, scheduling for spring or turning away new customers altogether.

Kelly Voelker, who owns the Omaha location of national franchiser Critter Control with her husband, Jeff, said this is the busiest time of year because of heat and the local bat population emerging from nests after the breeding season in June and July.

"Every year, this time of year, we can pretty much count on it," Voelker said. She said the business would not turn away any customers, but wait times may be longer than usual, currently three to four days. "We'll get them in as soon as we can," she said.

Bats that then eventually make their way into living areas are the biggest problem this time of year, Voelker said. But the business also deals with other pests, including mice, raccoons, skunks, squirrels, opossums, woodchucks, moles and voles.

"This time of year is always big on bats," Nebraska Humane Society spokesman Mark Langan said.

Langan said the Nebraska Humane Society will deal with bats or other critters in your living space. But if they're in the attic or you can hear them scratching in the walls, the organization will refer complaints to one of four local companies — Critter Control, Kenny's Critter Removal, Critter Gitter and Critter Ridders Wildlife Management.

"If it poses a danger or it's injured, then we remove it. If not, we refer them to these companies," Langan said.

Tony Skov, who owns Lincoln-based Critter Ridders with his wife, Jayme, said it has been a crazy year. Bats typically come out from hibernation around March, he said, but with the cold, wet spring and fluctuating warm and cool weather, the year started out slow.

"But now it's rebounded, big time," Skov said.

He's now putting bat calls off until next year because it's unlikely he'll be able to deal with them before the animals go into hibernation, typically after a hard freeze and insects have died. Another of the businesses, Critter Gitter, isn't taking new customers at all because of high call volume during the breeding season, said Jackie Hall, who owns the business with her husband, Brian.

"Right now, we've been so busy with what we booked over the summertime," Hall said.

A typical bat removal can start at about $700 and can get as expensive as $1,400, depending on the size of the house and how many points of entry there are. That covers removing the bats, bat-proofing the house and a one- or two-

Continued on page 4
year warranty guaranteeing that if they do return, the company will come back and deal with them.

“Basically you’re dealing with a mouse with wings,” Skov said, and they can fit into any opening the size of a dime.

If a customer simply wants a bat removed, Skov charges a $95 inspection fee, which tells the homeowner when and where the problem is. Removal of critters can range from about $50 to $125, depending on the animal and the company.

Robert Corum of Lincoln had his house bat-proofed by Critter Ridders last spring. He and his wife heard scratching in the walls. Skov came, did an inspection and informed the Corums that it was a bat problem, not a mouse problem.

“It seems like it’s kind of a bigger issue than almost what everybody thinks it is,” he said of the bats. “I had no idea.”

Timing can matter. When bats have their young in someone's attic, wildlife management companies avoid putting in exclusion valves, which funnel the bats out but don't allow them back in, because their young are not strong enough to fly out. The young can start flying about the second week of August, which is when bat work can begin again.

The heat also plays a part, Skov said. When temperatures climb, bats often will leave the attic in search of air conditioning or make a wrong turn into the ventilation system, where they then end up in someone's living area.

Raccoons, on the other hand, are usually just looking for cover and maybe somewhere to have babies. Other critter problems: woodchucks burrowing into homes' foundations, raccoons in the attic or walls, birds and, of course, mice. Voelker said that this year a woodchuck was discovered inside someone's furnace. It had found its way into the ventilation system when the home was under construction.

On top of bat calls, Skov said, he has removed 60 to 65 raccoons out of homes just this year. The strangest thing he's seen so far was a six-foot-tall bird nest in an attic, a nest that had probably been there for years.

Kenny Sousa of Kenny's Critter Removal doesn't deal with bats, but he does trap raccoons, woodchucks and opossums. He met his wife, Colette, working at the Humane Society, and the couple started their own business earlier this year, which they run part time. Sousa said he was receiving about a call per day earlier in the summer.

Critter Control also is a husband-wife team. Kelly and Jeff Voelker have had the business in Omaha since 1996 and bought the Des Moines franchise in 2000.

Jeff Voelker said the hardest part of the business is the fact that people are sensitive when it comes to wild animals, sometimes crying about the discovery. “Dealing with the animals is the easy part. The only hard part is dealing with people.”

