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NDA FINDS SKIMMER DEVICE AT FUEL PUMP IN LEXINGTON; WARNS CONSUMERS TO BE ON THE LOOKOUT

LINCOLN — A card skimmer device was discovered this week by a Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA) inspector during a routine pump inspection at a gas station in Lexington. Skimming and shimmying devices can be attached to ATMs, gas pumps and other places where people swipe their credit and debit cards. Thieves utilize the devices to steal financial information.

“Weights and Measures inspectors work to verify the accuracy of gas pumps in every community in the state through routine inspections,” said Ken Tichota, the administrator of the Food Safety and Consumer Protection Focus Area at NDA. “Those inspections are designed to ensure that consumers are getting what they pay for. As an extra layer of protection to the consumer during their routine inspections our staff has been diligently checking gas pumps for skimming and shimmying devices.”

Consumers are reminded to pay attention at the pump if they use a debit or credit card, and always check first to see if anything has been tampered with. The skimmer device found at the Lexington gas station was embedded on the inside of the pump and would be hard for a consumer to spot; however, card shimmying devices are a bit easier for consumers to notice as they are placed over the external card reader on the gas pump.

Tichota says there are a few things that consumers can do to protect themselves from card skimming and shimmying devices, including:

- 1) Choose a gas pump nearest to the attendant. Installers of these devices tend to prefer pumps out of the view of the station attendants.
- 2) Look for a tamper proof, serial numbered piece of tape over the pump access panels. If the tape is damaged in any way, do not use the pump and alert the station attendant.
- 3) Look for a shimmy on the pump you intend to use by comparing it to other pumps at the station. If you notice it looks different, do not use the pump and alert the station attendant.
- 4) Monitor your account frequently and report any fraudulent charges immediately.

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