Kelly Voelker said the company has three people in the field in Omaha, including Jeff, but lately it's been so busy that she's also been donning a pair of Kevlar gloves to catch critters.
Are You Using the 179 Deduction? - The most business friendly tax deduction available to a small business!

Like most accountants, at this time of year I always get the question "How can I pay less taxes?" There are a number of ways to reduce taxes, but one of the best tax reduction ideas for a growing small business is to acquire equipment or vehicles for expansion or replace existing equipment or vehicles.

Under Section 179 of the Internal Revenue Code if a business and the assets they are acquiring meet certain requirements, those assets can be fully expensed in the year acquired. There is no requirement that cash be expended for those assets in the current year making financing and leasing even more attractive. Section 179 doesn’t increase the total amount that can be deducted, but it allows a business to get the entire depreciation deduction in one year, rather than taking it a little at a time over the term of an asset's useful life, which for equipment and vehicles can be 5 or more years.

So What Type of Equipment Qualifies for the 179 Deduction? First, the Section 179 deduction only applies to assets purchased that are used more than 50% in the business (versus personal use). If the equipment is used less than 100% but more than 50% for business, the cost must be prorated as the personal portion is not deductible under any method. The following is a list of purchases that qualify for 179 expensing:

- Equipment purchased for business use
- Tangible personal property used in business
- Certain Vehicles
- Computers
- Computer “Off-the-Shelf” Software
- Office Furniture
- Office Equipment
- Other tangible assets

As always, be sure to consult your tax professional before making a purchase.

What is the Buzz About?

Without question, the hottest pest management regulatory issue these days is protecting bees from unintended exposure to pesticides. Recently adopted and future public policy will impact pesticide use patterns for all user groups including pest management professionals (PMPs).

Honeybees and other pollinators are vital to an abundant food supply. Over the last several years, however, honeybees have been plagued by the mysterious Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD), and beekeepers throughout the world are now fighting for their livelihoods. Some have suggested that the primary culprit is pesticides, while others have stressed the complexity of the issue and the variety of factors involved.

Nothing better underscores the urgency of the bee health issue than the mid-August announcement by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that labels of some neonicotinoid pesticide products would be revised to prohibit applications where bees are present. The changes apply to all products that have outdoor foliar use directions (except granulars) containing the active ingredients imidacloprid, dinotefuran, clothianidin or thiamethoxam regardless of formulation, concentration, or intended user.

So what is the meaning of all of the efforts to limit unintended exposure to bees for PMPs. Below are a few take home messages:

The bee health issue is not a short-term issue and EPA’s recent label changes should be viewed as the first of what will likely be multiple steps to safeguard bees from pesticide exposure.

Regulatory action will eventually extend to non-neonicotinoid pesticides as well. In fact, in mid-July, the European Commission voted to restrict the use of fipronil. Expect the label language that will appear on neonicotinoid product labels early next year to eventually appear on other products as well.

The public is deeply interested and concerned about pollinator health, so the story is likely to continue to receive widespread media coverage. Pesticides role in declining bee health was the subject of an August 19 Time Magazine cover story.

Regardless of whether PMPs are using neonicotinoids or other pesticide products, they should avoid unnecessarily exposing bees to pesticides, unless bees are the intended target for structural or public health reasons.
Last Month OSHA released the 2013 top ten most cited Standards. Two standards applying to the majority of the professional pest management industry made the top four violations. Hazard Communication for general industry was the second most cited violation.

"To get a sense of how many more citations OSHA is issuing now, the 10th most frequently cited standard this year was cited more times than the fourth most cited standard in FY 2012. This pattern demonstrates that OSHA enforcement efforts have continued to rise during the current administration at a significant rate, even from year to year," States the OSHALaw Update.

Dr. Marcia Duke, NPMA Director of Regulatory Affairs said, "It is possible HazCom violations may increase, even over this fiscal year's high levels for 2013-2014." She stated this is due to the 2012 revised OSHA Hazard Communication Standard. Under the new rules, each person dealing with chemicals in your company must have updated training by December 1, 2013. Plus, all new hires must be trained on the new requirements. Dr. Duke emphasized, "If you have not met the training requirements by December 1st, your company is out of compliance. Fines could be the result."

It's easy to train your technicians before the December 1, 2013 deadline using NPMAonline learning portal. Plus, find out what managers need to know, in addition to the required training, at a free webinar on November 27th.

OSHA Proposes Revisions to Recordkeeping and Reporting

The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) recently issued proposed rulemaking amending its current illness and injury recordkeeping and reporting regulations to add requirements for the electronic submission of injury and illness information employers are already required to keep under existing standards. Under the proposal, pest control companies and other establishments with more than 250 employees (and who are already required to keep records) will be required to electronically submit the records to OSHA on a quarterly basis. The proposed rulemaking also requires establishments with 20 or more employees, in certain industries (including the professional pest management industry) with high injury and illness rates, be required to submit electronically only their summary (OSHA Form 300A) of work-related injuries and illnesses to OSHA annually. OSHA is accepting comments on the proposed rule until Feb. 6, 2014.

Duplicative assessments of pesticides could cost taxpayers an additional $474 million over the next 10 years, according to a report recently released by CropLife America, the national trade association representing the manufacturer of crop protection products. The new cost-analysis underscores the need to reform the broken Endangered Species Act-required consultation process, which directs the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service to ensure that pesticide usage does not adversely impact endangered species or their habitat.

The Farm Bill that recently passed the U.S. House of Representatives contains a provision aimed at making the consultation process more workable; the Senate's Farm Bill does not contain such a provision. Members of the House and Senate are currently meeting to reconcile the differences between the House and Senate versions of the Farm Bill, and the ESA provisions is one of the many being considered.

Global Bedbug Summit in Denver, CO

If you are in the business of bed bugs, the Global Bedbug Summit on December 5-6 in Denver, CO is a not-to-be-missed event!

Featuring an educational program that offers both advanced technical training and business management programs, this conference is designed to provide you with the information you need from a legal, technical, business, and customer-oriented perspective so that you can not only eliminate the bed bug problem, but also create an environment of trust between you and your customer. Registration information can be found on the NPMA website.

Under the Affordable Care Act or Obamacare, pest management professionals and other employers are required to inform their workers that the new Obamacare health exchanges are available. The notices alert workers that they can get health coverage through the exchanges if their employer's health insurance would cost them too much or wouldn't cover enough of their medical expenses. The notices should also tell employees whether the employer already offers coverage that meets Obamacare's standards. There are separate notices for employers who offer a health plan to some or all employees and for employers who do not offer a health plan. More information on the requirements can be found on the Department of Labor website at www.dol.gov.
2014 NSCPA Annual Conference

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS
Speakers and Major Topics

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plus more Speakers and Topics ------

Laboratory Sessions

1. Structural Pests/Occasional Invaders
2. Wood Destroying Pests
3. Pests Affecting Public Health
4. Stored Food and Pantry Pests
5. Wildlife Damage

Nebraska Department of Agriculture Recertification

08 Structural/Health Related Pest Control
08W Wood Destroying Organisms
09 Public Health Pest Control
11 Fumigation
14 Wildlife Damage Control

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FEATURED SPEAKERS

Dr. Gary Braness
Dr. Braness received his Ph.D. in urban entomology from Purdue University. He worked for Bayer CropScience for 21 years, focusing on urban pest problems in the Midwest. Recently, he founded Yosemite Environmental Services, a company providing services on research, training, technology transfer and legal support in the pest management industry. Dr. Braness authored book chapters on insecticide and pesticide safety in the Mills Handbook of Pest Control, 8th, 9th and 10th editions.

Dr. Bobby Corrigan
Dr. Corrigan is president of RMC Pest Management Consulting. He received his B.S., M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from Purdue University where he worked for 15 years conducting research and teaching programs in urban pest management, emphasizing rodent control. His industry experience includes three years as a PMP and one year as a technical specialist for Terminix International. Bobby published the widely acclaimed Rodent Pest Management: A Practical Guide for Pest Management Professionals in 2001.

Dr. Bob Davis
Dr. Davis received his Ph.D. in urban entomology from the University of Nebraska and has acquired field experience in the structural pest control industry while working as a technical director for ABC Pest Control in Austin, Texas. Keeping focus on termites and other structural pests, Bob has worked for Aventis and Bayer and is currently working for BASF, Inc. He has been a regular contributor to our UPM Conference and made numerous presentations on termites, ants, pesticide safety, and technician training at various PMP conferences in other states.

Dr. Bill Donahue
Dr. Donahue is the Senior Scientist and owner of Sierra Research Laboratories, Inc. in Modesto, California. SRL is an independent contract research laboratory specializing in testing new chemicals and devices for insect control in the fields of urban and veterinary entomology. Dr. Donahue received his B.A. in biological science from San Jose State University and his Ph.D. in entomology from Texas A&M University. He worked for Zoécon Corporation for 14 years before starting his own laboratory in 1994.

Ms. Gail Getty
Ms. Getty received her B.S. in entomology and M.S. in wood science and technology from the University of California-Berkeley. She has over 17 years of experience in conducting scientific research on urban insect biology, ecology, chemical ecology and behavior. She has published over 21 scientific papers. Her projects have involved major manufacturing companies. She has been an expert witness in bed bug, termite, beetle, and construction defect lawsuits. Recently, Ms. Getty formed the Getty Entomological Research and Consulting Company.

Dr. Susan Jones
Dr. Jones received a Ph.D. in entomology from Arizona State University. She is a professor of entomology at The Ohio State University. She spent over 32 years studying urban insects, especially termite foraging ecology, reproductive biology, and control using baits and termicides. She also has worked extensively on bed bugs. Dr. Jones has published over 80 papers. She co-edited the ESA Handbook of Household and Structural Insect Pests.

Dr. Dini Miller
Dr. Miller is a professor of entomology and Urban Pest Management Extension Specialist at Virginia Tech. She received her M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Florida where her research focused on behavior and management of German cockroaches. Dr. Miller conducts research on insecticide efficacy and outreach programs on German cockroaches, bed bugs and other urban pests.

Dr. Thomas Phillips
Dr. Phillips received his M.S. and Ph.D. in entomology from State University of New York. He is a professor of entomology at Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas and conducts research on stored grain pests dealing with pheromones, attractants and semiochemicals. He has published over 50 papers in peer reviewed journals. He is co-author of a fumigation chapter in Mills Handbook of Pest Control, 9th edition.

Mr. Jeffrey Tucker
Mr. Tucker received his B.S. in Entomology from Texas A&M University. He is a consulting entomologist and serves as president of Entomology Associates, Inc. He is a board certified entomologist, registered sanitarian and certified pest control operator. Jeff is contributing editor for Pest Control Technology and Pest Management magazines. He is an author of “Pest Management in Sensitive Environment” in Mills Handbook of Pest Control, 8th edition. He has presented hundreds of pest management seminars and workshops in the U.S. and Canada.

PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

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- General Registration — $160
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- Vendor's Registration by NSCPA — $400
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For Conference Registration, please make check payable to: University of Nebraska–Lincoln UPM Conference

Registration covers the cost of a lunch on February 18 and both breaks on February 18-19. Lunch on February 19 is on your own.

No registration refund after January 27, 2014.
Nebraska Urban Pest Management Conference  
February 18-19, 2014  
Cornhusker-Marriott Hotel * 333 South 13th Street * Lincoln, Nebraska

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( ) YES, I will need an electrical outlet at my table

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<td>Exhibitor table</td>
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<td>@ $ 400.00</td>
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<td>Exhibitor reception</td>
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<td>Donation - See additional sheet</td>
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**TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED $ ____________**

**Deadline for signup is January 25, 2014 to help us in planning. No refunds for booth or registration fee after January 25, 2014.**

Please make checks payable to Nebraska State Pest Control Association or pay by credit card below

**Credit Card Number ____________________________________________________________**

**Card Type Visa MC AmEx Disc Exp. date _____________ Security Code _____________**

**Signature ____________________________________________________________**

**Email address for receipt of credit card transaction: _____________________________**

**A 5% processing fee added to credit card transactions. Transaction will appear as Trade Assn. Mgmt.**

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Please return form and payment to:

Nebraska State Pest Control Association
1111 Lincoln Mall, Suite 308
Lincoln, NE 68508-3910
Phone (402) 476-1528 Fax (402) 476-1259
Email info@nspca.org
Criteria For Recipient Of Ward Combs Scholarship

1. The student applying for the scholarship must be at least one of the following:
   A. Direct relative of an owner of a pest control business, and a member of the Nebraska State Pest Control Association, to be inclusive of son, daughter, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, wife or husband of the owner or the owner (him or herself). It shall not include the members' brothers, sisters, uncles, aunts, nieces or nephews, unless they are employed in the business (see #B).
   B. An employee of the owner of a pest control business. The owner must be a business member of the Nebraska State Pest Control Association. The employee must be employed at the business, and not at other enterprises owned by the pest control business. The recipient may also be a son or daughter of an employee of the member.

2. The student applying for the scholarship must meet the following criteria:
   A. The applicant must be a graduate of high school, or have passed a high school equivalency examination indicating the completion of high school.
   B. The applicant must be a resident of Nebraska.

3. The scholarship will be issued on a check payable to the institution chosen by the recipient.

4. The scholarship will be awarded based on the applicant attending one of the following institutions:
   A. An accredited university, state college, community college or business/liberal arts school.
   B. Correspondence courses, mini-workshops or courses will not qualify for the scholarship.

5. The scholarship will be awarded based on the following criteria and points (1 being lowest score, 10 being highest score):
   A. 1-10 Academic Excellence: Based on cumulative grade point averages in high school or higher education.
   B. 1-10 Community Service: Based on individual's participation in local, regional and state activities to include such service as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4-H, civic and church organizations, community service clubs and the like.
   C. 1-10 Financial Need: Based on demonstration of need, how much of the education must be self-funded or through student loans.
   D. 1-10 Career Objectives: The Committee will review career objectives of the applicant.

Educator's Recommendation Form For Ward Combs Scholarship

Name of Applicant: ________________________________________________________________________
School: _________________________________________________________________________________
How long and in what capacity have you known applicant: _______________________________________
Please state why you feel this applicant would be a good choice as a recipient of this scholarship:
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
How firm is the applicant's commitment to his or her career?______________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
Signed:_________________________________________ Date: ____________________________________
Title or Position: __________________________________________________________________________

School Verification
As of __________________________ the student listed above had a grade point average of_______________
ACT Test Score: ______________ SAT Test Score:_________ Rank In Class:__________________________
Signed: _______________________________________Position:___________________________________
NSPCA Ward Combs Scholarship Application

NAME: __________________________________________________________________________________
ADDRESS: ______________________________________________________________________________
CITY: ______________________________________ STATE: __________ ZIP: _______________________
HOME PHONE: ____________________________ CURRENT GPA: _______________________________
SCHOOL CURRENTLY ATTENDING: _________________________________________________________
STATE OF RESIDENCE: ___________________________ YEAR YOU BECAME RESIDENT: ______________
SCHOOL YOU WILL BE ATTENDING: __________________________________________________________
HIGH SCHOOL/COLLEGE HONORS, AWARDS AND ACTIVITIES: __________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS AND ACTIVITIES: _____________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
STATE YOUR FINANCIAL NEED/PORTION OF EDUCATION FUNDED BY SELF: ________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
ACT TEST SCORE: ____________ SAT TEST SCORE: ____________ RANK IN CLASS: ________________
# OF STUDENTS IN YOUR CLASS: ___________
WHAT ARE YOUR SHORT AND LONG-TERM CAREER OBJECTIVES?
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
WHAT DO YOU SEE YOURSELF DOING TEN YEARS FROM NOW?
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WHICH MAY BE USEFUL TO SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE:
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
WITH WHICH MEMBER ARE YOU AFFILIATED? _________________________________________________

Signature __________________________________________ Date _________________________________

Please attach reference letter and submit application to
NEBRASKA STATE PEST CONTROL ASSOCIATION
1111 Lincoln Mall, Suite 308
Lincoln, NE 68508-3910
(402) 476-1528 Fax (402) 476-1259
Email info@nspca.org